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African Politics: A Very Short Introduction Very SH

African politics a very short introduction very sh offers a glimpse into the complex and dynamic political landscape of the continent. Africa, with its rich history, diverse cultures, and unique challenges, has experienced a wide range of political developments, from colonial rule and independence struggles to contemporary governance issues. This article provides an overview of African politics, highlighting key themes, historical context, and current trends that shape the continent's political environment.

Historical Context of African Politics

Colonial Legacy and Independence Movements

Much of Africa's political history is rooted in its colonial past. European powers such as Britain, France, Belgium, Portugal, and Germany dominated large parts of the continent, establishing borders and governance structures that often disregarded indigenous ethnic and cultural divisions.

- Colonial administration focused on resource extraction and control.
- Post-World War II, waves of independence movements emerged across Africa.
- By the 1960s, most African nations gained independence, but often inherited unstable political systems.

Post-Independence Political Developments

After independence, African countries faced numerous challenges, including nation-building, establishing political institutions, and managing ethnic diversity. The period saw a mix of democratic experiments, military coups, and authoritarian regimes.

- Many nations experienced military coups in the 1960s and 1970s.
- Single-party states and authoritarian rulers became common in some regions.
- Democratic transitions have occurred sporadically, influenced by internal and external factors.

Key Themes in Contemporary African Politics

Democratization and Governance

In recent decades, there has been a push toward democratization in many African countries. Elections are held regularly, and civil society activism has increased. However, challenges such as electoral fraud, political violence, and weak institutions persist.

Economic Policies and Development

Economic development remains central to political debates in Africa. Resource wealth, economic diversification, and foreign investment are critical issues.

- Resource-rich countries face issues of resource curse and corruption.
- Economic reforms aim to improve infrastructure, education, and healthcare.
- Regional economic communities promote integration and trade.

Conflict, Security, and Stability

Many African nations grapple with internal conflicts, insurgencies, and terrorism. Addressing security threats is vital for political stability and development.

- Conflicts often rooted in ethnic tensions, resource disputes, and governance issues.
- Peacekeeping missions by regional and international bodies are common.
- Counter-terrorism efforts focus on groups like Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab, and others.

Role of International Actors

International organizations, foreign governments, and NGOs play influential roles in African politics. They provide aid, mediate conflicts, and support democratic processes.

- United Nations, African Union, and regional bodies facilitate peace and development.
- Foreign aid and investment influence policy directions.
- External actors sometimes face criticism for interference or neocolonial tendencies.

Major Political Systems in Africa

Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems

African countries employ various governmental structures, primarily presidential and parliamentary

systems.

- **Presidential Systems:** President is head of state and government, e.g., Nigeria, Kenya.
- **Parliamentary Systems:** Prime minister leads government, e.g., Mauritius.

Hybrid and Other Forms

Some states have hybrid systems or unique arrangements, often reflecting historical or cultural factors.

- Weak institutions sometimes lead to semi-presidential arrangements.
- Traditional governance structures coexist with modern political systems in certain regions.

Challenges Facing African Politics

Corruption and Governance Issues

Corruption undermines development and public trust in institutions. Many leaders are accused of embezzlement and nepotism.

- Anti-corruption agencies exist but vary in effectiveness.
- Transparency and accountability remain significant challenges.

Ethnic and Regional Divisions

Ethnicity often influences political allegiance, sometimes leading to tensions and conflict.

- Power-sharing arrangements aim to mitigate ethnic conflicts.
- Decentralization efforts seek to give regions more autonomy.

Economic Disparities and Poverty

Widespread poverty, unemployment, and inequality challenge political stability and social cohesion.

- Economic reforms and social programs are critical for addressing disparities.
- Youth unemployment fuels social unrest and migration.

Future Directions in African Politics

Emerging Trends and Opportunities

The future of African politics is shaped by several promising developments.

- Growing youth engagement and activism.
- Digital technology transforming political participation.
- Regional integration promoting economic growth and stability.
- Strengthening democratic institutions and rule of law.

Challenges to Overcome

Despite progress, significant hurdles remain.

- Persistent corruption and weak institutions.
- Ongoing conflicts and security threats.
- External influences that may undermine sovereignty.
- Environmental challenges impacting governance and development.

Conclusion: The Dynamic Landscape of African Politics

In summary, African politics is a vibrant and evolving field, deeply influenced by historical legacies, socio-economic factors, and regional dynamics. While challenges such as corruption, conflict, and inequality persist, there is also a hopeful trajectory toward democratization, economic development, and regional integration. Understanding the nuances and complexities of African politics is essential for anyone interested in the future of the continent.

African Politics: A Very Short Introduction

Africa's political landscape is as diverse and complex as the continent itself. From the early days of colonial rule to contemporary democratic experiments, African politics presents a fascinating tapestry of challenges, triumphs, and ongoing transformations. This article offers a concise yet comprehensive overview of African politics, dissected through expert insights, historical context, and current trends, serving as an essential primer for anyone interested in understanding this dynamic region.

Historical Foundations of African Politics

Understanding African politics necessitates a look back at its historical roots. The legacy of colonialism, independence movements, and post-independence governance models have profoundly shaped the continent's political structures.

The Colonial Era and Its Impact

European powers colonized most of Africa from the late 19th to early 20th centuries, imposing borders, governance systems, and economic structures that often disregarded ethnic and cultural realities. This period established centralized authority, often with little regard for local governance traditions, leading to:

- Arbitrary borders that grouped diverse ethnic groups.
- The introduction of Western legal and political institutions.
- Extraction-based economies with limited focus on social development.

These colonial legacies fostered political instability, as newly independent states grappled with nation-building amidst ethnic tensions and weak institutions.

The Path to Independence

Between the 1950s and 1970s, most African nations achieved independence through a mixture of negotiations, revolutions, and decolonization struggles. Leaders like Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), Julius Nyerere (Tanzania), and Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya) emerged as pan-African icons, advocating for sovereignty and unity.

However, independence often came with challenges:

- Power vacuums and weak institutions.
- Ethno-nationalist conflicts.
- Economic dependence on former colonial powers.

Post-Independence Political Models

Initially, many countries adopted socialist or nationalist ideologies, aiming for economic self-sufficiency and social justice. Over time, different governance models emerged:

- Single-party states: e.g., Tanzania under Nyerere, which aimed for socialist unity.
- Military regimes: e.g., Nigeria (1966-1979, 1983-1999) and Sudan, often citing stability

concerns.

- Multiparty democracies: Emerging in the 1990s, with varied success.

Contemporary Political Dynamics

Modern African politics is characterized by a mix of democratic reforms, authoritarian tendencies, and ongoing conflicts. The continent's political climate is fluid, shaped by economic issues, governance challenges, and regional dynamics.

Democratization and Electoral Politics

Since the 1990s, many African countries have transitioned to multiparty systems, with elections becoming central to political legitimacy. Notable trends include:

- Growing electoral participation: Countries like Ghana, Senegal, and Botswana have demonstrated consistent democratic processes.
- Challenges to democracy: Electoral disputes, vote-rigging, and violence remain prevalent in nations such as Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria.
- Civil society activism: Increasing awareness and participation drive political accountability, though often met with repression.

Authoritarianism and Political Repression

Despite democratic advancements, authoritarian regimes persist. Some regimes maintain power through:

- Constitutional manipulation (e.g., term limits removal).
- Control over security forces.
- Suppression of opposition and media.

Notable examples include Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, and Rwanda, where political dissent is limited, and power is concentrated.

Regional and Continental Organizations

African politics is also shaped by regional bodies and initiatives aimed at stability and integration:

- African Union (AU): Promotes peace, security, and unity.

- ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States): Focuses on economic integration and conflict resolution.
- SADC (Southern African Development Community): Aims for regional economic development.

These organizations often mediate conflicts, promote democracy, and foster economic cooperation, although their effectiveness varies.

Key Political Issues and Challenges

Several core issues define the current political landscape across Africa:

Governance and Corruption

Corruption remains a pervasive challenge, undermining development and public trust. Many governments face allegations of embezzlement, favoritism, and lack of transparency, hampering efforts for good governance.

Conflict and Security

Ongoing conflicts in regions like the Sahel, Central Africa, and the Horn of Africa threaten stability. Factors include:

- Ethnic and resource-based tensions.
- Insurgent groups such as Boko Haram, Al-Shabaab.
- State fragility and weak security institutions.

Peace processes are complex, requiring regional cooperation and international support.

Economic Policies and Development

African economies are heavily dependent on commodities, making them vulnerable to global market fluctuations. Political stability is crucial for attracting investment and implementing reforms. Issues include:

- Poverty and inequality.
- Youth unemployment.
- Infrastructure deficits.

Effective governance is essential for sustainable development.

Democracy vs. Autocracy

While democratic trends are evident, there's a notable persistence of autocratic practices. Leaders often justify extended mandates by citing stability and development needs, risking democratic backsliding.

Emerging Trends and Future Outlook

The trajectory of African politics is influenced by several emerging trends:

Digital Democracy and Technology

Technological advances offer new avenues for civic engagement, transparency, and accountability. Social media platforms have become tools for activism and political discourse, though they also pose challenges like misinformation.

Youth Engagement and Political Change

Africa's youth demographic is burgeoning. Youth-led movements are increasingly influential, demanding reforms and greater representation. This shift could reshape political landscapes in the coming decades.

Regional Integration and Economic Alliances

Continental initiatives aim for economic integration, such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Success could foster stability and prosperity, reducing conflicts over resources.

Challenges Ahead

Despite progress, significant obstacles remain:

- Ensuring electoral integrity.
- Strengthening institutions.
- Combating corruption.
- Addressing socio-economic disparities.

The future of African politics hinges on the ability of governments, civil society, and regional bodies to navigate these complex issues.

Conclusion: A Dynamic and Evolving Political Landscape

African politics is a vibrant mosaic of history, culture, and ambition. Its evolution from colonial legacies to contemporary governance reflects resilience, innovation, and ongoing struggles. While challenges such as corruption, conflict, and authoritarianism persist, the continent also demonstrates remarkable progress in democratization, regional cooperation, and youth participation.

As Africa continues to grow economically and politically, understanding its intricate political fabric is crucial for policymakers, investors, and global citizens alike. The path forward is neither straightforward nor uniform, but the continent's political trajectory remains one of the most compelling stories in modern global affairs.

In essence, African politics is a testament to the continent's resilience and potential, offering both cautionary lessons and inspiring possibilities for the future.

QuestionAnswer What is the main focus of 'African Politics: A Very Short Introduction' by Sh. The book provides a concise overview of the political landscape in Africa, exploring its history, institutions, challenges, and development issues. Who is the author of 'African Politics: A Very Short Introduction'? The book is authored by David Birmingham, often associated with the series 'Very Short Introductions' by Oxford University Press. How does the book address the impact of colonialism on African politics? It discusses how colonial rule shaped political boundaries, institutions, and governance structures, influencing post-independence political development. What are some key challenges faced by African governments discussed in the book? The book highlights issues such as political instability, corruption, weak institutions, economic dependence, and conflict. Does the book cover contemporary political movements in Africa? Yes, it touches on recent political developments, democratization processes, social movements, and the role of regional organizations. How accessible is 'African Politics: A Very Short Introduction' for readers new to the topic? The book is written in an accessible manner, making complex political concepts understandable for newcomers and general readers interested in African politics. What role do regional organizations like the African Union play according to the book? The book discusses their efforts in promoting peace, stability, economic integration, and development across the continent. Is the book suitable for academic study or is it more general? While it provides a solid overview suitable for general readers, it also serves as a useful introductory resource for students and scholars beginning their study of African politics.

Related keywords: African politics, political systems, governance in Africa, African leadership, political history Africa, democracy Africa, African political parties, colonial impact Africa, African political development, regional organizations Africa

the unquotable trump

The Unquotable Trump: An In-Depth Analysis of a Political Phenomenon

In the realm of modern politics, few figures have captured public attention quite like Donald Trump. Known for his bold rhetoric, unconventional communication style, and controversial statements, Trump has often defied traditional political decorum. Yet, amid his numerous quotable moments, there exists a paradox—the phenomenon of "the unquotable Trump." This term encapsulates the many instances where Trump's words, instead of being memorable or inspiring, have become difficult to capture, interpret, or even comprehend. This article delves into the concept of "the unquotable Trump," exploring why certain remarks remain unquotable, their impact on public discourse, and what they reveal about his unique communication style.

Understanding "The Unquotable Trump"

Defining the Term

"The unquotable Trump" refers to statements, remarks, or comments made by Donald Trump that are either:

- Too vague or ambiguous to be accurately paraphrased or quoted
- Filled with slang, jargon, or colloquialisms that resist standard interpretation
- Erroneous or nonsensical, leading to confusion rather than clarity
- Delivered in a context where their meaning is unclear or open to multiple interpretations

While Trump has produced many memorable quotes, his tendency to speak in a spontaneous, often unfiltered manner has resulted in a significant number of remarks that challenge traditional notions of quotability.

The Roots of Unquotability

Several factors contribute to why certain Trump statements are unquotable:

- Spontaneity and Impulsiveness: Trump often speaks off-the-cuff, leading to statements that lack polish or coherence.
- Use of Slang and Colloquialisms: His frequent use of informal language can make his remarks difficult to precisely quote or interpret.
- Contextual Vagueness: Some statements are intentionally or unintentionally vague, making them hard to pin down.
- Misstatements and Gaffes: Errors in speech can obscure the intended message, rendering quotes incomplete or misleading.

- Media Fragmentation: The fast-paced news cycle and social media amplify the spread of unpolished remarks, often without clarification.

The Impact of the Unquotable Trump on Public Discourse

Media and Meme Culture

Trump's unquotable moments have become fertile ground for media coverage and meme creation. Instead of focusing solely on his policies, outlets and social media users often highlight his verbal gaffes and ambiguous statements, which:

- Generate viral content
- Distract from substantive policy debates
- Frame him as unpredictable or incoherent

This phenomenon has contributed to a perception of Trump as a figure whose words are frequently unreliable or nonsensical, influencing public opinion.

Political Consequences

The unquotable nature of many of Trump's statements has had tangible political effects:

- Erosion of Presidential Norms: Repeated unclarity diminishes the perceived seriousness of the office.
- Opposition Criticism: Opponents exploit ambiguous remarks to question Trump's competence or intentions.
- Voter Perception: Some supporters see his unpolished speech as authenticity, while others view it as a liability.

Communication Strategy and Public Perception

Trump's style, characterized by directness and bluntness, resonates with many voters. However, the unquotable moments can also:

- Undermine his credibility
- Lead to misinterpretations that fuel misinformation
- Create challenges for journalists and analysts trying to interpret his intentions

- They demonstrate how spontaneity can undermine clarity.
- They reveal the risks of unfiltered speech in high office.
- They influence how leaders are perceived, both domestically and internationally.

Lessons for Political Figures and Public Speakers

Trump's unquotable moments serve as cautionary tales:

- The need for clear, deliberate messaging
- Recognizing the power of language in shaping public perception
- Balancing authenticity with precision

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of the Unquotable Trump

The phenomenon of "the unquotable Trump" underscores the complex relationship between language, personality, and politics. While many of Trump's statements have been quoted, the unquotable moments arguably reveal more about his unconventional approach to communication. They reflect a candid, often chaotic style that resonates with supporters seeking authenticity but also challenge critics and analysts striving for clarity. As politics continues to evolve, understanding the significance of unquotable moments remains essential in assessing Trump's influence on public discourse and leadership standards.

In sum, "the unquotable Trump" is not merely about confusing remarks but about the broader implications of speech in the modern political arena where words can both define a presidency and confound its observers. It highlights the importance of context, clarity, and intentionality in leadership communication, lessons that extend well beyond any single figure in history.

The Unquotable Trump: An In-Depth Analysis of His Speech Patterns, Public Persona, and Cultural Impact

Introduction

Donald J. Trump, the 45th President of the United States, is arguably one of the most polarizing and distinctive figures in modern political history. Known for his unorthodox communication style, his penchant for provocative statements, and his tendency to avoid traditional quotability, Trump has often defied conventional expectations of political discourse. This has led to the phenomenon often referred to as "the unquotable Trump," a term capturing both his reluctance to be easily paraphrased or summarized and his complex, layered rhetoric that resists straightforward encapsulation.

This deep dive will explore the various facets that contribute to Trump's reputation as "the

unquotable," examining his speech patterns, media interactions, public persona, and the cultural implications of his communication style.

Understanding "The Unquotable" Phenomenon

What Does It Mean to Be "Unquotable"?

Traditionally, political figures and public personalities craft memorable quotes that encapsulate their beliefs, policies, or personalities. These quotes serve as shorthand for their ideologies and are easily disseminated. Donald Trump, however, often resists this paradigm due to several reasons:

- His speech often contains non-standard phrasing, including neologisms, slang, and incomplete sentences.
- He frequently employs context-dependent language, making statements that are meaningful only within specific moments.
- His rhetoric is highly spontaneous, often improvisational, which complicates efforts to distill it into quotable soundbites.

As a result, Trump's words tend to be less quotable in the traditional sense, but more memorable for their rawness, unpredictability, and sometimes baffling nature.

Why Is This Significant?

The unquotability of Trump has profound implications:

- It challenges traditional media narratives that rely on clear, digestible soundbites.
- It fosters a sense of unpredictability, making him harder to pin down ideologically.
- It contributes to the cult of personality around him, where his words become less about specific policies and more about his persona.

Speech Patterns and Linguistic Characteristics

Informal and Spontaneous Language

Trump's speaking style is characterized by:

- Use of colloquialisms and slang, such as "tremendous," "sad," "disaster," or "big league."
- Frequent repetition for emphasis, e.g., "Believe me," "Let me tell you," or "People are saying."

- Minimal reliance on complex sentence structures, favoring short, punchy phrases.
- Use of superlatives and hyperbole to amplify messages.

This informal approach creates a conversational tone but hampers the formation of traditional quotable statements.

Neologisms and Unique Phrases

Trump has coined numerous phrases that, while memorable, resist standard paraphrasing:

- 'Fake news'?
- 'Drain the swamp'?
- 'Build the wall'?
- 'Make America great again'?
- 'Lock her up'?

Some of these, like 'fake news,' have transcended his presidency to become part of the cultural lexicon, yet their context-specific nature makes them difficult to quote in isolation without losing nuance.

Impulsiveness and Spontaneity

Trump's propensity for improvisation means his statements often:

- Are made on the fly, with little filtering.
- Contain ad-libs or off-the-cuff remarks.
- Are prone to misstatements or retractions, which further complicate quoting efforts.

This spontaneity is a double-edged sword—it keeps him unpredictable but hampers the creation of clear, quotable moments.

The Media and the Challenge of Quotability

Media's Role in Shaping the Narrative

Mainstream media often attempts to extract memorable quotes from Trump's speeches, interviews, and tweets. However, the very nature of his speech makes this difficult because:

- His statements often lack structured coherence.
- They rely heavily on context, meaning isolated quotes can be misleading.
- His tendency to ramble or shift topics mid-sentence creates fragmented quotes.

This has led to a media environment where Trump's words are either sensationalized or taken out of context, emphasizing the challenge of capturing his speech in concise, meaningful quotes.

Twitter and the Era of Short-Form Communication

Trump's prolific use of Twitter (before his ban) exemplified his preference for direct, unfiltered communication. His tweets often:

- Were cryptic or ambiguous.
- Contained abusive or provocative language.
- Used abbreviations and misspellings that further complicated paraphrasing.

While some tweets became iconic, many were criticized for their lack of clarity, rendering them less suitable for traditional quotability.

Contradictions and Changing Narratives

Trump's statements often exhibit contradictions, making it difficult to produce a single, definitive quote that encapsulates his stance. For example:

- He would praise a foreign leader one day and criticize them the next.
- His policy positions could shift based on political expediency.

This flux contributes to his reputation as "unquotable," as no single statement fully captures his complex, often contradictory positions.

Public Persona and Cultural Impact

The Cult of Personality

Trump's unquotability is intertwined with his persona—a figure who embodies raw authenticity, anti-establishment rhetoric, and brash confidence. His speech style:

- Reinforces his image as an outsider unbound by political correctness.

- Cultivates a loose relationship with facts, emphasizing emotion over precision.
- Fosters a personal connection with supporters who appreciate his unfiltered approach.

This persona, built partly through his unconventional speech, makes him less amenable to traditional quotability but more memorable in the cultural consciousness.

Memes, Social Media, and Viral Moments

In the digital age, viral clips and memes have taken the place of traditional quotes. Moments like:

- 'You're fired!'
- 'Build the wall!'
- 'Fake news!'

have become shorthand references that capture his style, even if they lack nuance. The rapid dissemination of such moments emphasizes the emotional impact over verbal precision.

Contrasts with Traditional Politicians

Unlike politicians who rely on carefully crafted speeches and policy statements, Trump's improvisational style and informal language set him apart, making his words:

- Less quotable but more impactful.
- Less predictable, often leading to public confusion or amusement.
- More resistant to paraphrasing, because their meaning is often embedded in the delivery rather than the words themselves.

Implications of the Unquotability

Political Communication and Messaging

Trump's style challenges the norms of political messaging:

- It complicates efforts by opponents and media to distill his messages into clear narratives.
- It shifts focus from policy details to personality-driven narratives.
- It underscores the importance of performance and delivery over precise language.

Cultural and Societal Impact

The unquotability contributes to a post-truth environment, where:

- Emotion and spectacle overshadow factual accuracy.
- The ambiguity of his statements fuels disinformation.
- His rhetoric influences public discourse, often blurring the line between fact and fiction.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

The difficulty in quoting Trump accurately has legal implications, especially during his presidency and post-presidency, where:

- Accurate quotations are necessary for legal documentation.
- His statements are scrutinized for misinformation or defamation.
- The unquotability complicates fact-checking efforts.

Conclusion: The Legacy of the Unquotable Trump

Donald Trump's reputation as "the unquotable" is rooted in his distinctive communication style—an amalgamation of informal language, spontaneous improvisation, and a persona that thrives on unpredictability. While this makes it difficult to encapsulate his words in traditional quotes, it also elevates his status as a cultural icon whose speech is often more impactful through its delivery than through its content.

His unquotability underscores a broader shift in political communication, where authenticity, emotion, and spectacle often outweigh clarity and precision. It challenges media, political opponents, and scholars to rethink how messages are crafted, interpreted, and remembered in the modern age.

In the end, "the unquotable Trump" is less about the inability to quote him and more about how his unique style has redefined what it means to communicate power, authenticity, and personality in the 21st century. His legacy will likely be analyzed for generations, not just for his policies but for the revolutionary way he changed the landscape of public discourse.

In summary, Donald Trump's unquotability is a testament to his unconventional approach to speech—marked by spontaneity, colloquialism, and a persona that resists tidy summary. This phenomenon has profound implications for politics, media, and culture,

Question What does the term 'the unquotable Trump' refer to? It refers to the numerous statements made by Donald Trump that are considered difficult to quote accurately or have been

widely debated or misinterpreted, often due to their unconventional language or context. Why has 'the unquotable Trump' become a trending topic? It gained popularity because of the viral nature of Trump's unpredictable speeches and tweets, leading to challenges in capturing exact quotes and discussions about the impact of his unfiltered communication style. How does 'the unquotable Trump' influence public perception? It contributes to a polarized view? Some see it as authentic and refreshing honesty, while others view it as reckless or inappropriate, affecting how different audiences perceive his leadership and credibility. Are there specific examples of 'unquotable' statements by Trump? Yes, several statements, such as 'covfefe' or his remarks about 'very fine people,' have become emblematic of his unfiltered style and are often cited when discussing 'the unquotable Trump'. Has the concept of 'the unquotable Trump' affected media coverage? Absolutely, it has led to increased scrutiny, humorous memes, and a focus on the difficulty journalists face in accurately capturing his often unpredictable language. What challenges do journalists face with 'the unquotable Trump'? Journalists struggle with accurately quoting him without misrepresentation, managing the context of his statements, and addressing the viral nature of his remarks that often go viral out of context. Is 'the unquotable Trump' seen as a deliberate strategy or an uncontrollable aspect of his communication? Many analysts believe it's a mix of both? Some statements are deliberate, aimed at garnering attention, while others appear to be spontaneous, reflecting his unfiltered style.

Related keywords: Trump quotes, controversial statements, political humor, presidential remarks, unfiltered Trump, viral Trump moments, political satire, celebrity comments, speech controversies, memorable Trump lines

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