

Investing in the Motherland: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

Dr. Eric S. Burgess

Lincoln University (Jefferson City, MO)

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Abstract

This paper assesses current investment opportunities in Africa. It explores the investment challenges facing the African continent as well as the potential to overcome them. Various political, social, economic, and cultural environmental factors are reviewed to determine the potential for foreign direct investment (FDI). This research affirms that Africa is a very important part of our global economy. Former U. N. Ambassador Andrew Young recently stated that based on research conducted by his foundation, “Africa is one of the best places to invest, and at the same time, enhance the development of a successful global economy.” Is foreign direct investment in Africa a viable option for acquiring wealth and supporting global economic development? The research outcomes of this study lead this writer to the conclusion that: most African nations are economically undeveloped and in some cases represent risky investment options; however, many of them represent significant investment opportunities that should be an integrated part of the economic strategies of the leading developed nations throughout the world. Without Africa as an active participant in the global market place, we will never reach our full potential to become a successful and flourishing global economy.