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How to possibly encompass the veritable breadth of the African continent and its vast global connections in a single tome is a seemingly impossible task. However, editors Dorothy Hodgson and Judith Byfield accomplish this seemingly insurmountable task in truly fine fashion through their refreshing publication, *Global Africa: Into the Twenty-First Century*. Organized into five distinct parts, each part comprised of six to eight chapters, the book dissects the continent into “bite-sized” portions that alone offer valuable insights and together constitute a comprehensive inquiry into modern Africa. Each part of the book highlights a particular theme and begins with a profile of an individual closely associated with that theme.

Part I of the book delves into the historic global connections of Africa. Opening with a profile of Ibn Khaldun, the remaining six chapters under this theme range widely in geographic and temporal scale. In Chapter 1.2, trade during Africa’s “global golden age,” defined as AD 700-1500, is investigated via the accounts of three male travelers. Immediately following, and providing a refreshing comparison, is a chapter detailing the lives of three women of the Sahara. Other chapters examine the human connections of Africa to such geographies as the Spanish Empire, Mexico City, pan-Africa, and India.

Part II examines the challenges associated with power in Africa. In a continent so noted for corruption and political malfeasance, this portion of the book takes an honest look at the problems and prospects of power accumulation. Individuals covered in this section include Leymah Gbowee, winner of the Nobel Peace prize, and Mwalimu Nyerere, first president of Tanzania. Topical chapters focus on South Africa’s TRC, illicit financial flows from Africa, the role of China in Africa, and the radicalization of environmental justice in South Africa.

Part III takes a cultural turn and examines community and culture in Africa. Chapters focus on African textiles, literary tradition, soccer, art, and, through raï and rap, music. In an interesting contrast to a previous chapter’s
discussion of China in Africa, this part of the book includes a chapter on African missions in China. Part IV examines science, technology, and health. This part begins with concerns over epidemics in Africa, while other chapters focus on technology, extractive industries, and environmental legacies. The final part looks at Africa in the world today and has chapters covering the disparate topics of gender justice, film, Islam, and more.

Each chapter is unique and, at first reading, may perhaps be considered mutually exclusive. Yet though the chapters take on disparate individuals and events in history and geography, together they afford interesting insight into Africa’s global connections. The chapters flow well together, many including photos, and there is little of which to be critical. Perhaps the only deficiency is the relative absence of maps. While a continental map is included at the outset, only a single chapter, Chapter 1.3, includes a larger scale map to provide detailed explication of the topic under discussion. That said, this book serves as an invaluable resource for geographers, historians, and all social scientists, as well as any members of the public interested in learning more about this complicated and fascinating continent.