

## **Indigenous Spirituality and Sustainable Development A Critical Appraisal of African Renaissance**

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In a context of neo-liberal globalisation various political and religious leaders in Africa hold that the development of modern African society is to be based on the communal and spiritual traditions of Africa, labelled *ujamaa* or *ubuntu*. More or less in harmony with Islamists who believe that they would prosper on earth if they stick to the law of pure Islam, Afrocentrists are convinced that there is a bright future for Africa if Africans would go back to the paths of their ancestors. The questions that will be dealt with in this contribution is whether these paths are still there, and whether they were that human- and environment-friendly as advocates of an African Renaissance claim. First we will describe the resurgence of religion in Africa. Then we will look at African alternatives to western modernization. Thereafter we will assess the plea for an African Renaissance in the light of sustainable development. Last but not least we will show that indigenous spirituality is not only a solution to the lack of health and wealth in Africa, but also part of the problem.