REVIEW ARTICLE

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Social stratification and inequality in South Africa

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Abstract

South Africa is the most economically unequal country in the world. Moreover, research shows that inequality has only risen since advent of multi-party democracy in 1994. In this article. I review research that documents how economic inequality has formed over the past century, and the relationship between these structural conditions and contemporary social stratification. The literature shows that since the end of apartheid racial inequality has declined somewhat, but increases in inequality within race have more than offset this. Despite momentous political change and formal legal equality, economic equality remains elusive for most South Africans. Research on South Africa shows that accounting for the historical construction of institutions that shape inequality is crucial not only for understanding stratification within the country, but for explaining it in any contemporary industrial society.

KEYWORDS

economic change, inequality, labor market, racial inequality, social stratification, South Africa, unemployment

INTRODUCTION

South Africa is generally agreed to be the most unequal country in the world. Whether measured in terms of income, wealth, or living standards, the vast majority of the economic benefits of the country are concentrated in the hands of a small proportion of the population. The history of settler colonialism, ties to expansive European empires, reliance on natural resources, and politically enforced population distinctions have all contributed to economic inequality being both quite high and tied to racial categorization. The advent of formal democracy in 1994 held for many the

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Social Stratification In Africa

Daniela Niemeyer

Social Stratification In Africa:

Social Stratification in Africa Arthur Tuden, Leonard Plotnicov, 1970 Property, Institutions, and Social Stratification in Africa Franklin Obeng-Odoom, 2020-03-26 In this book Franklin Obeng Odoom seeks to carefully explain engage and systematically question the existing explanations of inequalities within Africa and between Africa and the rest of the world using insights from the emerging field of stratification economics Drawing on multiple sources including archival and historical material and a wide range of survey data he develops a distinctive approach that combines key concepts in original institutional economics such as reasonable value property and the distribution of wealth with other insights into Africa s development and underdevelopment While looking at the Africa wide situation Obeng Odoom also analyzes the experiences of inequalities within specific countries Comprehensive and engaging Property Institutions and Social Stratification in Africa is a useful resource for teaching and research on Africa and the Global South Africana Social Stratification James L. Convers Ir., 2017-11-30 This study seeks to critically examine the field and function of social stratification with emphasis on Africana phenomena Phrased another way this edited volume attempts to study and focus on who gets what and why with regard to resources and structural application of support The John Henrik Clarke guery is who made this arrangement of leadership in America Moreover serving as a reference this study will assist researchers in contextualizing and thematically examining the structural and resource allocation of disparity exhibited toward Africana people This manuscript of essays is the first its kind This study incorporates an interdisciplinary scope to examine the concept of Africana Social Stratification in the subject areas of history political science economics Africana Studies and social policy Social Stratification in the Middle East and North Africa Ali Banuazizi, Prouchestia Goodarzi, 1984 Bibliograf a sobre estratificaci n social y condiciones sociales en Oriente Medio y Africa del Norte Las referencias est n ordenadas por pa ses por materias y por autores

studies from across the continent this collection provides a much needed corrective to the received wisdom within development circles and provides a fresh perspective on social transformations in contemporary Africa Stratification, Class, Race, and Gender in Sociological Perspective, Second Edition David Grusky, 2019-09-05 The volume offers essential reading for undergraduates who need an introduction to the field for graduate students who wish to broaden their understanding of stratification research and for advanced scholars who seek a basic reference guide Although most of the selections are middle range theoretical pieces suitable for introductory courses the anthology also includes advanced contributions on the cutting edge of research The editor outlines a modified study plan for undergraduate students Social stratification in tribal Africa ,1968 Pluralism in Malaysia requiring a basic introduction to the field Nagata, 2024-09-02 Class Formation and Civil Society Patrick M. Boyle, 2018-10-26 First published in 1999 this study of the politics of education in Cameroon the Congo and Kenya presents arresting empirical evidence that urban elites exiting public sector educational systems they have dominated in favour of private school networks of their own creation Seeking to enhance their offspring s chances for survival and even domination in a world of scarce resources and limited opportunities for employment elites see private schools as tools to shape newly emerging civil societies in Africa in their own image From a theoretical perspective the fresh evidence presented here shows that schooling has once again become a major social force influencing the balance of state and society in modern Africa Re examining an older political tradition of class analysis and integrating it into more recent civil society perspectives the author shows that the abandonment of the unreliable education services of dysfunctional African states in favour of private schools has profound consequences for class articulation in societies dividing once again according to educational opportunities The Middle Class in World Society Christian Suter, S. Madheswaran, B.P. Vani, 2020-05-21 This volume delves into the study of the world's emerging middle class With essays on Europe the United States Africa Latin America and Asia the book studies recent trends and developments in middle class evolution at the global regional national and local levels It reconsiders the conceptualization of the middle class with a focus on the diversity of middle class formation in different regions and zones of world society It also explores middle class lifestyles and everyday experiences including experiences of social mobility feelings of insecurity and anxiety and even middle class engagement with social activism Drawing on extensive fieldwork and in depth interviews the book provides a sophisticated analysis of this new and rapidly expanding socioeconomic group and puts forth some provocative ideas for intellectual and policy debates It will be of importance to students and researchers of sociology economics development studies political studies Latin American studies and Asian Studies Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Class Susan J. Ferguson, 2023-06-08 Race Gender Sexuality and Social Class Fourth Edition is an anthology of readings that explores the ways these social statuses shape our experiences and impact our life chances in society today Organized around broad topics identity power and privilege social institutions etc rather than categories of difference race gender class sexuality to

underscore the idea that social statuses often intersect with one another to produce inequalities and form the bases of our identities in society The text features readings by leading experts in the field and reflects the many approaches scholars and researchers use to understand issues of diversity power and privilege Included with this title LMS Cartridge Import this title s instructor resources into your school s learning management system LMS and save time Don t use an LMS You can still access all of the same online resources for this title via the password protected Instructor Resource Site Stratification and Power in America Lynda Ann Ewen, 1998 To find out more on Rowman Littlefield titles please visit us a www rowmanlittlefield com COVID-19, Inequality, and Social Stratification in Africa Franklin Obeng-Odoom, 2020 The global health emergency reflects systemic global inequalities central to which is social stratification in Africa While existing analyses frame Africa as needy of global help this editorial argues that whether in terms of the economics of inequality pandemics or recovery Africa can teach the rest of the world key lessons Culture, Politics, and Money Among the Yoruba Akanmu Adebayo, 2018-02-06 This masterful book investigates and analyzes several aspects of money among the Yoruba of Nigeria Falola and Adebayo explore the origin philosophy uses politics and problems of acquiring and spending money in Yoruba culture No prior book exists on this aspect of a major ethnic group in Africa with established connections with the black Diaspora in North America and the Caribbean Conceived so that each chapter may be read individually the volume is divided into three parts Part 1 Money and Its Uses focuses on the transition from barter to cowry currency the idealistic and pragmatic views of money the impact of monetization on social stratification accumulation among members of the elite and the development of savings banking and credit institutions Part 2 Money and Its Problems investigates the social political and cultural problems of money including money lending theft counterfeiting and corruption Part 3 Money and Oil Economy assesses the impact of the oil industry on the Nigerian state and examines both the positive and negative effects of oil money on Yoruba economy society and spending Concluding chapters detail efforts to arrest the crisis that followed the economic slump after the oil boom and led to the adoption of the Structural Adjustment Program and also evaluate the effects of currency devaluation on personal and communal responsibilities and social payment Culture Politics and Money Among the Yoruba is timely in view of ongoing political and economic changes in Africa It will be of interest to economists sociologists and African studies specialists Social Stratification and Social Movements Sabrina Zajak, Sebastian Haunss, 2019-11-22 This volume addresses the contested relationship between social stratification and social movements in three different ways First the authors address the relationship between social stratification and the emergence of protest mobilization Second the texts look at social stratification and social positions to explain variations in political orientations as well as differing aims and interests of protestors Finally the volume focuses on the socio structural composition of protestors Social Stratification and Social Movements takes up recent attempts to reconnect research on these two fields Instead of calling for a return of a class perspective or abandoning the classical social movement research agenda it introduces a multi

dimensional perspective on stratification and social movements and broadens the view by extending the empirical analysis beyond Europe Class Formations and Inequality Structures in Contemporary African Migration John A. Arthur, 2014-10-15 This book examines the influences of social class and inequality structures on migration in Africa using information from Ghana As the country achieves moderate to significant economic gains driven in part by the country s diaspora communities the desire to migrate has intensified Migration is now synonymous with social mobility and self improvement It has been found that existing class and status inequalities are analytically inseparable from the social and cultural processes underpinning the motivations behind Ghanaian migration Migrant class and socioeconomic attributes are closely intertwined reinforcing and operating at every level of the migration decision making to influence the motivation to migrate the type and form of migration the direction of the migration its timing and ultimately the outcomes and expectations that migrants associate with their decision to migrate From a historical and contemporary perspective this book argues that power and class based structural relationships are significant components in understanding how migratory diasporas shape and are shaped in turn by social class and inequality The social class identities that Ghanaian immigrants manifest in the United States are often based on immigrant formulations and importation of class dynamics from the home country These identities are then transformed in the countries of destination and replayed or relived back home thereby creating multiple class identities that are powerful forces in inducing social changes In essence migrant social class attributes formed before and post migration is significant because it holds the possibilities of transforming the social structures of migrant sending countries As migrants return home and seek reintegration into the body polity of the home society conflicts emanating from changes in their class dynamics may hinder or promote sociocultural and economic development. Hence the imperative of the central government is to understand and incorporate into national development planning the social class characteristics of its citizens who are leaving as well as those who are returning **Social Class and Education** Lois Weis, Nadine Dolby, 2012 Social Class and Education Global Perspectives is the first empirically grounded volume to explore the intersections of class social structure opportunity and education on a truly global scale Fifteen essays from contributors representing the US Europe China Latin America and other regions offer an unparralleled examination of how social class differences are made and experienced through schooling By underscoring the consequences of our new global reality this volume takes seriously the transnational migration of commerce capital and peoples and the ramifications of such for education and social structure Moving beyond national confines internationally recognized scholars Lois Weis and Nadine Dolby offer a set of emblematic essays that break new theoretical and empirical ground on the ways class is produced and maintained through education around the world

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