

Review of: "Donald Davidson's Theory of Action in Relation to Responsibility: Addressing Crisis of Social Development in Africa"

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1. The abstract clearly indicates the whole paper. It follows coherent, logical steps that lead readers to the next step of the paper. In short, the abstract vividly indicates what the paper looks like in a well-structured manner.
2. Under the introduction, the subject matter of the title is well discussed and shows important debate regarding the developmental crisis that Africans face. It also poses important analytical questions regarding the debate. The authors also put forth the position of the paper regarding the responsible agents for African developmental backwardness. While they argued that it is Africans themselves who should be substantially blamed for their developmental backwardness, the external actor's role should not be ignored. However, they caricatured African citizens as equally responsible agents, like the political class of Africans. The authors put it this way: "Applying critical thinking, analytical, and expository methods, the paper is expected to trace the root cause of Africa's woes to the intentional actions of the African political class and their citizens because they are agents and conscious originators of purposeful deliberate action as purported in Davidson's theory of action" (p. 2). In this respect, there is a doubt as to whether African citizens are the agents of the African developmental crisis, as indicated in Davidson's theory of action. Should Davidson's theory of action be applied to African citizens, in which elites are considered makers and breakers of the overall life of the citizens? These are particularly nuanced in the situation where citizens are considered apathetic, weak, and excluded from major political, social, and economic decisions and where the application of military power is high and compradorial types of political actors play a greater role in the confiscation of African resources by external forces in an African setting. Therefore, is it reasonable to blame African citizens equally with the political class?
3. Under the section on *Davidson's Standard Action Theory and Africa's Crisis of Social Development*, the authors put that, based on the story of Godwin Obaseki, "the interest in these scenarios is to show that there is a causal relation between African beliefs and pro-attitudes and their actions. African actions are therefore the result of the belief and desire model as enunciated by Davidson. They are therefore, to be held responsible for Africa's underdevelopment both in infrastructural and moral terms" (see p. 7, the last two sentences of the first paragraph). This seems like a hasty generalization, which indicates the action of individual political leaders represents the whole African action as per Davidson's theory of action. Therefore, the author had better emphasize their analysis and generalization to the political class of Africans rather than blaming them as a whole, especially without supporting their arguments with sufficient data that shows African mentality regarding their beliefs and desires regarding their developmental aspirations. This might be the truth of Africa's state actor's actions explained by pairs of belief and desire; despite the

author's failure to support this truth with meta-data that shows the nature of the actions of African state actors, it is difficult to generalize this truth to African citizens (not even citizens of a single state).

4. Again under the recommendation and conclusion section, the authors conclude that "it has been made vivid that the African has a false notion of development, viewing it only in material terms. (P. 9). I think the authors need to have strong empirical evidence to draw such a strong conclusion.
5. Generally, despite the above concerns, the limited case used, and the lack of strong empirical evidence, the paper made an important contribution, particularly to the theoretical underpinning of African leaders and statesmen's actions using the pair of belief and desire model as provided in Davidson's theory of action. Therefore, adding more cases and data that show the nature and characteristics of African leaders and their actions and limiting the scope of their analysis to the leaders and statesmen (which should not be extended to all Africans) would enrich the paper and make it rigorous and scientific. Hence, the target of the paper should also be the African political classes. The authors should take greater care in generalizing the actions of the political class to the rest of African citizens by presenting a limited case of political leaders and statesmen.