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The trinidad Guardian / Kevin Baldeosingh

This short book consists of a long essay by economist Edward Miguel, with responses from nine other contributors, including economist Paul Collier (author of The Bottom Billion).

Unlike most books which try to glorify the African continent, usually on historical or sociological bases, this book published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology takes a rigorous look at Africa's progress since the 1990s and still adopts a tone of cautious optimism.

In the foreword by economist William Easterly, who is best known for his empirical critiques of aid to developing countries, he writes: “In the West, Africa's image seems forever torn between two false extremes: Politically correct positive and stereotypically negative. Those who promote the first want to persuade us that poverty and bad government are not as bad as they seem in Africa, so a little bit of outside aid and advice can cause rapid change for the better. Those who promote the second seem happy to go along with the sensationalist media stereotypes of ubiquitous child soldiers, genocide, famine and plague, perhaps thinking that their perspective helps make the case for more aid to Africa.”

In the main essay, Miguel says: “The academic debate on what went wrong in Africa at the end of the 20th century is extensive, but the leading culprits seem to be bad economic policy and weak state institutions.”

He develops this theme, showing how more rigorous analyses of African countries, using village-level surveys as well as rainfall statistics and control group experiments, have helped governments to formulate more effective policies. (A now-popular example, first cited in this book, was done in Kenya where de-worming of children was shown to increase school performance more than other measures, including free textbooks.)

In another counter-intuitive example, Miguel writes: “Botswana has been Africa’s economic superstar for the past 40 years, and former Botswana president Quett Masire has claimed that the drought insurance played an important role in its success…It helps maintain peace and prosperity.”

Among the core causes for the turnaround in Africa, Miguel identifies more democratic governments, a process which started in the 1990s. “Africa’s recent progress in both political freedom and economic growth may well be connected,” he writes, although in his response political scientist Jeremy Weinstein warns that many African nations are “pseudo-democracies,” having instituted the minimum reforms required to get Western aid but continuing to essentially operate as dictatorships.
In this regard, Miguel also notes that “New evidence suggests that growing economic interactions with China (http://www.mundinews.com) -in particular through the commodities trade-could lead to less democratic institutions, presumably by insulating African political leaders from reform pressures.”

Nonetheless, while admitting the fragility of these trends, Miguel concludes, “Africa’s recovery may still be modest by China’s and India’s standards...but it constitutes a clear break from the past, and it is now possible to wonder whether the terrible decades of war, famine, and despair are finally over.”

This book is perhaps the best short overview of Africa’s state, even seven years after its first publication.

Book Info
Africa’s Turn
Edward Miguel
MIT, 2009.

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MOE probing claims primary schools charging fees

Jamaica Gleaner / Education Minister Senator Ruel Reid says his ministry will look into claims that primary level institutions are charging school fees. The allegation was made by opposition education spokesperson, Ronald Thwaites at a People’s National Party press conference yesterday. Jamaican laws give children universal access to primary education. However, Thwaites claimed that all...

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De La Haye rejects claims of ZIKV neglect in Portmore

Jamaica Gleaner / Acting Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, Dr Winston De La Haye, is dismissing claims by the acting Mayor of Portmore Leon Thomas that the ministry has failed to deploy adequate Zika virus (ZIKV) prevention measures in the municipality. Thomas says since the Jamaica Labour Party government took office, the...
A return delegation is now preparing to visit Trinidad & Tobago, according to outgoing president of the Private Sector Organisation of Jamaica, William Mahfood, who says he awaits final word from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mahfood said Tuesday that the visit would offer the opportunity for a proper assessment.

**29 JULY, 2016**

Voter Apathy Cited As Cause For Concern By OAS Observer Group

Concerns about the continued decline in voter turnout in Jamaica have been raised by the Organisation of American States, OAS, electoral observation mission which submitted its formal report on the February 25 general election. It was presented to the OAS Permanent Council by former Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs, Janet...

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Jamaican delegation to visit Trinidad

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29 JULY, 2016

Blythe seeking votes for PNP presidency, pens open letter to delegates

Jamaica Gleaner / Challenger for the presidency of the People's National Party (PNP), Dr Karl Blythe, is calling for Comrades who are already in favour of particular individuals to succeed Portia Simpson Miller to vote for him to lead the party in the interim. His appeal is contained in an open letter penned to thousands...

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New Banana Chips Factory To Be Built In St. Mary

RJR News / A new banana chips factory will be constructed in Trinity, St. Mary. General Manager of the All Island Banana Growers Association, Donald Eley says the factory will be constructed with funding from the European Union. Construction should be completed by next March. It will process up to 50,000 pounds of banana and...
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Call For Expansion Of Intensive Care Units To Better Help Patients With Zika Related Illness

RJR News / In light of the emergence of several suspected cases of Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS) in Jamaica, a call is being made for the authorities to increase intensive care services in public hospitals. GBS, a disorder in which the body's immune system attacks a part of the nervous system, has been linked to the...

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Lasco Financial Services Records Increase In First Quarter Revenue

RJR News / Lasco Financial Services says revenue in its first quarter increased by 36 percent to J$260 million. During April to June income from core business lines increased $62 million or 35 percent while other income increased by $6.8 million or 42 percent more than the previous year. Lasco says growth...

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Lock and Load in Texas

In China, civilians aren’t allowed to possess firearms. But in the US, the Second Amendment allows it, and at a shooting range in Texas, Chinese Americans tell of their love for guns — and for some, their need. May Zhou reports from Houston. It’s a hot and humid Saturday...
Russia's depleted team heads for Rio

MOSCOW (AP): A depleted Russian team departed for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro yesterday, missing dozens of athletes who were excluded amid the country's doping scandal. Team members left on a charter flight from Moscow's Sheremetevo airport to Brazil, a day after an emotional farewell ceremony with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

29 JULY, 2016

Maverley-Hughenden aiming for the top

Jamaica Gleaner / Newly elected president of Maverley-Hughenden FC, Craig Walters, promised to take the club to the top spot in the Red Stripe Premier League within the next three years. Maverley/Hughenden returned to the nation’s elite league for the first time in over two decades after qualification last month. "Well, quite frankly, I want..."
Reid lashes Thwaites, says predecessor 'sounds like a broken record' 

Jamaica Gleaner / Education Minister Ruel Reid says his opposition counterpart, Ronald Thwaites, "sounds like a broken record" for accusing the Andrew Holness-led administration of having a misplaced priority in pursuing the removal of auxiliary fees at the expense of areas such as early childhood education. The People's National Party spokesman led a three-member parliamentary…

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Alpart job boom – US$2 billion investment coming for Nain, St Elizabeth

Jamaica Gleaner / By November this year, 700 jobs will be created at the Alpart plant in Nain, St Elizabeth, which is being acquired by Chinese company Jiuguan Iron and Steel (JISCO) from UC Rusal. In another four years, JISCO will be investing US$2 billion to establish an industrial zone at Nain, employing...

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FSC seen as falling down on the job

Jamaica Gleaner / FSC seen as falling down on the job

A disheartened top pension lawyer Angela Fowler expressed disappointment that the Financial Services Commission (FSC) continues to delay, for nine months and counting, a “straightforward” application to amend a pension scheme. The case is seen as symptomatic of an...

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Maverley/Hughenden aiming for the top

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Dumped in water tank by guardian – Craig Head youth rises above challenges

Jamaica Gleaner / The horror of his close relative and guardian leaving him in a water tank to drown as a child, to this day, has not left the mind of Hopeton Brown. However, this, in addition to other torturous experiences during his early years, has propelled Brown to excel, having graduated from the Mico...
Jamaica Gleaner / Prime Minister Andrew Holness will shortly be addressing flagrant breaches of the Public Bodies Management and Accountability Act, where at least 14 senior executives of the Port Authority of Jamaica received both pension and gratuity amounting to millions of dollars. The Port Authority of Jamaica falls under the Ministry of Economic Growth.

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Guardian Life / Last Thursday, Guardian Life launched the first mobile health unit at its New Kingston offices. In his address, Eric Hosin, president of the company, said that health and wellness are the primary focus of the company's corporate social responsibility programme. "Guardian Life is always exploring new ways to add value to customers.

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Guardian Life / Dumped in water tank by Guardian, Craig Head youth rises above challenges.
**EUROPE**

29 JULY, 2016

**"Los brasileños resolverán los problemas que tengan": Presidente COI**

El presidente del Comité Olímpico Internacional (COI), Thomas Bach, llegó este miércoles a Río de Janeiro y se mostró confiado en que el Comité Organizador de los Juegos de Río 2016, que se inaugurarán el 5 de agosto, resuelva los problemas presentados en las instalaciones que hospedarán a las delegaciones. "A pocos días de los..."

**MUNDISPORTS**

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**Aval para más de 250 deportistas rusos**

Más de 250 deportistas rusos ya han recibido luz verde para competir en los Juegos Olímpicos de Río de Janeiro, anunció ayer Alexandr Zhúkov, presidente del Comité Olímpico Ruso (COR). "A día de hoy (ayer) las federaciones internacionales han dado el visto bueno a más de 250 deportistas rusos de diferentes modalidades deportivas", dijo Zhúkov...

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**"Sueño con ganar la medalla de oro": William Tesillo**

William Tesillo cree que está recogiendo los frutos de una cosecha que comenzó a sembrar en el Deportes Quindío. El zaguero barranquillero ha ido evolucionando futbolísticamente y eso se ha reflejado en su convocatoria a la Selección Colombiana de mayores y actualmente hace parte del combinado que se prepara para disputar los Juegos Olímpicos de...

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**Los Juegos Olímpicos impulsan la creatividad de las marcas**

A casi una semana del inicio de los Juegos Olímpicos de Río de Janeiro 2016 varias marcas le han dado una visión deportiva a sus anuncios publicitarios y campañas con atractivas propuestas creativas que luchan por robarse el protagonismo en este encuentro mundial. El honor, la victoria, el esfuerzo por alcanzar la meta son algunos...
Todo listo en Perú para la investidura de Pedro Pablo Kuczynski

El economista Pedro Pablo Kuczynski asumirá este jueves 28 de julio del 2016, la Presidencia de Perú en sustitución de Ollanta Humala, en una ceremonia a la que asistirán seis presidentes latinoamericanos y el rey emérito Juan Carlos de España. El primer mandatario en llegar hoy, 27 de julio, a Lima fue el de Paraguay,...

Nacional gana la Libertadores con gol cordobés

Atlético Nacional consiguió anoche, después de 27 años, y en su estadio el Atanasio Girardot de Medellín, su segundo título de la Copa Libertadores de América, tras derrotar por 1-0 a Independiente del Valle ecuatoriano. El goleador cordobés Miguel Borja, uno de los seis jugadores costeños en la titular verde, fue el encargado de marcar...

ASIA

MEDITERRANEO

Unos 10.000 inmigrantes murieron en el Mediterráneo desde 2014, denunciaron ayer en Ginebra el Alto Comisionado de Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR) y la Organización Internacional de las Migraciones (OIM). Gordo Morales ACNUR contó 3500 muertes en 2014, cuando la cifra de los que hulan de Siria comenzó a subir. El año pasado murieron...
El Parlamento alemán aprobó ayer por práctica unanimidad una resolución que reconoce como genocidio las masacres de armenios cometidas hace más de un siglo por el imperio otomano, decisión que abrió una nueva crisis diplomática entre Berlín y Ankara. El texto reconoce como ‘genocidio’, término que rechaza Turquía, la muerte de entre 800.000 y 1,5...

Alepo.- Por lo menos 31 civiles murieron este viernes en bombardeos del régimen sirio contra los barrios de Alepo bajo control rebelde y los alrededores de la ciudad. “Además de los 10 civiles muertos en bombardeos contra un autobús en la carretera de Castello, al noroeste de Alepo, otros 21 murieron en ataques intensos en...
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Gata aparece oito anos depois noutro país

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“Baía olímpica é esgoto puro”

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Controlo da despesa congela salários (http://mundinews.com/yammine-chery-controlo-da-despesa-congela-salarios/)

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