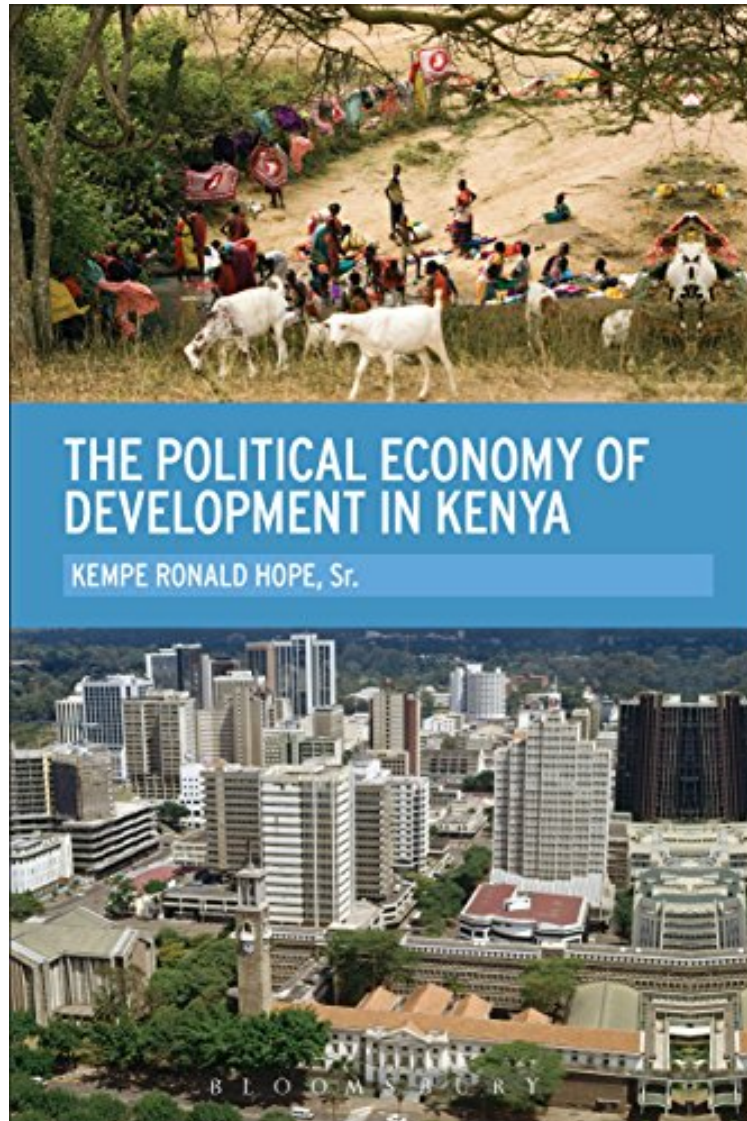


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The Political Economy of Development in Kenya

Kempe Ronald Hope Sr.

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Kenya is a country of geopolitical and economic importance in East Africa. It shares borders with unstable states such as Somalia and Sudan while being a hub for trade, communication, finance, and transportation across the region. Although relatively stable since its independence in 1963, the country still faces poverty, inequality, and corruption. In addition, the contested election of 2007 led to severe ethnic strife that tested its political stability, leading to a new

constitution in 2010. This unique survey by a leading expert on the region provides a critical analysis of the socio-economic development in Kenya from a political economy perspective. It highlights Kenya's transition from being a centralized state to having a clear separation of powers and analyzes key issues such as economic growth, urbanization, corruption, and reform. The book identifies Kenya's key socio-development problems and offers solutions to improve both governance and economic performance, making it an essential resource to researchers, academics, and policy makers working on development issues and African politics.

"The Political Economy of Development in Kenya is written by a seasoned scholar of African studies and is intended to make a significant and timely contribution to the debate on state reconstruction, peaceful coexistence, and sustainable development in Kenya, in particular, and Africa in general. The book contains a very refreshing, rigorous, informative, multidisciplinary and policy-relevant analysis of transition in Kenya and provides practical and effective policy options for policymakers in Kenya and Africa. It breaks new ground in that it emphasizes the importance of effective governance institutions to the fight against corruption and other growth-inhibiting behaviors and provides well-reasoned policy options for promoting economic growth and development. It differs significantly from previous efforts, which have failed to provide a balanced treatment of the informal sector; the volume places the informal sector in its right context and provides policymakers with options on how to strengthen this critical sector and bring it into the core of the country's human development agenda. Although the volume is analytically very strong and extremely rigorous, it is, nevertheless, very accessible to a wide audience. Each chapter contains not only clear and well-documented analyses of various issues that deal with Kenya's transition to democratic governance and sustainable development, but also well-articulated policy recommendations. Hence, the volume is useful, not only for policymakers in Kenya and Africa, but also for the student of African political economy. Students at colleges and universities globally who are seeking a text that provides a balanced and informative analysis of Africa's struggle to achieve peaceful coexistence and sustainable development should find that this volume meets and exceeds their expectations." -John Mukum Mbaku, J.D., Ph.D., Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Weber State University, Ogden, Utah, USA.