

[Africa Unchained](#)

A platform for analysing and contributing to the issues and solutions raised by George Ayittey's latest book 'Africa Unchained'.

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

[CheckBook Development](#)

Michael Fairbanks co-founder of the [Seven Fund](#) writes:

Every nation needs money to upgrade and improve the lives of their citizens; and it is good when a rich nation helps a poor one after a devastating act of God, or to meet a basic human need. But, too often, when one nation aids another it is based on a massive infusion of [financial capital](#) in return for changing monetary, trade, investment, fiscal, sectoral, and wage policies. This is often the right advice, but there is a trade-off, too. The nation with all the money often assumes the decision rights; and the responsibility for a nation's future must always reside with the citizens of that nation, not with foreign advisors, and certainly not with its creditors and [donors](#). This sort of checkbook [development](#) confuses compassion and generosity with over-responsibility for fellow human beings. Explicitly or implicitly, the donor is telling them how to run their country, and in the process, without meaning to, can rob citizens of emerging nations of their most precious assets – dignity and self-reliance...[\[continue reading\]](#)-[A Templeton](#)

[Conversation](#)

Posted by Emeka Okafor at [12:57 PM](#)  [ShareThis](#)

Labels: [aid](#), [development](#), [self-sustenance](#), [wealth creation](#)

About Me

Emeka Okafor

Emeka Okafor is an entrepreneur who lives in New York City. He was the director for TED Global 2007 that took place in Arusha, Tanzania and is the TED Africa Director. His interests include sustainable technologies in the developing world and paradigm breaking technologies in general. His blog, Timbuktu Chronicles seeks to spur dialogue in areas of entrepreneurship, technology and the scientific method as it impacts Africa. "Timbuktu is a city unsullied by the worship of idols...a refuge of scholarly and righteous folk, a haunt of saints and ascetics, and a meeting place of caravans and boats" -Al-Sa'Di

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