

AFRICA:

Transformations and the Challenges

The Hague WFCC-Thimun
January 27, 2014

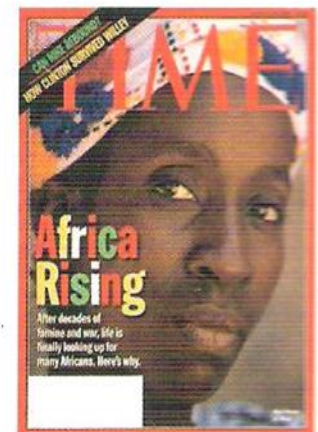
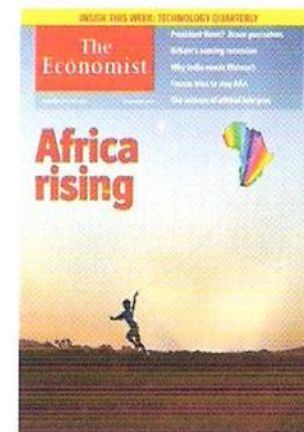
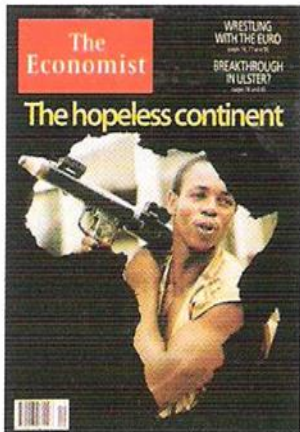
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What happens in Africa?

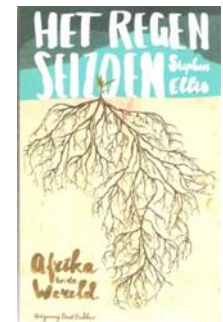
- Remarkably high economic growth figures: Africa in 2012 and 2013 maybe the continent with the highest average economic growth.



Source: CEED Africa-Europe on the Global Chessboard: the New Opening, Warsaw, 2013, p. 22

More positive tone, also in the Netherlands

- Silverlining Africa (Ton Dietz 2011)
- The Rainy Season (Stephen Ellis 2011)
- Het Nieuwe Afrika ('The New Africa': ASC + Netherlands African Business Council, October 2012)
- Conference Africa Works! (ASC, NABC and others., October 2012)



Background: population explosion



- Population explosion
- 1650: Europe and Africa: 100 million = 17%
- 1900: Europe: 650 million = 25%; Africa: 100 million = 4%
- 2010: Europe: 750 million = 11%; Africa: 1030 million = 15%
- 2050: Europe: 800 million = 9%; Africa: 2000 million = 22%

Background: Urban explosion



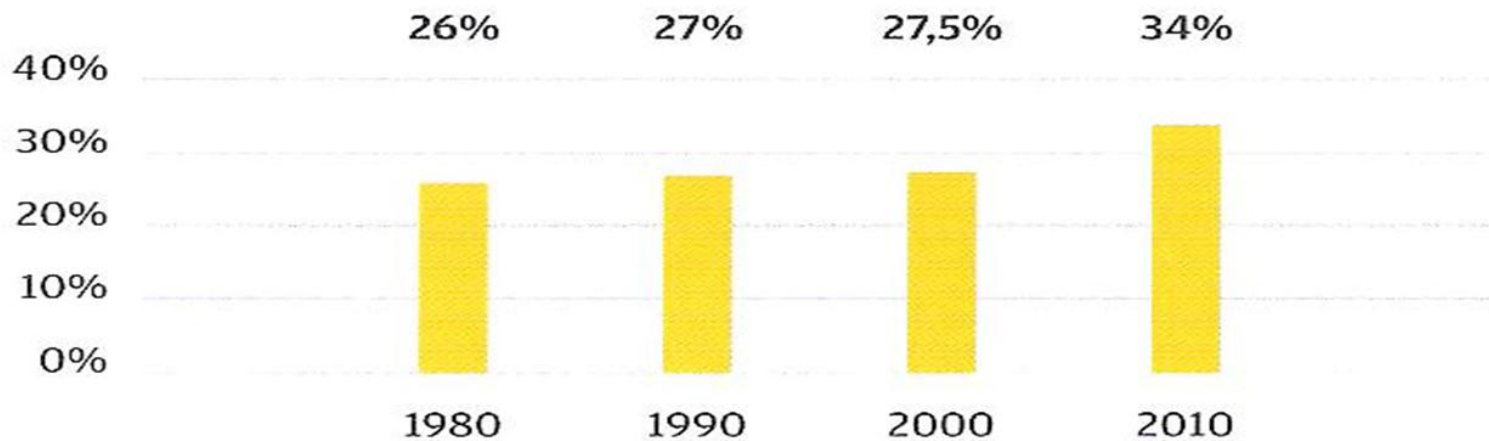
- In 1960: 65 million urban Africans = 20%
- In 2010: 450 million = 42%
- Soon: > 50%
- Already 4 supermegacities (which?)
- Already one in eight Africans in a city with > 1 million inhabitants
- Africa: youngest population: youthful explosion of urban energy

Rapid growth of an African (urban) middle class



Figure 12

Growth of the middle class in Africa [percentage of the overall population]



Source: This Is Africa, April/May 2012, p. 20.

In CEED 2013

= Fast rise of demand for agricultural produce



- Agricultural production more than caught up with extreme growth of population
- Food energy value per capita 1960-2010: x1.12

1960-2010:

- Population growth: x 3.5
- Agricultural land: x 2.1
- Agricultural yields: x 1.8
- Number of Chicken: x 5.4

Agricultural breakthroughs mainly since 2000.

Social Trends 1960-2014



- Africans are much healthier now
- Life expectancy is much higher
- **Despite HIV/AIDS**
- People are much better educated
- Adult literacy rates much better
- Many more and much higher % of children go to primary and secondary schools
- Fast growth of universities and student numbers

Communication is much better than
before (mobile phones!)



Economic phases 1960-2014



- 1960s: growth, but path dependency on late colonial initiatives and post-WWII expansion
- 1970s and 1980s: mostly stagnation and crisis
- 1990s: start of recovery
- 2000s: high growth, partly driven by Asian demand (China!)
- 6 African countries among the world's ten fastest growing economies
- 2010-2015: further take off predicted
- 7 African countries among the ten FGE

Political and cultural dynamics



- Compared to 1990 more democratic regimes and more freedom of expression
- Far more exposure to outside world and information; better knowledge of world languages
- But in many of the indexes of 'good governance' Africa still way below, but with many interesting exceptions!
- Rapid expansion of world religions and 'struggle' between strict ('holy book') interpretations and mystic/spiritual/hybrid/break-away interpretations, both in Christianity and in Islam.

Major Challenges



- Fast economic growth: yes, but also growth of inequality; huge (youth) unemployment; growing anger (*“we want it too and we want it fast!”*) and violence
- Competition between world powers for Africa’s mineral, land and water resources
- Environmental challenges and sustainability demands
- Strong need for good leadership at world, AU, country, metropolitan and local levels
- However: often: greed-based kleptocracy > popular resistance, criminal violence, civil war and frustration-based outmigration.

World leadership needed!



- To stimulate and facilitate inclusive and sustainable development in Africa
- And assist Africa's political, economic and cultural leaders to go beyond greed and violence and collaborate for a fair distribution of opportunities on a world scale and within Africa!

