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THIS ISSUE: Land Reform

- Henry Bernstein on the Way Forward in Peasant Studies
- Mokong Simon Mapadimeng Reviews Post-Apartheid Land Reform Policy
- Stephen Greenberg Links Land Reform Policy Development to Neo-Liberalism More Broadly
- Lungisile Ntsiczebeza Considers the Continuing Potency of Chiefly Power in Rural Areas
TRANSFORMATION

critical perspectives on Southern Africa

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Analytical articles: 8 000 words
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Editorial Comment

Bill Freund

Article

Farewells to the Peasantry

Henry Bernstein suggest why, despite its remarkable intellectual history, debates about the nature of the peasantry probably are no longer relevant. However, studies of agrarian petty commodity production and the relations of class and capital to rural life and agriculture remain vital.

Commentary

The Land Reform for Agricultural Development Sub-Programme: opportunity for or constraint to land reform, rural economic development and poverty alleviation

Post-apartheid government policy movement on land reform since 1994 is laid out by Mokong Simon Mapadimeng.

Articles

Land Reform and Transition in South Africa

Land reform has become integrated into the broader neo-liberal strategies adopted by the post-apartheid government. It is essentially only elites who will benefit, argues Stephen Greenberg, from current policies.

Land Rights and Democratisation: rural tenure reform in South Africa's former bantustans

Lungisile Ntsebeza questions the government's intentions with regard to the official future of chiefs. Prospects of democratic local government clash with increasing willingness to compromise with local chiefly power.
Reviews
Jonny Steinberg (2002) Midlands, reviewed by Cherryl Walker. 96


Editorial Comment

Bill Freund

This issue was born not from solicitations but from the independent interest of the respective authors in what remains a burning policy issue for the South African public: land reform. How important, however, is this issue to the ANC government? How has it responded to social issues in the rural context? The authors do not suggest that we are going to be moving to a rural South Africa in which prosperous peasants or small growers form a key element in the population but they do suggest some of the reasons why this is the case. Henry Bernstein’s article showcases the current international debates on small growers and peasantry in development thinking by one of those most cited in theoretical attempts to come to grips with the peasantry in Africa by means of introducing the issue.
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