The advent of Western democracy in Africa sustains a gradual disintegration and abolition of traditional institutions such as the council of elders. The system of governance in traditional African societies as carried out by the institution of the council of elders is not devoid of democratic values and practices. In fact, members of the traditional council of elders are regarded as persons of wisdom comparable with Plato's Philosopher Kings. However, in contemporary times, the practice of democracy is a difficult exercise - it is characterized by political problems such as incessant bickering, lack of consensus on national issues and hence, a total lack of focus on national development agenda. The author examines the role that the council of elders in collaboration with the government can play in promoting political stability and economic development. This book is a must-read for scholars, politicians, professionals and indeed the general public as it contextually addresses leadership challenges of our times.

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