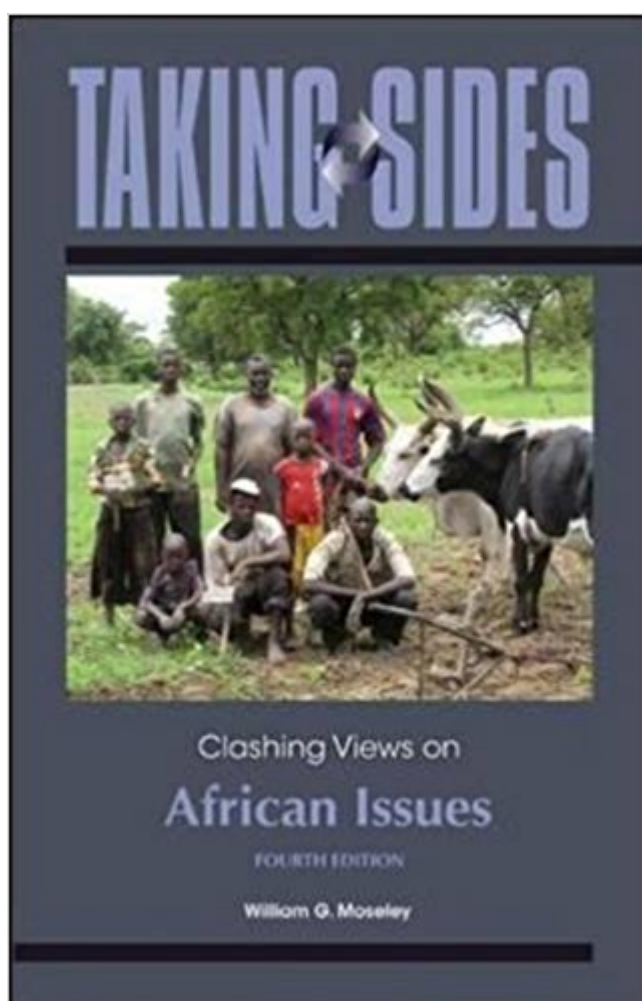


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Taking Sides: Clashing Views On African Issues (Taking Sides: African Issues)



Synopsis

Taking Sides volumes present current controversial issues in a debate-style format designed to stimulate student interest and develop critical thinking skills. Each issue is thoughtfully framed with an issue summary, an issue introduction, and a postscript or challenge questions. Taking Sides readers feature an annotated listing of selected World Wide Web sites. An online Instructor's Resource Guide with testing material is available for each volume. Visit www.mhhe.com/takingsides for more details.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Being a Nigerian I was interested in REALLY learning about the issues that infest such a beautiful country. It opened my eyes to not only the government problems but problems about diamond mines, and other natural resources that Africa is abundant on yet fails to regulate successfully. The book has the YES/NO views on every topic from the French colonization, to China's investment in Africa. It is an easy read for college students and even more easy to use as a guide for Argumentative papers.

This book was suggested for the course i am currently taking. So far I like the book and it was sent in great condition.

I purchased this book for a college course. It was an interesting read because it gave two different

opinions, accompanied by references. Was not difficult to understand...

When I purchased a new laptop, I was unable to open this text on the kindle for PC app I downloaded; it just DID NOT want to open on my new laptop, no matter what I did!

Textbooks are inherently flawed. I do not like them. Nevertheless, they seem necessary. As textbooks go, this one is fairly good. It presents opposing viewpoints on various complex and contested issues that affect Africans and Africa. Topics range from excision (female circumcision) to economic development to the origins of corruption. It is good for giving American students, who are generally thoroughly ignorant about Africa (well what do you expect when their vision of Africa comes from Disney's "The Lion King"...), some insight into the complexity of this immense continent. On the positive side, the "articles" or viewpoints are written by recognized experts who are able to highlight some of the major arguments for or against a position in a relatively concise manner. The book also has an introduction and historical overview that situates the "problems" it explores. I would also note that it includes with every debate a list of further resources. On the negative side, it is "problem" focused so it tends to reinforce the already-existing stereotype prevalent in the US and the West in general that Africa is a "problem" and one that has to be resolved by outsiders. Also, although the contributors are, without question, experts in the field(s) of African studies, very few of them are Africans (I am not African and I teach African studies, but it is nice to have a bit of balance). I would not base my entire class upon this book. I use it with one or two other texts and with a number of films (African films) in my classes. However, used in that context, it has been effective at generating discussion and debate and in getting students to understand that contemporary Africa is not what most American students think it is, that Africans do not conform to the stereotypes that the American media creates of them, and that the problems that face Africa and Africans are sufficiently complex that they cannot be quickly and easily resolved (if they could be, Africans would have resolved them).

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