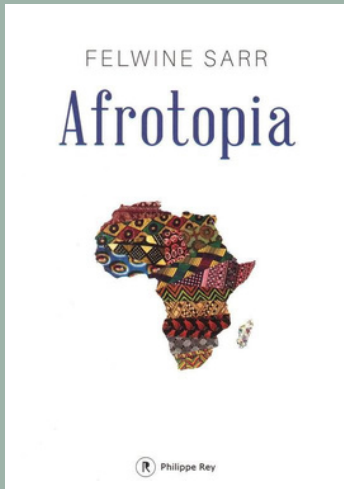


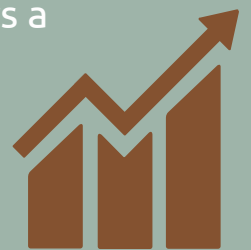
AFROTOPIA

Felwine Sarr



Africa is not behind, she has its own model of development to build and follow, “she must no longer run on the paths indicated to her, but rather walk briskly on the path she has chosen for herself.” Felwine Sarr is a Senegalese essayist that focuses in **African philosophy**. In AFROTOPIA, he invites us on a journey where the future of Africa is bright in **her own way**.

He is what we call an **Afroptimist** pushing us to think african development by **introspecting the history** of the continent our **traditions** and philosophy, criticize it and **redefine the pan-african ideology**. He questions the supposedly objective and universal **development criterias** such as GDP or HDI that tends to put Africa in the category of “**under-developed countries**”, which he considers a hegemonic “ecomyth”. This myth, born from the belief in infinite progress inspired by the **18th century Enlightenment**, imposes a **Western vision on African societies**, dictating how they should evolve, without fitting the continent’s dynamics.



Colonial powers established **political institutions** in their colonies that **mirrored** those of the **metropolitan states**. For instance, England introduced decentralized governance and property rights in its colonies, encouraging competition. In contrast, other powers like France favored centralized control, leading to varied legacies in governance.

Along the same lines, **modernity** is also seen as something **external** that the continent must import, with **African traditions constituting a barrier**, to which Afrotopia gives an alternative narrative.

“The observation of the behavior of african economic agents shows that interested rationality does not always prevail in their choices. Homo-africanus are motivated by logics of honor, redistribution, subsistence, which are inherent to our societies.” F. Sarr

