LSE-UCT July School 2015
LCS-GV201

The State, Democracy and Development in Africa
Course Outline and Reading List 2015

Professor Thandika Mkandawire
t.mkandawire@lse.ac.uk

Professor Thandika Mkandawire is Professor of African Development and Head of the African Initiative at the London School of Economics, and Olof Palme Professor for Peace at the Institute for Future Studies in Stockholm. He was Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development from 1998 to 2009 and Director of the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) from 1986 to 1996. He was previously Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Development Research in Copenhagen and has taught at the Universities of Stockholm and Zimbabwe. His research interests are mostly in development theory, economic policy and development, social policy in developing countries, and the political economy of development in Africa.

Teaching Assistant: Gauthier Marchais
g.m.marchais@lse.ac.uk

Course Outline

The state in Africa experienced its heady expansion after independence, being seen then as the prime agent of nation-building, modernisation and economic development in the 1960s and 1970s, only to find itself vilified as a "lame leviathan", "vampire state", "clientelistic state", "neopatrimonial state", "rentier-state", "kleptocratic state" "swollen state" etc which had overreached its ability to deliver on its promises. Retrenchment and "reigning in the state" were among some of the solutions proposed to address these problems. This was to be achieved through liberalisation, deregulation and privatisation which were expected to produce a "lean" state that would be supporting of the market. By the mid-1990s there was a realisation of the centrality of the state even for the success of liberalised markets. A new agenda for state reform thus was embarked upon to produce institutions that would support market reforms.

The course will revisit both the theoretical an empirical views behind the changing positions towards the state in Africa. Special attention will be paid to the many economic, institution and political reforms that have been suggested to “fix” states in Africa. It will also examine some of the new demands for “developmental states” in Africa and the possibilities of such states. It will critically examine some of the institutional reforms that have been introduced in Africa.

Prerequisites

None
Assessment

Mid-term Essay: 50%
Final Exam: 50%

Course Overview

The course is composed of 18 lectures spread out over 9 days, with 2 lectures per day. Here you will find an outline of the lectures, followed by a background reading list.

DAY 1: INTRODUCTION

Lecture 1. STUDYING AFRICA

This lecture will look at some of the outstanding issues in the study of African political economy. It will look problems of preconceived ideas about Africa; problems of access to information; problems of data; the size and diversity of the economy; the normative as opposite to analytical bias of research on Africa etc.

Lecture 2. FRAMING THE RESEARCH

The lecture will also introduce a framework centered around the 7 “I”
- Initial conditions
- Ideas
- Interests
- Individuals (role of political leadership)
- Institutions
- Industrialisation (as proxy for level of development)
- International Context

DAY 2: NATION BUILDING AND STATE FORMATION

Lecture 3. NATION BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT

This lecture will address the problem of “nation-building”. It will look ideas of nationhood and nationalism, their origins in the African context and their translation into political programs. It will look at the roots and factors of nation building on the African continent, the challenges posed by ethnic diversity and political stability.

Lecture 4. POST COLONIAL STATE BUILDING

The African state has been one of the most vilified institutions in Africa. And yet virtually every program of change (including those of liberalisation and privatisation) is premised on the existence and efficacy of the state. The lecture will look at the colonial legacies of how they shaped the constraints facing post-colonial African states; the changing views about the state in development; The
initiatives of post-colonial state builders for enhancing and developing state capacity, their successes and short-comings.

DAY 3: AFRICA’S DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

Lecture 5. AFRICA’S POST-COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY

This lecture will be an overview of the African economic growth experience and the changing role of the state in the post-colonial era.

Lecture 6. THE ERA OF ADJUSTMENT

Structural adjustment has for better or worse been central to the political economy of African economies during the last three decades or so. This lecture will examine some of the controversies about structural adjustment.

DAY 4: SECTORIAL EXPERIENCES

Lecture 7. AGRICULTURE, AGRARIAN CHANGE AND THE STATE

African agriculture has lagged behind other regions, resulting in some cases in loss of human life. There are many theories behind this dismal performance – “urban bias”; “industrialisation” “commodity bias”, “class bias”, “gender bias” etc. Here against the role of state is a highly contested issue. The lecture will review the relationship of the state to some of the “biases”.

Lecture 8. INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE STATE

This lecture takes up the role of the state industrialisation in Africa. It examines the various development ideas and strategies that have been adopted and what role was assigned to the state and what factors determined its performance.

DAY 5: RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT

Lecture 9. DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Domestic resources play an important role in financing development. What role has the state played in increasing both private and public savings? What are the constraints on the state’s “extractive” capacity, and in particular its capacity to tax its citizens?

Lecture 10. THE QUESTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The lecture will address the issues raised with respect to Africa’s capacity to benefit from its natural resources. Closely related to the question of domestic resource mobilization are the issues of natural
resources and the potential of such resources in underpinning industrialisation and economic transformation. The debate on “natural resources” has recently been polarized around the idea of the “resource curse”, which we will address critically.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DAY 6: GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Lecture 11.  GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

In the new “post-Washington ” consensus the “getting prices” policies have been replaced by “getting institutions” right as the “Good Governance” agenda has become a key component of aid. The lecture will examine the adequacy of some of these reforms in light of the discussion of “developmental state”.

Lecture 12.  DEVELOPMENTAL STATES

In the Post-structural adjustment era there has been a change in the perception of the role of the state in development. A number of Africa leaders have self-defined themselves as “developmental”. The lecture will place the debates on the role of developmental states in the context of Africa. What role can such a state play in African countries today? Although the central role of the “developmental state” has been recognised, there are lingering doubts about the capacity of such states to emerge on the African continent, often based on the arguments that ethnic diversity hinders the kind of collective action that developmental states require, or such ills as neopatrimonialism and rent-seeking deny the state the “autonomy” it requires to pursue long terms policies. This lecture will address these issues critically.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DAY 7: DEMOCRACY AND POLICY

Lecture 13.  DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION: THE POLITICS

In the early 1990s, African countries have witnessed a “wave” of democratisation that has profoundly reshuffled the political landscape of the continent and led to acute tensions in the political, social and economic spheres. This lecture will examine the relationship between democratisation, nation building and politics in the African case.

Lecture 14.  DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION: POLICY & THE ECONOMY

This lecture will explore the relation between democratization and the question of economic development and long-term development policies.

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

DAY 8: POVERTY AND SOCIAL POLICY

Lecture 15.  POVERTY AND SOCIAL POLICY

Poverty is a central feature of the African political economy. During the “Lost Decades” of the 1980s 90s Africa was the only continent which witnessed an increase in the absolute numbers of the poor. Since then African discourse on poverty has been attached to MDGs. This lecture will address the main questions of the debate on poverty: How has poverty fared in the era of “recovery”? What type of
social policies is most effective to address the issue of poverty? What are the obstacles to poverty reduction?

Lecture 16. POLITICS AND SOCIAL POLICY
As in Latin America, Africa has witnessed a number of social policy reforms. This lecture will look at some of the drivers of new social policies using the prism of the 7 I’s.

DAY 9: AFRICA AND THE WORLD

Lecture 17. REGIONAL INTEGRATION
Ever since their independence African countries have pronounced themselves in favour of regional integration and have entered into many, not always compatible, regional and sub-regional schemes of cooperation. The economic case for regional cooperation is quite strong, and the failure of regional integration is often attributed to "lack of political will". This lecture will seek to "unpack" the issue of "political will" and examine some of the drivers and constraints on regional integration.

Lecture 18. AFRICA AND THE WORLD
This lecture will look at the contemporary challenges that the continent faces in an era of advanced global integration. It will look at various types of foreign presence on the continent, but also the role of the African diaspora.

Lecture 19. AID AND AFRICA
Africa countries are still heavily dependent on aid. Aid shapes the state's role in various ways: circumscribing its remit through "conditionalities"; enhancing its fiscal positions; affecting its relationship with its citizenry etc. Defined by a wide range of interests (humanitarian, geopolitical, commercial, international obligations, etc. It is a source of controversies as to its effects on development in the recipient countries.
Background Readings

These are background readings on the topics that will be covered during the course. The course-tailored reading list is in the following section.


**Taylor, Ian.** 2002. "Botswana's "Developmental State" and the Politics of Legitimacy," "Towards a New Political Economy of Development: Globalisation and Governance." University of Sheffield, United Kingdom:

Day 1: Introduction

This is the full reading list for the course, comprising the core readings for each class, to be found in the coursepack, and the further readings that can be accessed via the University online portal or consulted in the library.

Lecture 1: Framework: Studying Africa and development studies


Further readings


Nugent, Paul. Africa since Independence (2004), Introduction, chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-70)


Lecture 2: Initial Conditions


Further readings


Day 2: Nation Building and State formation

Lecture 3: Nation Building and Development


Seminar Reading: "There is No Congo". Jeffrey Herbst & Jeffrey Mills. Foreign Policy

Further readings

Lecture 4: Post Colonial State Building


Further readings
- Nathan Nunn: The Importance of History for Economic Development (Harvard University and NBER Cambridge) (2009)

Day 3: Africa’s Post-Colonial Development Trajectory

Lecture 5: Independence to Adjustment


Further readings

Lecture 6: Adjustment and Recovery


Further readings

Day 4: Sectorial Experiences

Lecture 7: Agriculture, Agrarian Change and the State


**Further readings**

**Lecture 8: Industrialisation and the State**


**Further readings**

**Day 5: The Role of Resources in Development**

**Lecture 9: Domestic resource mobilization**


**Further readings**
Lecture 10: The question of natural resources


Further readings

Day 6: Governance and Institutions

Lecture 11: Institutional Reform


Further readings

Lecture 12: Developmental States

Further readings

Day 7: Democracy and Policy

Lecture 13: Democratic Consolidation: The Politics


Further readings
Neopatrimonial rule in Africa in Michael Bratton and Nicholas van De Walle Democratic Experiments in Africa (Cambridge University Press Pp)61-92

Lecture 14: Democratic consolidation – Policy & The Economy


Further readings

African Cases


### Day 8: Poverty and Social Policy

#### Lecture 15: Poverty and Social Policy

**Reading:** Easterly, W. 2009. "How the Millennium development goals are unfair to Africa" *World Development*, 37:1, pp. 26-35

**Further readings**


### Lecture 16: Politics and Social Policy

**Reading:** Carbone, G. "Democratic demands and social policies: the politics of health reform in Ghana" *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 49:381-408.

**Further readings**


### Day 9: Regional and International Integration

#### Lecture 17: Regional Integration

Lecture 18: Africa in the World


Further readings