

shire University, Stafford). The volume is concluded by the editor's outlook on the future of African security. In view of the many root causes of violent conflict related to weak governance, poor civil-military relations, and development challenges, which are exacerbated by climate change, they call for "more inclusive and holistic concepts of security and greater powers surrendered to the African Union on the part of nation-states" (p. 165). What this means exactly in political practice remains to be seen. The corresponding discussions in the AU or the regional economic communities (RECs) have only just begun.

This volume addresses the challenge of climate change and peace and security on both a conceptual basis and an empirical one. The selection of authors and case studies is heavily focused on South Africa and Nigeria, which has its own limitations. However, it is also extremely difficult to do justice to the topic in only about 190 pages. This volume cannot be representative of the many challenges facing the African continent and its people. However, in order to illustrate the link between climate change and peace and security and to develop possible options for action, the volume is competing with an increasing number of think tank studies on the same topic; monographs such as Joshua W. Busby's *States and Nature on climate change and security* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), which is inspired by a global perspective; or edited volumes such as Adeoye O. Akinola's *Contemporary Issues on Governance, Conflict and Security in Africa* (Cham, 2023). In any case, by now the nexus between man-made climate change and violent conflict in Africa has been firmly established. And in the future

it will be important to see how this translates into meaningful action not just by African regional states and organizations but also by actors beyond the continent.

Maximilian Matschke (ed.): Youth Unemployment Scenarios: South Africa in 2040, London, New York: Routledge Focus, 2023, 165 pp.

Reviewed by
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The official unemployment rate in South Africa is 32.6 per cent (2nd quarter 2023). If we include those who have given up looking for work, the so-called extended definition of unemployment, the rate is 42.1 percent. The young population is most affected by this situation. Among the 15 to 24-year-olds, the official unemployment rate is 61 per cent and the expanded rate 71 per cent! Observers of the country's precarious situation speak alarmingly of a "ticking time bomb". They link the lack of prospects and diminished life chances of so many – increasingly disgruntled – young people to rising violent crime rates, economic crisis, and political instability. Against this background, the book discussed here examines the factors driving youth unemployment in South Africa. It furthermore explores potential future outcomes of mass unemployment and develops strategies to avoid an impending crisis

in the country. The author, Maximilian Matschke, holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in technology and management from the Technical University in Munich. He also completed an honours degree in technology management, based on a term abroad at Columbia Business School in New York with internships in Germany, Singapore, China, and Spain. Beyond his academic interest, the author has started three social ventures with a focus on youth employment: a student-run consulting firm in Johannesburg, an entrepreneurship boot camp for unemployed youth, and the upskilling initiative uNow-anga – in collaboration with St John (South Africa) an international charity. This book is based on the author's PhD at Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz (Germany), with research stays institutionally linked to the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg. In life alongside and after his doctorate, Matschke works as a consultant (Anura Partners, based in Lachen, Switzerland).

Following a sound analysis of the drivers of youth unemployment in South Africa, the author introduces a nice methodological innovation: scenario-building. He is developing four possible futures of youth unemployment in South African by the year 2040. The two most important or critical uncertainties identified by the author are, first, the number of available jobs and, second, the level of inclusion perceived by young people. These two determinants are plotted on orthogonal axes, resulting in four fields – or scenarios. The first one, “spring”, is characterized by the combination of job growth and a decrease in perceived inclusion. The scenario's narrative is modelled on the expe-

rience of the popular uprising in North Africa (the “Arab Spring”): young people riot or agitate for extreme political and social change because of a belief that access to education and jobs is only possible through social status or corruption. The second scenario, “summer”, is based on a combination of more jobs and a perception of improved inclusion (partly based on increased Chinese investment). Scenario 3, “fall”, describes the coincidence of a technology-driven decline in the number of jobs, but at the same time perceptions of improved inclusion because of “the removal of excessive bureaucracy and lower levels of inequality”. And the last scenario, “winter”, describes the dystopic future of a collapsing economy in which young people become increasingly desperate. On the basis of the four scenarios, the author then develops five policy strategies to fight youth unemployment, including targeted economic growth, stimulating small- and medium-sized enterprises, training of youth to start businesses, international opportunities, and sending unemployed youth abroad for skills development and to where their labour is needed.

Methodologically, at first glance, the scenario-building exercise seems convincing. Matschke has identified “high-impact, high-uncertainty” driving forces; the time-horizon (2040) is opening a future wide and complex enough; and the four scenarios are distinct and plausible at the same time. But when opening the black box (figure 5, p. 66) some core drivers are missing: The author concentrates on labour demand, labour supply, employment enablers, and inclusion (With the exception of the last-mentioned factor, these fields are then broken down into a total of eleven

factors). However, the functioning of institutions, the state of the political system, and external factors of influence, to name but a few important drivers, are neglected in the analysis. The policies proposed on the basis of the scenario to address the problem of youth employment are also quite similar to the core of the three social enterprises that the author established in South Africa. This gives the impression of a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Despite these criticisms, Maximilian Matschke has written an important dissertation that deserves attention in the debate about the future of South African society. And he should be commended for demonstrating the principled power of scenario building in the important area of youth unemployment.