

in Nigeria, as elsewhere globally, ‘marriage and parenthood remain the sine qua non of full personhood’ (p. 17), including manhood, the process of becoming (and being) a man does not necessarily stop here, but instead also requires, for instance, to bury one’s father. As one of the author’s interlocutors was told by his male peers: ‘You are now fully a man because you have successfully buried your father.’ This evolving process of becoming and being a man as a lifelong task is aptly reflected in the structure of the book, which illustratively takes the reader through the principal phases and arenas of men’s lives: the transition from boyhood to adulthood; marriage and courtship; finding employment and making a living; relationships and politics among and between men; and, finally, attaining the status of an elder. Underpinning these interrelated aspects of life are the expectations placed on men to constantly perform and provide along the intersections of masculinity, money and intimacy.

One of the book’s most significant strengths is undoubtedly its incredibly rich empirical footing, derived from more than two decades of carefully embedded and relational research with men in different phases of life. Illuminating the lived realities of men themselves and integrating these into an emerging body of scholarship on gender in African studies certainly stand out as one of the book’s primary and long-lasting contributions. Arguably, however, Smith’s exploration relies a little too heavily on certain socio-economic demographics, namely middle-class men in (semi-)urban settings, even though a diversity of perspectives is reflected throughout the book. Further, while certainly doing important work of carefully engaging with men’s responsibilities and expectations, including specific challenges associated with this, the book falls somewhat short in more critically juxtaposing these difficulties with the men’s relative positions of power and privilege. While Smith certainly does pay attention to these seeming paradoxes and dilemmas, a more transparent engagement with the vast gender inequalities that continue to perpetuate gender and social relations and structures in Nigeria could have opened the book up for an even more relational and hierarchical engagement of gender in this context.

Philipp Schulz  
Ulster University  
[Schulz-P@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:Schulz-P@ulster.ac.uk)  
doi:10.1017/S000197201900113X

Christopher S. Adam, Paul Collier and Benno Ndulu (eds), *Tanzania: the path to prosperity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (hb £61 – 978 0 19 870481 2). 2017, 336 pp.

This is the third volume in Oxford University Press’s series *Africa: Policies for Prosperity*, edited by Oxford University economists Christopher Adam and Paul Collier. Previous volumes have scrutinized contemporary development challenges of Kenya and Zambia; where the editors now turn to Tanzania, Benno Ndulu, governor of the Bank of Tanzania, joins them.

The philosophy guiding this series is to improve common citizens’ and local policymakers’ knowledge about the opportunities and challenges inherent in Africa’s recent decades of economic progress. It does so by bringing academic research closer to the affected publics, connecting it with current development debates and limiting the amount of academic jargon in the subsequent texts. The editors aim to help societies hold their governments to account for the implementation of development strategies (p. v). It is, however, uncertain whether the book

consistently manages to be accessible to the intended audience of lower-level government employees, social commentators and the wider informed public. While the majority of chapters are primarily descriptive and light on theory, the style does not quite manage to offer a clearly distinguishable alternative to existing policy literature. For the more scholarly, experienced audience, however, the book provides clear and convincingly argued texts and is a welcome in-depth country study that adds to the general debate on challenges and solutions for contemporary African development.

The book is rich in information. It consists of twelve chapters authored by the editors together with twenty-seven additional scholars currently working within both academia and the policy community and representing a variety of organizations, including the University of Dar es Salaam, the World Bank, UNU-WIDER and the Bank of Tanzania. After a brief introduction, the book starts with a chapter summarizing Tanzania's economic experience from independence in 1961 to the present. This is the first in what the editors consider a cluster of chapters concerned with fundamental issues of structural determinants of growth and prosperity. A second cluster of chapters deals with employment, incomes and poverty, and the final cluster is dedicated to the core concerns of the macro-economic agencies. While there is a logical structure to the book, there would have been an added benefit if the editors had provided a concluding chapter in which they synthesized the way in which the different chapters complement one another and had commented on their contributions to the claimed end goal of structural transformation.

Together, the chapters provide a broad and pertinent spread of development challenges covering issues such as natural resource management, urban planning, infrastructure development, human capital formation, monetary policy and financial inclusion. While it is impossible to cover all the relevant issues in one single book, a couple of topics would have warranted additional attention. Despite roughly 65 per cent of Tanzania's population living in rural areas and the majority being involved in agriculture, there is only one chapter addressing the challenges for the agricultural sector. Its focus is on the positive effects of increased urbanization, growing urban demand for agricultural products and the potential of new food value chains. There is, however, need for further targeted policies for rural growth. Another missing topic is the informal economy, which, despite covering the large majority of the labour force, is not addressed explicitly.

Overall, the book primarily pays attention to urban areas and the formal economy, and it is argued that 'rising prosperity depends on rising productivity and this in turn depends on accumulating the capacity to manage ever more complex production processes' (p. 5). Such development requires further human capital formation, the building up of effective organizations (firms and bureaucracies), and the development of technologies for connectivity (transport, ICT and rule of law). In the past, we have seen schools of thought emphasizing either top-down or bottom-up processes. This book instead focuses on the meso-level, although its success is dependent on an enabling and development-oriented government enforcing the 'right' policies. Since African independence half a century ago, many have offered their advice and convictions, and Tanzania is a country that has had its fair share of social engineering. Have Adam, Collier, Ndulu and their co-authors finally identified the missing silver bullet for development?

In Chapter 2, Ndulu identifies four distinguishable opportunities for future prosperity in Tanzania: sustained peace, favourable geographical location, valuable natural resource endowments, and abundant youthful labour force. It is difficult to disagree with either this conclusion or the subsequent chapters' policy recommendations to develop infrastructure, avoid the natural resource

curse, provide education, ensure fiscal stability, and so on. We have heard such policy recommendations before. The question is if the time has finally come for political will, bureaucratic capacity and private-sector involvement to actually deliver, to achieve sustainable growth and to reach the goal of turning Tanzania into a middle- to high-income economy. This is the hope of the editors.

Ellen Hillbom  
Lund University  
[ellen.hillbom@ekh.lu.se](mailto:ellen.hillbom@ekh.lu.se)  
doi:10.1017/S0001972019001141

Ching Kwan Lee, *The Specter of Global China: politics, labor, and foreign investment in Africa*. Chicago IL: University of Chicago Press (hb US\$90 – 978 0 226 34066 1; pb US\$30 – 978 0 226 34083 8). 2018, 256 pp.

Is Chinese state capital a different kind of capital? Ching Kwan Lee tackles this critical question through a six-year-long ethnographic study, comparing Chinese state capital with global private capital in two different sectors in Zambia: copper and construction. Far from the simplistic and often alarmist Western discourse depicting China in Africa as a neocolonial power, merely interested in exploiting resources, and far from Beijing's rosy picturing of the relationship as win-win cooperation between Southern brothers, Lee provides an empirically rich and nuanced account of Chinese investment in Africa. The book adds to Deborah Bräutigam's 2009 and 2015 work, as well as Lucy Corkin's 2013 study, which also present a more complex reality about China in Africa than is usually conveyed in public media.

Chapter 1 sets out the theoretical framework. One of the book's most important theoretical contributions is the distinction it makes between varieties of capitalism and varieties of capital. The 'varieties of capitalism' framework traces capital back to the institutional context from which it emanates. It has been widely used in the literature to analyse Chinese investments abroad. However, the author argues that this type of path-dependent, institutional theorizing fails to recognize the central role played by local politics in capital-recipient countries and the eventful nature of capitalism. The 'varieties of capitalism' literature falls short of explaining the divergent impact of Chinese capital abroad (p. 10). Instead, the author suggests theorizing varieties of capital and its engagement with local politics and international pressures, as this provides a more appropriate framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities capitalism presents. The book is structured around an analysis of capital in three key moments: accumulation, production and ethos. It analyses the level of social embeddedness and contestation each moment generates (p. 11).

Chapter 2 discusses the accumulation imperatives of capital. Lee demonstrates that Chinese state capital, with its broader logic of accumulation – in the sense that it seeks not only profit but also political influence and mineral access – is more accommodating of Zambian demands than global private capital. The author advances the argument that the impact of capital depends on the capacity of the Zambian government to leverage it (p. 47). Strategic demands from the Zambian political elite in the copper sector forced Chinese state capital to take a few market-defying decisions, such as the creation of two special economic zones. Yet the absence of a developmental vision in the construction sector on the Zambian side led Chinese state capital to act in a predatory way, risking the return of long-term indebtedness (p. 53).