



Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa

By Dambisa Moyo

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In the past fifty years, more than \$1 trillion in development-related aid has been transferred from rich countries to Africa. Has this assistance improved the lives of Africans? No. In fact, across the continent, the recipients of this aid are not better off as a result of it, but worse—much worse.

In *Dead Aid*, Dambisa Moyo describes the state of postwar development policy in Africa today and unflinchingly confronts one of the greatest myths of our time: that billions of dollars in aid sent from wealthy countries to developing African nations has helped to reduce poverty and increase growth. In fact, poverty levels continue to escalate and growth rates have steadily declined—and millions continue to suffer. Provocatively drawing a sharp contrast between African countries that have rejected the aid route and prospered and others that have become aid-dependent and seen poverty increase, Moyo illuminates the way in which overreliance on aid has trapped developing nations in a vicious circle of aid dependency, corruption, market distortion, and further poverty, leaving them with nothing but the “need” for more aid. Debunking the current model of international aid promoted by both Hollywood celebrities and policy makers, Moyo offers a bold new road map for financing development of the world’s poorest countries that guarantees economic growth and a significant decline in poverty—without reliance on foreign aid or aid-related assistance.

Dead Aid is an unsettling yet optimistic work, a powerful challenge to the assumptions and arguments that support a profoundly misguided development policy in Africa. And it is a clarion call to a new, more hopeful vision of how to address the desperate poverty that plagues millions.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this important analysis of the past fifty years of international (largely American) aid to Africa, economist and former World Bank consultant Moyo, a native of Zambia, prescribes a tough dose of medicine: stopping the tide of money that, however well-intentioned, only promotes corruption in government and dependence in citizens. With a global perspective and on-the-ground details, Moyo reveals that aid is often diverted to the coffers of cruel despotisms, and occasionally conflicts outright with the interests of citizens-free mosquito nets, for instance, killing the market for the native who sells them. In its place, Moyo advocates a smarter, though admittedly more difficult, policy of investment that has already worked to grow the economies of poor countries like Argentina and Brazil. Moyo writes with a general audience in mind, and doesn't hesitate to slow down and explain the intricacies of, say, the bond market. This is a brief, accessible look at the goals and reasons behind anti-aid advocates, with a hopeful outlook and a respectful attitude for the well-being and good faith of all involved.

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From School Library Journal

Economist Moyo (former head, Economic Research and Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa, Goldman Sachs) makes a startling assertion: charitable aid to African nations is not just ineffective—it is worse than *no aid*. Moyo, who was born and raised in Zambia, joins a small but growing number of observers (including microfinance expert Muhammad Yunus) who argue that charity from Western nations cripples African governments by fostering dependency and corruption without requiring positive change. Deriding efforts to increase giving by foreign celebrities like U2 singer Bono as out of touch with the real needs of African countries, Moyo instead proposes solutions like new bond markets, microfinancing, and revised property laws. Moyo also singles out commercial investment from the Chinese (rather than general aid) and holds it up as an example for other nations to follow in the future. Whether one agrees or disagrees with Moyo's argument for such capitalist intervention in Africa, this straightforward and readable work should provide some food for thought.—April Younglove, Linfield Coll. Lib., Portland, OR

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From [Booklist](#)

The \$1 trillion in U.S. aid granted to African nations since the 1940s has hurt rather than helped nations struggling with corruption, poverty, and disease, according to Moyo, an economist born in Zambia. She laments the fact that too many African nations, despite enormous natural resources, have become dependent on aid as the generally low-rate, long-term capital has become a “cultural commodity,” with worldwide appeals now made by top celebrities. Moyo begins with a history of U.S. aid, including its use in the cold war, and details frequent abuse as dictators have lined their pockets and aid agencies have actually hurt budding small businesses. Many African nations have shown declining economic growth as a result of dependence on aid. Moyo advocates the gradual reduction in aid over five to 10 years, and suggests that Africa follow the examples of Asia, accessing the international bond market and making large-scale investments in infrastructure, as well as pressing for free-trade policies on agricultural products. This is a passionate and controversial look at past and future aid to Africa. --Vanessa Bush

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jean Fuller:

This Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get details which is getting deeper an individual read a lot of information you will get. This specific Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in contemplating and analyzing. Don't always be worry Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa can bring whenever you are and not make your handbag space or bookshelves' become full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even telephone. This Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not truly feel uninterested in reading.

David Hedges:

Typically the book Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was authored by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This book very easy to read you can obtain the point easily after reading this article book.

Frances Smith:

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Karolyn Kaufman:

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