

WIDE AWAKE FOUNDATION (WAF) | 2026 WAF PAPERS



Economic Awareness & Empowerment

(Dimension 9 of 11)

Booklet 1 of 1

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In pursuit of wellness. For us. By us.

The Wide Awake Economic Posture

This booklet moves through four scales of the same question: Global » Continental (African) » National (Kenyan) » Local and personal. By the end, the picture should feel complete — not just as information, but as a map we can actually use.

But before we get into the detail, here is where Wide Awake stands. These four principles are the lens through which everything in this booklet is written.

1. **See clearly.** Understand the system we are living inside — its history, how it works, who it works for. The world is not always what it looks like on the surface.
2. **Build, don't just complain.** It helps to look at what others have built and get inspired — then build our own alongside it. Frustration without action goes nowhere.
3. **Start where we are.** We do not need to wait for governments or foreign investors to begin. There is more to work with than we have been told. We just have to learn to see it.
4. **Demand reciprocity.** African resources, African labour, African intelligence deserve fair returns. That is not a demand for charity. It is a demand for justice.

“We are not a charity case. Never have been.” — Rachael Ikami, Founder, Wide Awake Foundation

Introduction: Why Economic Awareness Matters

There is a phrase that gets repeated so often it almost loses its sting: “Africa is rich but Africans are poor.” But what does that actually mean? And more importantly — what does a young person in Kisumu, in Kericho, in Isiolo do with that knowledge?

This booklet is not an economics lecture. It is not a development report. It is an invitation to wake up — to see the economic world we are living in clearly enough to stop being acted upon by it, and to start acting within it with purpose.

It covers three territories: *how economic systems work and why they were built the way they were; how Africa's economic position came to be and what keeps it there; and the real opportunities that exist for Africans — for us — right now.*

“There’s so much noise surrounding the economics of African nations that we as citizens risk complacency when instead we should be getting in the boxing ring.”

— Dambisa Moyo, *Winner Take All* (2012)

This is not a story of doom. The economic story of Africa — told honestly — is a story of enormous, mostly untapped potential running into systems and histories that have actively worked against it. Seeing that gap clearly is the first step to changing it.

A note on how this booklet is written: wherever a claim is made about history, data, or research, the source sits just beneath in smaller grey text. Nothing here is opinion dressed up as fact. All sources are real and can be looked up.

Scale 1: The Global Economic System

Before we can understand Kenya’s economy, or Africa’s, we need to understand the global system that both sit inside. That system was not designed with Africans at the table. Knowing how it works is not optional — it is the foundation of being able to navigate it.

1.1 What Is Capitalism? What Is Money?

For most of human history, there was no money. People traded directly — a farmer might swap grain for a neighbour’s tools. As communities grew bigger, direct swapping became harder. Money came along as a solution: a token that everyone agreed had value and could be exchanged for anything.

What followed was credit — the idea that you can promise future resources against present needs. Credit is essentially a bet on the future: if we believe tomorrow will be more productive than today, we can borrow against it. That belief in growth, built up over centuries, became the engine of modern capitalism.

*Source: Yuval Noah Harari, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Chapters 11–16*

Capitalism is an economic system where most of the means of production — factories, land, money — are privately owned. Decisions about what gets made, at what price, and for whom are driven largely by supply, demand, and the pursuit of profit.

Capitalism has produced extraordinary material growth. The Industrial Revolution, mass production, global trade, and the modern technology sector are all products of it. But capitalism is not neutral, and it is not automatically fair.

Source: Harari, Sapiens; Sidney Pollard, The Development of the British Economy 3rd ed. (1915–1980)

The Free Market – and Its Limits

The most common version of capitalism today is the free market doctrine: governments should stay out of economic affairs as much as possible, and the market – through competition and supply and demand – will sort things out most efficiently.

In practice, a completely free market is as realistic as belief in Santa Claus. There is no such thing as a market free of political influence. Markets need trust to work, and trust needs enforcement. Without courts, contract law, and regulation, markets collapse into fraud. The 2008 US housing crisis – like the Mississippi Bubble of 1719 – showed what happens when financial markets are left without proper oversight.

Source: Harari, Sapiens, Chapter 16 (“The Capitalist Creed”)

More fundamentally, free markets have no built-in sense of fairness. A market will find the cheapest labour – wherever in the world that is. It will extract the most profitable resource – regardless of who lives on top of it. It will serve whoever has the most purchasing power first. That is not malicious. It is mechanical. But it has very real consequences for communities with less power.

Source: Harari, Sapiens; Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa (1972)

The Slave Trade as Market Logic – Africa’s Most Important Economic History Lesson

Between the 16th and 19th centuries, approximately ten million African people were transported across the Atlantic as enslaved labour. The engine driving this was not primarily racist ideology – it was profit logic. European entrepreneurs saw the demand (sugar, tobacco, cotton), worked out that enslaved African labour was the cheapest input available, and the free market delivered exactly that. The companies running the slave trade were listed on the Amsterdam, London, and Paris stock exchanges. Ordinary middle-class European investors bought shares. The return was around 6% per year – considered excellent.

Source: Harari, Sapiens, Chapter 16; Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa (1972)

This is what unchecked market logic produces. Capitalism has ended lives not out of hatred, but out of cold indifference paired with greed. The investors and company managers rarely thought about the Africans at all. They looked at ledgers of profit and loss. Understanding this is not about nursing a grudge. It is about understanding any powerful tool: *one needs to know what it can do before they can use it wisely.*

Source: Harari, Sapiens, Chapter 16

WAF Key Insight

The Atlantic slave trade was not an exception to free market capitalism — it was an expression of it, with no regulation or ethics to hold it back. Africa's economic disadvantage today did not come from African incapacity. It came from African resources and African people being extracted for others' profit over centuries. This is documented history.

1.2 The Bretton Woods System and the Architecture of Global Aid

In July 1944, as World War II was winding down, representatives of 44 nations gathered at a hotel in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to design the post-war global economy. From those meetings came the three most powerful economic institutions in the world today: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the framework for international trade.

Source: Dambisa Moyo, Dead Aid (2009), pp. 25–27

Africa was not in the room. The system that came out of Bretton Woods was built to serve Europe's reconstruction and the strategic interests of the US and UK first. When it turned its attention to Africa from the 1950s onwards, it brought assumptions and tools designed for a completely different situation.

The Marshall Plan and the Aid Template

The Marshall Plan (1948–1952) saw the United States put approximately US\$13 billion into fourteen war-devastated European nations. It worked. Europe recovered. Infrastructure was rebuilt. Economies grew. The obvious next question was: if aid worked in Europe, why not everywhere?

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 25–27

The problem is that the Marshall Plan worked under very specific conditions: for countries that had been advanced-industrial economies before the war, with existing infrastructure, functioning governments, educated workforces, and established trade relationships. And critically — the aid was time-limited and designed to restore what had existed, not to build something from scratch or create ongoing dependency.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 28–31

When this same template was applied to Africa in the 1960s, none of those conditions were present — and yet it was applied anyway. African nations had been systematically stripped of institutional development under colonialism. There was no pre-existing industrial base

to restore, no functioning bureaucracy to rebuild, no established trade relationships to revive. The aid was not filling a gap left by war. It was being poured into a structure that colonialism had deliberately prevented from forming in the first place. And unlike Europe, it came with no end date.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 28–34; Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

A Brief History of Aid to Africa

1940s–1950s: Aid linked to Bretton Woods reconstruction. Africa treated as an afterthought.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, p. 25

1960s: The decade of industrialisation. Big infrastructure investments. Many came as loans, not gifts.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 28–29

1970s: Oil crisis (1973). Global banks had lots of cash and lent freely to developing countries at low interest rates. Africa borrowed heavily. Then interest rates shot up.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 29–31; World Bank data

1980s: The lost decade. Debt crisis. The IMF's Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) forced African governments to cut public spending, sell off state assets, and open their markets to foreign competition — as conditions for getting debt relief. Most economists today agree SAPs caused enormous damage.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 31–34; Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

1990s: Aid rebranded as a tool for democracy and governance — more in theory than in practice.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 34–36

2000s–2020s: Aid presented as the answer to everything. After 50 years and over US\$1 trillion in aid to Africa, the continent is more dependent on aid than when it started. The model is not working.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 36–38

“Fortunes and misfortunes are intertwined. Even where there are pockets of economic success, it is worth remembering that in the long term no country in Africa can truly exist as an island of prosperity on its own.” — Dambisa Moyo, Dead Aid (2009)

What Moyo argues for is not more aid, but a real shift: trade finance, bond markets, foreign direct investment, remittances, microfinance — tools that create self-sustaining growth

rather than dependency. Not rejecting help. Demanding something better, and building our own.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid, pp. 74–102

1.3 International Trade — The Rigged Rules

The global trading system is not a level playing field. Rich nations pump hundreds of billions of dollars every year into subsidising their own farmers — the US and EU included. This makes their farm products artificially cheap on world markets. African farmers, who get no comparable support, simply cannot compete. **The result:** Africa gets locked out of agricultural exports in the very sector where it has the most natural advantage.

Source: Oxfam International trade reports; UNCTAD trade policy briefs; Moyo, Dead Aid

At the same time, those same rich nations tell African governments to open up their markets, cut tariffs, and let competition run free. But they do not apply those rules to themselves. This is sometimes called ‘kicking away the ladder’: wealthy countries used protectionism to grow their own industries, then pulled the ladder up behind them and told everyone else to climb without it.

Source: Ha-joon Chang, Bad Samaritans (2007); Moyo, Dead Aid

The Berlin Conference and the Economic Legacy of Partition

In 1884–1885, the major European powers gathered in Berlin to carve up the African continent between themselves. Not a single African was in the room. They drew straight lines across existing kingdoms, communities, and trade networks. That event — the Scramble for Africa — is the direct ancestor of the trade and governance challenges the continent is still wrestling with today.

Source: Wikipedia, Berlin Conference (en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Conference); Martin Meredith, The State of Africa

Those borders split ethnic communities across different countries, built infrastructure designed to move resources out of Africa rather than connect Africans to each other, and created economic units whose whole purpose was colonial extraction. The effects are still felt daily. Prominent Nigerian businessman Aliko Dangote once reported needing his passport stamped 35 times on a single business trip across Africa — all because of borders drawn in Berlin in 1885.

Source: Meredith, The State of Africa; Bloomberg Opinion, Africa’s Lost Decade (2023)

Scale 2: The African Economic Story

2.1 Africa Is Not Poor — Africa Is Being Stripped

The most important thing to understand about Africa's economy is this: Africa is not resource-poor. It is not talent-poor. It is not idea-poor. Africa's economic position is the result of centuries of extraction, unfair trade rules, and capital that keeps flowing out — not of African incapacity.

Natural capital — the wealth held in ecosystems, minerals, farmland, forests, and fisheries — makes up between 30% and 50% of the total wealth of African countries. Around 30% of all the world's mineral reserves are on the African continent, including 60% of cobalt reserves and 90% of platinum group metals. Africa contributes 80% of the world's platinum, 77% of cobalt, 51% of manganese, 46% of diamonds, 39% of chromium, and 22% of gold to annual global production. The continent holds 7% of global gas and oil reserves, over 60% of the world's undeveloped farmland, and 75% of African nations have direct sea access — pointing to a blue economy potential estimated at \$1,500 billion a year.

Source: Boris Ngounou / Afrik21, 'Africa: Natural Capital Is Gradually Being Taken Into Account' (2023); African Development Bank data

The question is not whether Africa has resources. The question is: who controls them, who benefits from them, and what rules decide how they are used?

DAWN: Delineating Africa's Abundant Wealth in Nature

DAWN is a concept developed by the WAF founder to make visible what has often been made invisible: Africa's enormous natural wealth and its potential to power African lives — not just global markets. The mission is not charity. It is a reclamation.

2.2 Walter Rodney and the Underdevelopment Framework

In 1972, Guyanese economist and activist Walter Rodney published **How Europe Underdeveloped Africa** — one of the most important pieces of economic writing of the 20th century. His argument: the wealth gap between Europe and Africa cannot be explained by African incapacity, geography, or culture. It can only be explained by five centuries of systematic exploitation. African societies were not simply left behind — they were actively underdeveloped. Their resources were taken, their production was redirected to serve colonial needs, their institutions were dismantled, and the wealth created by African labour and African land was moved to Europe.

Source: Walter Rodney, How Europe Underdeveloped Africa (1972, reissued with introduction by Angela Davis)

This is not ancient history. The patterns Rodney identified — commodity dependency, unfair trade terms, capital flight, structural adjustment — are still running today. Understanding them is not about living in the past. It is about seeing the present clearly.

2.3 Cobalt Red: The DRC and the Cost of Your Phone

The Democratic Republic of Congo holds more than 70% of the world's known cobalt reserves. Cobalt is essential for lithium-ion batteries — the technology inside every smartphone, laptop, and electric vehicle. Siddharth Kara's Cobalt Red documents what this looks like on the ground in the DRC: artisanal miners — including children — working in dangerous, unregulated conditions for almost nothing, digging cobalt out by hand. By the time that cobalt reaches a battery manufacturer or consumer electronics company, it is untraceable. The wealth leaves Africa. The damage stays.

Source: Siddharth Kara, Cobalt Red (2023)

2.4 Dead Aid: Why the Current Model Is Broken

Dambisa Moyo's argument in Dead Aid is straightforward: systematic government-to-government aid has not worked for Africa, and there are structural reasons why it cannot work. Aid creates dependency. It undercuts local industries. It gives governments a source of income that does not require public accountability, which makes corruption easier to sustain. And it scares off the private investment and domestic capital that would actually build a self-sustaining economy.

Source: Moyo, Dead Aid (2009), pp. 49–65

Moyo is not anti-West. She is anti-dependency. And she applies that critique equally to African leaders who have allowed dependency to continue and to donor nations who have kept it going.

2.5 Africa's Opportunities: The AfCFTA and the Blue Economy

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), launched in 2021, would create the largest free trade area in the world by number of countries — 54 nations, with a combined GDP of around \$3.4 trillion and a market of over 1.3 billion people. Right now, African nations trade more with Europe, China, and the US than with each other. That is a direct legacy of the Berlin Conference borders. AfCFTA, if fully implemented, has the potential to change that fundamentally.

Source: African Union, AfCFTA Secretariat data; UNCTAD AfCFTA impact assessments (2021–2023)

Carbon markets are another frontier — but one to approach with open eyes. Africa’s forests and ecosystems are enormous carbon sinks. In theory, carbon markets should pay for keeping them intact. In practice, there is real documented risk that carbon markets become yet another channel for extracting value from Africa while leaving Africans with very little. How we participate matters enormously.

Source: Power Shift Africa, Letter on Carbon Markets and Africa (2023); African Arguments (africanarguments.org)

Scale 3: Kenya’s Economic Reality

3.1 Kenya’s Economy: A Portrait

Kenya is East Africa’s largest economy. Agriculture makes up around 33% of GDP and employs over 70% of the rural population. Kenya is the world’s third-largest exporter of tea. And yet the value that Kenyan farmers actually capture from their own tea is a tiny fraction of what that tea is worth by the time it reaches a consumer.

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS); World Bank Kenya Economic Update

The Tea Supply Chain: A Kenyan Case Study

A kilogram of Kenyan tea at the Mombasa auction goes for roughly KES 200–250. By the time it has been processed, packaged, branded, and put on a shelf in Europe, it retails for the equivalent of KES 2,000–25,000 or more. The farmer sees perhaps 1–2% of what the consumer pays. Processing, packaging, branding, distribution — all controlled outside Kenya — take the rest. This is commodity dependence in plain view: the producing country provides the raw material; the importing country captures the value.

Source: WAF founder notes; tea supply chain analysis (Sheena Raikundalia and Namatasi, LinkedIn, 2024); Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA) data

3.2 Kenya’s Fiscal Reality: Debt, Levies, and the Cost of Governance

The Shilling’s Decline

Between 2022 and 2024, the Kenyan shilling fell sharply against major currencies and hit historic lows against the US dollar. The contributing factors include Kenya’s external debt load, a globally stronger dollar, the cost of energy imports, and domestic fiscal pressure. When the shilling drops, imports get more expensive — and Kenya imports fuel, medicine, machinery, and a significant portion of its food. Debt repayments on dollar-denominated loans get heavier. Ordinary Kenyans feel it at the market and on their utility bills.

Source: World Bank, 'Why Has the Kenyan Shilling Declined So Sharply?' (blogs.worldbank.org/african); World Bank Open Data

The Housing Levy and SHIF

The Housing Levy and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF, which replaced NHIF) are two major recent shifts in how Kenya funds public goods. Both have been heavily contested – in courts and in the streets. The economic questions they raise are worth sitting with: *Who actually bears the cost? Who actually receives the benefit? Do these policies help lower-income Kenyans more, or do they place a proportionally heavier burden on those who can least afford it?*

Source: President of Kenya, official statement on SHIF (president.go.ke); The Star Kenya, Housing Levy reporting (2023); CGDev, Journey to UHC: Kenya (cgdev.org)

3.3 Kenya's Youth Economy and the Startup Ecosystem

Kenya's technology startup ecosystem is real and significant. M-Pesa, launched by Safaricom in 2007, pioneered mobile money for the world and remains one of the most consequential tech innovations to have come out of Africa. But the ecosystem has gaps: not enough incubators and accelerators for the number of entrepreneurs trying to get going; not enough patient capital for early-stage businesses; and investment frameworks borrowed from mature markets being applied to a fundamentally different context.

Source: Strive Masiyiwa, LinkedIn analysis of African venture capital gaps; Silicon Cape Initiative; Zimbabwe Muzinda Hub references

3.4 Agriculture as Kenya's Economic Foundation

Kenya's food system is at a crossroads. Smallholder farming – which feeds most of the country – is under pressure from more unpredictable rainfall, longer droughts, rising input costs, and barriers to market access. There is a live and unresolved debate about agricultural technology: should Kenya adopt genetically modified crops to improve yields and drought resistance? Kenyan agroecologist Celestine Otieno has described some agricultural technology models as 'food slavery' – trading dependence on drought for dependence on patented seed supply chains controlled by foreign corporations. Technology is a tool. Who controls the tool decides who benefits.

Source: Graphic.com.gh, 'Sorry Mr Gates, Your Billions Won't Save Africa'; Dr Vandana Shiva, Reclaiming Our Food Culture (2023); Celestine Otieno, quoted in same

On the other side of the same coin: urban Kenyans growing vegetables in apartment spaces and on rooftops; drylands communities transforming degraded land with water-smart

practices; farmers producing more with less. These are not small stories. They are exactly the kind of practical economic agency this booklet is about.

Source: UNDP Kenya, Bare Earth, Bountiful Fields (undp.org/kenya/stories); From Seed to Success: One Farmer's Search to Feed His Community, mPedigree (YouTube)

Scale 4: Local and Personal Economic Empowerment

4.1 From Awareness to Agency

Economic awareness without personal agency is just frustration. The Wide Awake approach insists on both: understand the system we are living inside, and figure out what we can do within it. That requires a specific shift in how we see things — from the economy as something that happens to us, to the economy as something we move through with more agency than we have probably been told we have.

4.2 Africa's Wealth Is in Our Hands — The DAWN Principle

One of the founding ideas behind Wide Awake is that Africa's most undervalued assets are not in the ground. They are in the everyday material of African life — waste, traditional knowledge, agricultural byproducts, skills, community networks. The DAWN chronicles tell this through the eyes of a young Kenyan woman building economic awareness from her own experience. The example she uses is Dorcas Beads — a community programme that turned paper (ordinary, everywhere, free) into hand-crafted beads with an international market. The light bulb moment is not about having more. It is about seeing what is already there differently.

Source: Rachael Ikami, DAWN Chronicles (Wide Awake Foundation, 2023); Malcolm Gladwell, Outliers: The Story of Success (referenced in DAWN)

"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete." — Buckminster Fuller

4.3 Sustainable Food Security: From Consumer to Producer

Food security is both a national economic issue and a very personal one. For urban Kenyans, food costs are a daily economic reality. For rural Kenyans, unpredictable weather is making subsistence farming harder every year.

Practical responses exist at every scale. Urban dwellers growing vegetables in apartment spaces or on rooftops. Community gardens. Smallholder farmers using water-smart techniques. Cooperatives that process and add value to produce before selling it instead of selling it raw. The shift, at every level, is from food consumer to food producer — even partially. Every household that grows some of its own food is less exposed when market prices rise.

4.4 The Entrepreneurship Imperative

For young Kenyans — especially fresh graduates walking into a job market that cannot absorb them all — entrepreneurship is not just an interesting option. It is often the only realistic one. MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) make up the backbone of Kenya's private sector. But they fail at high rates, partly because their founders lack the economic and business knowledge to keep them going through the hard early years.

Source: Kenya National Bureau of Statistics MSME survey data; Credable, 'Financial Strategies and Cash Flow Management for MSME Resilience' (credable.in)

That is exactly where Dimension 6 (Vocational Wellness) and Dimension 9 (Economic Awareness) work together. Dimension 6 is about finding your unique ability and understanding how to convert it into economic value. Dimension 9 is about understanding the wider system you are operating inside. You need both.

The most useful starting question is not 'how do I make money?' It is: 'what problem do we see that we are actually positioned to solve?' That question leads to something more durable than hustle — it leads to purpose-driven economic agency.

Section 5: Economic Empowerment — The Nonprofit Lens

5.1 Empowerment vs. Charity

Not all support looks the same. Strive Masiyiwa — Zimbabwean entrepreneur, founder of Econet Wireless, one of Africa's most significant business builders — has consistently argued that what Africa needs is ecosystem building: accelerators, incubators, patient capital, mentorship. His philanthropic work through the Higherlife Foundation has focused on education and skills, not cash handouts.

Source: Strive Masiyiwa, LinkedIn posts on African venture capital; Higherlife Foundation (higherlife.foundation.com)

The UNDP's Bare Earth, Bountiful Fields project in Kenya's drylands tells the story of communities who, with access to the right knowledge and a small amount of external support, transformed land that had been written off into productive farms. That is empowerment. Not rescue.

Source: UNDP Kenya, Bare Earth, Bountiful Fields (undp.org/kenya/stories)

5.2 The African Expertise Gap

There is a pattern that shows up consistently in African development work: solutions designed by outsiders for African problems, with African expertise sitting on the sidelines. Global funding and credentialing systems tend to privilege Western institutions, regardless of the quality of the African expertise available. When African economists, engineers, health workers, and agricultural scientists are undervalued in the global market for knowledge, Africa ends up importing solutions and paying premium prices for things it already knows how to do.

Source: Farouk Mukiibi, 'Why African Expertise Rarely Matters Globally' (LinkedIn, 2024)

Section 6: Key Thinkers and Essential Reading

This booklet draws on a specific body of documented work. Here are the most important references, with a short note on each.

Foundational Economic Thinking

Dambisa Moyo — Dead Aid (2009)

The most important book on why the current aid model fails Africa, and what the alternatives actually look like. Clear, data-driven, and essential.

Dambisa Moyo — Winner Take All (2012)

On global resource competition and China's growing role in Africa. Essential for understanding the current geopolitics of African resources.

Yuval Noah Harari — Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

The most accessible account of how money, credit, and capitalism emerged and why they work the way they do. Chapters 11–16 are most relevant here.

Ha-Joon Chang — Bad Samaritans (2007)

On the double standards of international trade policy and how wealthy nations pulled the ladder up behind them. Essential context for Africa's trade disadvantage.

Africa-Specific Analysis

Walter Rodney — How Europe Underdeveloped Africa (1972)

The foundational text on the structural causes of African economic underdevelopment. Reissued with an introduction by Angela Davis.

Martin Meredith — The State of Africa

A comprehensive account of African political and economic history from independence to today. The introduction alone is worth reading.

Siddharth Kara — Cobalt Red (2023)

On the DRC cobalt economy and what the global technology supply chain actually costs. Essential and sobering.

Susan Williams — White Malice: The CIA and the Covert Recolonisation of Africa

On how post-colonial African independence movements were systematically undermined. Context for why strong, independent African leadership has been so hard to sustain.

Caroline Elkins — Legacy of Violence: A History of the British Empire

A comprehensive history of the violence behind British imperialism, including in Kenya. Context for the Mau Mau struggle and Kenya's economic inheritance.

Kenya-Specific

For current economic data: World Bank Open Data (data.worldbank.org), African Development Bank (afdb.org), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (knbs.or.ke), African Arguments (africanarguments.org).

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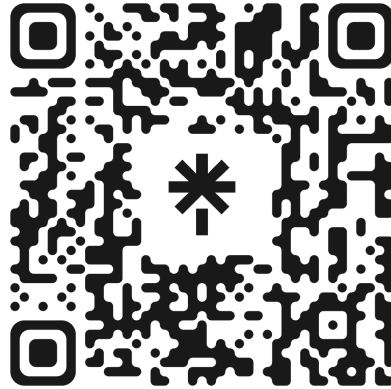
All claims in this booklet are drawn from the following sources. In-paragraph references appear in grey italic text beneath each relevant section.

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- Wikipedia — Berlin Conference (en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berlin_Conference)
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- Credable — Financial Strategies and Cash Flow Management for MSME Resilience (credable.in)
- Feastables — Ethical Sourcing (feastables.com/pages/ethicalsourcing)
- Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) — economic data
- mPedigree / YouTube — From Seed to Success: One Farmer's Search to Feed His Community

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