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One remarkable feature of the discourse on the state and development in Africa is the disjuncture between an analytical tradition that insists on the impossibility of developmental states in Africa and a prescriptive literature that presupposes their existence. States whose capacity to pursue any national project is denied at one level (theoretical or diagnostic) are exhorted, at the prescriptive level, to assume roles that are, ex definitione, beyond their capacity or political will. In philosophy, potentiality and actuality are a pair of closely connected principles which Aristotle used to analyze motion, causality, ethics, and physiology in his Physics, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics and De Anima, which is about the human psyche. The concept of potentiality, in this context, generally refers to any "possibility" that a thing can be said to have. Aristotle did not consider all possibilities the same, and emphasized the importance of those that become real of their own accord.

The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa is headquartered in Dakar, Senegal. It was established in 1973 as an (...) Using Botswana and Uganda as case studies, the volume argues that it is not the amount of state involvement in the economy that matters, but the quality. This set of original studies compares and contrasts issues that distinguish the two countries' development record and style of activity of the state in promoting development. Written by a collection of researchers drawn mainly from Botswana and Uganda, this book argues that there are some elements of the developmental state model which can be seen in both countries. These elements have arguably contributed to some of the relative successes in