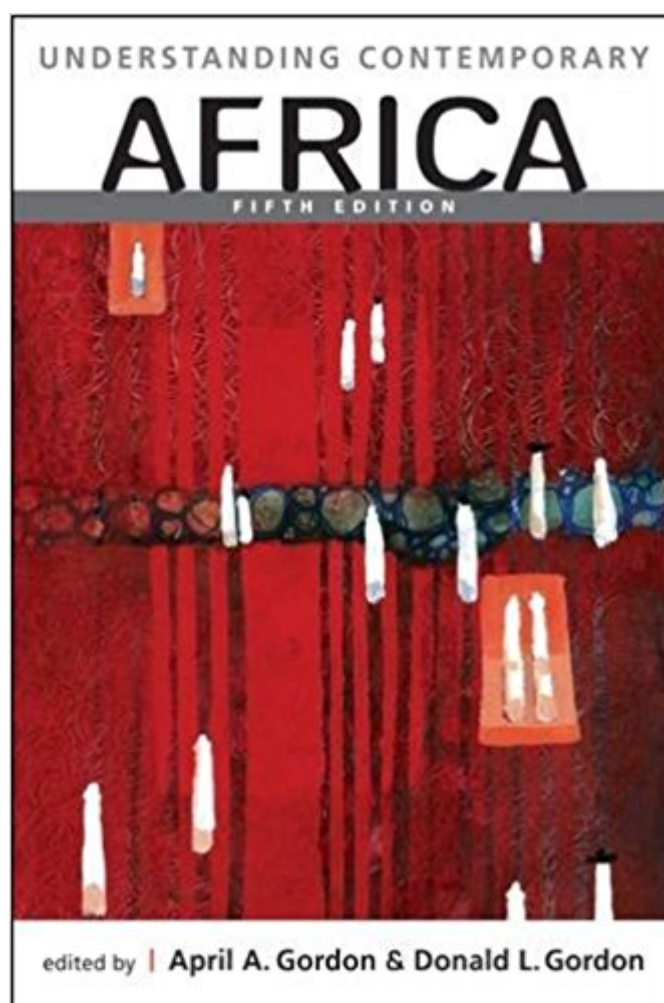


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# Understanding Contemporary Africa (Introductions To The States And Regions Of The Contemporary World)



## Synopsis

This new edition of *Understanding Contemporary Africa* has been thoroughly revised to reflect the many significant events and trends of the past six years— seismic political changes, the impact of the new information technology, the strong presence of China and other foreign powers, and much more. The authors provide current analyses not only of history, politics, and economics, but also geography, environmental concerns, population shifts, and social and cultural issues. Each topic is covered in an accessible style, but with reference to the latest scholarship. Maps, photographs, and a table of basic political data enhance the text, which has made its place as the best available introduction to this diverse and complex continent.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Excellent.... a remarkably sound text for introductory courses on Sub-Saharan Africa. (Journal of Developing Areas) A welcome breath of fresh air. (Orbis) A well chosen and integrated whole.... Deserving of a prominent place in university programmes. (Canadian Journal of Development Studies)

April A. Gordon is professor emeritus of sociology and director of the Women's Studies Program at Winthrop University. Donald L. Gordon is professor of political science and director of the Richard W. Riley Institute of Government, Politics, and Public Leadership at Furman University.

I actually bought this book for my daughter. She needed it for a class. She was hesitant with the class, the book was interesting and she ended her class with an A. The book was interesting when she read more as required for school.

I have used this book for an introductory to contemporary African societies class. It is concise and accessible for undergraduate class. It covers various themes including myths and realities about African continent and its peoples and cultures, history, economics and political developments, health and gender. Since, so many major changes continue to happen in the African continent, more so in the past two years, one will need supplemental materials.

Will refer others in future reference!

This was a text in my African Culture and Politics seminar. Absolutely superb and truly approachable.

I did not realize this book would not cover South Africa when I purchased it. The editors state that SA is completely different and therefore they were not going to address it, in order to focus on sub-Saharan Africa. Fair enough, but no help to me.

This rating is for the shipment, not the book itself, which is actually quite fascinating and a relatively easy read. I ordered the book New. Yet, there's a sticker on it that clearly labels it Used, and there's highlighted material in the book.

Came faster than expected. Book was in great condition, no tear or water damage.

This collection is useful for an intro to African studies survey, because it covers a lot of different thematic areas. Not everything is equally strong (the chapter on history was written by an anthropologist and it shows), and quite a few areas (art, music, youth) are left unaddressed. It needs to be supplemented with more critical and specific works to give more than very general insight, but is a good base to build from. One thing that irked in it is a tone of ethnographic othering that runs through several of the chapters: "we" in the West think one thing, and "they" in Africa think something else. In addition to the unexamined ethnocentrism that can underlie such generalizations, this presumes the reader to have a straightforwardly Western and non-African identity. My African studies

classrooms often have both African students in them and students of African descent and I emphasize to them that studying African societies is a scholarly and analytical effort whether carried out by Africans (and two of the contributors to this volume are themselves African) or foreigners, so it is unfortunate when some authors implicitly treat them as the subjects of the conversation rather than participants in it.

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