The struggle over land in Africa: Conflicts, politics and change

Anseeuw, Ward (ed.)
Alden, Chris [Corporate Author]

Abstract

Présentation de l'éditeur: Land issues and conflicts occur all over, all the time on the African continent and continue to mushroom on a continuous basis. Although many of these issues are not new, they do continue to change and are extremely complex and embedded, which may lead to the inability to deal with them and to questioning the legitimacy of the forms of intervention and prevention of conflicts. The way in which these issues are dealt with often does not take into consideration their major - and thus potentially recurring - causes. The Struggle over Land in Africa: Conflicts, Politics and Change is a compelling study which analyses the role of land as a place and source of conflict, especially with regard to policy development, crisis management and post-war/post-conflict reconstruction. The author's main aim is to gain insight into the nature of policy-making concerning land and to delve into the underlying causes of these land issues, not only at national level but also in terms of broader Africa. The book covers land issues in Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, northern Cameroon, Namibia, Mozambique, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Some of the themes explored in this powerful volume include: Ethnic and indigenous land conflicts, Traditionalism versus modernity, renewed land interests, land use and conflict, state building, politics and land (for example Agricultural land reform); land policy development, planning, inclus
Highlighting the urgent problem of land disputes in Africa, this collection of essays also draws attention to the complex root causes of these conflicts and the challenges they present for the governance of both states and markets. Written by authors from academic, diplomatic, and political backgrounds, the book is an essential reference on the debate about land issues in Africa. The study provides a continental perspective in chapters that describe internal crises in Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, northern Cameroon, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Conflict over land rights in east Africa has pitted local communities against government agencies, conservationists, and commercial interests. Photograph: Boaz Rottem/Alamy Stock Photo. When Edward Loure, one of the co-authors of this piece, was a boy, his family was evicted from its home in east Africa in order to expand the boundaries of Tarangire National Park, one of Tanzania's most popular wildlife reserves. Similar evictions had earlier taken place in the Serengeti in the late 1950s. African land grabs; we cannot expect companies and financiers to regulate themselves. Read more.

Land use, Africa, Government policy, Land reform, Land tenure, Political aspects.