

Book Review

- Title:** The Challenge of Industrialization in Nigeria
- Author:** Chief Onwuka Kalu
- Publisher:** Basic Trust (Publisher) Limited (1986) Lagos, Nigeria
- Reviewer:** Dr. Ikechukwu E. Nwosu, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus, Enugu, Nigeria
- Price:** US\$5.00

The problem of industrialization is one that most African countries have been grappling with since independence and with little success. While we do not have to be depressed by the tauntings of economists and quasi-economists who subscribe to the "catch-the-West or catch-the-East" philosophy, we have to try hard to industrialize our dominantly peasant economy, enough to serve the needs of our expanding populations.

In trying to achieve this purpose there is no single formula and no one has all the answers to all the questions. Yet the point must be made that if African countries are to achieve their industrialization objectives, they have to take an internal look for their solutions instead of referring to the Western and Eastern industrialized nations for ideas and aid that are often inappropriate and politically/ideologically motivated. Such ideas in the long-run make African nations more dependent economically and politically.

This is why we should see African indigenous books like *The Challenge of Industrialization in Nigeria* by a 30 year-old Millionaire, Chief Onwuka Kalu, as a *right* step in the *right* direction. This is especially so when we consider the fact that this book is written by a young and experienced African entrepreneur who has been in business for more than fifteen years and is versed in all practice of modern African entrepreneurship. In the past,

such books were usually written by academicians who are sometimes not sufficiently exposed to the practical aspects of indigenous and international business.

The forward of the book written by the late Prof. Frank Okwu Ugboajah, confirms right from the onset that this book is not only useful for practising businessmen or industrialists but should prepare African college and University students studying business courses to think intelligently about major economic problems of society, and to look at economic theory from a problem-solving context which promises a positive impact in the learning process.

As is well-stated in the forward, *The Challenge of Industrialization in Nigeria* addresses itself to those who intend to assume positions of leadership in business organizations in various indigenous African settings. It aims at helping these kinds of people to learn the art of perseverance, creativity, determination, foresight and personal competence. It uses Nigeria as a case example, but its content, messages, ideas, prescriptions or recommendations can easily be applied in any African country, if not most of the developing world.

This five-chapter book delivers its message very concisely and is strengthened by the insightful documentation and references to leading works in the broad area of industrialization, marketing, and business management.

It opens by explaining very thoroughly why Nigeria and other African countries find it difficult to industrialize, and moves on to tackle various issues and challenges the indigenous businessman will have to face, and how to deal with them as regards national goals, good reputation and patronage.

The Challenge of Industrialization in Nigeria then concludes in two powerfully informative chapters that deal with the problems and prospects of the small-scale industrialist in a developing economy, and the essential roles they must play towards industrialization. It also offers a series of practical economic blueprints in this section as well as an alternative for the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in African economies.

"The taste of the food is in the eating" and therefore this reviewer would reserve further comments on this book, so that prospective readers may have the delight of making their own discovery. The only critical comment one must include here as a warning to the prospective reader is that he should buy the book with a positive attitude towards statistical presentation of business/industrial information because this book contains quite a number of them.

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