



Decolonising International Solidarity

Freeing Our Futures from a Blinkered Past

By Paul C. Vossen and Yvan J. Biot

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Examines how colonial powers disrupted African and Middle Eastern civilisations, creating lasting development challenges and argues that understanding the specific environmental and historical contexts in which civilisations developed can guide decolonised approaches to aid, governance, multiculturalism and global solidarity.

Decolonising International Solidarity explores how differences in natural resources between Europe, Africa and the Middle East contributed to the failure of the colonialists' attempts at imposing their civilisation onto the colonised. It shows how this colonial attitude persists to this day and argues that a greater understanding and appreciation of diversity will help free our futures from a blinkered past and decolonise international solidarity.

Readership

Policymakers in international relations (national, European Union, African Union, UN, etc.) are looking for new ways to frame rich-developing country relations, migration and multiculturalism and for alternatives to the defensive, inward facing foreign policies that are being developed by some rich countries, such as the anti-globalism trends of the current US administration. The press will also be interested in source material to better understand the 'end (and possible futures) of aid' (Afghanistan debacle, dissolution of United States Agency for International Development [USAID] and reduction in aid budgets worldwide). Increasingly, the general public outside academic and professional circles shows a willingness to learn about colonisation, decolonisation, neocolonialism, migration, cultural diversity and racism.

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Paul C. Vossen, PhD, is a tropical agronomist and also holds a MSc in Conflict and Development. He lived and worked for over 30 years in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Botswana and Burundi. The driving force behind authoring this book is trying to understand why "decolonisation" remains relevant to this day.

Yvan J. Biot, PhD (tropical soil science), supports communities in Scotland on place making, green energy and nature friendly land use. He lived and worked for over 30 years overseas in development cooperation, research and policy.

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