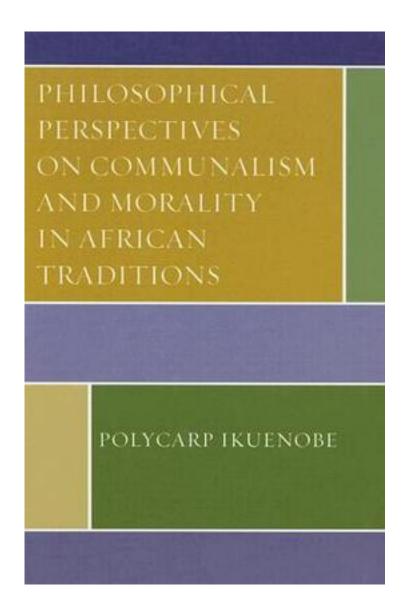
Philosophical Perspectives on Communalism and Morality in African Traditions



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著者:Ikuenobe, Polycarp

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This book provides a philosophical analysis of the idea of communalism as a dominant philosophical theme in various African cultures. It argues that the idea of communalism, which is the basis for the now popular African saying, 'it takes a village to raise a child,' may be seen as a conceptual framework and the foundation for African ideas, values, thought and belief systems. Polycarp Ikuenobe also defends the idea of communalism against the criticisms that it has elements of spiritualism, anachronism, authoritarianism, lack of critical reflection, irrationality, indoctrination, and corruption. These elements, critics claim, are the fundamental problems that have impeded Africa's economic, political, and technological development. Philosophical Perspectives on Communalism and Morality in African Traditions offers the unique and insightful argument that if communalism is properly understood and harnessed, it could provide the foundation for Africa's development.

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