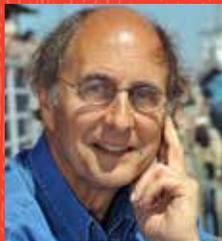


In Africa, progress can be seen across the board. But the important question is whether this 'so-called progress' is sustainable. The continent is a powder keg: the powder is demographics and unemployment the detonator. By 2050, the number of young people of working age in Africa is expected to be three times that of China's. But will there be enough jobs for them?

What is troubling for the continent is even more dramatic for the Sahel, a huge region of about 100 million inhabitants where insecurity is spreading like a bushfire. Despite major differences in geography and culture, there are huge similarities between the Sahel and Afghanistan: a demographic impasse, stagnating agriculture, widespread rural misery, high unemployment, deep ethnic and religious fault lines, weak states, regional instability, drug trafficking, and the spread of radical Islam. And unfortunately the same recipes that failed in Afghanistan are being rolled out in the Sahel. Are we headed to a 'Sahelistan' and to an 'Africanistan'? Serge Michailof helps us find the answer to this important question.



SERGE MICHAILOF has had an exceptional career as a development practitioner across continents. He is now a researcher at the Ferdi Foundation in France.

'An important and well-written book. Sahelian Africa has the potential to become another Afghanistan and a real nightmare for Europe. It is still avoidable, and this book is a much-needed wake-up call.' — Paul Collier, professor of Economics, University of Oxford

'Obligatory reading for all who wish to avoid a mega-humanitarian catastrophe, unprecedented refugee flows, and escalating extremist attacks in North America as well as Europe' — Malcolm Potts, professor of public health, University of California—Berkeley, USA

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'Serge Michailof's sober analysis should be read.' — Jean-Marie Guéhenno, President and CEO, International Crisis Group

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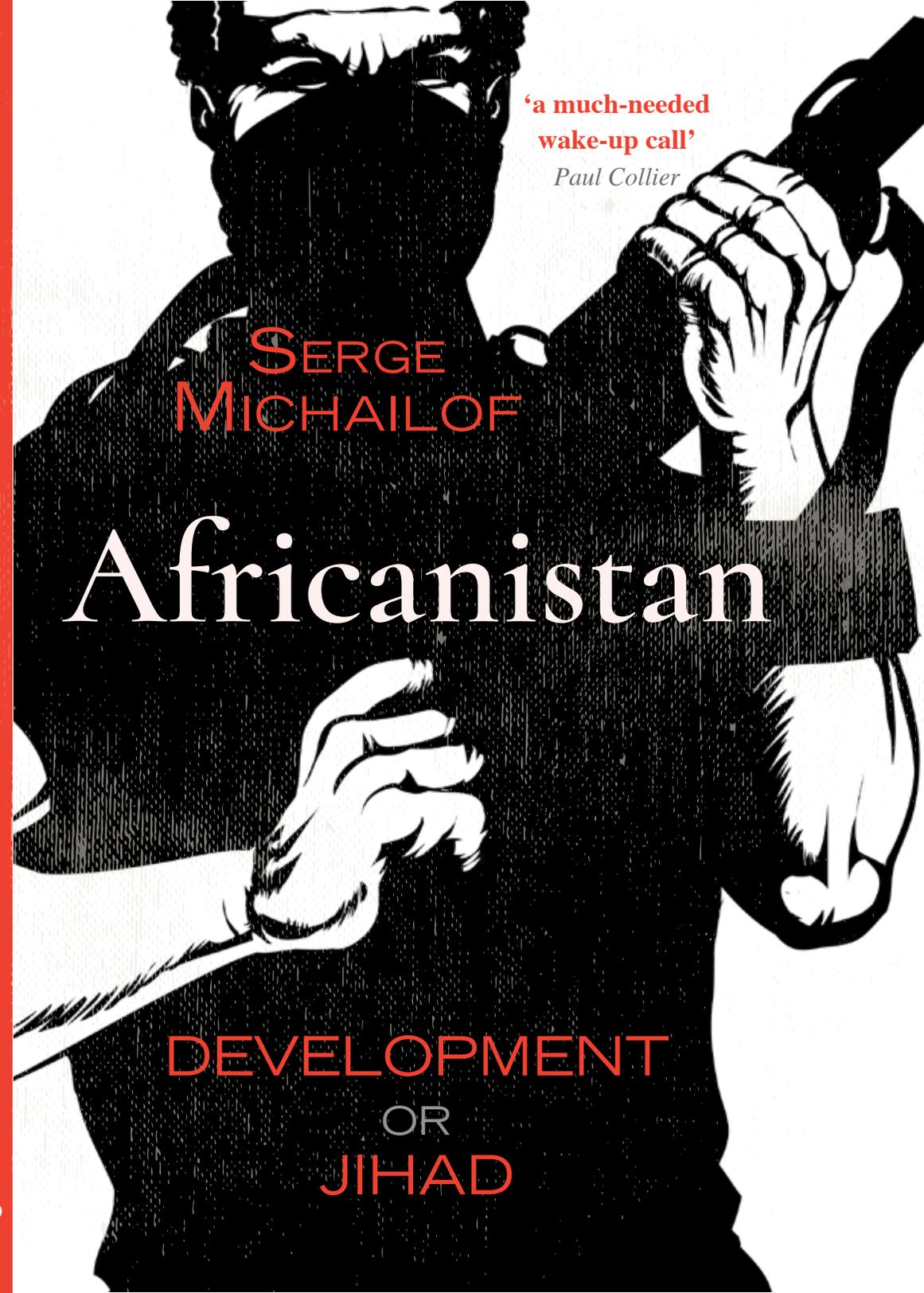
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