

**UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY AFRICA:
NATIONAL CONSTRUCTIONS, DEMOCRATIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Introduction

I- The state in Africa: an imported or hybrid concept?

- A) Colonialism and Independence
- B) Construction and formation of the African state: governance and sovereignty in the post-independence era.

II- Facilitating political change: democratic transitions and consolidation

- A) Democratisation processes: national conferences, multi-party politics, elections
- B) A return to authoritarian politics?

III- War and Conflict

- A) The intangibility of borders: the limits of self-determination
- B) Ethnicity and violence
- C) The privatisation of violence
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IV- Economic issues: poverty, development, emergence

- A) From post-independence developmentalism to structural adjustment policies
- B) Africa in the global economy: investment, aid and trade
- C) The limits of emergence: the case of South Africa
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V- Africa's international relations

- A) The limits of regional integration
- B) An "African renaissance"?: the African Union and NEPAD
- C) The regionalisation of conflicts and peace-brokering: "African solutions to African problems"
- D) China and Africa

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