



Architects Of Poverty

Moeletsi Mbeki

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Of an estimated 1 billion people in the world who are trapped in a cycle of grinding poverty and despair, a disproportionate number live in sub-Saharan Africa.

In this account, Moeletsi Mbeki analyses the plight of Africa and concludes that the fault lies not with the mass of its people but with its rulers – the political elites who contrive to keep their fellow citizens poor while enriching themselves.

Concentrating mainly on South Africa, his country of birth, and Zimbabwe, his home when he was in exile, Mbeki tells a tale of lost opportunities and extinguished hopes.

Yet Mbeki is no Afro-pessimist. Along with his candid expose of the problems, he poses some suggestions about what needs to be done to break the stranglehold of the African elites on political power and to set sub-Saharan Africa once more on the road to development.

Architects Of Poverty Details

Date : Published April 2009 by Picador Africa

ISBN : 9781770101616

Author : Moeletsi Mbeki

Format : Paperback 196 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, Cultural, Africa, Politics

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From Reader Review Architects Of Poverty for online ebook

Andrew Paul Butow says

Absolutely brilliant!

Jackie says

A good read

Cathie says

Extremely interesting view on African politics and development. Should be prescribed reading for all politicians. I trust that the narrow ray of light provided will be seen, and advice followed.

Imz says

Most of the 1 billion people who live in poverty are in sub-Saharan Africa. Why is this so?

Mbeki argues that the issue lies with political elites who are concerned with enriching themselves at the expense of the poor.

He argues that capitalism in Africa - his main focus being on South Africa - is based on mercantile capitalism - and it needs to change.

He opens up with a discussion on slavery and colonialism and the 'Scramble for Africa' (Africa's history of been a breeding ground for the extraction and exploitation of raw material at cheap prices). He argues that this system is still continuing today. In fact he goes as far as suggesting that Africa is deindustrialising - there is a resurgence of a scramble for natural resources and not enough production going on. For example he used South Africa as an example of a country that exports too many raw materials but not enough manufactured goods. This is contrast to developing countries such as China.

He touches on a number of subjects that seek to uncover why Africa's economic challenges but the main argument that is in this book is that the political elite are responsible for the plight of Africa today.

Fleur says

Very interesting and written in a clear way. I do not understand enough of the continent to judge what Mbeki is saying, so I cannot really have an opinion on his work. Only that I can only imagine that the problem is much more complex than he lets on. Sure I believe that political elites play an important part in the underdevelopment of sub Sahara Africa but that cannot be all can it?

Esther says

While claiming to be a book on the problems bedeviling Africa, this book actually focuses on the trials of South Africa and Zimbabwe. There are occasional references to other parts of Africa, but the bulk of the book is dedicated to these two countries.

If you are looking to get a cohesive understanding of Moeletsi Mbeki's criticisms of the South African and Zimbabwean leaders, this book will cover what you are looking for. His observations on BEE are particularly interesting.

However, if you are looking for a cohesive account on African leadership and are already familiar with these southern African stories, you may find the book frustrating.

Bongani Mngomezulu says

The book was published in 2009 and I read it in 2017 with the benefit of hindsight. His diagnosis of the problems experienced especially by South Africa and Zimbabwe have proved to be accurate. I like his analysis from the 1800's to the 2000's and how he connects the dots for the reader. His analysis especially on the failures of inter-regional bodies such as SADC was particularly interesting. This book is an honest critique of the current state of affairs.

Itai Gurira says

Lords of Poverty deals with those who manipulate the existing poverty in the so called third world into an instrument of acquiring masses of wealth, political and economical power for themselves and their organisations in countries they claim to be helping. . . .this book on the other hand focuses on Afrika and how the political elite instead of helping us move from the trenches of Poverty use funds and state policies to enrich themselves and their cronies as well as using resources to quell dissension thereby maintaining our state of dependence. . . .the book just does not stop at highlighting their criminal acts and their repercussions but also goes on to suggest realistic solutions which could see especially sub-Saharan Afrika, develop home grown solutions that put us on similar growth patterns as the rest of the world

Margritte says

Moeletsi Mbeki is not known for tiptoeing through the tulips and does not waste time in expressing his honest opinion about the current developments in South Africa. The book is an easy read about different issues crippling the South African political landscape. A very welcome voice of reason.

David Klompas says

Moeletsi Mbeki provides an exhilarating overview of the challenges faced by sub-Saharan Africa. Unfortunately, the book is far too narrow in its focus and provides no practical solutions to the problems that it highlights.

Corey Holmes says

from Cairo to cape town. oh if this was possible eastern civilization would have two superpowers. China and Africa

Darin Dickson says

A must read for racists.

Ray Hartley says

Written by one of South Africa's most original and fearless thinkers, Moeletsi Mbeki's Architects of Poverty is essential reading if you want to understand what's wrong with the national economy. His chapter on South Africa's elites is a tour de force of analytical thinking, tracing the rise of the mining "oligarchs" and how they cut a deal with the ANC which led to black economic empowerment. Its a tragedy that Mbeki has been twice dismissed - first because he is the brother of Thabo Mbeki and secondly because he has been smeared as a traitor. Neither caricatures are valid, as this book demonstrates. Its almost five years old now, but it still holds its own.
