African Economies and the Politics of Permanent Crisis, 1979-1999

Nicolas Van de Walle

This book explains why African countries have remained mired in a disastrous economic crisis since the late 1970s. It shows that dynamics internal to African economies and the politics of permanent crisis have caused this failure, and that these dynamics are rooted in the political economy of development. The book analyzes the politics of development in Africa, the political economy of institutions, and the dynamics of reform and change. It draws on a wide range of sources, including government publications, academic research, and personal interviews with policymakers and experts. The book concludes with a discussion of the future of African economies and the prospects for political change.