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Title: The poverty of nations: the aid dilemma at the heart of Africa

Author: [Morton, James](#)

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Abstract: Despite three decades of ever-increasing aid, Africa is no better off now than it was at independence. Focusing on the Darfur region of Sudan, this book examines what has gone wrong and why aid has so often been ineffective and even counterproductive. The author argues that it is incorrect to pin the blame simply on incompetent decisionmaking by donors or recipients, on environmental and climatic conditions, or on civil strife. Instead, it should be recognized that the success or failure of an aid or development programme is essentially related to aspects of political economy, and that attention to factors like sovereignty and accountability is as crucial as rigorous scientific and technical evaluation. The central conclusion of the book is that aid distorts the processes of development by transforming the relationship between traditional elites and their retainers. There is only one truly 'bottom-up' approach and that is to place the money directly in the hands of the people of each developing society.

[Views](#)