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RECONSIDERING  
DEVELOPMENT:  
RETHINKING THE  
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS  
AND UNIVERSITIES IN  
AFRICA

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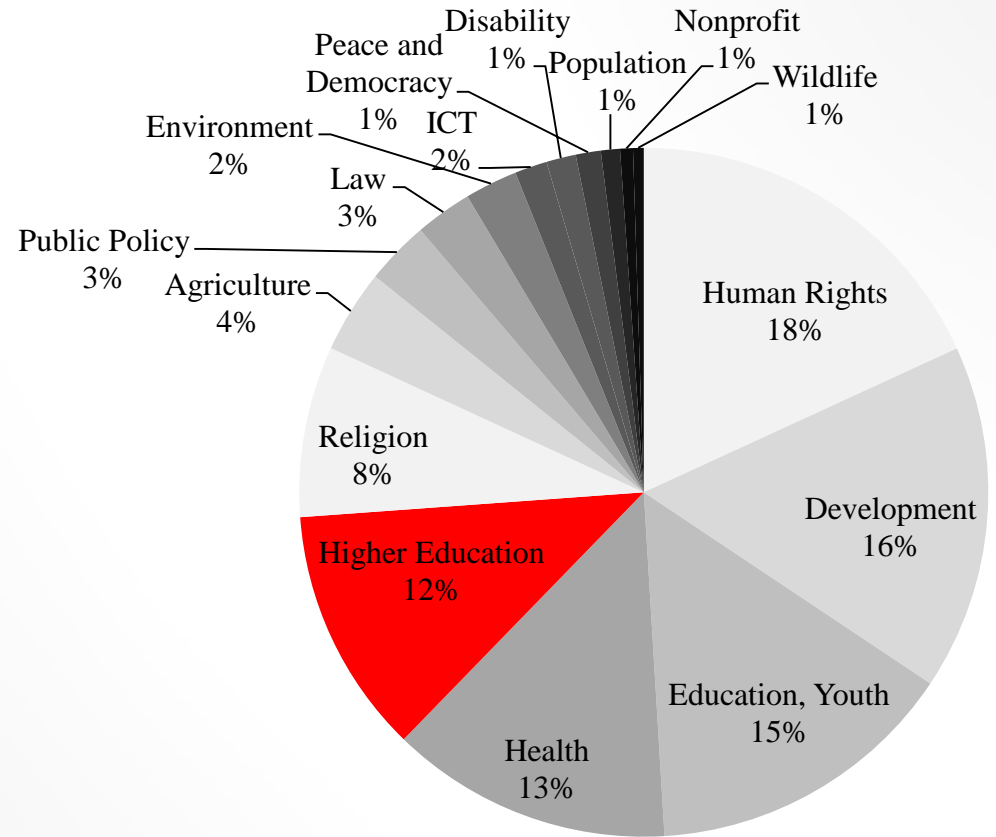
- University of Cape Town, South Africa: \$80,902,000  
Largest donor: Gates Foundation
- University of Makerere, Uganda: \$42,352,000  
Largest donor: Rockefeller Foundation
- University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa: \$28,742,000  
Largest donor: Rockefeller Foundation
- University of Ghana: \$19,992,000  
Largest donor: Ford Foundation
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria: \$14,162,000  
Largest donor: MacArthur Foundation

# QUESTIONS

- What is the influence of American foundations on universities in Africa?
- How do they impact higher education in Africa?
- Is it possible for foundations to create value in the field of higher education in Africa
- Can they help universities transform and improve themselves?

# DATA

- American philanthropies made 13,565 grants to Africa between 2003 and 2013
- 330 US private foundations made grants totaling \$3.9 billion in support of African initiatives
- Grants focused on agriculture, health, higher education and research.



# GEOPOLITICAL STRATEGIES OF U.S. FOUNDATIONS

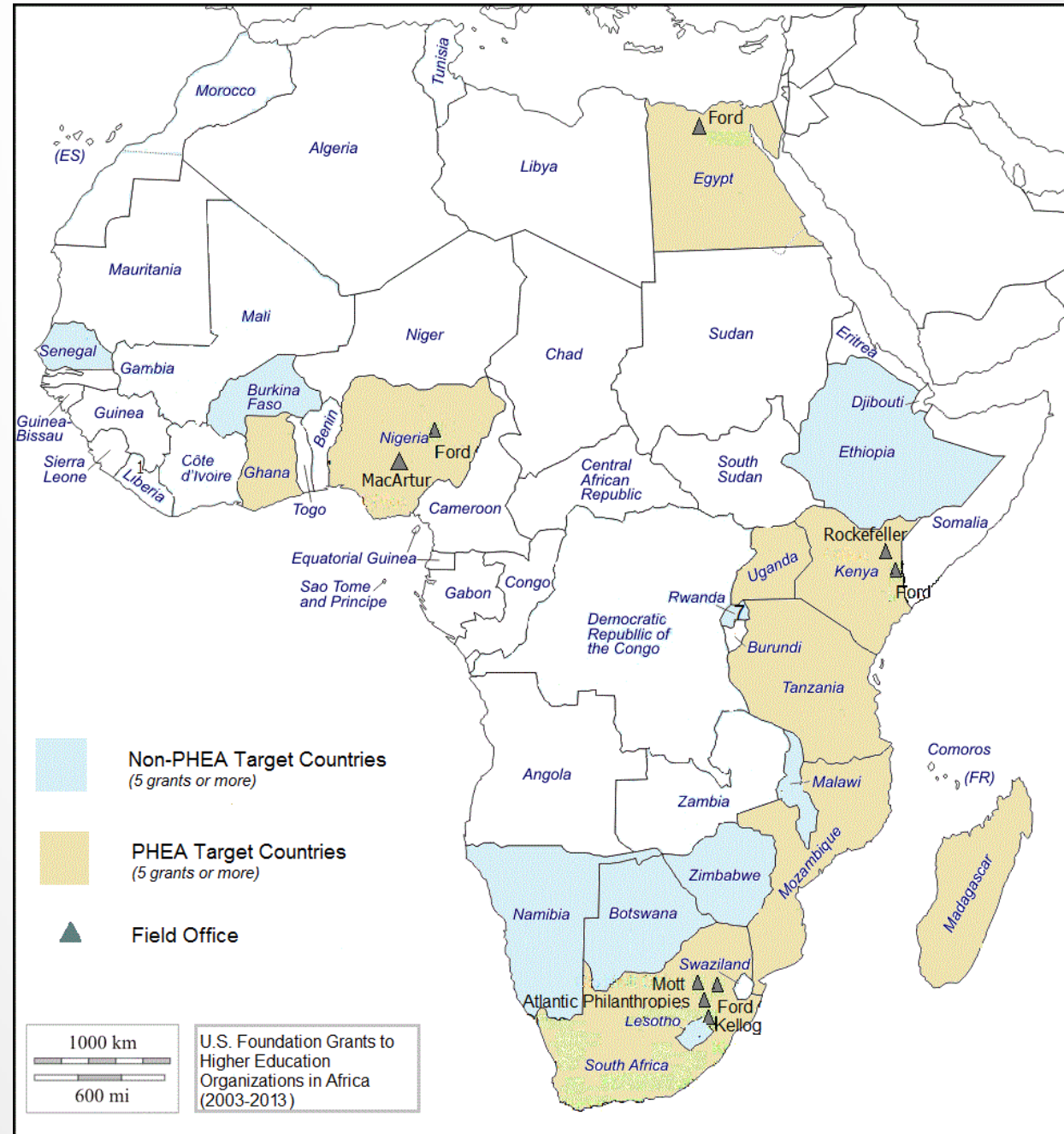
between 2003 and 2013

97 U.S. foundations invested \$573.5 million in institutions of higher education in Africa.

1,471 grants were made to 439 higher education institutions in 29 countries.

68% of all funding went to 3 countries (South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria)

Past colonial lines emerge as demarcations between Africa's new knowledge societies



# Language Bias?

Most funding from US foundations went to institutions where English is the dominant language.

Institutions in Commonwealth countries received 93.1% of the total dollar amount of U.S. foundation grants and 89.6% of all grants.

South African universities dominate the top of the list, receiving 54% of the total amount of grants

Senegal was the only reasonably represented Francophone country.

Mozambique was an exception for Lusophone countries.

Egypt was the exception for Arabophone countries.

**Table 1: Top U.S. Foundation Beneficiaries in Higher Education in Africa (2003-2013)**

Top University Recipients	Country	Grant Total	Main Donor(s)
University of Cape Town	South Africa	\$80,902,000	Gates, Carnegie, Atlantic, Mellon
University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	\$49,295,000	Gates, CCNY, Mellon
University of the Western Cape	South Africa	\$47,352,000	Kresge, Atlantic, Mellon, Ford
Makerere University	Uganda	\$42,512,000	Rockefeller , Carnegie
University of Kwazulu-Natal	South Africa	\$28,742,000	Carnegie, Mellon, Rockefeller
University of Ghana	Ghana	\$19,992,000	Gates, Carnegie, Hewlett, Ford
University of Pretoria	South Africa	\$19,890,000	Gates, Kellogg, Carnegie, Mellon
University of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	\$17,154,000	Rockefeller, Kellogg
University of Ibadan	Nigeria	\$14,162,000	MacArthur, Ford
University of Dar es Salaam	Tanzania	\$12,055,000	Carnegie, Ford, Rockefeller
Rhodes University	South Africa	\$10,867,000	Mellon, Atlantic, Kresge, Ford
University of Stellenbosch	South Africa	\$10,123,000	Gates, Mellon, Carnegie
Ahmadu Bello University	Nigeria	\$8,563,000	MacArthur, Carnegie
American University in Cairo	Egypt	\$8,036,000	Ford, Gates, Hewlett
African Virtual University	Kenya	\$7,881,000	Ford, MacArthur, Carnegie Rockefeller, Hewlett
Bayero University	Nigeria	\$7,158,000	MacArthur
Obafemi Awolowo University	Nigeria	\$7,000,000	Carnegie
Cheikh Anta Diop University	Senegal	\$6,780,000	Gates
Cairo University	Egypt	\$6,614,000	Ford, Mellon
University of Jos	Nigeria	\$6,300,000	Carnegie

# TOP U.S. GRANTMAKERS TO AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION ORGANIZATIONS

**Table 2: Top U.S. Grantmakers to African Higher Education Organizations (2003-2013)**

Foundations	State	Number of grants	Total Grants Amount	Grant Average	PHEA
Ford Foundation	NY	421	\$78,826,023	\$187,235	✓
Rockefeller Foundation	NY	186	\$54,522,589	\$293,132	✓
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation	NY	180	\$59,791,320	\$332,174	✓
Carnegie Corporation of New York	NY	140	\$105,278,596	\$751,990	✓
John & Catherine MacArthur	IL	78	\$43,987,054	\$563,937	✓
W. K. Kellogg Foundation	MI	58	\$42,430,576	\$731,562	
Kresge Foundation	MI	49	\$21,902,283	\$446,985	✓
Atlantic Philanthropies	NY	45	\$58,826,876	\$1,307,264	
Charles Stewart Mott Foundation	MI	41	\$3,751,800	\$91,507	
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	WA	40	\$73,690,156	\$1,842,254	
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation	CA	30	\$9,433,500	\$314,450	✓
Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Inc.	NY	26	\$2,016,500	\$77,558	
McKnight Foundation	MN	18	\$3,223,000	\$179,056	
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Inc.	NY	15	\$1,432,002	\$95,467	
Citi Foundation	NY	9	\$556,100	\$61,789	
Spencer Foundation	IL	7	\$795,000	\$113,571	
Christensen Fund	CA	6	\$427,132	\$71,189	
Motorola Solutions Foundation	IL	6	\$261,000	\$43,500	
J. Paul Getty Trust	CA	5	\$568,800	\$113,760	
Goldman Sachs Foundation	NY	4	\$1,550,041	\$387,510	
David and Lucile Packard Foundation	CA	4	\$599,785	\$149,946	
Marin Community Foundation	CA	4	\$195,560	\$48,890	
Flora Family Foundation	CA	4	\$180,000	\$45,000	
Western Union Foundation	CO	4	\$140,000	\$35,000	
Starr Foundation	NY	4	\$100,000	\$25,000	
Oprah Winfrey Foundation	IL	3	\$1,300,000	\$433,333	
Doris Duke Charitable Foundation	NY	3	\$570,500	\$190,167	
JPMorgan Chase Foundation	NY	3	\$216,000	\$72,000	
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	NY	3	\$128,000	\$42,667	
Google.org	CA	2	\$1,250,000	\$625,000	
Charles A. Dana Foundation, Inc.	NY	2	\$557,002	\$278,501	
GE Foundation	CT	2	\$200,000	\$100,000	
Silicon Valley Community Foundation	CA	2	\$200,000	\$100,000	
Levi Strauss Foundation	CA	2	\$129,000	\$64,500	
Michael and Susan Dell Foundation	TX	2	\$122,132	\$61,066	



# PHEA

In 2000 the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa was launched as a joint effort between the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Ford Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation

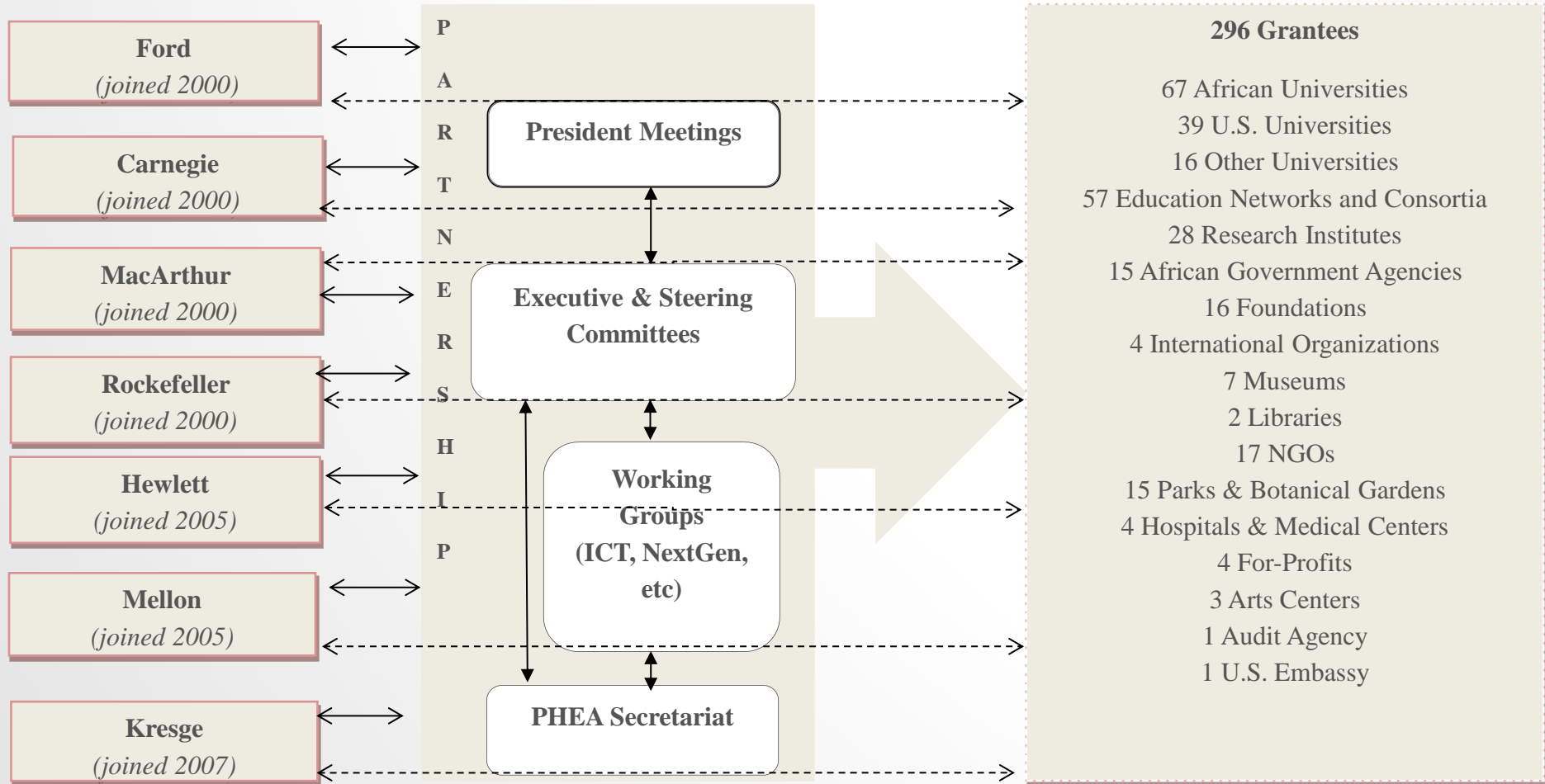
Together they contributed almost \$440 Million in ten years to build capacity and support special initiatives

to advocate for the “indispensable contribution of higher education to social and economic development”

accelerate the “processes of comprehensive modernization and strengthening of universities in selected countries.”



Figure 4: The Partnership's Strategic Alignment Model





The  
**ROCKEFELLER  
FOUNDATION**

THE ROCKEFELLER  
FOUNDATION IN  
AFRICA

- The International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation started in Africa in 1913.
- In the 1920s they began to focus on African educators.
- Africans received fellowships to study in American universities, and support began for vocational training and in the medical field in Africa.

Began philanthropic efforts in Africa after 1927.

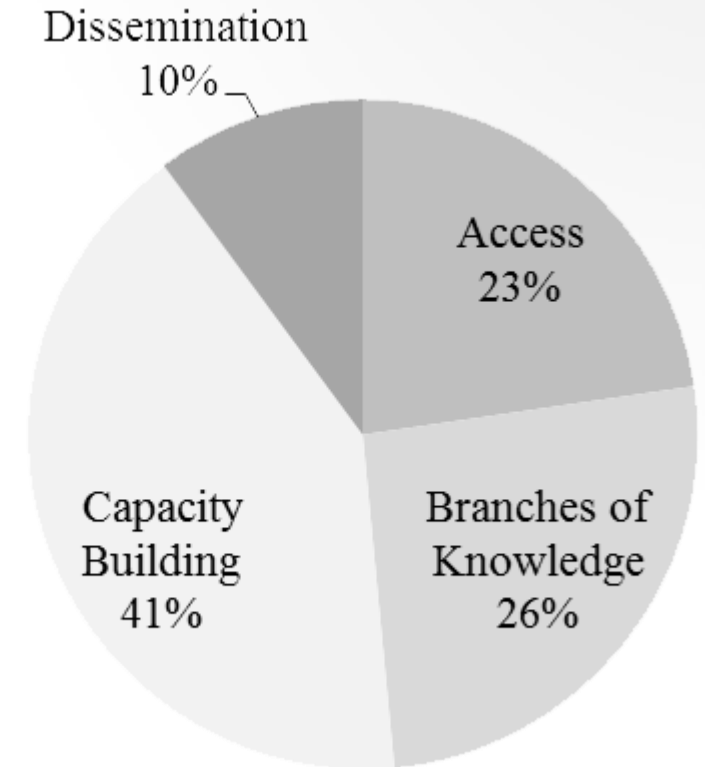
Established best practices to:

- “Avoid relieving either public or private agencies from their own duty.”
- Avoid political involvement.
- Stick to areas that weren’t already being tended to by others (such as The Rockefeller Foundation)
- Only issue grants in areas where there was a sufficiently “informed public opinion”.



# DIFFERENT APPROACHES

- The areas of interest of these foundations for the higher education sector in Africa are varied. For example, Ford has sought to improve access to higher education while Rockefeller has focused on climate and the environment, Carnegie on libraries, MacArthur on human rights, and Mellon on the humanities.
- interest in institutional development through infrastructure development, organization strengthening, research capacity expansion, revitalization, sustainable development, advancement, fundraising, or strategic planning.
- Some foundations lean towards research for producing new knowledge; others are more interested in the conversion of that knowledge into something more practical and operational.
- Elements of capacity building, whether in fellowships or in developing institutions, are very prominent in all Partnership endeavors.



# HIGHER EDUCATION, AN ENGINE FOR DEVELOPMENT

- resource expansion to impact African universities and academic networks with greater strength.
- discourse of capacity building. Core functions were defined in the language of capacity builders.
- Grants focused on universities' capital infrastructure, lowering costs through economies of scale,
- Grants positioned higher education as a responsible partner in building democratic societies, triggering public policy reform, increasing access and gender equity, and encouraging inter-institutional collaboration.

# INFLUENCE POLICIES

- Foundations have forged connections and gained access to the best institutions of higher education in Africa, as well as to a new generation of researchers and students, especially in places where English is the primary language of instruction.
- Without other competing financial contributors or governmental constraints, the foundations were effective in asserting their leadership in the field of higher education, particularly in former British colonies.
- As a result, the influence of foundations on a small group of elite African universities, they are in a position that enabled them to propose new policies and new reforms to these institutions, and the societies that host them.

# BUILDING KNOWLEDGE SOCIETIES?

- To their credit, the investments of American foundations have backed a large number of research initiatives throughout the African continent and have reinforced pan-African organizations.
- They also have extended their vision for knowledge production to the rest of Africa through the reach of their initiatives (ex: Internet Bandwidth Consortium)
- This new goal reflects a strategic realignment in the ecosystem of international development organizations, at a time when the concept of “knowledge societies” – societies where the creation, usage, and transmission of knowledge becomes the key to economic and social development – is gaining ground.
- These foundations have attempted to revitalize and strengthen academic institutions and higher education networks in Africa, the success of which has yet to be measured.
- Considering the role played by language and culture in the mechanisms of globalization and the fact that linguistic groups must compete with one another in the knowledge economy, the influence of American foundations in Africa reinforces the prominence of English as the lingua franca of development on the continent.
- Could lead part of the university system, including non-Anglophone institutions, to be dragged into a competition for which they are underequipped.

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