



Defeating Dictators: Fighting Tyranny in Africa and Around the World

By George B.N. Ayittey

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Despite billions of dollars of aid and the best efforts of the international community to improve economies and bolster democracy across Africa, violent dictatorships persist. As a result, millions have died, economies are in shambles, and whole states are on the brink of collapse. Political observers and policymakers are starting to believe that economic aid is not the key to saving Africa. So what does the continent need to do to throw off the shackles of militant rule? African policy expert George Ayittey argues that before Africa can prosper, she must be free. Taking a hard look at the fight against dictatorships around the world, from Ukraine's orange revolution in 2004 to Iran's Green Revolution last year, he examines what strategies worked in the struggle to establish democracy through revolution. Ayittey also offers strategies for the West to help Africa in her quest for freedom, including smarter sanctions and establishing fellowships for African students.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[Ayittey's] forthright language, lucid analyses, and pragmatic attitude make this a compelling and timely challenge to the despotism-as-usual status quo.” *Publishers Weekly*

“As George Ayittey, Obama adviser and veteran Africa author and analyst, knows too well...there is far more to ousting dictators than convening a crowd, as in Tahrir Square...There are few greater experts in the nature of and flaws of tyranny [than Ayittey]. His record in opposing authoritarian misrule in his native Ghana is unimpeachable....All those labouring under authoritarian systems that seem invulnerable, from Zimbabwe to Jordan and even maybe China, should heed Ayittey's strictures. So should their rulers. So too should western officials tempted to water down their principles when working in illiberal regimes.” *Alec Russell, Financial Times*

About the Author

Dr. George Ayittey was named one of *Foreign Policy*'s Top Global Thinkers in 2009 and is an advisor to the Obama administration on forging a new path for Africa. He is the author of *Africa Unchained*, *Africa in Chaos*, and *Africa Betrayed*, which won the H.L. Mencken Award for Best Book. Ayittey has written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Times of London*, among others, and has appeared on such media as ABC *Nightline*, PBS *NewsHour*, and CNN. He is also the founder and president of the Free Africa Foundation and professor of economics at American University.

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