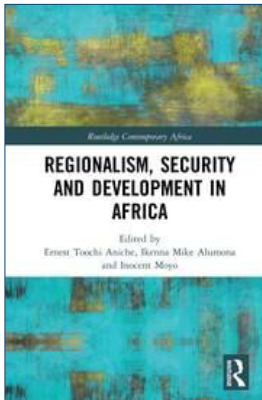# Regionalism, Security and Development in Africa

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Regionalism, Security and Development in Africa is a collection of seventeen chapters edited by Ernest Toochi Aniche, Ikenna Mike Alumona, and Innocent Moyo. The book is a comprehensive one that explores the intricate relationships between African regionalism, security, and development, aiming to stimulate academic research, scholarly debates, and intellectual discourse. To achieve this, the volume is divided into 17 chapters written by esteemed scholars, mainly from Africa. The book reflects three intellectual traditions: Afro-optimism, Afro-pessimism, and Afro-realism. These perspectives shape the contributors' views on regional integration, security, and development in Africa. The book is organised around four main themes: History and Theory of African Regionalism, Africa's Comparative Regionalism, Regionalism and Security in Africa, and African Integration and Development.

In the introduction, the editors opine that the partitioning of Africa during the scramble for Africa, formalised at the Berlin Conference (1884-1885), has left a lasting impact on the continent. Despite decades of pan-Africanism and regional integration efforts, African economies remain fragmented, weak, and dependent on external powers. The legacy of colonialism and the ongoing influence of international financial institutions have hindered Africa's economic development and integration. Regional integration initiatives, such as the African Union and the African Economic Community, have made progress but face numerous challenges. Further, they state that scholars have identified various obstacles to successful economic integration in Africa, including disparities in size and development among member states, fear of domination, and external influences such as neo-colonial ties and multinational corporations. Despite these challenges, some scholars remain optimistic about the prospects of pan-African regionalism, highlighting potential benefits such as larger markets, economic cooperation, and trade facilitation. However, others argue that African regionalism has not lived up to its promise and that a new approach is needed.

The first part of the book explores conversation on various debates and ideas on the history and theory of African regionalism, focusing on how cooperation among nations can address security and development challenges. Chapters examine the evolution, concepts, theories, foreign policy implications, and political economy of African regionalism. It comprised of Conceptualizing and

Historicizing African Regionalism in the Context of Pan-Africanism; Beyond Neo-Functionalism: Africa in Search of a New Theory of Regional Integration; Foreign Policy Initiatives and Pan-African Regionalism; and Migration and Regional Integration in Africa: Some Critical Disjunctures.

Part Two focuses on Africa's Comparative Regionalism. Individual chapters compare regional integration in Africa with other regions, exploring prospects, challenges, and trans-regional partnerships. African regionalism aims to promote decolonization, continental unity, collective self-reliance, and economic transformation. It involves multiple regional economic communities (RECs) with overlapping memberships, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). Chapters here include: Towards a Single African Economic Space: Informal Cross-border Trade and the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Free Trade Area; Regional Integration and Trade in the Central and West Africa: ECCAS and ECOWAS in Comparative Perspective; European Union and African Union Internal Coordination and Crisis Management: Some Critical Reflections; and African and Latin American Regionalism: Perspectives for Interregionalism and South-South Cooperation

The third chapter investigates Regionalism and Security in Africa. Chapters identify and discuss peace and security implications, regional security architecture, conflict resolution, peacekeeping, militancy, insurgency, terrorism, counter-terrorism efforts in Africa, and related issues. We have Security Challenges and African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA); Nationalism, Separatism, Conflicts and Pan-African Integration; Insurgency, Terrorism, Militancy, and African Regionalism; Political Succession and Regional Integration in Africa; and The African Union and Its Expanding Role in Peace Keeping and Conflict Resolution in the Post-Cold War Era here. The book adopts an expanded concept of security, emphasizing the protection of individuals and community involvement.

The fourth and last part of the book assesses African Integration and Development: Chapters investigate regionalism's role in promoting economic integration, trade, and investment in Africa, including democratization, gender, trade, bilateralism, multilateralism, and globalization. Chapters included in this theme are Developmental Regionalism and Democratization in Africa; Developmental Regionalism Strategies and Gender in Africa: A Study of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD); Multilateralism and Regional Trade Agreements: The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA); and Globalization and Modern African Regionalism. This book emphasizes the importance of people-centred development, leading to holistic improvements in quality of life, political stability, and community involvement.

The contributors' perspectives are rooted in Afro-optimism, Afro-pessimism, or Afro-realism, providing a comprehensive understanding of African regionalism, security, and development. The book employs desktop studies, historical and documentary research, and qualitative analysis. Contributors suggest theoretical alternatives and policy options, making this volume a valuable resource for scholars and policymakers. With the recent ratification of the AfCFTA, this book is timely and topical, likely to stimulate scholarly debates on regional integration in Africa and beyond.

Regionalism, Security and Development in Africa is a valuable contribution to the literature on African regionalism. It provides a comprehensive overview of the complex relationships between regionalism, security, and development in Africa. It provides a solid foundation for future research and policy engagement. The book provides a comprehensive overview of African regionalism, security, and development, covering various themes and perspectives. The editors have brought together a diverse group of scholars from Africa, providing a range of perspectives and a nuanced understanding of the topics. The book employs an interdisciplinary approach, drawing on insights from politics, economics, sociology, and history. The book's focus on Afro-optimism, Afro-pessimism, and Afro-realism provides a unique and refreshing perspective on African regionalism

and development. The book's publication coincides with the ratification of the AfCFTA, making it a relevant and timely contribution to the field.

However, some chapters' heavy reliance on desktop studies and historical research, may limit the book's empirical rigour. While the book's theoretical contributions are valuable, some chapters prioritized theory over practice, which may limit the book's appeal to policymakers and practitioners. Some chapters may repeat or overlap with each other, which may detract from the book's overall coherence and impact. The book could benefit from more quantitative analysis to support its arguments and provide a more comprehensive understanding of the issues.