



# The Modernity of Witchcraft: Politics and the Occult in Postcolonial Africa

*Peter Geschiere*

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To many Westerners, the disappearance of African traditions of witchcraft might seem inevitable with continued modernization. In *The Modernity of Witchcraft*, Peter Geschiere uses his own experiences among the Maka and in other parts of eastern and southern Cameroon, as well as other anthropological research, to argue that contemporary ideas and practices of witchcraft are more a response to modern exigencies than a lingering cultural custom. The prevalence of witchcraft, especially in African politics and entrepreneurship, demonstrates the unlikely balance it has achieved with the forces of modernity. Geschiere explores why modern techniques and commodities, usually of Western Provenance, have become central in rumors of the occult.

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