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                        edited by Hans Muller, Pinkie Mekgwe, Marvellous Mhloyi

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   Altri autori (Persone)   MullerHans
                            MekgwePinkie
                            MhloyiMarvellous

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                        Africa, Southern History

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   Nota di bibliografia   Includes bibliographical references.

   Nota di contenuto   section I. Introducing the issues -- section II. Theoretical reflections --
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   Sommario/riassunto   Development has been on Africais agenda for a long time but progress
                        has been both varied and limited, partly due to the diverse levelsof the
                        discussions ont he challenges and the interventions for tackling them.
                        Africais greatest challenge is the uneven development within and
                        between its countries, and the pressing issues of extreme poverty in
                        southern Africa, and the continent as a whole. Poverty causes its
                        victims to suffer social exclusion and political repression. In addition,
                        societies that experience poverty are also mostly under continuous
                        threat of ecological disasters and diseases. All poor people are
                        therefore plagued by loss of freedom and dignity, and are often unable
                        to participate effectively in the political, economic, legal and social
                        processes of their countries. This book focuses on the social and
                        cultural dimensions of development dynamics and, in particular, the
                        role of values in shaping development. Values are at the core of the
                        hopes and aspirations of individuals, communities and societies. The

book therefore explains the values that motivate and inform African communities and societies, with a view to facilitating a dialogue about sustainable development in Africa among academics, intellectuals, policy and decisionmakers, and the communities. It also investigates the social and cultural dynamics of development in Africa, as a better alternative to earlier studies that blame African culture for poverty and exclude the people of Africa in their definition of developments in the continent. The significance of this book lies in its provision of a theoretical argument, from empirical perspective, on the role of values in the development of Africa; an argument that is capable of facilitating a dialogue about African development, which obviously proves more useful than either the imposition of a technical process or the announcement of a normative framework.