

Restructuring African States to Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract

This paper is framed around two questions: why were European-style states, without effective domestic development institutions, created on the continent of Africa? And to what extent have the colonial states matured in post-independence Africa? Answering these two questions can help clarify the extent to which the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be achieved by African states in 2030. I contend that the post-independence African States retained both their colonial nature and the purposes for which Europeans created these states. That means that the states created in Africa in 1884-1885 are resilient, therefore, without intentional restructuring and reforming of the colonial/postcolonial states in Africa, the idea of sustainable development will simply remain an idea. Seven suggestions are offered for transformative and sustainable development across Africa.