



The Lion Awakes: Adventures in Africa's Economic Miracle

Ashish J. Thakkar

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Three little known facts: Africa is now the world's fastest growing continent, with average GDP growth of 5.5% the past 10 years. Malaria deaths have declined by 30% and HIV infections by 74%. Nigeria produces more movies than America does.

The Lion Awakes is the true story of today's Africa, one often overshadowed by the dire headlines. Traveling from his ancestral home in Uganda, East Africa, to the booming economy and (if chaotic) new democracies of West Africa, and down to the "Silicon Savannahs" of Kenya and Rwanda, Ashish J. Thakkar shows us an Africa that few Westerners are aware exists. Far from being a place in need of our pity and aid, we see a continent undergoing a remarkable transformation and economic development. We meet a new generation of ambitious, tech savvy young Africans who are developing everything from bamboo bicycles to iPhone Apps; we meet artists, film makers and architects thriving with newfound freedom and opportunity, and we are introduced to hyper-educated members of the Diaspora who have returned to Africa after years abroad to open companies and take up positions in government. They all tell the same story: 21st Century Africa offers them more opportunity than the First World. Drawing from his business experience, and his own family's history in Africa, which include his parents' expulsion from Uganda by Idi Amin in the 70s and his own survival of the Rwandan genocide in 1994, Ashish shows us how much difference a decade can make.

The Lion Awakes: Adventures in Africa's Economic Miracle Details

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Author : Ashish J. Thakkar

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From Reader Review The Lion Awakes: Adventures in Africa's Economic Miracle for online ebook

Rebecca says

The impressions you had, you must break.
As new ideas start to shake.
An active community,
a land of opportunity.
What happens, when The Lion Awakes.

Darren says

A rather interesting, challenging book; something that at first one feared would be a bit of a tiresome, egocentric personal reflection but within a few paragraphs the author had expertly sold the idea to the reader.

The “African Lion” is waking up, the continent is slowly becoming more prosperous (it is the fastest growing continent presently) and it is the place to watch it seems. Hopefully some of the problems that have held the region back in the past can be held in check. Exciting times for sure may be ahead. This book is a first-person perspective, a look towards the future with an eye on the past; taking the reader on an African journey unlike anything they may have possibly experienced.

From the beginning one became hooked, reading about the polite cheek and drive of the author as a young boy selling his treasured computer to his father’s friend, for a profit, before promptly badgering his father to import another and selling it to his school principal for an even-larger profit. Films have been made of lesser stories. This book oozes positivity, hope and expectation that things will work out, yet there is no sense of entitlement, no excuses being made and no resentment of those who may (or may not) have held things back for the continent in the past.

The publicity material for the book set the scene well, with the reader “... being shown an Africa that few Westerners are aware exists. Far from being a place in need of our pity and aid, we see a continent undergoing a remarkable transformation and economic development. We meet a new generation of ambitious, tech savvy young Africans who are developing everything from bamboo bicycles to iPhone Apps; we meet artists, film makers and architects thriving with newfound freedom and opportunity, and we are introduced to hyper-educated members of the Diaspora who have returned to Africa after years abroad to open companies and take up positions in government. They all tell the same story: 21st Century Africa offers them more opportunity than the First World.”

It was an engaging read. It may challenge many perspectives. It exudes hope. Of course, you could criticise it for not rounding on those, Africans included, that have held the continent back, but this book may still be excused for that; it looks forward, it sees a future. This is a more poolside book than classroom book, even though it can serve both masters equally well. You need to set aside the time to give it a sequential read, but it flows well and it has an engaging story so time, and pages, soon rush by.

All in all, a very pleasant, interesting find that proved to be a worthwhile read.

Lori Tatar says

The Lion Awakes: Adventures in Africa's Economic Miracle by Ashish J. Thakkar was a true eye-opener and changed my views about Africa regarding development and potential. I knew that South Africa is now part of BRICS, which was just BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) previously, as far as economic development goes but I had no idea how far the rest of the continent had come as well.

The writing reads like an infomercial, both promoting the author and everything he has done and for the African continent. I am not fond of first-person narratives, much less any type of advertising, but Thakkar pulls it off; furthermore, if anyone deserves to toot his own horn, it is this author. The story really tempered the potential distaste I had.

For anyone studying global economics, or who is just plain interested in Africa, I highly recommend this and want to say thanks to Goodreads for sharing.

Diana says

Really interesting even to someone with little experience of business and economics. A whole new view of Africa.

Jeffrey Stevenson says

A quick but very informative read. This book opened my eyes to the growth and achievements many of the countries of Africa have made.

John says

WOW! I have to say that this was a really interesting read that I learned a lot from. Well done and one that I recommended to others. I won this great book on GoodReads and like I do with most my wins I will be paying it forward by giving my win either to a friend or library to enjoy.

Charles Wilson says

It has been said that anything is possible in Africa. The author certainly believes that saying to be true and presents a compelling case as to why. As stated in his book, the author was asked at an investor conference in the United States, when he thought Africa would catch up? His reply was that Africa wouldn't but rather

would lead the way. As such, the book gives great in-sight into modern day thinking of the youth of Africa, the "young lions."

The book focuses on Africa's economic awakening and the author presents many examples of such awakenings backed by statistics. It is a most interesting read.

Matt Connolly says

I was expecting it to be more of a memoir and less of an explanation of Africa's current technological status. A good read overall, it's clear that Thakkar is well versed in technology and industry. Nevertheless, it reads like an extended blog post, with lots of citations of newspaper and magazine articles (especially Time and The Economist). Highly recommend it to anyone looking to learn more about the Africa we never see.

ALONZO WIND says

Book stands out

It is very much worth reading. He brings a new and unique perspective and history and offers knowledgeable insights. I think he offers less on some important benefits and achievements from development assistance and some key issues like gender, basic education needs and participation but the overall message should be uplifting and motivating for Africans.
