

BOOK REVIEW

## Navigating the Business Environment

*A Review of Challenges and Prospects in Angola*

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### ABSTRACT

The Angolan business landscape, characterised by a complex post-conflict and oil-dependent economy, presents distinct challenges for enterprises and investors. Academic analysis of this specific environment, particularly from a contemporary and integrated perspective, remains limited. This review critically evaluates a recent monograph that analyses the operational realities for firms within the Angolan context. It aims to assess the book's success in synthesising the multifaceted barriers to business and its articulation of viable pathways for sustainable economic diversification. The review employs a critical analytical framework, examining the book's structure, theoretical underpinnings, use of evidence, and argumentative coherence. It situates the work within the broader literature on African business environments and assesses its methodological rigour. The book is found to provide a comprehensive, thematic analysis, identifying systemic corruption and infrastructural deficits as the most pervasive constraints, affecting an estimated majority of formal sector enterprises. A central theme is the critical, yet underdeveloped, role of local small and medium-sized enterprises in fostering economic resilience. The monograph offers a valuable, nuanced portrait of the Angolan business ecosystem, successfully balancing a frank appraisal of structural impediments with a forward-looking analysis of non-oil sector opportunities. Its integrated perspective is a particular strength. Future research should build on this foundation by incorporating more granular, firm-level data and comparative analysis with other Lusophone African economies. Policymakers are urged to consider the text's evidence on the catalytic potential of targeted support for domestic entrepreneurship. Business environment, economic diversification, institutional constraints, entrepreneurship, Lusophone Africa This review provides a structured, critical appraisal that distils the monograph's core analytical value for scholars and practitioners, highlighting its novel integration of political economy and firm-level operational analysis within a single, coherent framework.

**Keywords:** *Sub-Saharan Africa, business environment, institutional theory, resource curse, political economy, emerging markets, Angola*

#### Article Highlights

- Systemic corruption and infrastructural deficits constrain a majority of formal enterprises.
- Identifies the underdeveloped role of local SMEs in fostering economic resilience.
- Offers an integrated perspective combining political

#### Core Contribution

This review appraises a monograph that synthesizes the multifaceted barriers to business in Angola and articulates viable pathways for diversification, providing a novel integrated framework.

*A structured critical appraisal for scholars and practitioners of*

<p>economy and firm-level analysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A forward-looking assessment of pathways for sustainable economic diversification.</li></ul>	<p><i>African business environments.</i></p>
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