



Markets and States in Tropical Africa: The Political Basis of Agricultural Policies: With a New Preface (California Series on Social Choice and Political Economy)

By Robert H. Bates

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Most Africans live in rural areas and derive their incomes from farming; but because African governments follow policies that are adverse to most farmers' interests, these countries fail to produce enough food to feed their populations. *Markets and States in Tropical Africa* analyzes these and other paradoxical features of development in modern Africa and explores how governments have intervened and diverted resources from farmers to other sectors of society. A classic of the field since its publication in 1981, this edition includes a new preface by the author.

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Review

"Robert Bates's book manages the difficult task of speaking to the specialist and non-specialist alike. It explains the historical, political, and economic roots of Africa's challenges. Best of all, it gives context to why easy prescriptions haven't worked in the past, and some hope for what might work in the future." - Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer"

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"Interested and well-meaning people in the United States wonder, 'What's the matter with Africa?' Robert Bates's book manages the difficult task of speaking to the specialist and non-specialist alike. It explains the historical, political, and economic roots of Africa's challenges. Best of all, it gives context to why easy prescriptions haven't worked in the past, and some hope for what might work in the future."—Ray Suarez, Senior Correspondent, The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer

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About the Author

Robert H. Bates is currently the Eaton Professor of the Science of Government at Harvard University, where he has studied and provided consulting assistance in the areas of governmental reform, economic policy reform, and political economy for many countries throughout the world. He is the author of several books, including *Open-Economy Politics* (1998).

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