Protecting Minority Rights in African Countries

A Constitutional Political Economy Approach

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In this enlightening book, John Mukum Mbaku analyses the main challenges of constitutional design and the construction of governance institutions in Africa today. He argues that the central issues are: providing each country with a constitutional order that is capable of successfully managing sectarian conflict and enhancing peaceful coexistence; protecting the rights of citizens – including those of minorities; minimizing the monopolization of political space by the majority (to the detriment of minorities); and, effectively preventing government impunity.

‘An excellent exposition of the policy imperative for African countries to find ways to ensure peaceful coexistence of their ethnic groups and provide the enabling environment for inclusive growth and development. Mbaku has convincingly applied Buchanan’s constitutional political economy model to show how African countries can use constitutional design so that laws and institutions can provide the wherewithal for peaceful coexistence and create the enabling environment for growth and development. Recommended reading for political economy scholars, rights activists, and African policy-makers.’

– Kempe Ronald Hope, Sr., Development Practice International, Canada

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