

Be In Control of Your Day *Series*

You're listening to the news again. It feels as if the very order of the world is shifting before our eyes. Politics has perhaps never been more relevant and policy appears to be the key response as many states, particularly developing countries, grapple with financial constraints while remaining ambitious and eager for economic freedom.

It should come as no surprise that the epicenter of this global hyperactivity is the United States of America. After all, the economic crisis of the 1980s originated there, as did the financial crash of 2008. The U.S. has firmly positioned itself as the cornerstone of the global economic order, an assertion that, at this point, is hardly debatable. Other significant players include Europe, the BRICS nations, and certain Middle Eastern countries. These regions are distinguished by their vast natural resource reserves, skilled labor forces, vibrant industries, advanced infrastructure, and a host of other formidable attributes.

Ironically, the United States has embraced a protectionist trade policy in an effort to reduce its trade deficit. Absolute free trade no longer holds the same strategic appeal it once did—particularly during the era when American industry outperformed that of every other nation. Today, the mantra is “America First.” Naturally, this shift does not sit well with China. While restricting trade with China is one issue, redirecting global capital flows toward the U.S. has deeper implications. A move that attracts more investment into the U.S. inherently means less capital flowing into China, which could have far-reaching and potentially destabilizing consequences for its economy.



By Osman Froko

What About Africa?

As for Africa, it remains, for now, a continent of relatively poor people. However, radical changes are underway—particularly in West Africa. In recent years, there have been military coups in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. These three countries have collectively withdrawn from the ECOWAS subregional bloc, forming a new alliance called the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). Among the trio, Burkina Faso's military leader stands out as a resolute and patriotic figure. Adopting a socialist-leaning governance model, he has gained both national and international attention for directing investments toward national infrastructure and implementing a range of social welfare programs.

Earlier this year, John Dramani Mahama was sworn in as President of the Republic of Ghana, marking his return to the highest office after previously serving from 2012 to 2016. His new administration inherited a country in a difficult position—amid an IMF Extended Credit Facility program, a restructured debt arrangement, a depreciating currency, and a generally pessimistic economic outlook.

However, just four months into office, the government has managed to steer the economy back on track, with improvements in key macroeconomic indicators—even if shadowed by various conspiracy theories. As we look ahead, we can only remain hopeful for a more prosperous and self-reliant Africa.