

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century African Developmental State: Comparing the Developmental Experiences of Ethiopia and Rwanda

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## • INTRODUCTION

This study will aim to examine *in what ways has the form of developmental states in Rwanda and Ethiopia differed from one another and East Asian developmental states of the past?*



**The study will focus on two further research questions:**

*To what extent have domestic and international pressures impacted the form of development pursued in Rwanda and Ethiopia?*

*How have elite politics affected the form of development pursued in Rwanda and Ethiopia?*

## AIMS

The overall aim of this research will be to examine whether challenges of constructing 21<sup>st</sup> century developmental states have differed when compared to the experiences of East Asian countries. This research will examine how the Rwandan and Ethiopian governments have differed in their political and economic strategies to achieve their aims. Such strategies have a long tradition in African studies (Bates 1981). In particular, this study will focus on the importance of how domestic politics in Rwanda and Ethiopia have impacted the development trajectories of Rwanda and Ethiopia. It will engage with theoretical work on political settlements and limited access orders (North et al. 2009, Khan 2010) while building on the authors' previous experience of studying elite politics in Rwanda.

On the basis of fieldwork and primary data collected in both countries, the study will illuminate the challenges associated with the development trajectories followed by these two countries.

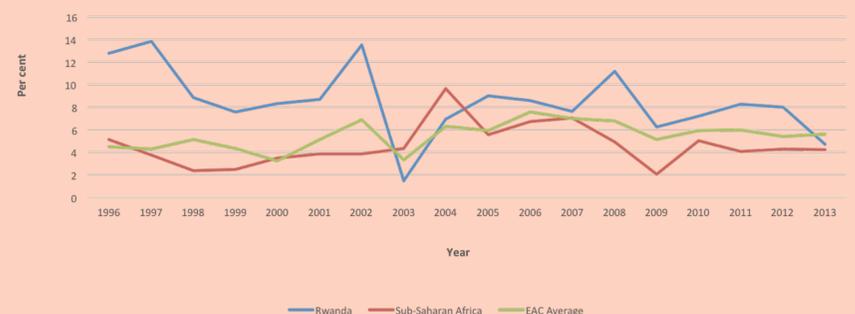
This study aims to highlight how late development is a fundamentally different challenge in the 21<sup>st</sup> century while also showing how the varied forms of development pursued in two different settings are accompanied by severe vulnerabilities.



## METHODOLOGY

A structured comparative methodology will be developed using a historical political economy approach to analyse the challenges of late development in Rwanda and Ethiopia. Bibliographic research and fieldwork will be undertaken in both countries. Findings obtained will be analysed for this project. Extensive fieldwork has already been conducted in Rwanda, as part of the researcher's PhD study. Though some follow-up research will be conducted as part of this study, the bulk of fieldwork during this project will be conducted in Ethiopia.

GDP Growth Rates - Regional and Continental Comparisons: 1996-2013



## OUTPUTS AND IMPACT

A book will be published with Oxford University Press based on this research at the end of the fellowship. Initial discussions have been initiated with the editor of the series – Critical Frontiers of Theory, Research and Practice in International Development Studies. The book will showcase the development experiences of Rwanda and Ethiopia in comparative perspective, exploring how and why such challenges have differed from the experiences of East Asian developmental states. The book will contribute to the academic literature on developmental states and the developing literature on political settlements (Khan 2010, North et al. 2009). By developing studies of productive sector policies in these countries, the study will also contribute to the literature on industrial policy. Working papers will be presented in conferences (African Studies Association, Development Studies Association). Two journal articles will also be published in Development Studies journals, as a result of research findings that will emerge as part of fieldwork.



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