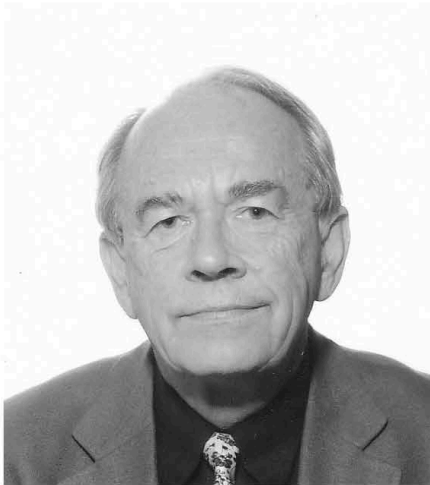


# LOCAL POLICY, MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND AFRICAN POLITICS

GORAN HYDEN



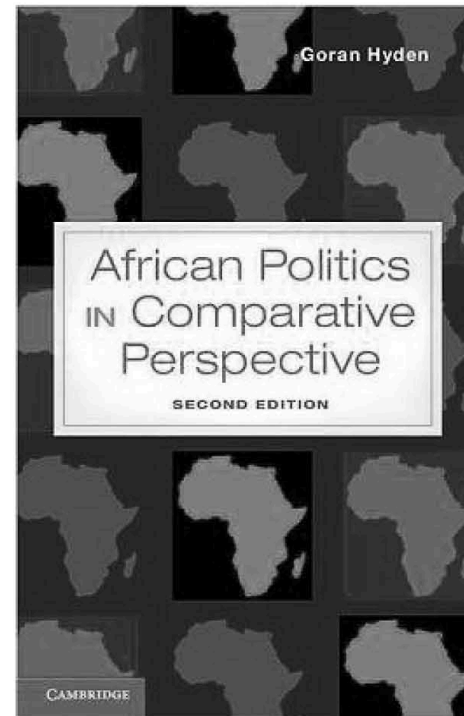
I continue my routine of spending time in Tanzania, Sweden and Florida. Melania and I find it invigorating and allow us to experience new as well as old things either on location in these places or through travels to neighboring destinations. It would be a mistake to call this field research but the important things for both of us is the exposure to different parts of the world. With a keen and inquisitive mind these insights become valuable complements to the formalized knowledge that books and articles offer.

I have kept busy writing and doing consulting work ever since my retirement in 2008. The latter brings me in touch with the empirical reality of Africa. During 2013-14 I was involved in two challenging assignments. The first was to help the Inspectorate of Government in Uganda to come up with a stringent and more relevant set of indicators for tracking corruption in the country. There are myriads of measures out there, most of the administered by international bodies and most of them of little policy value in Uganda. The task, therefore, was to find the right mix of locally generated and international standard measures that could be adopted for greater relevance and

effectiveness. After a successful validation workshop in January in Kampala, the project was brought to closure and the proposed new scheme approved by the IG.

A second assignment brought me to Kigali where I led a team of consultants with the responsibility to write the fourth Millennium Development Goals Progress Report for Rwanda. The project was administered by the UNDP but involved close consultation with the Government of Rwanda, notably its Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. It was a sensitive exercise since the trust between the two partners seemed rather shallow. We had to go through several drafts before there was a consensus and it was only after a workshop meant to validate the report that all the issues that the Government had come out and thus forced us into yet a couple of more rounds of writing. Anyway, the assignment was completed in August 2014 and when this is being written it is under local production for dissemination in Rwanda as well as within the UN System.

My main writing project during the last fifteen months was the completion of a revised second edition of my 2006 book titled *African Politics in Comparative Perspective*. I am pleased to see that it is being widely used as a textbook both in North America, Europe and Africa. Other things that I have done include participating in a conference in Helsinki, Finland on “Knowledge Generation and Development.” My paper is included in an edited volume to be published by Routledge in late 2014. I have also contributed to two *Festschriften*, one for a former Tanzanian colleague at the University of Dar es Salaam, the other for a Danish researcher and friend who is retiring 2015. In September 2014 I organized two sessions on decentralization in Africa at the Nordic Africa Days in Uppsala, Sweden. I am also organizing a panel at the forthcoming African Studies Association Annual Meeting on “Contending Concepts



of Justice and Peace in Africa” with my former student, Professor Peter VonDoepp, serving as discussant.

Goran Hyden is distinguished professor emeritus of political science and former director of CAS.