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Whatever its achievements and shortcomings, an important message of this study is that the challenges being confronted daily by the peoples of Africa—in state building, conflict prevention and resolution, and democratization—deserve more systematic analysis than can be accomplished with available resources, both material and human. I have learned enormously from my engagement with all the coauthors during the various stages in which our chapters evolved. I come away from this project with a heightened awareness of the complexities with which we grappled and of the greater effort required to truly master them. If this project provokes such an effort, that could be its most enduring achievement.

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