



The New Scramble for Africa

By Pádraig Carmody

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Once marginalized in the world economy, the past decade has seen Africa emerge as a major global supplier of crucial raw materials like oil, uranium and coltan. With its share of world trade and investment now rising and the availability of natural resources falling, the continent finds itself at the centre of a battle to gain access to and control of its valuable natural assets. China's role in Africa has loomed particularly large in recent years, but there is now a new scramble taking place involving a wider range of established and emerging economic powers from the EU and US to Japan, Brazil and Russia.

This book explores the nature of resource and market competition in Africa and the strategies adopted by the different actors involved - be they world powers or small companies. Focusing on key commodities, the book examines the dynamics of the new scramble and the impact of current investment and competition on people, the environment, and political and economic development on the continent. New theories, particularly the idea of Chinese "flexigemony" are developed to explain how resources and markets are accessed. While resource access is often the primary motive for increased engagement, the continent also offers a growing market for low-priced goods from Asia and Asian-owned companies. Individual chapters explore old and new economic power interests in Africa; oil, minerals, timber, biofuels, food and fisheries; and the nature and impacts of Asian investment in manufacturing and other sectors.

The New Scramble for Africa will be essential reading for students of African studies, international relations, and resource politics as well as anyone interested in current affairs.

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The New Scramble for Africa By P?draig Carmody Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1052379 in Books
- Published on: 2011-06-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .77" w x 6.00" l, .85 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Winner of the Geographical Society of Ireland's Book of the Year Award

"Essential to observers of Africa's politics and international relations."

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"Carmody's skill is not merely in his assiduous efforts to pool a huge array of information, but also in not getting carried away with political rhetoric. Everything here is backed up with statistical data and from numerous, wide-ranging sources. Though fact-heavy, *The New Scramble for Africa* is a remarkably accessible work on economic development."

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"Carmody provides an intelligent and readable insight into a complex and rapidly changing subject. By working through specific resources, and by including a wide spectrum of western and non-western actors, he is able to set out a nuanced and detailed analysis of these dynamic relations. This is an essential text for anyone seeking to get to grips with the 'new scramble for Africa'."

Emma Mawdsley, Newnham College, Cambridge

"Pádraig Carmody's insightful volume challenges the orthodoxies of 'new' economic geography to point to the salience of power and politics in the new scramble for Africa. The book is a very readable welcome addition to the literature from one of geography's foremost scholars of African development."

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"Carmody's book on accumulation and power in Africa is amongst the most nuanced and most persuasive I've read. Given recent Asian-African dynamics, this is a crucial time for a new overview of the Scramble."

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From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Padraig Carmody is Senior Lecturer in Geography at Trinity College Dublin.

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