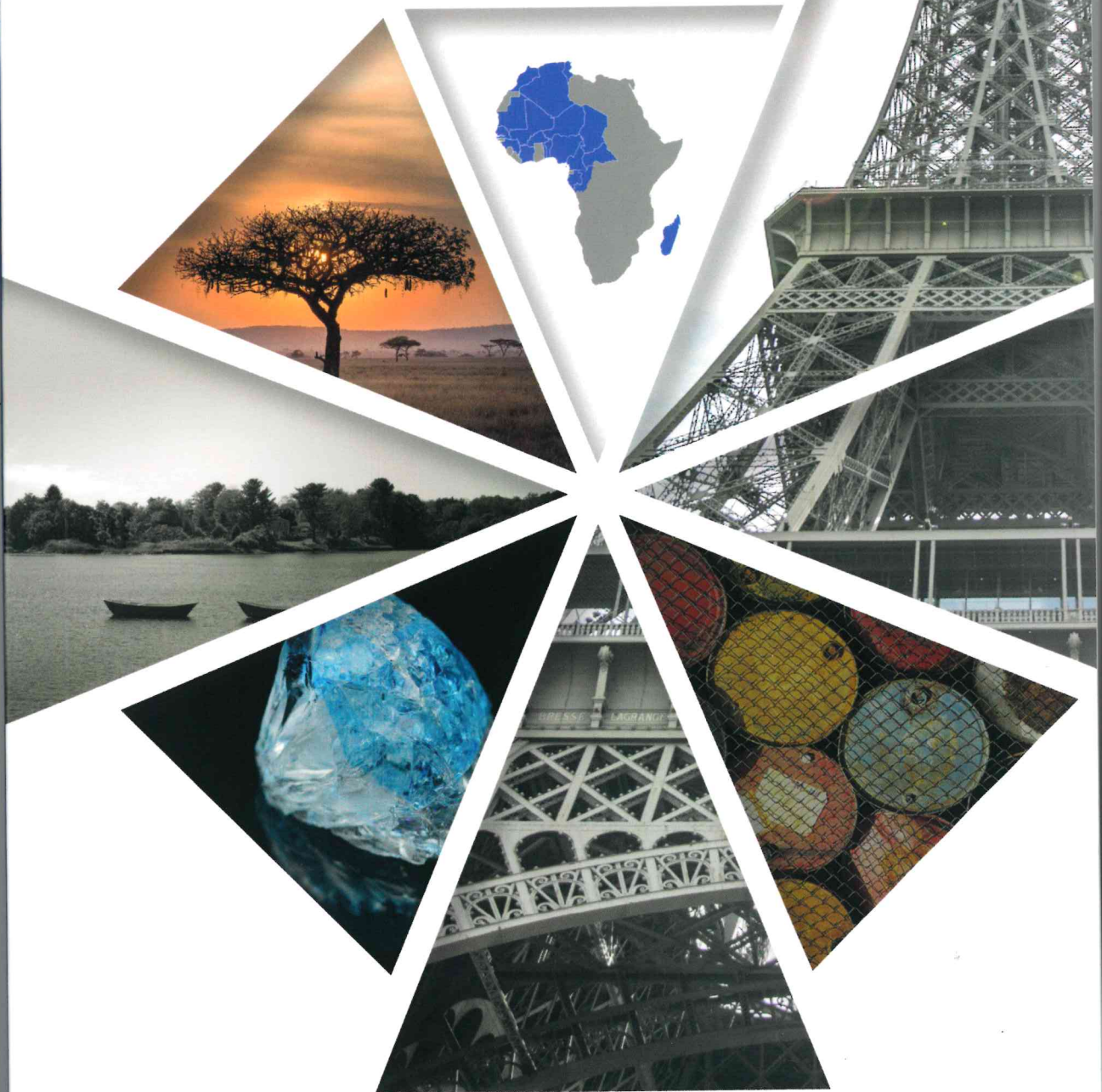


FRANCE'S AFRICA RELATIONS

Domination, Continuity and Contradiction



FRANCE'S AFRICA RELATIONS

Domination, Continuity and Contradiction

This edited book is a compendium of research work on France's contentious and sometimes complicated African policy. It attempts to assess France's policy issues that may have contributed or influenced the consistent economic, political, social and security crises in former French colonies on the African continent. The book highlights how the Franco-African foreign and security policies, especially in the post-colonial era, perpetuate the colonial policies of assimilation, association and integration. In the pursuit of these policies, the chapters in the book highlight instances of domination, continuity and change in France's economic, cultural and political grip on Francophone African countries. The book provides a good historical perspective of France's Africa policy and critical insight into the political, economic, security, cultural and social problems generated by the nature of France-Africa relations. The book provides useful insight into the nature of France-Africa relations, drawing on a good mix of sub-regional perspectives and country case studies. It presents the issues discussed with accuracy, using relevant source materials.

'This book provides a useful insight into the nature of France-Africa relations. It draws on a good mix of case studies and also makes use of relevant literature. It presents the issues discussed with accuracy using relevant sources' *Anonymous reviewer*

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France's Africa Relations: Domination, Continuity and Contradiction

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Preface

In March 2012, Mali went through an unprecedented political crisis. The country experienced yet another *coup d'état* and a rebellion in the north that threatened to divide the country. The rebellion involved several groups with varying aims. Ansar Dine, led by a former rebel leader, Iyad Ag Ghaly, aimed to impose Islamic law and ensure the protection of the minority Berber population in Mali. Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb had as one of its aims to spread Islamic law, as well as to liberate Malians from the French colonial legacy. The Malian government was still strategising on appropriate measures to address the various rebellions in the country, soldiers mutinied, displeased with the manner in which the various rebellions were being managed. The 21 March 2012 coup culminated in the toppling of President Amadou Toumani Touré, and a military National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State was installed, with Amadou Sanogo as its chairperson. With the state structure having been eroded totally, the Azawad Liberation Movement seized the greater part of the country and stated that it was an autonomous if not completely independent homeland in the northern part of the country. Crippled by internal response mechanisms, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was unable to intervene to avert the secession of the country. It was in this context that the Africa Institute of South Africa (AISA) was intrigued by these developments and sought to understand why sub-regional organisations and the African Union could not intervene to address the troubling situation in Mali. The research division of AISA put together a research team under the leadership of Dr Nicasius Achu Check to look into the challenges facing the state of Mali and Francophone Africa as a whole. Prof. Ajume Wingo of the University of Colorado at Boulder was subsequently appointed as a research fellow to coordinate the work. Prof. Korwa Adar of the University of Botswana was also invited to contribute a chapter. Prof. Korwa Adar was later co-opted as one of the editors to strengthen the editorial team.

During the 2014 African Unity for Renaissance Conference that was held in Durban, South Africa, some chapter contributors were invited to shed light on some of the key issues affecting Francophone African countries by presenting drafts of their chapters. The outcome of that particular session on the challenges of security development in Francophone Africa is this compendium of chapters. Beginning from the theoretical and conceptual foundation of the state in Francophone Africa, the book attempts to investigate the core challenges afflicting Francophone Africa and to assess if such challenges are unique to a Francophone African problem or challenges common to all countries on the continent. The chapters in this first volume express the idea that challenges of development, governance and culture affecting Francophone Africa are unique, based on the region's cultural and state foundation principles and its historical predisposition.

Fundamentally, the book attempts to assess France's policy issues that may have contributed to or influenced the consistent economic, political, social and security challenges in former French colonies on the African continent. The book highlights how the African foreign and security policies, especially in the post-colonial era, perpetuate

colonial policies of assimilation, association and integration. In the pursuit of these policies, the chapters in the book highlight instances of domination, continuity and change in France's economic, cultural and political grip on Francophone African countries. The book provides a good historical perspective of France's policy on Africa and critical insight into the political, economic, security, cultural and social problems generated by the nature of France-Africa relations. It provides useful insight into the nature of France-Africa relations, drawing on a good mix of sub-regional perspectives and country case studies. It presents the issues discussed with accuracy, using relevant source materials.

The aim of the book is to start a conversation among students of Francophone Africa on the challenges associated with this part of the continent, in the hope that continuous engagement will help shape the countries of Francophone Africa into what Africa wants by 2063.

Nicasius Achu Check, Korwa Gombe Adar and Ajume Wingo

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