

Public Policy Formation in Africa in the Wake of the Global Financial Meltdown: Building Blocks for a New Mind in a Multi-polar World

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The near universal and dominant sway of neo-liberal ideas in the political and economic spheres in the last thirty odd years have come under intense scrutiny following the global financial crises(2007-2009). In the global North governments fashioned out of their taxpayers' money " rescue plans" to "bail out" hitherto globe spanning affluent companies. Some thinkers are wondering what happened, following such a turn of events, to notions of the small, indifferent and limited government; the omniscient, omnipotent and unfailing market among other foundational claims of neo-liberal public policy formation.

For developing polities in Africa such critiques (and to be sure rebuttals as well) take on an added urgency and engender a certain necessary introspection on account of the neo-liberal development paradigms which the continent's bilateral and multi-lateral development partners have both foisted and convinced her to pursue. We will argue that, in the main, the policy responses of the global North to the global financial meltdown undermine the axiomatic and nomothetic pretensions of neo-liberal public policy prescriptions and create a policy window for African polities to reclaim their autonomous policy space in a multi-polar world.