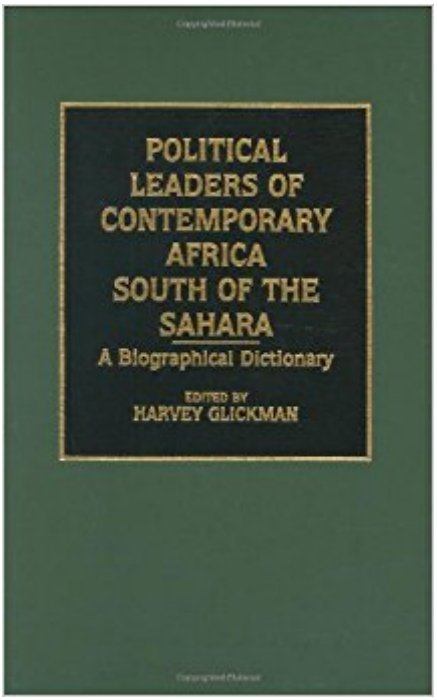
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Political Leaders Of Contemporary Africa South Of The Sahara: A Biographical Dictionary



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Synopsis

This is the first biographical dictionary of major political leaders in sub-Saharan Africa since 1945, leaders who have made important and often determinative contributions to politics and government in their countries and in the region as a whole. Editor Harvey Glickman has brought together an international team of experts to profile fifty-three important heads of state, theorists, party leaders, and politicians from a representative group of African countries. An invaluable reference for libraries of all kinds, this dictionary will be useful to advanced scholars and neophytes alike in evaluating African leadership, national political systems, and contemporary world history in general.Glickman's introduction explains the criteria used for selecting the figures profiled and then describes what is involved in being a political leader in Africa in the late colonial period, in early independence, and now in the fourth decade of independence as new forms of government and leadership appear in Africa. Glickman remarks on the lack of women in high ranks of African politics and explores reasons for their notable absence. Each profile examines the role of the leader in history, the personal events of birth, tribal affiliation, education, early career, and rise to political power. Figures chosen represent a variety of types including founding fathers, radical opposition party leaders, conservatives, socialists, oppressive dictators, and philosophical theorists. Each entry has a bibliography of works by and about the leader. A chronology lists events in sub-Saharan politics from 1892 to 1991. A list of important figures by country and a short bibliography of general works on political leadership and change in Africa complete the volume.

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Customer Reviews

The 54 biographies in this volume offer an overview of African politics since the mid-1950s. The selection of African political leaders covers those who led their countries--and the continent--out of colonialism (such as Kwame Nkrumah, Kenneth Kaunda, and Felix Houphouet-Boigny), governed with varying degrees of success (such as Julius Nyerere, Luis de Alemeida Cabral, and Leopold Senghor), and in the post-independence era have tried--usually with little long-term success--to offer Africa new directions (such as Idi Amin). Overall, the selections are representative of much of Africa’s political profile of the past four decades. Thus, nationalists and coup leaders make up over two-thirds of the entries. Actors in South Africa’s long struggles are included. Not represented are women, activists within Africa’s emerging grass-roots movements, or leaders of regional coalitions, but the editor does acknowledge these emerging sources of leadership. Glickman’s excellent introduction reviews the local and global environment in which the diversity of African leaders have existed, asking critical questions of their experiences. The biographical essays, written by experts, provide details about an individual’s life, motivations, and governing style. Although historical and national biographical dictionaries exist (for example, Mark Lipschutz and R. Kent Rasmussen’s Dictionary of African Historical Biography , Univ. of California Pr., 1986. 2d rev. ed.), this volume is welcome as the first to feature Africa’s recent major political leaders. Recommended for academic and public libraries with African collections.- Bill Rau, Takoma Park, Md.Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"54 biographies in this volume offer an overview of African politics since the mid-1950s. The selection of African political leaders covers those who led their countries--and the continent--out of colonialism, governed with varying degrees of success, and those of the post-independence era who have tried to offer Africa new directions. . . . Glickman’s excellent introduction reviews the local and global environment in which the diversity of African leaders have existed, asking critical questions of their experiences. . . . This volume is welcome as the first to feature Africa’s recent major political leaders. Recommended for academic and public libraries with African collections."-Library Journal..."this book deserves a warm welcome and a place on the shelves of all libraries with a serious interest in Africa."-The Journal of Commonwealth & Comparative Politics"The book is a good reference source for individuals seeking biographical profiles of major leaders of sub-Saharan Africa since 1945. It is highly recommended for all libraries and other institutions with collections on Africa."-African Studies Review"In-depth analytical entries for 54 political leaders who have most shaped political events in sub-Saharan Africa since 1945. Social

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