

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH AFRICA?

A contemporary history

ROEL VAN DER VEEN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Country information	11
Introduction	13
I. The Cold War	21
African independence	21
The Africanisation of politics	24
International support for the new states	27
Anglophone Africa following decolonisation	30
Francophone Africa following decolonisation	34
From the Belgian Congo to Zaire	38
Late decolonisation in Southern Africa	41
The strategic importance of the Horn of Africa	45
Africa and the shadow of the Cold War	49
2. Economic decline	53
Colonial influences on economic development	53
The rise and fall of the African economies	57
The oil crisis and the fall of the Berlin Wall	60
Economic decline and externally imposed reforms	62
Effects of the structural adjustment programmes	66
The CFA: a separate exchange rate, a separate course	69
Economic problems in conflict regions	73
The social costs of the reforms	75
A new danger: the disintegration of the state	77

3.	Democratisation	81
	Upheaval in Benin	81
	Many paths to the one-party state	84
	The call for social and political change	87
	Democratisation in Francophone Africa	89
	Democratisation in Anglophone Africa	92
	Failed democratisation in the Great Lakes region	96
	Obstacles to the development of democracy	101
	The democratisation years: an overview	104
4.	Renaissance	109
	A period of promise	109
	Peace in Ethiopia and Eritrea	112
	Positive developments in Southern Africa	116
	Mbeki's African renaissance	122
	New leaders and a wind of change?	125
	The United States' new policies on Africa	127
	Optimism versus pessimism	132
	Nelson Mandela	134
5.	Disintegration	139
	Failing states	139
	Mobutu and the erosion of the Zairean state	142
	New threats	145
	The demise of Somalia	148
	Liberia's path to revolution	152
	The battle for Monrovia	154
	Sierra Leone and the tragedy of Africa's youth	158
	Proliferation of light weapons	162
	Disintegration and violence in perspective	165

6. War	169
The genocide in Rwanda	169
Causes and consequences	172
Central Africa's Great War	176
Ethiopia and Eritrea once again at war	180
Continued fighting in Sudan	183
Congo and the enemies of Kabila	185
Congo and Kabila's allies	189
The Lusaka Accord: untangling the web	192
Refugees and internally displaced persons	196
Conflict prevention on the agenda	200
7. Globalisation	205
The world economy: a runaway train	205
In the grip of the international market	207
The devaluation of the CFA franc	210
Relative decline in trade and investment	213
Slow economic growth	217
Regional cooperation and African unity	221
Continuing economic dependence on Europe	225
South Africa: an emerging market	230
Africa joins the technological revolution	233
Cultural and religious responses	235
8. A new population	241
The population triples	241
Mass migration to the cities	244
The environment ravaged	249
A poor outlook for the elderly	252
Frustration among the youth	254
To the prosperous West in search of a better life	257
The rapid spread of the AIDS epidemic	260
AIDS and Africa: the progress of a virus	263

9. Poverty and aid	269
Absolute and relative poverty	269
The poor continent	272
Strong yet vulnerable women	275
The human rights situation: political poverty	278
Mounting debts	281
The aims and approach of development cooperation	284
Money and effectiveness	287
Aid and politics	292
The psychology of aid	297
The Netherlands: a committed partner for Africa	304
10. Stability	311
A patchwork of weak states	311
Rampant <i>corruption and increasing crime</i>	315
Reassessing the role of the state	318
Attempts at decentralisation	322
Democratisation around the turn of the millennium	325
Winds of democratisation in Nigeria	331
Delayed decline in Southern Africa	335
The road to statehood: disappointment and determination	339
International uncertainty	344
Conclusions	351
The slow surge of the past	351
Why Africa failed	356
Plenty of change, but little progress	359
The postcolonial state: a comparison between continents	363
An African renaissance?	366
Notes	371
Bibliography	379
Abbreviations	393
Country index	397