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## A GUIDE TO FATHER OF NATIONS

### SETTING

Father of nations is a contemporary african society (which is the location and time frame in which the narrative took place).

In other words , setting is the context in which a story occurs and includes the time and social environment.It is very important to establish the setting of a narrative so that we will be able to visualize and experience the narrative in its context.

This is a satirical novel set in a contemporary Africa. It is a story that bring to us in a satirical way what has gone wrong in Africa.

### SUMMARY AND PLOT

In this novel, Africa is depicted as a continent where leaders have made majority of the people voiceless, they are just mere spectators as their leaders destroy their livelihood without any meaningful development agenda.

The cycle of endless wrangles makes the leaders of Africa look naive and to say the least unreasonable.

The picture we get from this novel concerning African leaders is that of a coalition of confused and manipulated people experiencing on various ideological positions originating from elsewhere.

Paul Vitta, the author of this novel for instance focuses on two ideological standpoints advocated by two rival groups; one group has produced a development agenda which is referred to as PATH ALPHA and the other group has produced yet another ideological position called WAY OMEGA.

The novel therefore deals with a dysfunctional post colonial states of africa buying into anything from elsewhere.It depicts three horrors that could continue to plaque the people of africa.

Unfortunately, in their hopelessness , the people continue to entertain a leadership that is blind to their plights.The novel paints a devastating picture of africa indeed.

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Its a picture of a millions of people on the knives edge of daily survival.

Some countries are beset by war and organized criminal networks that control all the political power and economic activities.

International imperialistic networks of control have captured the continent and imprisoned it so to speak.

African countries are easily sucked into meaningless engagement with international financial institutions that impoverish them even further.

The tragic events that happen on the continent bear witness to a deep seated leadership crisis.

Many african leaders are shown as flawed human beings who lack the wherewithal to rise to the challenge of our times.

The novel shows that conviction is endemic in Africa , it is possessive and has disastrous consequences to african economies .

The cohesion of our communities and the social construct on which nation should be built is lacking.

The author asserts that what we have in africa are not nations but states and goes ahead to make the distinction between states and nations.

Generally, this book serves as a reminder to african people that if we do not evolve visionary leaders, the continent will remain backwards forever.

From the crisis in zimbambwe to Nigeria, ethnic devide to the tragedy of the Democratic republic of Congo, the book satirically reveals the true tragedy of Africa.

It also problematizes the manipulation of Africa by world financial institutions.By so doing, the novel shows how we as Africa have progresively sunk into the Abyss of poverty.

We therefore must understand that the novel is set in this depressing context. It is a bold potroyal of post colonial African states .

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This is a continent in which most learned people are impoverished and made beggars, a society that doesn't value knowledge but cherishes ignorance and tricks. The plot revolves around the lives of four men from different parts of Africa.

Amid their various misfortunes the men get together to try and make a change. They want African heads of state to ratify that could transform the continent's economic misfortunes.

The four have suffered under unmanageable political systems in their respective countries. Each bears a grudge against the system and has a reason for wanting it to change.

They represent values of humanity, empathy and vulnerability.

Professor Karanja Kimani from Kenya has lost his wife to a former university colleague now turned politician.

As if that is not enough his only daughter dies in a freaky accident on the narrow roads of death that could have been avoided if the roads were made better.

Pastor Chiamaka from Nigeria is a wild intense man whose message on government accountability earns him days in jail and is seized and banned from preaching.

Doctor Abiola Afolabi also from Nigeria is an academician ditched by his American wife. He advises African heads of state but hates his role in offering theoretical solutions.

Comrade Ngobile from Zimbabwe on the other hand is a failed politician who finds himself on the wrong side of the political divide after independence suffering from Ndembele when the Shona residents embarked on suppressing his community not to mention his only wife perishes in a letter genocide ignoring the hilarious antics of African government.

The author also succeeds in pointing out the paradoxes, immaturity and idiocy practised by African political systems.

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The book has the air of the biblical metaphors of how the conorstones that the continent rejected became vital to its building.

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