

Gold Mining and the Discourses of Corporate Social Responsibility in Ghana

“This book offers critical insight into the CSR practices of mining multinationals operating in Ghana. In revealing the unfulfilled expectations and contradictory outcomes of CSR for its putative beneficiaries—those living in the shadows of the gold mines—this book makes an important contribution to scholarship on CSR and extractive capitalism.”

—Dinah Rajak, *University of Sussex*, author of *In Good Company: An Anatomy of Corporate Social Responsibility*

“This is a powerful and engaging book that should be read by all those interested in the social responsibility of organizations (and the related responsibility of states). Through a detailed empirical study of the mining activities of Newmont and Kinross in Ghana and the impact on local communities, Andrews examines ways to re-responsibilize the state while de-responsibilizing the corporation. This has major and important implications, undermining the way that many business apologists and management scholars (and quite a few corporate-linked NGOs) understand and analyze corporate responsibility.”

—David J. Cooper, *Professor of Accounting, University of Alberta and Editor, Accounting, Organizations and Society*

“This book is innovative and engaging. Importantly, it moves the emerging corporate social responsibility debates in Africa forward in an exciting way. The book offers critical insights into the nature, contestations and dynamics of CSR in Ghana while privileging African voices. A must read for anyone interested in CSR within Africa.”

—Uwafiokun Idemudia, *Associate Professor, York University, Toronto*

“An original, informed analysis of the profound limits of CSR around two multinational corporations in today’s ‘Gold Coast’. It nicely juxtaposes ‘natural resource governance’, state-corporate-community relations, development, and sustainability. And it reflects on the variety of global standards today. Andrews privileges local, especially female, voices and suggests that Africa cannot ‘rise’ until the political economy of gold is transformed. This monograph is destined to become a classic in several overlapping fields beyond mining, business ethics and African studies.”

—Timothy M. Shaw, *Editor of Routledge’s International Political Economy of New Regionalisms Series and Palgrave’s International Political Economy Series*

Nathan Andrews

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This book is dedicated to Vera, Jaden, and Jeremy.

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

There are a few reasons why I came to be interested in this topic. One of them is my general interest in issues of poverty and social justice. Growing up in a small town in the Eastern part of Ghana (Aburi) with a single mother and grandmother, I did encounter forms of marginalization and exclusion though not entirely comparable to some of the stories in this book. I was the first in my family to attain higher education, but at least I was fortunate enough to go to school. My goal throughout high school and University, where I concentrated on such courses as government, political science, and sociology, was therefore to understand how certain sociopolitical conditions become entrenched and even accepted as the status quo. During the year I worked for *Radio Univers* at the University of Ghana and later on at *Atlantis Radio* as a broadcast journalist, I concentrated much of my reporting on social and developmental issues inasmuch as I could.

With my journalistic badge, I had access to several conferences, press briefings and sod-cutting ceremonies, including such international conferences as the West African International Mining and Power Exhibition and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development XIII. One thing I noticed was that corporations would often invite us to attend the launching of certain programs or the publication of some reports, which sought to advance a positive public image. They would even offer honoraria (referred to as ‘soli’ in Ghanaian journalistic parlance, which I believe is a shorthand for ‘solicitation’) to journalists. At most of these events, barely nothing was known about local communities

and how they were faring. Also, there was generally minimal airtime and ink given to the coverage of issues in these areas of the country. And without the funding for interested journalists to travel to these communities, grassroots stories were unheard. With this knowledge, I made a note to myself that when I got the opportunity and funds to conduct in-depth research I would focus on some of these stories that are not told in mainstream discourses. It is this motivation that led me to conduct the research that has resulted in this present book.

The process of writing a monograph can be likened to a soul-searching process with many ups and downs, considering that it has been a seven-year project which began as part of the requirements for a doctoral degree at the University of Alberta. I am therefore indebted to many people who have been by my side throughout these years. My Ph.D. supervisor, Rob Aitken, with whom I worked for over three years was fully dedicated to the research project from the outset and was always ready to meet and discuss draft chapters and general ideas. I really could not have completed this work without his direction and ongoing support, as he continually insisted on re-evaluating what I thought was already critical. In particular, he drew my attention to the act of 'responsibilization' which has now become fundamental to the framing of this book. As such, I owe him a great deal of thanks. Two members on my supervisory committee, Janine Brodie and John Parkins, were equally invaluable. Their constructive feedback and attention to detail spurred me on to the finish line. Thank you, Janine and John! Additionally, I appreciate the help of Joanna Harrington who spent a substantial amount of time in reading and providing detailed feedback on a previous version of one of the chapters in this book. I am grateful for the mentorship, professional advice, and support that Malinda Smith (Ph.D. advisor), Tim Shaw (external examiner for Ph.D. defense), Philomina Okeke (examining committee member), Hevina Dashwood (M.A. supervisor), Temitope Oriola, Ernest Nene Khalema, and Andrew Grant (post-doctoral supervisor at Queen's University) gave me during my doctoral studies and afterwards. I also thank Paul Bowles and Sylvia Bawa for offering constructive feedback on the draft manuscript. At the University of Northern British Columbia where I started working during the last phase of the writing process, Paul enabled a collegial atmosphere and a flexible schedule to finalise the book in a timely fashion. I also appreciate the editorial assistance of Charlotte Connolly. Last but not the least, I am grateful to the three anonymous peer reviewers of the manuscript who provided additional useful feedback in the final stages of the writing process.

Both the Trudeau and Vanier doctoral scholarships funded the research and other post-fieldwork dissemination efforts that have informed this book. I am therefore extremely grateful to the Pierre Elliot Trudeau Foundation and the Vanier-Banting Secretariat respectively. I also appreciate the advice of my Trudeau mentor, Avrim Lazar, and other members of the Trudeau Foundation community with whom I engaged in many intellectually stimulating conversations that gave me new insights for my research. During the writing of this book, I also benefited from the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, which facilitated one more conference attendance in 2016 and offered me the flexibility to research and write. Earlier versions of the chapters in this book were presented at the following conferences and workshops: the 55th annual International Studies Association convention in Toronto (March 2014); the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development annual conference at Brock University (May 2014); the Canadian Political Science Association annual conference at Brock University (May 2014); the 56th annual International Studies Association convention in New Orleans (February 2015); the Human Sciences Research Council seminar in Durban, South Africa (June 2015); and the African Studies Association conference in Washington D.C. (December 2015). My gratitude goes to the discussants, fellow panel members, and other participants for their thoughtful feedback.

Since the primary evidence presented is from the fieldwork data collected through interviews and focus group discussions, I am particularly indebted to the people who agreed to participate in the research, who allowed me to tell their stories, and without whom I could not present any meaningful findings. Due to respondent fatigue, it is not easy to find people that are always available and willing to participate in field research. Acknowledgements are therefore in order for corporate officers at Newmont and Kinross, community members, leaders, NGO representatives (i.e. WACAM, Third World Network-Africa, ISODEC/Publish What You Pay-Ghana, AMOD, etc.), and government officials who availed themselves to be part of this project. Special appreciation goes to Richard Boamah, a resident of Kenyase No. 1, who gave me primary information on key players in the Ahafo community and to the taxi driver in Sefwi-Wiaso (Kwasi) who connected me with some community leaders in both Akoti and Etwebo. I am equally grateful to Richard Opoku-Sekyere (Youth Outreach Network) and Serwaa Afrifa (University of Ghana) for the help with interpreting and transcribing fieldwork data.

Last but not the least, I am greatly indebted to my partner (Vera) who has been of immense support. We got married towards the end of my Ph.D. program and have had two adorable sons along the way, but she was so patient with me even when I was not always available for family time due to fieldwork and other research-related travels. I also acknowledge the constant support that came in from my mother in Germany, my uncle in the UK, and the entire family in Ghana and elsewhere in terms of prayers and encouragement, as they have made me persevere even more. Some of my colleagues have asked about my motivation, enthusiasm, and positive attitude towards life. But I must say that without the support of my mentors, my family, as well as the grace, favour, and provision of the Almighty God, I will not be able to accomplish this multi-year task.

Prince George, Canada

Nathan Andrews

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AILAP	Agricultural Improvement and Land Access Program
AKOBEN	EPA-Ghana’s Environmental Protection Rating Disclosure
AMOD	Ahafo Movement for Development
AMV	Africa Mining Vision
ASM	Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining
ASRF	Ahafo Social Responsibility Forum
BHR	Business and Human Rights
CC	Corporate Citizenship
CDA	Critical Discourse Analysis
CEPIL	Centre for Public Interest Law
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DA	District Assembly
DCE	District Chief Executive
DJSI	Dow Jones Sustainability Index
EHSG	Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIR	Extractive Industries Review
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EITI++	Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative Plus Plus
EPA-Ghana	Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
GAD	Gender and Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GM	Gender Mainstreaming

GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HSE	Health, Safety and Environment
ICMM	International Council on Mining and Metals
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISODEC	Integrated Social Development Centre
LEEP	Livelihood Enhancement and Empowerment Program
LEG	Livelihood and Environment Ghana
NADeF	Newmont Ahafo Development Foundation
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHSAS	Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems
PNDC	Provisional National Defence Council
PR	Public Relations
SDC	Sustainable Development Committee
SLO	Social License to Operate
SPI	Summary of Project Information
TMCs	Transnational Mining Companies
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGC	United Nations Global Compact
UNGPs	United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights
VPs	Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights
WACAM	Wassa Association of Communities Affected by Mining
WAD	Women and Development
WID	Women in Development
WUSC	World University Service of Canada
YMCA	Young Men's Christian Association

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