

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910367723703321
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Titolo	Leaders for a new Africa : Democrats, Autocrats, and Development
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Ledizioni, 2019
ISBN	9788855260862 8855260863
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (162 p.)
Collana	Pubblicazioni ISPI
Disciplina	320
Soggetti	Influence (Literary, artistic, etc.) Politics and government Political leadership Africa
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Sommario/riassunto	Political leadership can be a crucial ingredient for the development of sub-Saharan Africa. The region has been going through important transformations, with both political landscapes and economic trajectories becoming increasingly diverse. The changes underway include the role of leadership and its broader impact. This volume argues that, on the whole, African leaders and the way they reach power generally do contribute to shaping their countries' progresses and achievements. It also zooms in on some influential African leaders who recently emerged in key states across the continent, illustrating and explaining the individual paths that brought them to power while reflecting on the prospects for their governments' actions. Far from the simplistic stereotypes of immovable, ineffective and greedy rulers, the resulting picture reveals dynamic and rapidly evolving political scenarios with key implications for development in the region.