



The Invention of a European Development Aid Bureaucracy Recycling Empire

Véronique Dimier

Véronique Dimier is Associate Professor in Political Science at the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. She was previously a researcher at St Antony's College, University of Oxford, and Senior Lecturer at the European Institute of Public Administration, Maastricht.

"Recycling Empire offers a fascinating account of the construction of a development bureaucracy within the European Commission. Drawing on archival sources and interviews with key figures in the history of EU development policy, the book a scholarly yet readable history of the evolution of EU development policy." - Michelle Cini, Professor of European Politics, School of Sociology, Politics and International Studies (SPAIS), University of Bristol, UK

"This book makes an important contribution to the growing academic literature that seeks to challenge the colonial/post-colonial binary. By focusing on the careers of former French colonial administrators who transferred to the European Commission in Brussels after African independence, it offers startling new insights into the continuities between colonial and development/post-colonial policies in Africa and in Europe." - Tony Chafer, Centre for European and International Studies Research, University of Portsmouth, UK

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About the book

Through in-depth analysis of European development policy over the past thirty five years, this book outlines the significant influence that former French colonial officials had in designing and implementing development aid programmes in Africa and how the way their influence has continued to impact upon EEC development policy in Africa. The study shows that the Directorate General 8 of the European Commission (DG8), the institution responsible for this policy, was well adapted to dealing with emergent African administrations, and was modelled on the neo-patrimonial system of DG8's African clients. Within this system, authority and legitimacy were based on mutual trust and obligations, personal and affective ties, political compromise, permanent exception to the rule, the core of what was termed 'Indirect Rule' during colonial times. It also examines how this administrative system evolved following successive EEC enlargements and the extent to which this evolution necessitated an incremental process towards bureaucratization, for example, the rationalization of procedures and the depersonalization of practices.

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