"How people evaluate and respond to economic policies is one of the most significant, but least researched, topics in the political economy of development. It is also one of the most contentious. Given the work of Bratton, Mattes, and Gyimah-Boadi, we can at last move from arguments based on conviction to arguments based on data. Given the methodological challenges, this book cannot provide the last word; but it is the first scientific-based knowledge of this important topic."

– Robert H. Bates, Harvard University

“This is one of the most innovative, hopeful, and profoundly important social science books about Africa in several decades. With a sure grasp of democratic theories, a pioneering research framework, and the broadest collaborative network ever assembled to study public opinion in Africa, Bratton, Mattes, and Gyimah-Boadi analyze what Africans think about politics and governance, and why. ... They have set a new standard for research on political and economic change in Africa. And they have made a lasting contribution to the continent’s democratic and developmental future.”

– Larry Diamond, Stanford University

“The African continent has been generally under-investigated, and especially so in the area of public opinion research. ... [This] study brings research on African politics a significant step forward. There is no book like this on the market – and will not be for many years to come, as Bratton, Mattes, and Gyimah-Boadi are the prime experts in this field.”

– Axel Hadenius, Uppsala University

“A tour de force on a continental scale. Bratton, Mattes and Gyimah-Boadi have combined an up-to-date understanding of political science concepts and methods with very specific knowledge of more than a dozen African countries that challenge the conventional paradigm. A must book to read for anyone who is serious about understanding fundamentals of politics that are independent of the context of a single country, whether developed or developing.”

– Richard Rose, University of Strathclyde

“If public opinion matters to the stability of nascent democratic systems, then we ought to pay attention to what ordinary people think. This book is the first to venture in this direction. A product of the important Afrobarometer study, it presents results from a major international effort to survey and monitor African views, ... enlarging what we know about grassroots opinion and tantalizing readers with a theory about social learning on the African continent.”

– Jennifer Widner, Princeton University

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