

African Renaissance

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Editorial Note

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Local and domestic forces shape African reality by upholding power structures that have an impact on knowledge as well. Even while the continent has a lot of potential for reconstruction and renewal, new kinds of control and discrimination put a lot of strain on the region's constant struggle between optimism and despair, renaissance and marginalization. The wealth of Africa and its economic interconnectedness with the rest of the globe must unavoidably lead to improvements in human development if the continent is to experience a rebirth and rebuild. Following the independence of the majority of African nations from colonial imperialists, expectations were built based mostly on the belief that Africa would rapidly advance and that African leaders would lead its governance and politics. These hopes might have been influenced in part by the fervent resistance of African nationalist leaders to colonial imperialism and the liberation of Africa from its shackles. But as we can see from contemporary African reality, the continent continues to face internal pressures and causes that have hindered its development progress. This has invariably cast doubt on Africa's integration into the international economic order. In addition to the legitimate concerns regarding Africa's advancement, the 21st century must see efforts to reawaken Africa to the path of sustainable development. This is because Africa faces many contemporary issues and problems, necessitating its renaissance from underdevelopment.

These problems include the absence of morally upright and selfless leaders, corruption, the return of military interventions in politics, climate change, insecurity, poverty, unemployment, inflation, state fragility, poor governance, the overbearing influence of foreign partners (particularly France, China, Russia, and the US), terrorism, and the proliferation of attacks by armed non-state actors against the state.

The continent's social cohesion has been weakened by the aforementioned issues, which have been escalating social tensions and fostering dissatisfaction. It is one of the factors contributing to the escalation of political instability and the distortion of democratic transitions in some nations (Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso) through military participation in politics. African economies are in danger of losing the advantages of decades of economic expansion due to the continent's underlying issues. In particular, the extension of political leaders' terms is the root cause of many government dysfunctions on the continent. Higher levels of violence, corruption, tyranny, and a tendency toward coups d'état are also linked to it. Africa has become a very politically unstable continent as a result of the political landscape being moulded by leaders who have extended their terms in recent years. Many African politicians have embraced Pan-Africanism, a potent ideology that aims to complete the continent's independence, as a means of addressing this problem. Through Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want," which was proposed utilizing the African Union platform, these African leaders strengthened this worldview. However, given the authoritarian, overbearing, and highhanded behaviour of some of these African leaders, the implementation of this concept at the continental level has proven difficult.

The enduring nature of the current issues facing Africa and the inability of regional and sub-regional institutions to settle them amicably necessitate research to determine their causes and implications for the continent's sustainable development. African problems have received a lot of attention, as is generally known; however, it is not quite obvious how much the results of these studies accurately represent African solutions to African problems. This highlights the necessity for well-researched articles that analyse African challenges and issues, utilizing an Afrocentric platform like the African Renaissance that disseminates research findings. With articles from a variety of fields, including politics, economics, sociology, development studies, psychology, history, governance, gender studies, international relations, and political

transformation, among others, this edition of the African Renaissance is multidisciplinary in focus. This particular edition of African Renaissance has well-written and thoroughly researched articles whose conclusions, in particular, identified workable policy options and solutions based on Afrocentric ideology that can successfully set Africa on the path to the much-anticipated sustainable development. It is hope that Africa “That We All Want”, would be possible, if African leaders and other stakeholders follow some of the well-researched and analysed African solutions discovered by articles hosted in this edition of the journal.