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Kim Yi Dionne. *Doomed Interventions : The Failure of Global Responses to Aids in Africa*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017, 208pp. ISBN-10: 1316646882.

Reviewed by: Bourouayah Mohamed, former vice-rector of Emir Abdelkader University . Algeria

"Doomed Interventions: The failure of Global responses to Aids in Africa" is written by Kim Yi Dionne, an assistant professor of government at Smith College whose research interests include public opinion, health, ethnicity and research methods. This book is written with two aims in mind: it is both an insider and outsider perspective at what lays behind the social and political struggle against AIDS in Africa. The substantive focus of her work is on the opinions of ordinary Africans toward AIDS' interventions aimed at improving their condition and the relative success of such interventions. Indeed, the book deals with a serious disease that has emerged during the era of globalization and one that has threatened specific areas in the world, especially poor African countries. The book probes the question of what it is like to be a member of a select group who believe they are chosen to maintain the pure path in the sphere of Aids' interventions; and it provides responses to Aids in Africa. The author mentions that among the group engaged in fighting and eliminating Aids in Africa are high ranking political leaders. Due to their specific positions in the summit of the social governance, they bear more responsibility for the failure of responses to AIDS in Africa. The book isn't a simplified chronological report about the rise and the spread of the AIDS pandemic in Africa as previous research works have demonstrated. Rather, it contains a deep and a rational analysis of AIDS and attempted interventions.

The book combats the notion that the proliferation of AIDS stems from the lack of resources in some African countries. She states," AIDS is one of the primary causes of death in Africa. Of the more than 24 million Africans infected with HIV, only about 54% have access to the treatment that they need. Despite the progress made in mitigating this disease in the global north, unfortunately, Africa is left behind". As Dionne examines the obstacles to AIDS interventions in Africa, she challenges the narrative that the failure of these responses is because of insufficient funding and the lack of political will. She argues that designers of interventions programs are often far removed from agents who have to implement them. Therefore, the priorities between the international organizations who finance these interventions and the local people who have to navigate AIDS in Africa are often misaligned. She makes a case for local actors, priorities, and participation in the design and implementation of these intervention programs.

The author demonstrated in her book that patients and citizen witnesses have more reliable insights than academics; from this, African inhabitants are given more agency and their insights have greater value. As a researcher, Kionne critically analyzes many experiences and methods in dealing with AIDS in Africa. There is no doubt that this research style has a positive effect on the study.

It is obvious that the researcher has a political agenda in her focus on what we can call the weak African policy which African rulers deal with in the management of public affairs. As this book will show, citizens and key decision-makers in the global community diverge on how AIDS interventions should be prioritized vis-a-vis other pressing policy issues. The significant threat AIDS poses to public health requires a strong response. However, failing to consider the ideas and opinions of African citizens in AIDS response could also take its toll, by privileging donor priorities over citizen priorities, global elites cripple states abilities to implement policies representing citizens' interests. The lack of political will is one of the major obstacles that hinder the compact process against AIDS, bringing to light the relation between the care of public health and good governance. Truly, policy plays a vital role in the fight against health and social disasters, Unfortunately, this care of public health is still absent in many African countries and the success of the process even with a small percentage is unsatisfactory. These points are important to the way the author highlights the link between ordinary Africans, governments, and the national community.

The medical knowledge that the author has gained in the sphere of AIDS disease studies is beneficial to this analysis. She highlighted the medical points she examined and proposed how to explain it. There is no doubt that clarifying these medical points is one of the strengths that must be noted in addition to some weaknesses and omissions that I briefly mention later. For some reason, the lengthy statistics on AIDS makes the book read like a journalist's report rather than an academic work. However, the link drawn between science and society adds to the book's value as not only a scientific study but also a social one.

Dionne's book provides much to consider about what is right, wrong, misguided, or in desperate need of change in regard to AIDS interventions on the African continent. Her arguments and evidence were based on rational and realistic statements. While AIDS interventions and the analysis of their implementation is a complex topic, the book's contents at times are too drawn out and often redundant. In general, the author covered this large number of themes/topics in an acceptable way, but some abbreviation would have been beneficial. Dionne is an exemplary researcher with long experience on the continent. Certainly, the book is a great reference for researchers interested in investigating this epidemic on the African continent.

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