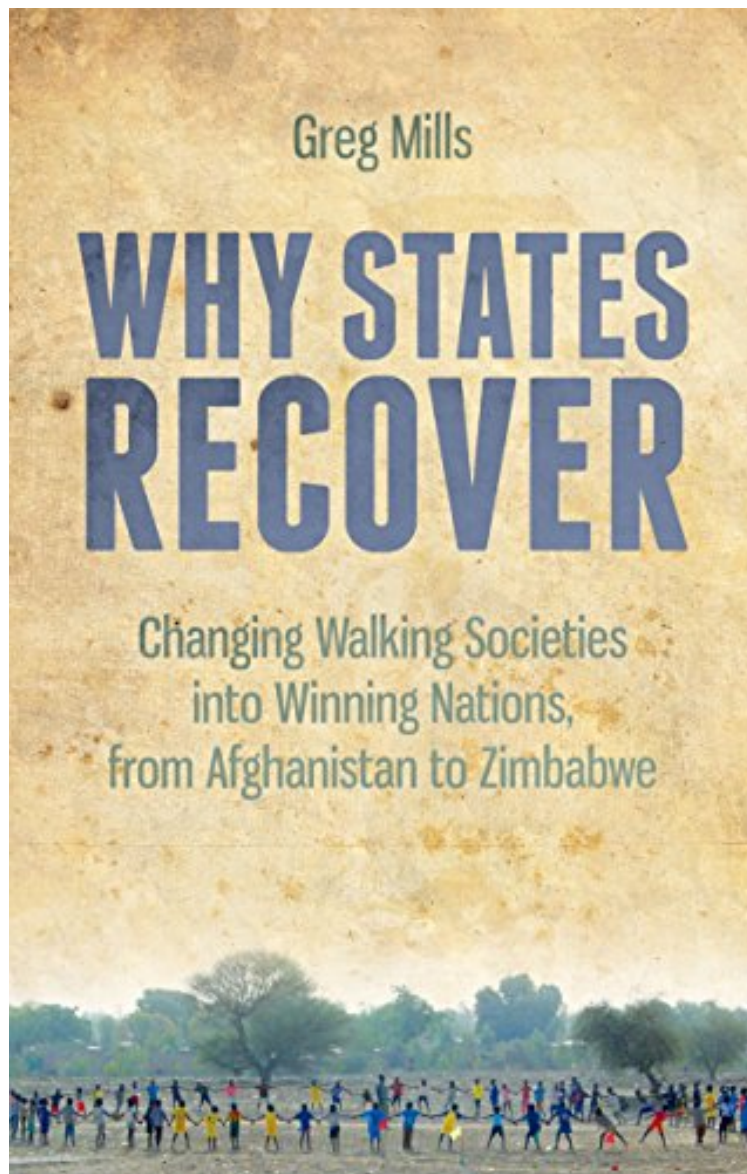


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Why States Recover: Changing Walking Societies into Winning Nations, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe

Greg Mills

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States Recover: Changing Walking Societies into Winning Nations, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe:

State failure takes many forms. Somalia offers one extreme. The country's prolonged civil war led to the collapse of central authority, with state control devolving to warlord-led factions that competed for the spoils of local commerce, political power, and international aid. Malawi, on the other hand, is at the other end of the scale. During President Bingu's second term in office, the country's economy collapsed as a result of poor policies and Bingu's brand of personal politics. On the surface, Malawi's economy seemed largely stable; underneath, however, the polity was fractured and the economy broken. In between these two extremes of state failure are all manner of examples, many of which Mills explores in the fascinating and profoundly personal *Why States Recover*. Throughout he returns to his key questions: how do countries recover? What roles should both insiders and outsiders play to aid that process? Drawing on research in more than thirty countries, and incorporating interviews with a dozen leaders, Mills examines state failure and identifies instances of recovery in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. For anyone interested in the reasons behind states' failure, and remedies to ensure future economic stability, it is important reading.

"The key reason behind economic failure is, Greg Mills illustrates, politics. But he also convincingly shows how they can be fixed ... led by those with the most at stake: locals."--Paul Collier, author of *The Bottom Billion* "Seldom does a writer analyse the problem and also identify the solution. Greg Mills manages in *Why States Recover* both an entertainingly personal and compelling read."--F. W. de Klerk, former president of South Africa "In this sprawling inquiry into why several dozen low-income countries, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa, collapsed and why some of them subsequently recovered, Mills finds more answers in domestic politics than international factors. ... Mills argues convincingly that although outsiders and foreign aid can help, without local resolve such assistance is mostly wasted. ... This book is impressive in its mastery of this histories of so many countries and is clearly based on a significant amount of fieldwork." -- *Foreign Affairs* About the Author Greg Mills is director of the Johannesburg-based Brenthurst Foundation. He is widely published on international affairs, development and security, an advisor to African governments, a regular columnist for local and international newspapers, and the author of the best-selling book *Why Africa is Poor* - and what Africans can do about it.