



Trading Down: Africa, Value Chains, And The Global Economy

By Peter Gibbon, Stefano Ponte

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The role of Africa in the global economy is changing as a result of new corporate strategies, changing international trade regulation and innovative ways of overseeing the globalized production and distribution of goods. African participants in the global economy are facing demands for higher levels of performance and quality. Their responses have generated the occasional success but also many failures. Noted researchers Peter Gibbon and Stefano Ponte describe the central processes that are at the same time integrating some into the global economy while marginalizing others. They show the effects of these processes on African cou

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Editorial Review

Review

"Trading Down makes new, original, and creative contributions to understanding obstacles to African economic development. With detailed treatment of sub-Saharan Africa's role in global value chains-placing African performance squarely within the context of global capitalism-the authors bring much insight to a problem (weak African economic performance) that still cries out for new ideas. The combination of theoretical sophistication and detailed case knowledge is very impressive."-William Milberg, Associate Professor of Economics, New School University "This is an exceptionally important piece of work. It simultaneously achieves a number of important objectives. The first is to situate Africa-typically seen in terms of marginalization-centrally on the landscape of specific post-adjustment forms of globalization and its impact. Second, it performs an important empirical service by providing an account of the new high value sectors (which extends beyond Africa of course). Third, it links convention theory with global value chains (as part of a project that rethinks the political economy of contemporary forms of capitalism). And all of this through a careful analysis of forms of governance and regulation and the ways in which quality and value are now central to the 'new' economy."-Michael Watts, Chancellor's Professor of Geography and Development Studies, University of California, Berkeley

From the Publisher

Examining the effects of integration and marginalization on African farms and firms

About the Author

Peter Gibbon is a Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies. Amongst his authored works is *A Blighted Harvest: The World Bank and African Agriculture in the 1980s*. He has also edited numerous books. Stefano Ponte is a Senior Researcher at the Danish Institute for International Studies. He is the author of *Farmers and Markets in Tanzania: How Market Reforms Affect Rural Livelihoods in Africa* and co-author (with Benoit Daviron) of *The Coffee Paradox: Global Markets, Commodity Trade and the Elusive Promise of Development*.

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