



The Rubber Republic

Theodore Hodge

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From relative stability to upheaval, military coup, violence and revenge. . . The Rubber Republic covers two decades, the late 1950s through the 1970s. Set mainly in West Africa, the story takes the reader to the United States and a few other stops along the way. The story is mainly about the intriguing and fantastic lives of two young men, Yaba-Dio Himmie and Yaba-Dio Kla, who leave their parents' farm in search of enlightenment and adventure. But the story is also about their country, the Republic of Seacoast, and a giant American Rubber conglomerate, The Waterstone Rubber Plantation Company. The two boys meet and befriend an American expatriate, Christian Snyder who quickly becomes their benefactor. They assume his surname and take the names Harry and Charlie Snyder. He becomes inflicted with the malaria virus and returns home to Akron, Ohio, where he quickly dies, but not before leaving them as beneficiaries of his will. They will not get to know that for some time to come. Against all odds, they succeed astronomically. One marries into a rich and prominent family and begins to rise to fame. He puts personal ambition above all else; even family becomes expendable. The other joins the army and moves rapidly along the ranks, yet he remains the epitome of humility and puts family, principle and duty above self. The president rules the country with an iron fist and takes nepotism to a new low. One of his brothers is the Finance Minister and the other the Senate Pro Tem. Two of his sons are legislators; the elitism is astounding! After managing the regime through Machiavellian means of force, threats, intimidation, bribery and chicanery, the old man dies and is succeeded by his elder son; but the mystique begins to crack. A charismatic freedom fighter and rebel rises in opposition to the government and the once docile and complacent masses awaken. The government runs into trouble both on the domestic and international fronts. Some powerful forces are ruffled, incl



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