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From the Village to Entrepreneurial Mentality: A Transformative Path for Africa's Economic Development

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SENIOR THESIS APPROVAL

This Honors thesis entitled

**"From the village to entrepreneurial mentality:
A Transformative path for Africa's Economic Development"**

written by

Morris Mvoo Tsuma II

and submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for completion of the Carl
Goodson Honors Program meets the
criteria for acceptance

and has been approved by the undersigned readers.

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From village to entrepreneurial mentality: A Transformative Path for Africa's Economic Development

Africa is a large dynamic continent that has vibrant landscapes such as lakes, rivers, beautiful rainforests, deserts, and mountains. The people of Africa are also diverse, having different ways of living and a variety of languages. Africa has approximately 3,000 different ethnic groups and 2,100 different languages. This is on top of the continent having a variety of religions including, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and other traditional religions. (Ethnic Groups in Africa)

All African countries have had multiple economic systems and have gone through a transformative process to reach their current inflection point. Let us look at the path that these African economies have gone through. Let us see how they have reached their current inflection point.ⁱ Africa started with a Pre-colonial system. It was focused on hunter-gathering, agriculture, mining, and manufacturing at a basic level (Green). Here one mostly found more village units with smaller numbers. These smaller units were entrepreneurial in their mindsets. They had core activities they created, and each region's activities were reflections of the environment around them. As I stated, some regions with lush environments farmed while others with mineral deposits traded in minerals. One thing that all the regions had in common was that they were big in the trade industry. They would trade crops, raw materials, and even people as slaves.ⁱⁱ The trade required them to have the economic skills of bartering and making strategic decisions. African farmers in areas that experienced unstable rain patterns had to become adaptable to these conditions and create systems to produce despite not having rain. Irrespective of their regional conditions, the people partook in different aspects of these activities (Green).

Once these agricultural and small trading regions started to gain momentum, they developed into kingdoms. These kingdoms used the resources they had available to them. For example, Kingdoms in the west of Africa participated in the trans-Atlantic slave trade, which was their major economic activity. They traded slaves for goods such as weapons and gunpowder. However, this economic activity took a large toll on the populations of these kingdoms as many were being shipped off to the West.

When the slave trade was eventually banned, colonialism was the next big economic activity. Colonist nations brought economic systems to the countries they were operating in (Mlambo). These systems unfortunately were geared toward the betterment of the colonial powers. The African nations were only structured around the resources they had available to them and did not have much diversification. This kept the people in a box. They were starting to cultivate a village mentality. They did not have the freedom to create new revenues of economic success with an entrepreneurial mentality.

Post-colonial economies in Africa were aimed mostly toward exporting raw materials to their previous colonizing powers. Their economies did not have much diversification. This lack of diversification made it difficult for many African nations to generate great economic momentum. However, the nations were optimistic about a bright future like the ones of their Western counterparts.

African economies grew but eventually hit an economic slump in the 1980s. This economic slump was also felt by the rest of the world. To remedy this slump, many African countries partnered with the World Bank and the IMF to take economic loans. These loans had conditions for the countries to set up neoliberal economic policies (Mlambo). These policies emphasized free trade, deregulation, globalization, and a reduction in government spending.

These parameters brought by the Western systems of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank showed the entrepreneurial way of thinking. This movement brought many African countries to a higher standard economically. As there is a block of Western entrepreneurial thinking there is also a block of Eastern thinking that hinders the entrepreneurial mentality. Many African nations are now cooperating with China for further economic development. These nations' economies are at an inflection point (Manning). This inflection point is upon African nations because they have gone through entrepreneurial periods and village mentality periods. They are at a point where they can choose to go with either of the two mentalities and systems available to them.

Looking at these economic seasons, I have noted that it is important for individuals to transform from a village mentality to an entrepreneurial mentality. The reason that this transformation is important is that it allows people of the African continent to improve their economic conditions. Improving economic conditions means financial freedom, and importantly giving back to others.

Thesis Statement

Because the economic development in Africa is at an inflection point, the continent needs to use the transformative process of going from the village mentality to the entrepreneurial mentality. They need to go from the dependency village mentality to the free market entrepreneurial mentality to affect Africa's economic future.

Many factors affect the path from the village mentality to the entrepreneurial mentality. Some of these factors and examples that I explore in this paper are international companies investing in local intelligence and people finding role models/goals to aspire to. Another factor is

individuals going through difficulty and needing change. However, some elements backtrack or hinder the transformation from the village mentality to the entrepreneurial mentality. One such example is the influence of elders and systems, making one over-reliant on another power. These systems leave African people without the capital and creativity to transform their mentality. Colonialism and some African government policies reflect this happening. Having briefly discussed the two mentalities, let us now look at Africa and its Economic importance to the rest of the world.

Economic Importance of Africa

Africa is an economic giant that cannot be ignored by the rest of the world. The continent has an abundance of natural resources that are in demand both locally and abroad. The UN Environment Programme states that Africa's natural resources range from wildlife to oil, water, natural gas, land, forests, and minerals (Environment). The Environmental Programme also tells us that the continent has forty percent of the world's gold, and up to ninety percent of the world's chromium and platinum. Adding, "The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum, and uranium in the world are in Africa" (Environment). One such example of Cobalt is found in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The DRC has substantial untapped gold, cobalt, and high-grade copper reserves, but equally significant security risks accentuated by a lack of robust infrastructure. Cobalt, one of the key metals to produce electric vehicles, places the DRC in a strategic position for the energy transition. In 2020, the DRC was the world's largest cobalt miner with a production of 95,000 tons, or nearly forty-one % of the world's cobalt. The DRC was the sixth largest producer of industrial diamonds in 2020 with a production of 3.7 million carats. (U.S. Department of Commerce)

Congo has a great amount of cobalt that is in almost all technology appliances we use such as smartphones, and laptop computers. Many nations are investing and collaborating in the region to have access to these cobalt reserves.

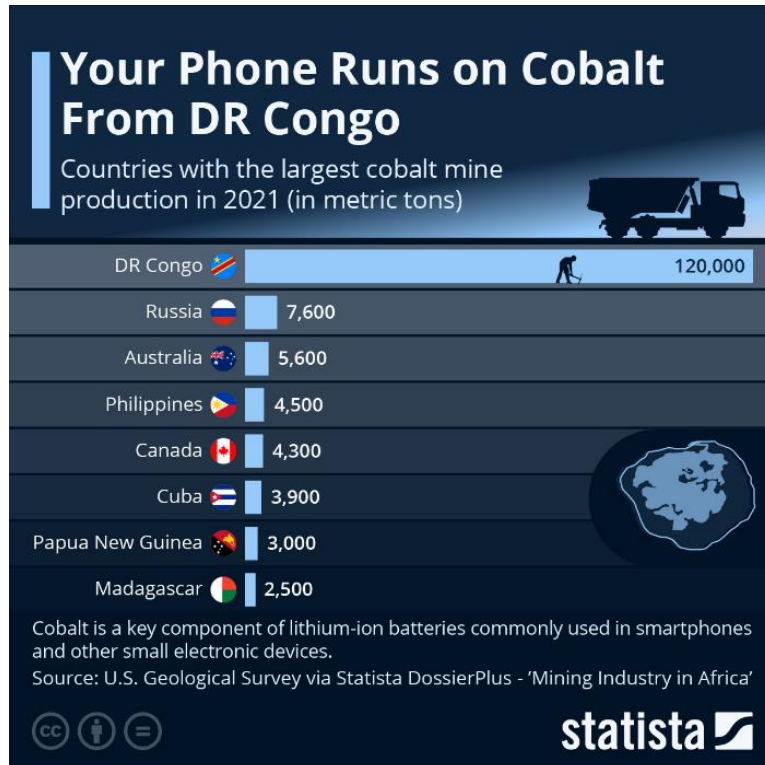


Fig. 1. Martin, Armstrong, Your Phone Runs on cobalt. From DR Congo, 31 Jan. 2023.

The figure at the left shows just how much of the world's supply of cobalt comes from Congo. This figure cements the importance of African countries to other nations' economies. Additionally, Africa has experienced rapid economic growth. With an economic increase of four point one percent in 2021, the region has seen growth. To put this into context,

according to the US Bureau of Labor, the United States' economy is set to grow by two point one percent each

year (Dubina). Now the United States is not nearly the size of Africa but is a great comparison for the continent economically. This rapid growth for Africa, however, is starting to diminish. The new rate of three point three percent as of 2022 shows some issues of concern (The World Bank).

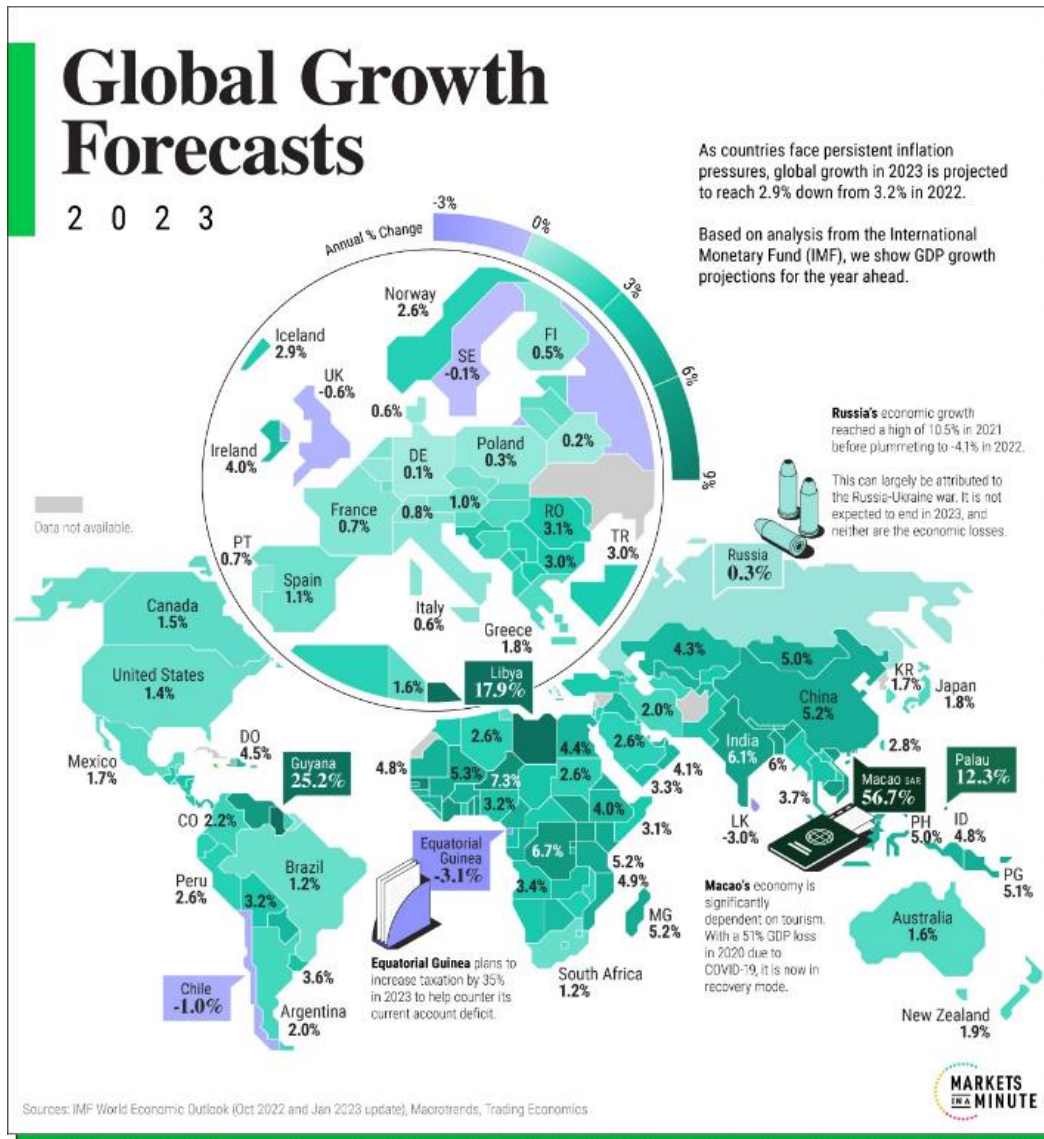


Fig. 2. Neufeld, Dorothy, Global Growth Forecasts, 2 Feb. 2023.

The recent damages of global inflation, and global economic slowdown, caused by the Covid-19

pandemic, adverse weather conditions, and the rise of debt in these nations can be pointed to as a cause of this drop in growth (The World Bank). With countries starting to recover from the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, the continent is at an economic inflection point. As shown in Fig. 2, many nations are experiencing a turnaround after the economic recession. What the figure

shows is that as nations are recovering, the GDP of many African countries looks to be growing at a strong rate in comparison to other continents. This growth potential puts the continent at an inflection point: The transformation of their mentalities will be important moving forward. African nations will need to decide a path to go down to continue to achieve fully the potential that they have.

Village Mentality definition

Now, what is this village mentality I have talked about? The village mentality is a mentality that one can only receive. They are a dependent person. A person with the village mentality believes that he or she must be helped with every problem and struggle. It is the mentality that one does not have the means to solve his or her problems. This mentality has developed in Africa due to several reasons, one of which is colonialism. For example, colonialism, by the British, was organized in a way that the colonized were fully dependent on the British colonizing power. This left the African colonists helpless in innovating on their own. These same practicesⁱⁱⁱ are unfortunately also seen in some policies that modern African governments use. The policies keep the people overly dependent on the government, not allowing the space for great economic freedom. This mentality has affected the people of the continent's confidence, creativity, beliefs, and financial freedom.

Colonialism linked with the village mentality

Legacy of Violence: A history of the British Empire. Look at how the British facilitated an environment for the village mentality

Oxford Languages describes colonialism as “the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control over another country, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it

economically” (The Home of). In other words, it is a system where a country controls some portion of another to exploit it economically. With this definition established, one can start to see how the practice of colonialism could lead to a person having an affected mentality. Colonialism can cause one's mental foundations to become unstable.

The author of the book, *Legacy of Violence*, Caroline Elkins is a Professor of History and African and African American Studies at Harvard University. She talks about how when the British Empire set out on a new venture, they viewed the other nations as uncivilized/ uneducated. They compared them to children that were malleable and needed to improve to the superior British way (Elkins 20). This colonial sentiment was damaging because the native people felt as if what they naturally had developed was backward and not up to par. It put their minds in a box making them think that the only progressive thoughts could come from the outside, from the British. This was the birth of the village mentality. In Kenya, the British Empire set up detention camps where they would try to civilize the people. They would torture them into submission (Elkins 561-562). These detention camps were in operation through the years 1952 to 1960, three years before Kenya's independence (Moes). These acts caused the people to become rewired and think of themselves as in need of a civilization of greater power. Think about it, if someone told you every day that you were no good and had nothing to offer you would eventually believe it and by the least, you would be affected by it.



Fig. 2. Colonial Abuse Costs Britain, 6 Jun. 2013.

The picture above is an example of a British detention camp in Kenya. With such camps,

the general spirit of the people was diminished, and this caused their mentalities to default to that of a village mentality.

I do not want to claim that the whole British Empire had a colonizer perspective. The difficulty was that during the late 1880s and the early 1990's the whole economic and political system of Britain was set to this system of colonization. The conflict between the system and morals is captured with this quote by English novelist George Orwell. In his book *George Orwell: Collected Essays, Journalism and Letters*, he writes,

Under the capitalist system, so that England may live in comparative comfort, a hundred million Indians must live on the verge of starvation-an evil state of affairs.... The alternative is to throw the Empire overboard and reduce England to a cold unimportant little island where we should all have to work very hard and live mainly on herrings and

potatoes. That is the very last thing that any left-wing wants. Yet the left-winger continues to feel that he has no moral responsibility for imperialism. He is perfectly ready to accept the products of Empire and to save his soul by sneering at the people who hold the Empire together. (Orwell 167)

In other words, what Orwell suggests is that English people wanted to be comfortable but also did not necessarily support the exploitation of other nations. They wanted the comfort of life, but also there was the English Imperial system. It was set up, so they had to conform or live a lower quality of life.

Colonialism in other African countries followed a similar path. What was found in many African countries is their post-colonial government systems closely matched those they were under during colonial rule. These systems and policies continued the heavy control on the people and in turn, continued the village mentality for some in these countries (Collins et. al).

Discussing policies, how can a country's government lead the country to the village mentality?

How political policies can lead to the village mentality

Government policies can also be used to facilitate the village mentality. Look at the law Somali President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed signed to extend his term. Before him, other presidents served their four-year terms and left peacefully. President Mohamed was coming to the end of his term, and he signed a law to extend it by two more years. The international community cried out and threatened sanctions. They warned of further instability in the country of Somalia (Barise). Having extended his term by two more years he created a platform for the village mentality. With this decision, foreign businesses will question the political stability of Somalia before investing in the country. It also discourages the people of Somalia from opposing

the president with him showing his power to create such a law. If a citizen has an Entrepreneurial idea, then President Mohamed can squash the idea. The Somali people have had their confidence and belief shaken because of President Mohammed's decision. The people of Williams village in *The Boy who harnessed the Wind*, similarly, had their belief shaken.

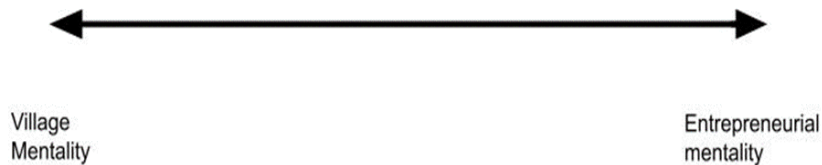
How the village mentality affects creativity, confidence, and belief

***The boy who harnessed the wind*. Looking at how the village mentality causes Williams' community to discourage his remedy to the drought problem.**

Chiwetel Ejiofor, the director of *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, shows us a story of a thirteen-year-old boy named William Kamkwamba. This young man is the first in his family to go to school, as he is a bright young man. Unfortunately, climate conditions cause a drought in Malawi. With William's father generating income from farming, William and other families are in financial disarray. This means that William can no longer attend school because he cannot afford to pay school fees. Eventually, he finds a solution to the drought situation.

I believe it is important to compare William's mentality with that of his father, Trywell Kamkwamba. Trywell's village mentality affects his creativity, confidence, and belief. During the drought, William comes up with a solution to remedy the drought and get water for his family. He goes to school and his mentality is that of an entrepreneur. He is forward-thinking and looks for solutions with what he has available around him. He uses expertise from the books in his small school library, and he uses local materials available to him. Unfortunately, Trywell does not see the potential in Williams' idea and dismisses it. His mentality is not yet transformed into one of an entrepreneur. He is in the process because of him sending William to school for

better opportunities. However, he does not have a fully transformed entrepreneurial mentality. He does not yet see the potential in his son William's idea.



The originally created visual on the left simply illustrates the two ends of the process. The village mentality and the entrepreneurial mentality. William has

an entrepreneurial mentality while his father Trywell is closer to the village mentality.

Williams's mentality is pulled in both directions. He eventually breaks through, and the entrepreneurial mentality shines. Like William, others in history have positively influenced their communities with their entrepreneurial mentalities.

Entrepreneurial mentality definition

The entrepreneurial mentality is one where an individual sees the opportunity they have around them and they work to follow these opportunities. The individual works at them to better themselves and their community at large. They have broken their mentality from a system of dependency and now can create from within.

How the entrepreneurial mentality remedies the creativity, confidence, and belief affected by the village mentality

Interview with James Wanje. Looking at the village mentality he encountered in his community growing up and how he sees the effects of this mentality on some in his community to this day

James Wanje is a missionary who grew up in the village of Mbuyu Wakusema in the town of Malindi in Kenya. Interviewing him, I understand that he has seen the village mentality and its effects on his community. I can also see how changing to the entrepreneurial mentality has transformed individuals in his home community. Growing up in his village, Wanje says people were not pushed to achieve greatness beyond the village. The people had no aspirational role models. They did not have people to follow their example to grow outside of their mentalities and better themselves. The practices, jobs, and opportunities others had were what one was expected to transition into. They were in a stuck mentality. Wanje recognizes that there was a point when this mentality started to move to one of an entrepreneur. He connected the ability of people to receive education to the transformation from the village mentality. People were exposed to new ideas and possibilities.

Wanje reflects on his own life and sees that when he went to high school in the big city of Mombasa, is when he saw his mentality grew the most. He was exposed to the possibilities in the big city and says he realized that he did not want to go back to how he was living in his village. He was also given ideas on how he could economically grow, and he implemented these in his village. He also attributes the early church in his village to having this same effect. The church started by US missionaries exposed the people to outside ideas that challenged their mentalities. Wanje says he now sees the entrepreneurial mentality in his home community. A cousin of his still there, has used his gained knowledge to create a thriving vegetable business. After his cousin was exposed to entrepreneurial ideas in the city of Mombasa, he saw the opportunity back

at his home. He saw there was a source of irrigable water and soil full of nutrients. Having these properties and his business mind, he created a business giving him multiple streams of income. This is on top of his job of being a pastor in the region (Wanje).

Similarly, to Wanje's experience, I had a sample of how the village mentality affects growth and belief. I went on a group mission trip to Honduras in the spring of 2023. My group and I assisted with building two houses in a small village. This village had many women and small children but did not have many reliable men. I was part of a committee that was tasked with interviewing and selecting two people to stay in these houses. The applicants were women who had children, mostly two children or more. The mothers had three years and at most seven years of education. They were women in difficult situations. I saw the village mentality in each interview when we asked the mothers what their dreams were for their children. The mothers were in a cycle where they hung around the community after their three years of mandatory school and then had children and struggled to survive. They then passed on this mentality to their children. Their beliefs and self-confidence were affected. They said they just hoped for good health for their children. There were no answers like wanting their children to be doctors, engineers, lawyers, or even government workers. These children do not have a bright path ahead of them but how can one come from a dire situation and make something of it? Mully is a prime example of this.

***Mully* movie dissects the story of an entrepreneur in Kenya and the change of his mentality to one of an entrepreneur and its effects on his life and community**

Mully is a prime example of how someone who used to be homeless was able to transform his life and the life of others through his mentality growth. Abandoned at a young age, he lived on the streets of Kenya for a period. He eventually got an idea and started small with a

single vehicle transporting people. With key business decisions and always strategically challenging himself, Mully was able to grow a new economic empire. One thing Mully does is he has a home for street children where he raises them and allows them the opportunity for growth and transformations of their mentalities. At his home, he teaches them the value of community, cooperation, and skills such as farming, and even construction. He has a skill for everyone to develop. Some of the children from his program have gone on to be businesspeople, and government workers, and many are university graduates. They have had a transformation of their mentalities and are now contributing to the economy of Kenya. Another such entrepreneur like Mully is Magette Wade. Magette Wade is a successful entrepreneur and businesswoman. Wade owns a company called SkinIsSkin. She sells lotions from Senegal looking to uplift the people working with her. She sees entrepreneurship as the way for Africa to leapfrog ahead (Wade). Later in this paper, I will discuss how Wade saw a correlation between the political systems and policies a country has and the entrepreneurial climate of that country.

The current political system's effect on the entrepreneurial mentality

Politics and Post-Colonial Theory: African Inflections

Politics and Post-Colonial Theory: African Inflections is a deep dive written by Pal Ahluwalia. Dr. Ahluwalia is the Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Australia. He was previously a professor in the politics department at universities in Australia, San Diego, and London. He has the experience and was born in Kenya, giving him a foothold in African politics. This diverse experience means he has examined different political systems. He has seen how the systems in Africa affect entrepreneurship and the mentality it facilitates.

Ahluwalia observes that African governments and societies have had to go through a mentality change. This is captured by this quote by Chinweizu and Mechukwu:

On the one hand, our culture has to destroy all encrustations of colonial mentality, and on the other hand, has to map out new foundations for an African modernity. This cultural task demands a deliberate and calculated process of syncretism: one which, above all, emphasizes valuable continuities with our pre-colonial culture, welcomes vitalizing contributions from other cultures, and exercises inventive genius in making a healthy and distinguished synthesis from them all (qtd. by Ahluwalia 129).

What Ahluwalia says is that African governments must work at balancing two things: The positive structures that were left for them by their colonizers and their own vibrant cultures. One thing African nations did after colonialism to deal with this mentioned thought was to have one-party states. The idea behind these institutions was originally to be able to be stronger together to rise against colonial rule. After many countries gained freedom, this system was a method to keep people unified. As many nations were and still are diverse with different people groups it was a way to keep everyone on the same page (Monyani). One-party states pushed everyone towards one mentality. If the party at the time wanted to push for a village mentality, that was the move everyone would go through. If it were one of entrepreneurship, then that was the move. This one-party system is not as widely used as the new systems of multiple parties. These multiple-party systems have allowed Africans to cultivate different mentalities. People could operate in the village mentality, the entrepreneurial mentality, or anywhere in between. The

person's mentality decision was based on the political party they decided to align with. With the pull in both directions, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) represents a country being pulled into the mentality of the investing country. This is another way political systems influence a person's mentality.

FDI's Effect on the African entrepreneurial mentality with the Investment of Carrefour

Carrefour is a large French-based and started supermarket company. It has grown from its small French roots and has moved to countries around the world. The branches in Kenya have been brought in partnership with Majid Al Futtaim, a businessman and entrepreneur. He has businesses in shopping malls, hotels, movie cinemas, and other entertainment centers. The article explains the impact that Carrefour has had on the economies it has opened. The article writes, "Carrefour has become the most dynamic, fast-moving and exciting hypermarket chain in the region and shared its growth with more than 21,000 employees from more than 68 nationalities in 12 countries, providing shoppers with variety and value-for-money" (Carrefour). It is noteworthy that Carrefour has been a huge success and has empowered its employees to transform their mentalities.

The employees have seen the smooth operating system of Carrefour. They now can take these processes they work to provide and implement them to transform their mentalities. These are processes such as customer satisfaction, product operations management, and other marketing techniques that the store uses to generate customers. Additionally, the way Carrefour partners with local farmers to get fresh produce in their stores, allows them to grow their mentalities. This business has allowed farmers to sell for a more consistent contract rather than to their local shops. It has grown their mentalities to realize their product is worth more than they initially thought. This has pushed them to become more professional in their operations, hence

improving their business and allowing them to even distribute to other supermarket vendors. In the line of distribution, there is a thriving industry. Danstone Okwany is a distributor in Kenya who has seen a change in his industry shadowing the entrepreneurial mentality. He has seen its reflection on the peoples' mentalities at large.

Interview with Danstone Okwany, owner of a beverage-distributing company in Kenya

Okwany is an executive and business owner in Kenya. His specialties lie in being the last mile man. He is the intermediary between the manufacturer and the company that sells the products. He distributes different beverages, telecommunication services, and gas appliances. To get to this stage he did not jump straight to where he is. He had to build himself up, learning needed skills and transforming his mentality. He worked for the giant British American Tobacco. He worked for the company for fifteen years and was able to build up his knowledge and skill set so he could start his distribution company (Okwany).

In this interview, Okwany said that the industry is already very developed and has high barriers to entry. One of the biggest is the financial muscle needed to set up the mechanisms to enter the distribution industry at a larger scale. He left me with some key points as to things one could do to be successful in the industry. One needs to be open-minded, a strategic risk taker, and have the professionalism to deal with a high-pressure industry. Finally, they need to have excellent customer service skills. What I interpreted from these nuggets of gold was that one needs to have a growth mentality to be ready for the unexpected. The growth mentality to me draws parallels to one of an entrepreneur. It will help one to be successful in the distribution industry and positively contribute economically to the greater economy of one's nation. As I have demonstrated, these two mentalities butt heads creating friction. This friction is at the

economic inflection point that Africa is in. Magette Wade sees how in this friction, there are fruits of an entrepreneurial mentality.

How Black Lives Truly Matter sheds light on Magatte Wade's experience

Wade recounts how when she went to Germany as a child, she saw that their standard of living was higher than her standard of living back in Senegal. Her mentality was starting to be transformed as she started to see the possibilities out there. Her curiosity, however, made her start to question and research why some countries were poor and others were rich. She eventually moved from Senegal to Germany and from Germany to France. Once she felt she had grown to the level she wanted to in France, she finally moved to the US. In the United States, she says she saw entrepreneurship at its finest (JordanPetersonVideos). Here her mentality was able to be fully transformed, because of her surroundings, to one of an entrepreneur.

While talking to Dr. Jordan B. Peterson, Wade says she learned “the magic of entrepreneurship is to create something out of nothing” (JordanPetersonVideos). The idea stuck with her and helped her when she was starting her business. Her mentality was additionally transformed by what her grandparents used to tell her, “I need to know that you have thought of alternatives, they don't need to be the right ones but I need to know you have thought of solutions” (JordanPetersonVideos). Her grandparents' words show how she was pushed to always be forward-thinking in her life. Wade saw how in her business ventures, government systems are important to the mentality found in a nation.

Types of Government in Africa

I developed earlier how Africa is a diverse continent and this diversity extends into the political systems the continent has to offer. With a BA in English and classical civilizations,

Douglas Matus has observed the types of governments in Africa. Using his findings in his article, one can understand how these systems affect the entrepreneurial mentality. Matus observes that Africa is a diverse continent with fifty-four different countries. These countries have different political histories leading to wealth and stability disparity between them. He writes, “Africa contains only four different types of government: presidential and parliamentary republics, semi-presidential republics and monarchies” (Matus). With this variety of government systems, the mentalities of each one are at a different point in their transition. Some systems have the wealth and experience to facilitate a platform for this transition of mentalities. Others are still in their building phase and are working to create a stable platform to facilitate this transition. The ones that have the mechanisms such as free trade, and other economic incentives are at an inflection point. They are at a point where they need to invest more heavily in this transition to put their nations on the front foot. Rwanda is an example of one such nation. Looking over the pond at East/Central Africa Rwanda has been pulled in the direction of the entrepreneurial mentality. They are a prime example of the effects of the entrepreneurial mentality.

Case study of Rwanda’s Tax and Investment Law

As of February 2021, the Rwandan government published a law on investment promotion and facilitation (Orbitax). They are looking to benefit exportation, manufacturing in equipment, and information technology to name a few. They will look to improve energy generation, tourism, skills development, and transport logistics to name a few (Orbitax). On top of giving the people a platform to change their mentalities to Entrepreneurial Mentalities, outside parties have incentives to invest in Rwanda. These are the incentives of, a preferential corporate income tax rate of zero percent. Additionally, an income tax rate of three percent and tax incentives for philanthropic investors. These are just a few of the twenty-three incentives (Orbitax). These

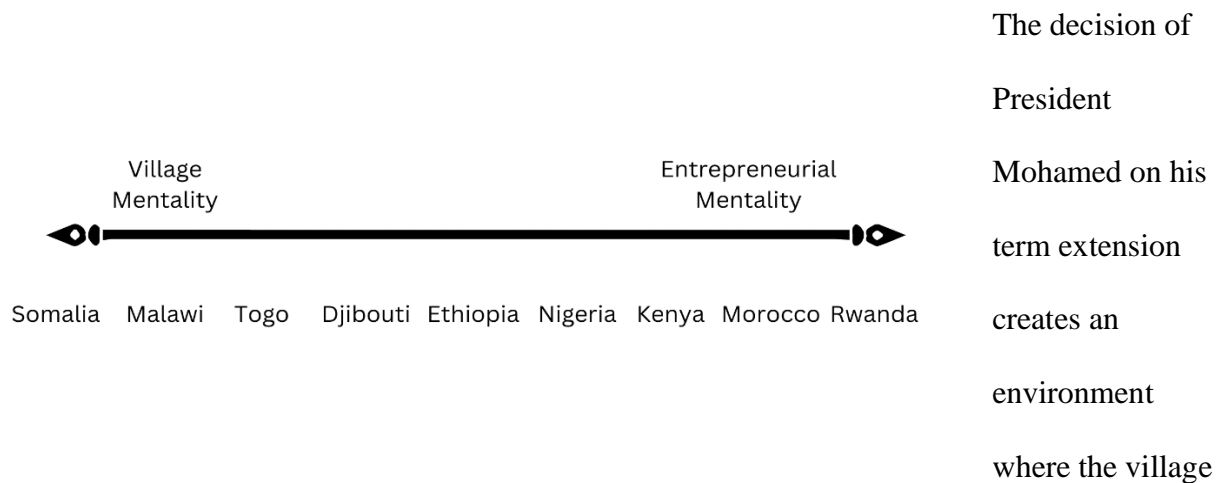
government policies have allowed the people of Rwanda a platform to transform their mentalities. They have allowed them to see their potential and capabilities. With bright examples like Rwanda facilitating an entrepreneurial mentality, African companies have chosen a similar path.

Software Solutions in Kenya

Safaricom is a telecommunications company in Kenya that creates software and hardware solutions. Having a deficiency in their software solutions, they saw the need to invest in their talent and bring them up to the task. This investment trained the people to have Entrepreneurial Mentalities to see their skills as assets that could be strategically utilized. Once they utilized these skills, some software engineers were poached by international companies to work abroad. The challenge for the telecommunications giant is not to give them the incentive to stay so they can have more of a positive impact on the country's economy. As countries in Africa are at an inflection point, they need to keep their talent to be able to affect their economies positively. These talented people are important because they have been trained. They have shifted from the village mentality to the entrepreneurial mentality with this training. Safaricom has created events where winners are given prize money. Also, what they have done is they have created a training program where they build people to work for the company so they can be truly appreciated. Specifically, Safaricom has created an Engineering community, a digital academy, and a talent program to uplift people in the software engineering path. There is still work to be done but this is a very great step in the right direction. This will help keep the transformed talent in the country so they can impact their home economy (The War For). Ultimately, countries are being pulled in two directions at this inflection point. The side of the village mentality and the side of the entrepreneurial mentality.

The ultimate battle of the mentalities

I have talked about how countries like Rwanda are moving to the side of the entrepreneurial mentality. Unlike countries like Rwanda, others are moving towards the sector of the village mentality. Somalia is an example of a country moving towards the village mentality.



The decision of

President

Mohamed on his

term extension

creates an

environment

where the village

mentality can flourish. This edited graphic shows the mentality ends that African countries are being pulled in.

Conclusion

I have just reviewed how economic development in Africa is at an inflection point and have surveyed how Africa's economy has come to a point where countries can choose one of two directions. They can follow the entrepreneurial mentality, or they can follow the village mentality. I have surveyed how the effect of this decision impacts Africa's economic future. Using a multifaceted survey of information, I have demonstrated how the dynamic and culturally different economic environment of Africa is affected by this mentality transformation. The key is that there are factors in one's environment that can push one to have their mentality transformed. These factors can be school, eye-opening learning experiences, or jobs that allow exposure to new ideas. Another factor can be mentor influences and other outside influences. I have

discussed how the Village Mentality is a mentality that does not see growth potential and stays stagnant. A mentality that is used to being given systems of operation and not creating their own. Once one gains the entrepreneurial mentality, one can better themselves and others in their community. Once they influence and uplift those around them, they are then able to impact their economy and move it in a positive direction. If all Africans are open-minded and accepting of the change offered in the entrepreneurial mentality, then the African economy will move from its inflection point toward a positive direction.

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ⁱ This will be excluding nations that were not colonized such as Ethiopia and Egypt.

ⁱⁱ The slave trade of this time was facilitated by Africans themselves. This was the pre-colonization slave trade.

ⁱⁱⁱ Somalia's President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed changed the constitution to extend his term.