BOOK FACTS

The Five C Theory

Culture, Corruption, Citizenship, Contentment, and Complacency in Sierra Leone

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay

In one sentence

The Five C Theory examines how culture, corruption, citizenship, contentment, and complacency interact in Sierra Leonean public life—and how equal citizenship and accountable institutions can interrupt public failure.

Publication details

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For the newsroom

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Media and interview requests **Publication status**

READY FOR EDITORIAL USE

Book and author copy

Standard book description

Why does replacing political leadership so often leave the relationships surrounding public power intact? In The Five C Theory, Bhai-Dhawa Sesay examines how social obligation, private access, political identity, adaptation, and public expectation interact in Sierra Leone. Culture, citizenship, and contentment can support resistance to corruption; they are not simply national problems. Across 24 chapters, the book distinguishes loyalty from complicity, survival from consent, and personal contentment from acceptance of public neglect. It moves from diagnosis to practical civic organisation, institutional accountability, and sustained public action. Written as a work of civic interpretation, the framework invites readers to test its claims against evidence and cases that do not fit.

Short author biography

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay is a Sierra Leonean author, technologist, media entrepreneur, cultural producer, and civic thinker. His work connects political engagement, diaspora experience, public communication, and Sierra Leonean institutional life. He is the author of The Five C Theory, published by Leone Connect Publishing.

Host introduction

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay grew up in Sierra Leone, attended Fourah Bay College and founded Sierra Leone Live in 1999. His work in media also includes Usabi Dance, which he created and produced in partnership with the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation. His book asks who gets heard when public decisions depend on personal connections.

Reporting the examples

The book is a work of civic interpretation. Scenes and dialogue are illustrative unless specifically identified and sourced. The water campaign in Chapter Twenty-One and the school-roof example in Chapter Twenty-Three illustrate choices and possible outcomes. Consult the book’s notes for documented findings and the sources behind them.

PRODUCER BRIEFING

Interview preparation

Questions for a conversation

- When can helping a relative strengthen fair access, and when does it displace the public rule?
- What does a public office owe a resident who has no introduction or party connection?
- How do contentment, resilience and adaptation differ when a household has to buy water?
- What evidence would help distinguish complacency from fear, exhaustion or strategic withdrawal?
- In the school-roof example, what separates a recorded complaint from a verified repair?

Quotations from the revised book

“The debt may be real, but the office is not the official’s private means of repayment.”

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, The Five C Theory, Chapter One

“A public wrong becomes easier to defend when it borrows the name of a private virtue.”

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, The Five C Theory, Chapter Four

“The moral test of reform is whether it ends the exploitation of desperation, not whether desperate citizens become more heroic.”

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, The Five C Theory, Chapter Seven

“The connected citizen owes the unknown citizen a system that does not require connection.”

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, The Five C Theory, Chapter Twenty-Four

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PRODUCTION DESK

Assets, credits and contacts

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Book cover

The Five C Theory by Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, Leone Connect Publishing.

Author portrait

Bhai-Dhawa Sesay, author of The Five C Theory.

Five C emblem

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Interview and review-copy requests **Read Chapter Twenty-One**