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**E. Shizha & L. Diallo, *Africa in the Age of Globalisation: Perceptions, Misperceptions and Realities*. Ashgate, 2015, 277 pp. \$119 Hardcover.**

By Pesanayi GWIRAYI <sup>†</sup>

## Book Review


This text makes interesting reading. Africa in the age of globalisation is composed of four parts, each focusing on a specific theme. Part 1 Social and institutional development has four chapters, Part 2 Technology and global partnerships also has four chapters, while Part 3 Gender, migration and settlement and Part 4 Education and globalisation in Africa have three chapters each. Altogether the book has fourteen chapters. There is a striking link between the title of the text and the chapters covered. For instance, a closer look at the book shows that all the chapters fall within the purview of the phenomenon of globalisation. The chapters were written by authors from different academic backgrounds. This is a refreshing approach in that globalisation can be viewed differently by authors from various disciplines thereby avoiding projecting a monolithic view of the social phenomenon under discussion.

One can be equivocal that the authors succeeded in achieving one of their objectives, notably, interrogating the position of Africa in the age of globalisation. By emphasising the historical, political, economic, social and cultural influences on globalisation, as well as the potential that Africa has, and challenges it has to contend with, the authors indeed showed a great deal of scholarship. This is against the backdrop that in some quarters, globalisation conjures images of cultural imperialism. According to the authors, and rightly so, Africa cannot be viewed as an appendage but a critical player in a rapidly globalising world.

Like any good piece of academic work, a few grey areas have been noted. The authors successfully ignited a debate which they unfortunately cannot extinguish. Am sure it was not their intention to do so. This position is complicated by the fact that globalisation is not only a reality but has proved to an unstoppable phenomenon. For instance, the technological developments the contemporary world are witnessing were unthinkable just a few years ago. Technology, one of the major drivers of globalisation, increases the likelihood of living in an unpredictable world. The situation is compounded by the fact that the origin of technology is by and large the developed countries. As a result, the developed countries are bent of maintaining their stronghold on Africa. This is a serious challenge to the authors' view that Africa needs to have a greater voice in the global institutional framework. It was thus imperative for the authors to suggest strategies that Africa, given its

<sup>†</sup> Great Zimbabwe University, Box 1235, Masvingo, Zimbabwe.



 gwirayip@gzu.ac.zw

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vulnerability, can use to extricate itself from the stronghold by the developed countries. Short of this, the same old exploitative relationship will be perpetuated, courtesy of globalisation.

Finally, it is befitting to congratulate the editors and their team for producing a text which represents a very strong statement regarding the position of Africa in the age of globalisation. Without any reservations, the text is a must read for several groups of people including university students in the social sciences, policy makers, government leaders, development practitioners, and to all who value and wish to live in a better Africa.



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