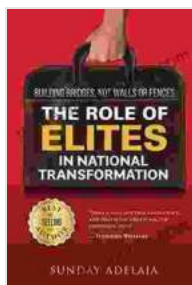


The Role of Elites in National Transformation

Elites, defined as individuals or groups who hold disproportionate power and influence in society, play a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of nations. They are the architects of policies, the guardians of institutions, and the exemplars of values that can either propel a nation forward or hold it back. Understanding the role of elites is, therefore, essential for anyone seeking to understand or promote national transformation.

Elites and Nation Building

In the early stages of nation building, elites play a critical role in defining the identity, establishing the institutions, and setting the direction of the new nation. They are the ones who articulate the vision for the country, mobilize the population, and negotiate with other stakeholders. The nature of the elite during this period can have a profound impact on the future development of the nation.



The role of elites in national transformation

by Sunday Adelaja

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 21349 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 247 pages

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For example, in the United States, the founding fathers were a relatively homogeneous group of educated, wealthy, and Protestant men. They shared a common vision for a democratic and egalitarian society, and they were able to translate that vision into a constitution and a set of institutions that have served the country well for over two centuries.

In contrast, in many post-colonial societies, the elites were often divided along ethnic, religious, or regional lines. These divisions made it difficult for them to agree on a common vision for the country, and it often led to conflict and instability.

Elites and Economic Development

Elites also play a significant role in economic development. They are the ones who make decisions about investment, trade, and economic policy. The quality of these decisions can have a major impact on the economic growth and prosperity of a nation.

For example, in the East Asian Tigers (South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, and Hong Kong), the elites made a series of strategic decisions that led to rapid economic growth. These decisions included investing in education, infrastructure, and export-oriented industries.

In contrast, in many African countries, the elites have often made decisions that have led to economic stagnation or decline. These decisions have included investing in unproductive sectors, such as the military or real estate, and cronyism and corruption.

Elites and Social Change

Elites also play a role in social change. They are the ones who set the norms and values of society, and they have the power to promote or resist change.

For example, in the United States, the civil rights movement was led by a coalition of black elites, white liberals, and religious leaders. These elites used their influence to challenge the status quo and to advocate for racial equality.

In contrast, in many countries, the elites have resisted social change. For example, in Saudi Arabia, the royal family has maintained its power by suppressing dissent and by enforcing a strict interpretation of Islamic law.

The role of elites in national transformation is complex and multifaceted. They can be a force for good or for ill, depending on their values, their vision, and their ability to mobilize others.

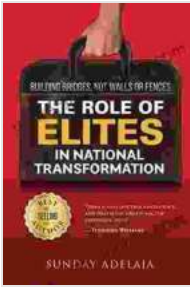
In Free Download to promote national transformation, it is essential to understand the role of elites and to engage them in a dialogue about the future of the country. Elites need to be held accountable for their decisions, and they need to be encouraged to use their power for the benefit of all citizens.

By understanding the role of elites, we can better understand the challenges of national transformation and we can develop more effective strategies for promoting positive change.

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