

2004

George B. N. Ayittey: Africa in Chaos Study Guide

Steven Alan Samson

Liberty University, ssamson@liberty.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs



Part of the [Other Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#), [Political Science Commons](#), and the [Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Samson, Steven Alan, "George B. N. Ayittey: Africa in Chaos Study Guide" (2004). *Faculty Publications and Presentations*. 138.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/gov_fac_pubs/138

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Helms School of Government at Scholars Crossing. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications and Presentations by an authorized administrator of Scholars Crossing. For more information, please contact scholarlycommunications@liberty.edu.

**GEORGE B. N. AYITTEY: AFRICA IN CHAOS
STUDY GUIDE, 2004
Steven Alan Samson**

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION: THE LOST CONTINENT

Study Questions

1. Identify some of the evidence of the continent's great natural wealth -- and of its squalor. What happened within months and years after the euphoria of independence from colonial rule? Distinguish between the first two generations of coup leaders in the 1960s and 1970s. Illustrate how have things gotten even worse in more recent years. In the 30 years after 1965, approximately how much did real GNP per capita decline? Per capita food production? How much of black Africa's food was imported by 1990? (5-11)
2. Identify some of indications that foreign direct investment has been declining. How much has foreign debt risen? How is it being paid? What countries buck this trend? (11-13)

Here are some comparisons of neighboring countries in terms of per capita GDP c. 2000:

Mauritius	\$10,400	Seychelles	\$7,700	Madagascar	\$800
Libya	\$8,900	Tunisia	\$6,500	Algeria	\$5,500
South Africa	\$8,500	Swaziland	\$4,000	Lesotho	\$2,400
Botswana	\$6,600	Namibia	\$4,300	Zimbabwe	\$2,500
Gabon	\$6,300	Equat. Guinea	\$2,000	Congo (Brazz.)	\$1,000
Egypt	\$3,600	Sudan	\$1,000	Ethiopia	\$600
Morocco	\$3,500	Mauritania	\$2,000	Senegal	\$2,000
Ghana	\$1,900	Togo	\$1,500	Burkina Faso	\$1,000
Cameroon	\$1,700	Cent. Afr. Rep.	\$1,700	Chad	\$1,000
Senegal	\$2,000	Cape Verde	\$1,700	Gambia	\$1,100
Côte d'Ivoire	\$1,600	Guinea	\$1,300	Liberia	\$1,100
Kenya	\$1,500	Uganda	\$1,100	Tanzania	\$710
Benin	\$1,030	Niger	\$1,000	Nigeria	\$950
Mozambique	\$1,000	Malawi	\$900	Zambia	\$880
Congo (Braz.)	\$1,000	Angola	\$1,000	Congo (Kinsh.)	\$600

3. What made the 1980s "the lost decade?" What two distinctions need to be made for an understanding of the root causes of these problems? (13-14)
4. **Two Africas Clashing** Whence do most of Africa's problems emanate? Describe how traditional Africa operates? The traditional African ruler? How does modern Africa differ? How do the ruling elites behave? What has happened to the military? In 1996, which ECOWAS states were functioning democracies? How are dissenters typically treated? How do officials regard development and foreign investment? (14-20)
5. How does the author characterize revolution as practiced in Africa? Show how common sense is lacking. Illustrate the problem of double standards and doublespeak. (20-24)
6. **Plan of the Book** What is the key to Africa's long-term economic survival and prosperity? How does the author distinguish between environmental defects and structural obstacles? Why is there so little agreement on the causes of Africa's crises?

Compare the externalists and the internalists. How do borrowed political and economic systems differ from the traditional indigenous systems? How has the state been hijacked by “vampire elites?” How are the instruments of state power used by ruling elites? What does the author mean by the politics of exclusion and discontent? Sultanism and statism? (24-28)

Review

food imports
modern Africa
externalists

foreign debt
environmental defects
internalists

traditional Africa
structural obstacles
centralization of power