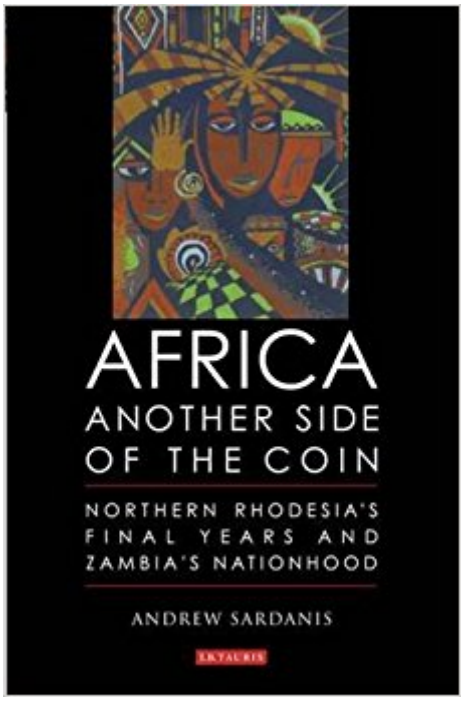
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Africa: Another Side Of The Coin



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Synopsis

""Africa is a lost cause."" Ã Â This is a cynical view held widely in the West, in much of the world,Ã Â and even in Africa. Many people in the old European colonial powers -- and not only the dwindling band of ""old Africa hands"" who served in the colonies - are in despair, lamenting maladministration, corruption, civil and inter-state wars, poverty, famine, and the seemingly unstoppable march of AIDS. And all in a great continent with abundant human and natural resources. Ã Â The other side of the coin is that hope is beginning to dawn as Africa's plight is recognized by the Africans themselves and its vital strategic, political and economic importance in the age of globalization is gaining universal appreciation. An ""African renaissance"" may seem far-fetched but there is perhaps light at the end of the tunnel.Ã Â This is the backdrop against which Andrew Sardanis's fascinating story is set. It begins with his work as a journalist in Cyprus -- on the receiving end of British colonialism -- and moves to Northern Rhodesia where he played a leading role as an international businessman and in the politics of independence leading to the new nation of Zambia. He was at the heart of Zambia's political and business development, and always a sympathetic but critical observer and adviser, both in government and in business, also a close but objective friend of leaders including Kenneth Kaunda.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew Sardanis was born and educated in colonial Cyprus, worked as a journalist and spent his life in Northern Rhodesia, later Zambia, where he developed his business interests including work with multinationals and was a member of the legislature and government.

This personal account of African nationhood strikes a lot nerves and leaves the reader with a lot to think about on a number of levels. Put together it provides a real roller-coaster ride of emotions and insights. The book builds up beautifully in the first chapters, providing the reader with a love for Africa - full of warmth, humour and joy. The author's level-headed account of British rule and the radicalisation of white politics juxtapositioned with the black struggle for independence is fabulous. By portraying the feelings of both sides at the time and without demonising either side, it argues a strong case for tolerance, understanding and humanity on a rock bed of libertarian values. The subsequent chapters describing the gradual changes of Zambia's UNIP government are thrilling as one gradually gets caught in the middle between one's loyalty for Kaunda's original Humanism and the realisation that the regime was not what it was supposed to be.At the end, when it has all gone so horribly wrong, the reader is left with an understanding for how it went wrong. Uniquely, it is that understanding which may provide the reader with a respect for Africa and a feeling that for Africa there can indeed be a prosperous future in waiting. The book is a personal story of ideology versus reality, but it is also powerful background reading for any person about to move to or work with Africa.

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