

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910787861603321
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Titolo	Governing Africa's changing societies : dynamics of reform / / edited by Ellen M. Lust, Stephen N. Ndegwa ; contributors, Catherine Boone [and seven others]
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boulder, Colorado ; ; London, [England] : , : Lynne Rienner Publishers, , 2012 ©2012
ISBN	1-62637-106-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	320.967
Soggetti	POLITICAL SCIENCE / World / African Africa, Sub-Saharan Politics and government 1960- Africa, Sub-Saharan Social conditions 1960- Africa, Sub-Saharan Economic conditions 1960-
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	""Book Title""; ""Table of Contents""; ""Acknowledgments""; ""1-The Challenges of Governance in Africa's Changing Societies""; ""Prevailing Views of Reform""; ""Understanding Change: Microtransitions""; ""Three Transformations: Implications for Governance""; ""Notes""; ""2-The Democracy-Governance Connection""; ""A Democracy-Governance Connection?""; ""Macroconnections""; ""Microconnections""; ""The Arrow of Causality""; ""Electoral Alternation""; ""The Case of Mali""; ""A Representation Gap""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""3-Democracy and Economic Performance""; ""The Authoritarian Disadvantage""""A Democratic Dividend?""; ""The Paradox of Growth Without Prosperity""; ""Comparing Economic Performance""; ""Regimes, Transitions, and Growth""; ""Poverty and Popular Welfare""; ""Individual Perceptions and Measures of Welfare""; ""The Political Hazards of Economic Failure""; ""Explanations of Performance""; ""The International Dimension""; ""Prospects for Change?""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""4-Contested Land Rights in Rural Africa""; ""Land Regimes in Sub-Saharan Africa""; ""Two Basic Variants of the Smallholder Land Regime""

""Destabilization of Existing Land Regimes""; ""Land Tenure and Land Politics in Southern Ghana""; ""The Land Regime""; ""Politicization of Land Issues in Southern Ghana""; ""Land Law Reform in Ghana""; ""Land Tenure and Land Politics in the Farming Districts of the Rift Valley, Kenya""; ""Land Regimes in the Farming Districts of the Rift""; ""Politicization of Land Issues in the Rift""; ""Land Law Reform in Kenya""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""5-Property Rights: Preferences and Reform""; ""A Theory of Resource Exploitation""; ""Revising a Revisionist Literature""

""Study Design and Data Collection""; ""In the Shadow of a Permissive State""; ""Divergent Responses in Ga and Akyem Abuakwa""; ""The Institutional Consequences of Land Sales""; ""Paths Diverge""; ""Tying Changing Land Use to Changing Modes of Governance""; ""Some Alternative Explanations""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""6-Women's Rights and Family Law Reform in Francophone Africa""; ""Actors and Alliances for Family Law Reform""; ""Legal Pluralism and the Context of Reform""; ""Perceptions of Justice and Rights""; ""Reforming Family Law""; ""Benin""; ""Senegal""; ""Mali""; ""Conclusion""

""Notes""; ""7-Religion, Democracy, and Education Reform in the Sahel""; ""The Governance Context: Negotiating Islam and Democracy in the Sahel""; ""Reforming Education in the New Sociopolitical (Governance) Contexts""; ""Conclusion""; ""Notes""; ""8-Rethinking the Dynamics of Reform in Africa""; ""The Complexity of Reform""; ""Reconsidering Development""; ""The Way Forward""; ""Notes""; ""Bibliography""; ""The Contributors""; ""Index""; ""About the Book""

Sommario/riassunto

What is the cumulative impact of the immense social, economic, and political changes that Africa has undergone in recent decades? What opportunities do those changes present to improve the lives of the continent's citizens? Countering the prevailing mood of pessimism in the face of disappointed expectations, the authors of *Governing Africa's Changing Societies* demonstrate the significance of even incomplete reforms in the areas of competitive elections and democratization, gender relations, property rights, the public sector, and privatization, among others. In the aggregate, their work reveals how seemingly small or sluggish changes are accumulating to fundamentally, and positively, transform Africa's governance environment.
