

parts of the DRC representative of much of the rest of Africa, where relative political stability, alongside the resources freed up by the new technology, is spurring economic growth and dragging millions of people out of the worst sort of poverty (as many as 100 million in the last ten years alone). Nevertheless, the widespread poverty that persists is an enduring calamity. Having to scrape an existence on less than a Euro a day is no way to live. The miserable burden often falls on women, whose lives are blighted by extreme poverty in countless different ways, ranging from the absence of educational opportunities to the lack of basic healthcare to the persistent threat of violence. Anyone from the developed world would find it an intolerable existence. So why do we tolerate it for others?



Politics can make the difference between heaven and hell on earth. But politics seems remarkably indifferent to closing the gap between them. Previous chapters were about the importance of politics and its scope. This chapter is about its limits. Where we most need politics to help – where the need for help is most obvious – is often where