

Jean-Claude Bastos de Morais is founder and chairman of the advisory board of the Africa-focused Quantum Global group in Switzerland. He is on the board of advisers of the University of Cape Town and is founder and member of the board of the African Innovation Foundation.



OMFIF Press is the publishing arm of the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, an independent platform for international financial dialogue and research. David Marsh is OMFIF managing director and co-founder.



Shivani Shah, a Kenyan pharmacist and amateur artist, has contributed the design for *The Convergence of Nations*, having won an Africa-wide competition for an original work of art organised by OMFIF Press. In the artist's own words, describing her work *Reflections and Connections*, 'The use of red symbolises man's most primitive instincts of self-preservation; gold and silver evoke the tremendous wealth found throughout Africa; and the 3-D effect of the wires shows the increasing importance of the internet and mobile technology.'



A COMPELLING TALE OF AFRICA'S NEW WORLD ROLE AT THE CROSSROADS OF GLOBAL CAPITAL

Praise for *The Convergence of Nations*

I warmly commend this compellingly realistic summary of all the big themes affecting Africa's future. As always, Africa must aim high. This time we can and we will achieve our aims. This expertly written book will heighten international understanding of and interest in our continent.

Dr Akinwumi Adesina
President, African Development Bank

A concise volume on Africa reflecting on the most relevant issues, from human capital to financial capital, from social infrastructure to physical infrastructure, from dreams to pathways. A must read for all who are passionate about helping Africa achieve its full potential. After all, Africa's potential is humanity's potential!

Jingdong Hua
Vice President and Treasurer, International Finance Corporation

At a time when risks elsewhere have been growing – whether in China, Europe or Latin America – this book spells out how, for once, Africa could be a winner. Of course, the precondition is that the continent tackles its problems of corruption, weak governance and misallocation of resources.

Jacques de Larosière
Former Managing Director, International Monetary Fund

A thoughtful account of Africa's problems and opportunities from an important group of writers, of whom thankfully many are Africans. The book contains both realism and vision. This is a balanced and sensitive view of people who have thought hard about how Africa can realise its potential.

Lord Simon Cairns
Member of the Board, Mo Ibrahim Foundation

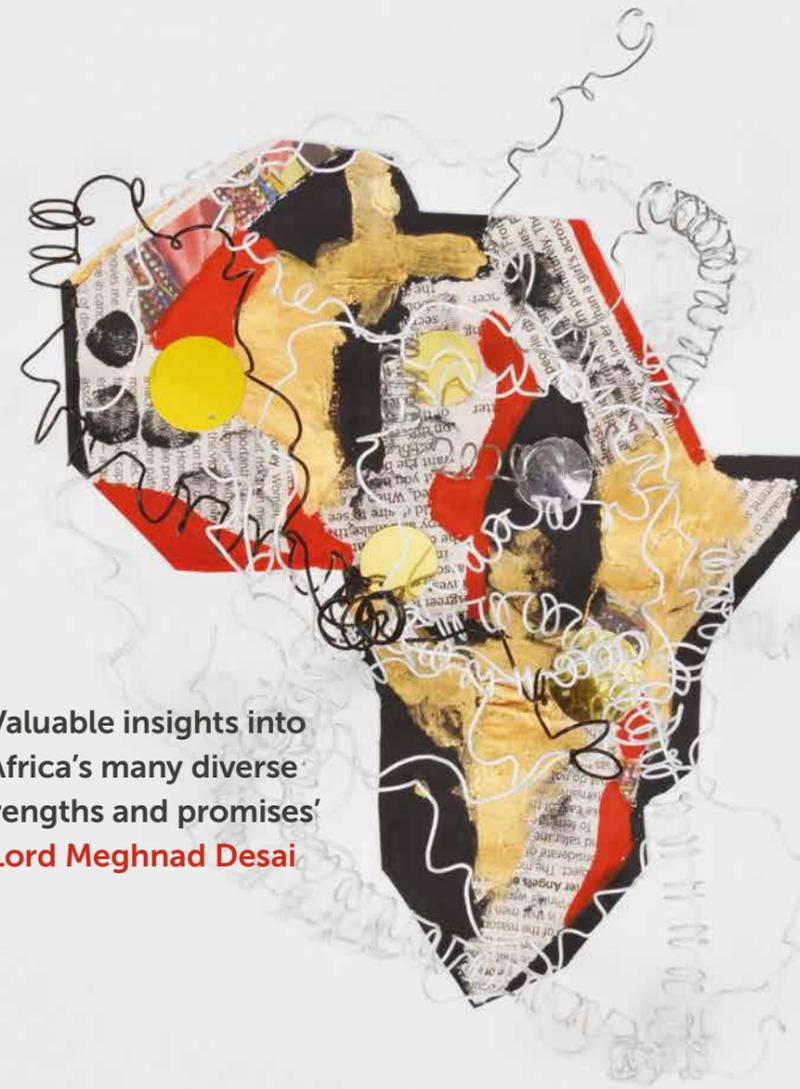
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Jean-Claude Bastos de Morais

THE CONVERGENCE OF NATIONS



'Valuable insights into Africa's many diverse strengths and promises'
Lord Meghnad Desai

THE CONVERGENCE OF NATIONS

Why Africa's time is now

Jean-Claude Bastos de Morais

THE CONVERGENCE OF NATIONS

Africa has a perpetually rosy future. Its potential is tantalising, inspirational, world-changing – and naggingly difficult to turn into reality. Yet Africa's time is at last arriving, a result of political and economic changes around the globe, as well as across this sprawling, fascinating, exasperating continent. Its population is young, dynamic and increasingly well-educated. African citizens are returning from developed countries, eager to spur progress and prosperity at home. The result is higher self-confidence, more openness and democracy, better-run governments and improved economies.

Jean-Claude Bastos de Morais, an Angolan-Swiss investor and entrepreneur, and a team of 31 authors from 15 nations have assembled a lively and wide-ranging account of Africa's kaleidoscopic reality. Whether in energy, agriculture, capital markets and mining, or in new forms of manufacturing, internet technology, pop music, fashion and mobile payments, Africa offers the world important success stories.

In this most heterogeneous and fragmented of continents, there is no single narrative and no shortage of examples of poverty, disease, conflict and ill-dealing; terrorism and the turbulent aftermath of the Arab Spring have left their mark. Yet Africa presents an overall message of hope, encouragement and ambition.

The *Convergence of Nations* displays Africa in all its facets. It sets down new precepts for 'African capitalism': open to global investment, establishing its own economic practices based on best international ideas, and generating inclusive growth that genuinely benefits African societies.

Dazzling in its scope, gripping in its grasp of detail, this book sets down precepts for extending renewable energy, curbing Ebola, modernising plantations, fighting wildlife poachers and building industrial parks. It delves into lives of private equity entrepreneurs and unnecessary deaths of low-paid workers deprived of health services. The *Convergence of Nations* extends to culture, the arts and creative industries, describing the fluctuating styles of Accra and South African House music, the diverse faces of Kenyan fashion, and the flamboyance of Nigeria's Nollywood films.

Here is a book about Africa, for Africa, by Africans – of value for anyone looking for a guide to the world's future.