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What Are the New Solutions for education and improved governance?

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Leadership failures and development challenges in Africa

"The story of leadership [in Africa] is a saddening tale of an African state in crisis, a state without a sustainable leadership culture and one in which the management of political transition and social policy is basically shambled." (Aseka, 2005)
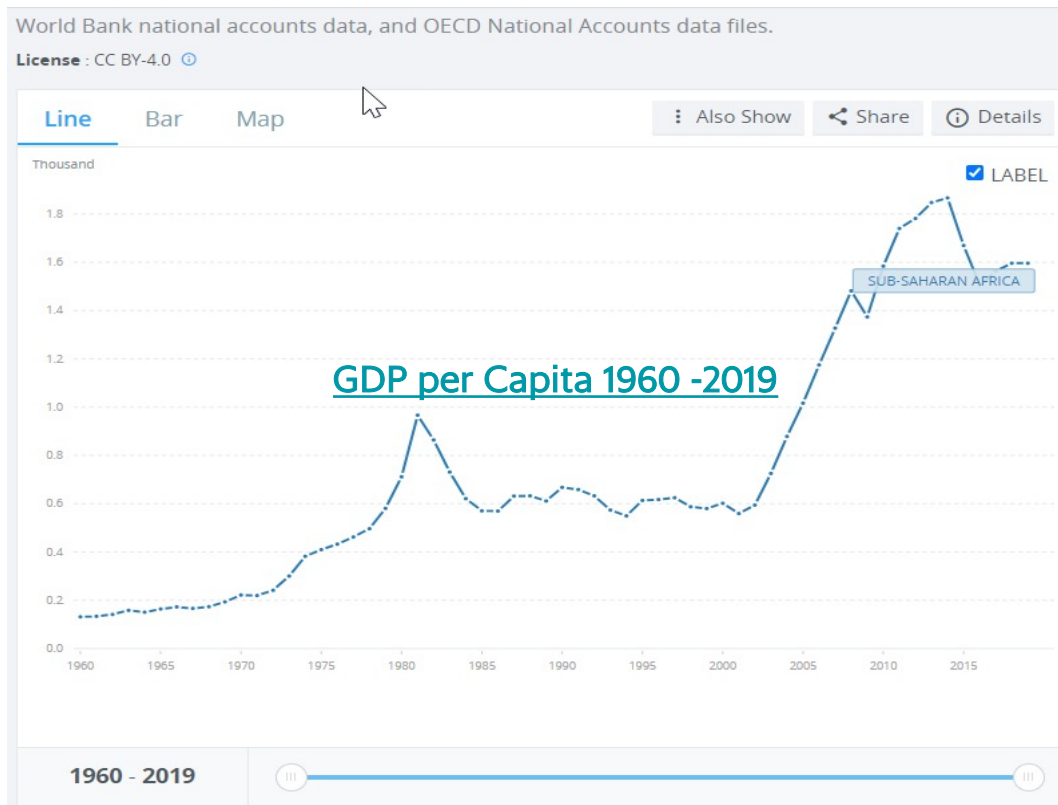
Is it the case?

GDP per Capita 1960 - 2019

World Bank national accounts data, and OECD National Accounts data files.
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Net Primary Enrollment
Trajectories and Simulated Trajectories

Requirement to reach MDG

Historical best (e.g. Korea)

Typical country (1960-2000)

Today's rich countries (19th century)

Actual SSA

Percentage
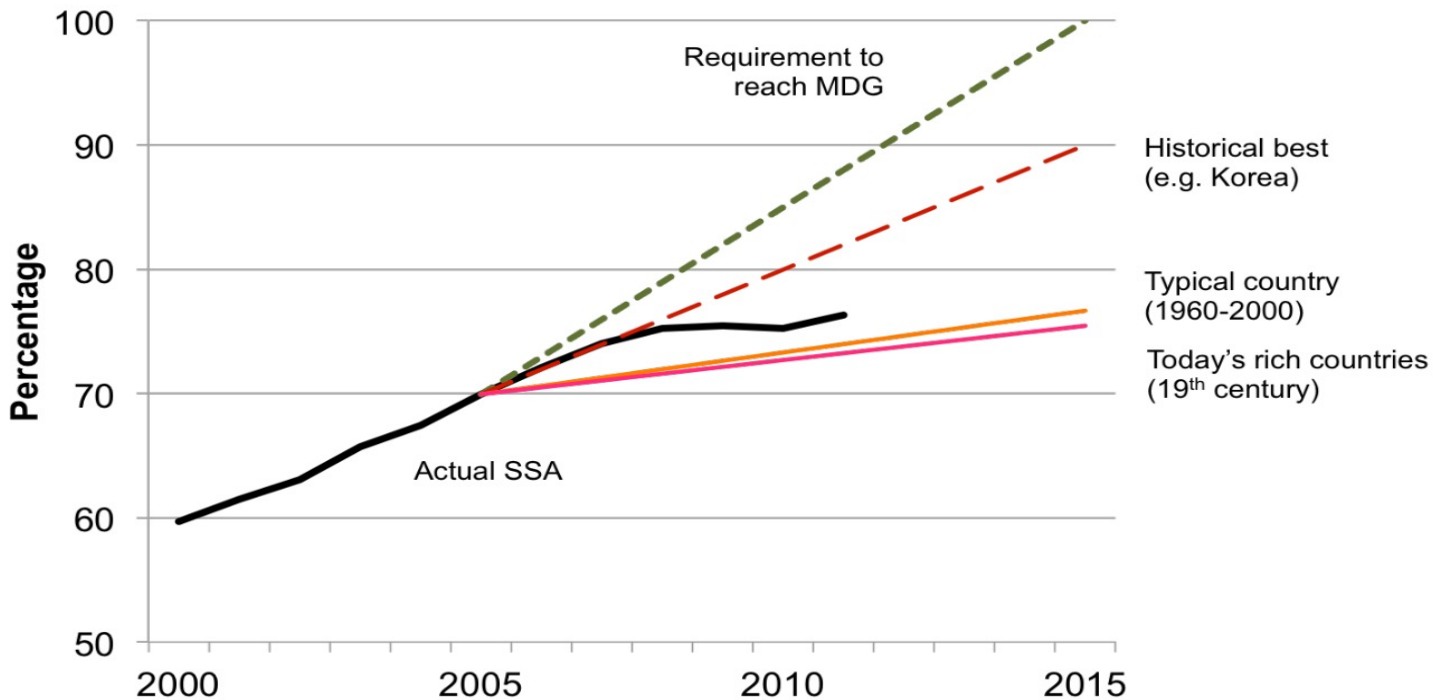
Covid-19 Governance

As of today: 3.2 M cases and 79,899 deaths. Why?

- Establishment of taskforces at regional and national levels has enabled significant centralization and multi-disciplinary/sectoral engagement

- AU and Africa CDC coordinated continental response with ECOWAS supporting member states through coordination and strategic plans (OECD)

- Additionally, Presidential and Prime Ministerial Covid-19 taskforces have included:
  - Ministries (health, education, youth)
  - Technical experts in epidemiology (Africa CDC/WHO)
  - Governance policy (UNDP)
 - Economic policy (WACB)

Mauritius

- Strong preexisting public healthcare system

- Government promptly committed ~$300 mil.

- Screening at airports beginning Jan 22

- Prime Minister spoke to public daily, developed free mobile app to provide information

- Highest lockdown stringency rating (Hale et al. 2020), including a controversial but effective sanitary curfew

- Contact tracing prioritized, fever clinics built for isolation

- Primary school classes available online and broadcast on TV

https://voxeu.org/article/mauritian-response-covid-19

Daily confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths, Mauritius

The confirmed counts shown here are lower than the total counts. The main reason for this is limited testing and challenges in the attribution of the cause of death.
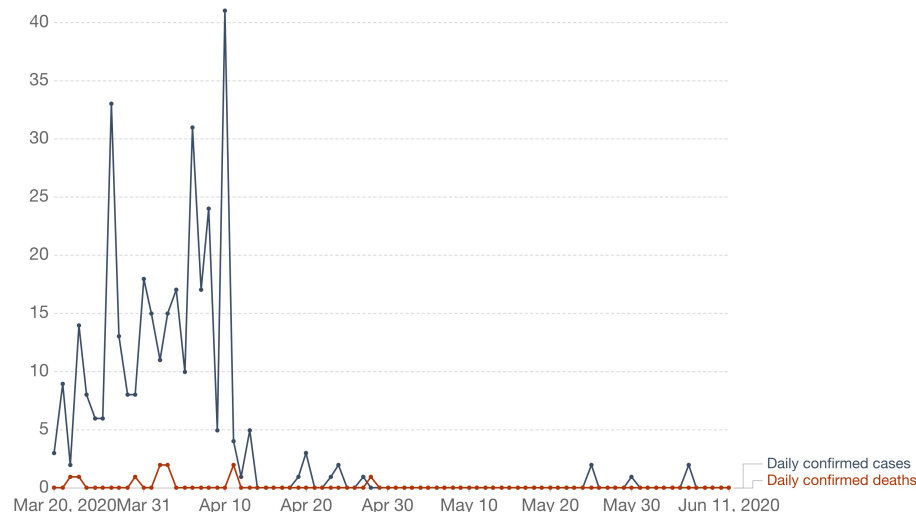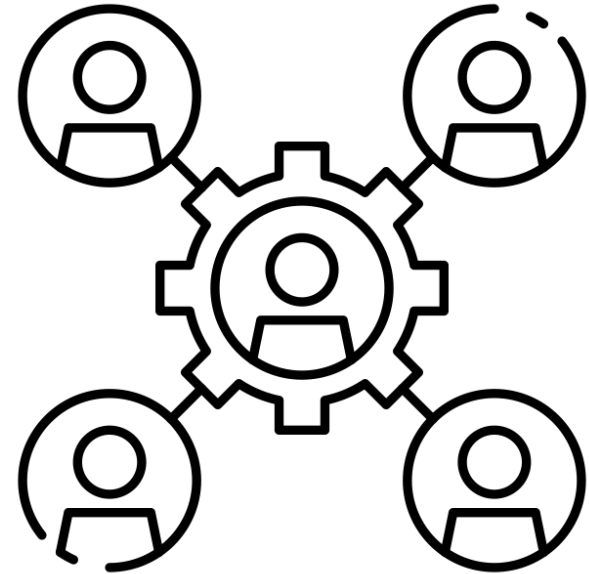

Daily confirmed cases
Daily confirmed deaths

What makes a leader?

☐ Drive

☐ Leadership Motivation

☐ Honesty and Integrity

☐ Self-Confidence

☐ Cognitive Ability

☐ Knowledge of the relevant area

(Kirkpatick & Locke, 1991)
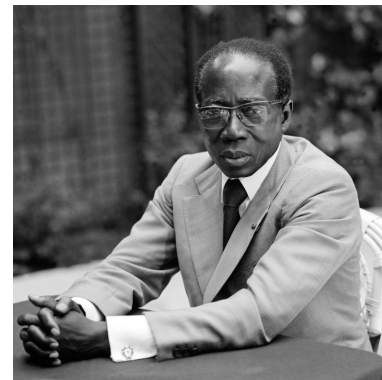
African Experience

Nationalist leaders

Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana

Nnamdi Azikiwe of Nigeria

Leopold Senghor of Senegal

Post Cold War

Nelson Mandela of South Africa

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala of Nigeria

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia

Paths Forward

- (Social) Entrepreneurship and activism are important, but not enough

- Expertise is critical

- Institutions shape leadership quality (e.g. programmatic parties, accountability, checks and balances…)

"Nigeria is like an aircraft that is being flown by pilots that did not go to flying school. He added that when the plane crashes, everyone blames the pilot. The question therefore is: where are Africa's leadership "flying schools?" How and where do Africans acquire sophistication in the leadership skills required to guide the continent into development?"

– Donald Duke, former governor of Cross River State in Nigeria

Pan-African Scientific Research Council

Highlight Excellence in Research on the African Continent

Promote Career Development of Young Scholars

Encourage Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Encourage Evidence-Based Policymaking in Africa

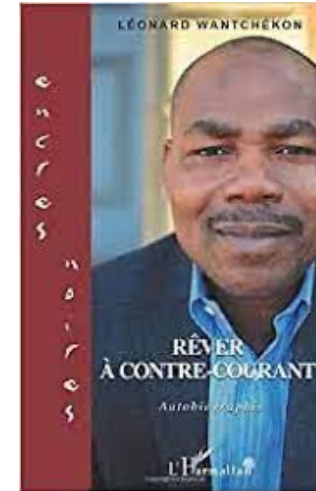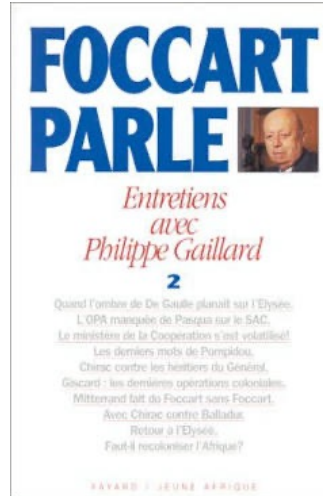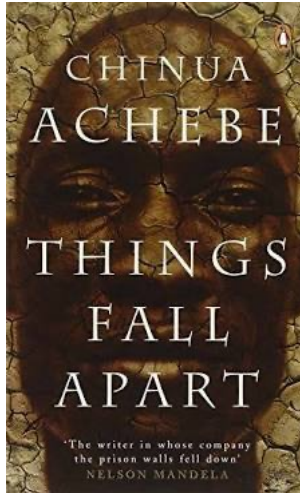Disseminate Research through Public Engagement

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Three Books Recommended by Leonard Wantchekon

Thank you!

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