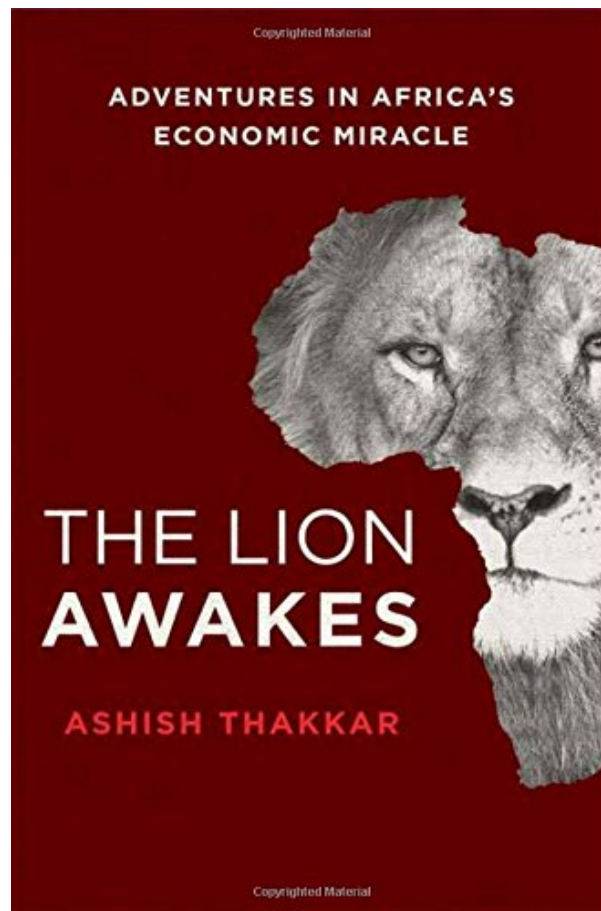


**THE LION AWAKES: ADVENTURES IN
AFRICA'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE BY
ASHISH J. THAKKAR**



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Review

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“Ashish Thakkar is an amazing entrepreneur, leader, and now, author. In *The Lion Awakes*, Ashish brings Africa - with its energy, dynamism and incredible potential - to life. Through his own remarkable story founding Mara Group and his profiles of other young African leaders, he helps readers understand what is driving Africa's transformation and how to take part. Ashish tells these stories in a casual yet captivating style that will hold your attention from the first page. On all dimensions, *The Lion Awakes* is a must-read!” ?Dominic Barton, Global Managing Director, McKinsey

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Three little known facts: Africa is now the world's fastest growing continent, with average GDP growth of 5.5% the past 10 years. Malaria deaths have declined by 30% and HIV infections by 74%. Nigeria produces more movies than America does.

The Lion Awakes is the true story of today's Africa, one often overshadowed by the dire headlines. Traveling from his ancestral home in Uganda, East Africa, to the booming economy and (if chaotic) new democracies of West Africa, and down to the "Silicon Savannahs" of Kenya and Rwanda, Ashish J. Thakkar shows us an Africa that few Westerners are aware exists. Far from being a place in need of our pity and aid, we see a continent undergoing a remarkable transformation and economic development. We meet a new generation of ambitious, tech savvy young Africans who are developing everything from bamboo bicycles to iPhone Apps; we meet artists, film makers and architects thriving with newfound freedom and opportunity, and we are introduced to hyper-educated members of the Diaspora who have returned to Africa after years abroad to open companies and take up positions in government. They all tell the same story: 21st Century Africa offers them more opportunity than the First World. Drawing from his business experience, and his own family's history in Africa, which include his parents' expulsion from Uganda by Idi Amin in the 70s and his own survival of the Rwandan genocide in 1994, Ashish shows us how much difference a decade can make.

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Worthwhile

By Autamme_dot_com

A rather interesting, challenging book; something that at first one feared would be a bit of a tiresome, egocentric personal reflection but within a few paragraphs the author had expertly sold the idea to the reader.

The "African Lion" is waking up, the continent is slowly becoming more prosperous (it is the fastest growing continent presently) and it is the place to watch it seems. Hopefully some of the problems that have held the region back in the past can be held in check. Exciting times for sure may be ahead. This book is a first-person perspective, a look towards the future with an eye on the past; taking the reader on an African journey unlike anything they may have possibly experienced.

From the beginning one became hooked, reading about the polite cheek and drive of the author as a young boy selling his treasured computer to his father's friend, for a profit, before promptly badgering his father to import another and selling it to his school principal for an even-larger profit. Films have been made of lesser stories. This book oozes positivity, hope and expectation that things will work out, yet there is no sense of entitlement, no excuses being made and no resentment of those who may (or may not) have held things back for the continent in the past.

The publicity material for the book set the scene well, with the reader "... being shown an Africa that few Westerners are aware exists. Far from being a place in need of our pity and aid, we see a continent

undergoing a remarkable transformation and economic development. We meet a new generation of ambitious, tech savvy young Africans who are developing everything from bamboo bicycles to iPhone Apps; we meet artists, film makers and architects thriving with newfound freedom and opportunity, and we are introduced to hyper-educated members of the Diaspora who have returned to Africa after years abroad to open companies and take up positions in government. They all tell the same story: 21st Century Africa offers them more opportunity than the First World.”

It was an engaging read. It may challenge many perspectives. It exudes hope. Of course, you could criticise it for not rounding on those, Africans included, that have held the continent back, but this book may still be excused for that; it looks forward, it sees a future. This is a more poolside book than classroom book, even though it can serve both masters equally well. You need to set aside the time to give it a sequential read, but it flows well and it has an engaging story so time, and pages, soon rush by.

All in all, a very pleasant, interesting find that proved to be a worthwhile read.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

You wont be able to put it down!

By Pritesh C

Great read! From the moment I picked it up, I could not put it down. This book will take you on a thrilling ride through the eyes of Ashish on a continent full of excitement. I truly enjoyed learning about the opportunities and the people of Africa. A must read!

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Brilliant!!!!

By Amazon Customer

A book that takes you on a journey, a young entrepreneur with immense determination - simple yet brilliant!

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