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Aims and Scope

Economics and Business Review is the successor to the Poznań University of Economics Review which was published by the Poznań University of Economics and Business Press in 2001–2014. The Economics and Business Review is a quarterly journal focusing on theoretical and applied research work in the fields of economics, management and finance. The Review welcomes the submission of articles for publication dealing with micro, mezzo and macro issues. All texts are double-blind assessed by independent reviewers prior to acceptance.

The manuscript

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4. Papers should have an abstract of not more than 100 words, keywords and the Journal of Economic Literature classification code (**JEL Codes**).
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6. **Acknowledgements** and references to grants, affiliations, postal and e-mail addresses, etc. should appear as a separate footnote to the author's name a, b, etc and should not be included in the main list of footnotes.
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8. **Quoted texts** of more than 40 words should be separated from the main body by a four-spaced indentation of the margin as a block.
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Kerry E. Howell, M. Karim Sorour [Eds.]. 2017. *Corporate governance in Africa. Assessing implication and ethical perspectives*, Palgrave Macmillan, ISBN 978-11-3756-699-7

On receiving the book from the publishers and opening up the package and reading the title *Corporate Governance in Africa – assessing implementation and ethical perspectives* - I must confess to being initially intrigued with the combination of words: Corporate governance, ethical perspectives in Africa. At first glance it would appear to be the most unlikely and most uncomfortable of bedfellows given the rampant corporate scandals and endemic corruption in Africa. However, as is often the case with stereotypical conditioning and thinking, once one begins delving into the text one quickly discovers a richness and a wealth of approaches, structures and practice that are being discussed and addressed in the continent of Africa. I soon found myself engaged in the vastness of the topic.

The preface provides a backcloth and rationale for the book and states that ‘the project emerged following 10 years of research in Corporate Governance’. The preface goes on to identify the role of the book in terms of the relationship between the global perspective and local cultural perspectives and discusses the imposition of globalised governance mechanisms, which are predominantly derived from mature economies, on developing countries. This is a specific point of analysis in the book.

The book initially provides a theoretical Foundation in which the conceptual

framework of Corporate Governance and philosophical issues are discussed. The book then goes on to provide a number of case studies identifying critical issues on a range of countries in Africa.

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the theoretical framework of corporate governance by linking social contracts and ethics with corporate governance.

Chapter 2 provides the paradigm of inquiry and lays down the philosophical underpinnings of the book with considerable reference to major philosophical work. The book adopts Critical Theory and Constructivism as the paradigm of inquiry for the case studies that follow.

Chapter 3 considers the ethical perspectives on Corporate Governance and begins by providing an overview of the main ethical perspectives thereon. The chapter begins by a discussion of the practical debate on Corporate Governance and assesses a range of definitions and codes around the world. The chapter then goes on to discuss the theoretical aspects of ethics from different perspectives.

Chapter 4 considers the evolution of Corporate Governance in the Egyptian banking sector and the developments in regulation over the past 17 years. The chapter discusses a range of pressures on the banking sector in Egypt from a number of sources including ‘external’ international regulatory bodies and ‘internal’ bodies.

The chapter discusses some interesting cultural dimensions specific to Egypt.

Chapter 5 reviews the ethical dimensions of Corporate Governance in Ghana and tracks the historical developments over a 50 year period. The chapter discusses the impact of local cultural influences on board effectiveness and other relevant board issues and interestingly devotes four pages to the concept of gift giving and receiving in the Ghanaian context. The role of the Ghanaian government is also discussed at length.

Chapter 6 discusses Corporate Governance in Nigeria and begins with a review of the evolution of Corporate Governance over a 25 year period. A section of the Chapter is devoted to the regulation of the banking sector in Nigeria while the majority of the chapter considers Corporate Governance in the broader Nigerian context.

Chapter 7 provides an analysis of Corporate Governance in banking in The Gambia. Much of the Chapter is devoted to reviewing Corporate Governance in the general context while Corporate Governance in banking is considered in the closing section of the Chapter.

Chapter 8 considers Corporate Governance in South Africa focusing primarily on the King reports and provides

an interesting review of the fundamentally African philosophy of Ubuntu, meaning 'the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity' also considered as 'a person is a person through other people'.

Chapter 9 considers Corporate Governance in the Kenyan public sector. The chapter begins with the international context and historical legacies bearing down on Kenya and then goes on to explore Corporate Governance practice and ethical issues in Kenya through the mechanisms of a case study of the ministry of finance.

One sentence in the preface captures the essence of the book "good Corporate Governance practices may also determine ethical practices that undermine African capability and credibility in the international domain". In essence, this is what the book is about. Each chapter brings a depth of knowledge, understanding and experience specific to the relevant African jurisdiction and identifies the positive moves that are being made by many African countries as they grapple with a range of long-standing governance issues.

Steve Letza

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