From Proud Defiance to Beggary: A Recipient's Tale

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Abstract

Tanzania is fascinating to students of international development because of what she has said, done, and undergone with regard to aid and donors. First, Tanzania took a very unequivocal stand against aid conditionality (or aid with strings). 'The first responsibility of the Government, its first principle', said President Nyerere, 'is the protection of Tanzania's independence and its freedom to determine its own policies — both internal and external' (Nyerere 1966:2). In pursuit of this position the country lost aid from Germany and several other countries in the 1960s. Emphasizing this principle, especially after the way the French made an example of Guinea in 1958, demonstrated either foolhardiness or principled commitment of the highest order.