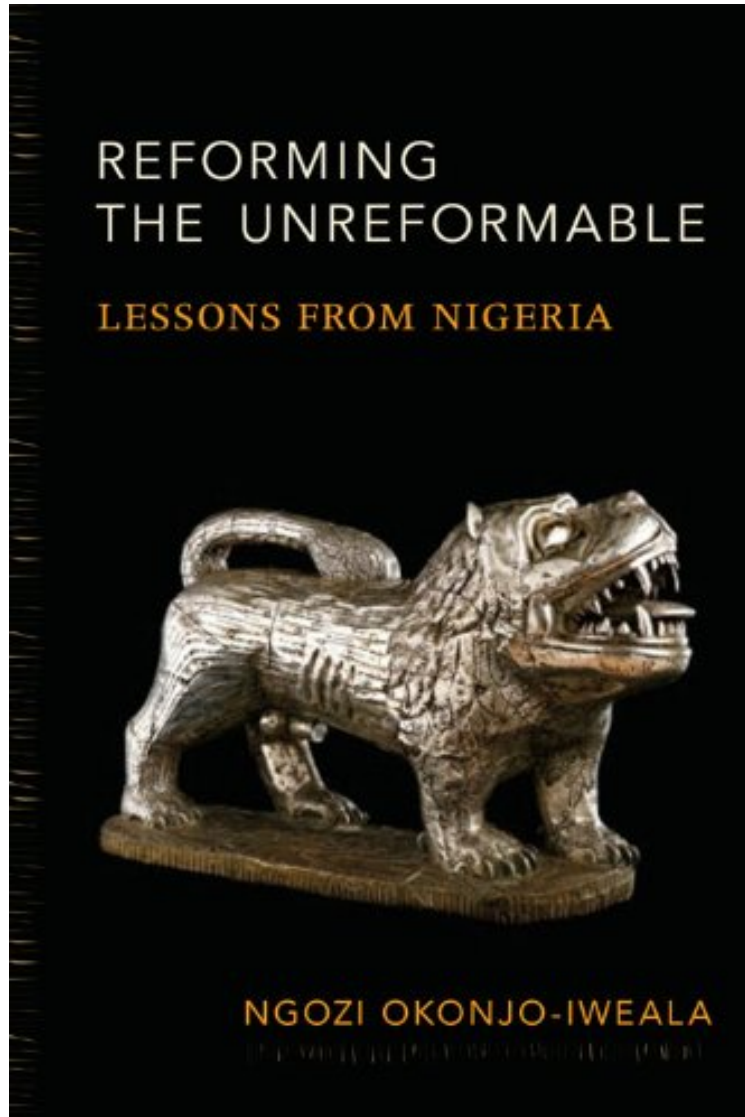


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Reforming the Unreformable: Lessons from Nigeria (MIT Press)

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

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Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala : Reforming the Unreformable: Lessons from Nigeria (MIT Press) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Reforming the Unreformable: Lessons from Nigeria (MIT Press):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How to fix a countryBy MecOkonjo-Iweala writes spare, straightforward prose about an extraordinary undertaking: reduction of corruption in a country internationally famous for it. And that's just one of her challenges. She also has to stabilize an economy dependent on volatile oil prices; develop a persuasive argument for the cancellation of foreign debt; and keep her job.A great deal of the book is technocratic. There are few accounts of dramatic meetings or personal confrontations; heavy on the policy choices.

However -- her biggest challenge is corruption. And corruption always has a beneficiary. Nigeria's larcenous class fought hard. Okonjo-Iweala does mention the political side: seeking support from the people of Nigeria and from the elected President. And she frankly acknowledges the role of politics in supporting or hindering reform. One of the worst problems is that previous generations of international loans went to kleptocratic rulers who simply stole much of it, leaving the current government with a very difficult debt problem and little popular support for paying off the old loans or ever borrowing any more money. The author focuses the entire book on her experiences in Nigeria. However, a great deal of the problems and solutions are universal. If your government has borrowed money that it can't pay back -- if your public payroll is bloated by decades of sweetheart deals -- if a business person can't get a loan, or can't get the permits they need, without political juice -- then you've got the same problems. May your President and your Finance Minister read this book, and may you hold them accountable for honest government.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An insightful insight into the Nigerian government. By Omotola O. A good book, written more as an insider information of the great effort she (Dr. Ngozi) put in to make Nigeria a country she could/would be proud to call her home country, amidst chronic corruption. I want to wish her the best of luck, she will need it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile! By Melody Madame Readable, thoughtful and and makes clear the challenges of trying to support positive change

Corrupt, mismanaged, and seemingly hopeless: that's how the international community viewed Nigeria in the early 2000s. Then Nigeria implemented a sweeping set of economic and political changes and began to reform the unreformable. This book tells the story of how a dedicated and politically committed team of reformers set out to fix a series of broken institutions, and in the process repositioned Nigeria's economy in ways that helped create a more diversified springboard for steadier long-term growth. The author, Harvard- and MIT-trained economist Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, currently Nigeria's Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance and formerly Managing Director of the World Bank, played a crucial part in her country's economic reforms. In Nigeria's Debt Management Office, and later as Minister of Finance, she spearheaded negotiations with the Paris Club that led to the wiping out of \$30 billion of Nigeria's external debt, 60 percent of which was outright cancellation. *Reforming the Unreformable* offers an insider's view of those debt negotiations; it also details the fight against corruption and the struggle to implement a series of macroeconomic and structural reforms. This story of development economics in action, written from the front lines of economic reform in Africa, offers a unique perspective on the complex and uncertain global economic environment.

This insider's account of the valiant attempt to reform Nigeria's economy will inspire anyone committed to changing the course of their country. (Joseph E. Stiglitz, Nobel laureate in Economic Sciences, 2001) This extremely informative and thought-provoking book provides a masterful account of the interplay of technical economic management and political will constrained by vested interest in undertaking transformative reforms in developing countries. Every page speaks to the Liberian experience in microcosm. This will be required reading by the Cabinet and students in our institutions of higher learning. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala remains a courageous champion for sound economic management and performance. (Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia) An important book which incisively reveals what the real barriers to development are, and the political constraints to removing them. Inspiring and compulsory reading for development scholars and practitioners. (James Robinson, David Florence Professor of Government, Harvard University) Just as Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala forces open budget processes, these pages force open our eyes to the complexities of political life in Nigeria. Throughout her incarnations as the corruption cop, finance minister, tough decision maker, and managing director she has been and remains a great friend and an inspiring mentor. This is an essential guidebook for reformers everywhere. (Bono) About the Author Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is Nigeria's Coordinating Minister for the Economy and Minister of Finance. From 2007 to 2011 she was Managing Director of the World Bank, overseeing activities in South Asia, Europe, Central Asia, and Africa.