



Where Is Uhuru?: Reflections on the Struggle for Democracy in Africa

By Issa G. Shivji



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The neoliberal project, led by the IMF and World Bank, promised to correct many of the distortions in the African postcolonial environment and pledged to engineer liberalization and expand democratic space through competitive multiparty elections. Decades later, few people, if any, can testify to the success of the envisaged reforms. Instead, neoliberalism failed to guarantee a sustainable basis for freedom, rights and prosperity. This compilation shows that the reform period opened the continent to greater privation by a more emboldened local political class who, under pressure from or by acquiescing to foreign imperialist forces, undermined the struggles for democratic transformation and economic empowerment. Examining the rewards of multiparty politics, the dividends from a new constitutional dispensation, the processes of land reform, women's rights to property, or the Pan-Africanist project for emancipation shows that all have suffered severely. Through these essays, Issa Shivji calls for a new, Africa-centered line of thinking that is unapologetic of the continent's right to self-determination and sets out examples of how such thinking should proceed.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The issue of democracy and good governance as they relate to development and socioeconomic transformation in Africa have been a focus of considerable discussion and debate in and outside the continent. These essays by Professor Shivji, a highly respected and critical Tanzanian academic, enrich the debate. Written from the perspective of an intellectual who has firm grounds within Tanzanian society and a comprehension of global events, *Where is Uhuru?* certainly sharpens the content of the discussion and debate. It is recommended reading for those interested in the struggle for democracy and development in Africa." —Salim Ahmed Salim, former secretary general, Organization of African Unity

About the Author

Issa G. Shivji

is a former professor of law and is currently the Mwalimu Nyerere Research Chair in Pan-African studies at the University of Dar es Salaam. He is the author of *Concept of Human Rights in Africa* and *Let the People Speak: Tanzanie Down the Road to Neoliberalism*. **Godwin R. Murunga** is a professor in the department of history, archaeology, and political studies at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. He is the author of *Kenya: Democracy on Trial*.

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