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BOOK REVIEWS

Southern Africa After Apartheid: Regional Integration and External Resources Edited by B. Oden. Uppsala, Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, 1993, 271 pp., ISBN 97-7106-332-3, Z\$27.

This volume consists of a collection of papers presented anonymously in a seminar organized by the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies in May 1992. The contributors are in the main a group of academics and some public officials from the Scandinavian countries and Southern Africa (Botswana and South Africa). The volume is divided into four main areas, viz., theory oriented, issue oriented, organization oriented and external resource oriented perspectives. Many of the chapters summarize existing literature (often without references) rather than contribute new data or new perspectives.

Of academic interest are the theory oriented perspectives, the first of which summarizes the available literature on the theories of regional integration, namely the classical approach, the developmental approach and the neo-functional approach. The relevance of these theories to Southern Africa is critically evaluated and this evaluation seems to agree with the available literature concluding that none of the above theories suits the conditions in Southern Africa. The reasons for this conclusion lie in the fact that the circumstances in the sub-region differ within and between countries. For example, a market approach will not work because it requires free trade among member countries, yet in these countries objectives differ towards openness, suspicion is rife between individual countries (witness the current trade war between Zimbabwe and Botswana, both members of the Southern African Development Community — SADC); also levels of development are far from equitable, to the effect that some member countries need import nothing from regional partners. The benefits therefore accrue inequitably to different members.

Co-operation consequently has to be limited to certain sectors and in this respect SADC has made significant strides. The rest of this section looks at the successes and failures of co-operation in Third World countries with evidence from the Association of South East African Nations, the Central American Common Market, and the Latin American Free Trade Association. The results of these organizations are also well covered in the literature and the successes are minimal: little new emerges from this section of the book.

Chapter Four presents another interesting contribution that looks at the security situation in the region. This can be considered a major contribution in that security has been ignored in the literature on integration. The authors attempt to come up with a model of enhancing regional security and conflict resolution and then the model is applied to Southern Africa. Southern Africa is one of the most volatile regions in the world and, given this fact, there is need to find ways of resolving the

persistent conflicts for successful integration. A debate on this has thus been set in motion in Chapter Four of this volume.

The volume would make interesting reading for policy-makers in the region and probably could be useful as a reference book for undergraduate students.

University of Zimbabwe

B. KHUMALO

Women and Food Security: The Experience of the SADCC Countries
Edited by Marilyn Carr with an Introduction by Anna Makimba. London, Intermediate Technology Publications, 1991, 210pp., ISBN 85339-109-3, \$19.50.

This book comprises papers presented at a meeting of Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) authorities on women's affairs in Arusha (Tanzania) in 1988. The papers are published anonymously.

The articles contained cover nine countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The articles provide background information on women's income-generating activities focussing specifically on land use and the kinds of technologies which may be available for use by women in all the nine countries.

The articles underscore the major role which women in the SADCC region play in the production, processing and marketing of food, but at the same time note that women have been

... constrained from contributing fully to the development of this sector by the lack of availability of efficient technologies relating to their tasks, as well as lack of access to those technologies which do exist (Makimba, p. vi).

The main concern of this book, therefore, is to discuss and to make recommendations as to what should be done in order to minimize the constraints which face women in their efforts to contribute to the production and processing of food in their respective countries.

An article giving background information on Malawi ends with two important points: that more baseline information to monitor the efficiency of technologies should be consistently gathered; and, secondly, that improved equipment which increases ground cover and reduces the need for several weeding should be introduced.

The issue of technology is referred to in all the other articles in different ways. The article on Botswana, for instance, argues strongly that 'unless technology is a tool of liberation, and is designed to qualitatively improve the life of the majority, it is of little use in developing Botswana' (p. 69).

But the introduction of any technology should go together with other factors, namely money, training and the availability of raw materials. In this regard, the articles in the book call for the introduction of special courses in the fields of processing, preservation, and storage of agricultural produce in local institutions of learning. Besides, the articles recommend that women in para-professions associated with the identified technologies should be trained in the various technical skills so that they are able to acquire, learn, and understand the engineering and related details embodied in the technologies.

Women and Food Security contains information about the nine countries as well as suggestions for further study which local academics and policy makers should seriously examine because, as the article on Zimbabwe notes:

Some of the technologies developed at public research centres have been designed by scientists who have little or no understanding of the communal women who should benefit from the introduction of the technology. There is a general failure to address women's real priorities, failure to include input from women with a choice of alternatives, and failure to establish any viable communication networks at the local level to assess community-level impact (p. 81-82).

The book, however, contains one major weakness. Although the writers of the articles correctly pay attention to the roles and needs of women in developmental processes, they fail to relate these roles and needs to those of men. If developmental innovation is to be successful, planners need to attend to both men and women.

The editing and printing is good, but the book contains no index and only four of the articles refer to other sources. Nevertheless, *Women and Food Security* provides a welcome addition to the existing literature on women, food security and technology.

University of Zimbabwe

C. G. MARARIKE

Zimbabwe — (World Bibliographic Series: Volume 4) Revised and expanded edition Compiled By Deborah Potts. Oxford, Clio Press, 1993, xxxi, 368 pp., ISBN 1-85109-195-5, £56.50.

Each volume in the *World Bibliographic Series* consists of annotated entries on works dealing with many aspects of the country concerned. The intended objective is to reflect each country's culture and 'its place in the world, the qualities and background that make it unique'. *Volume 4* is on Zimbabwe. The Bibliography's publication is timely, i.e., 13 years after Independence, when Zimbabwe is fully immersed in an Economic Structural Adjustment Programme and when major changes are taking place in Southern Africa.

The volume is divided into 36 chapters covering broad subject areas. There is a special listing of periodicals, encyclopaedias and directories,

bibliographies and includes three indexes (author, title and subject). Selected theses and dissertations on Zimbabwe are also included.

The largest number of entries is in the section on history followed by agriculture and economy, trade and investment. The annotations are sometimes subjective, especially in the section on history. Some entries include useful background information on authors. The bias is towards books, with a limited number of journal citations. Publications that have little or no social significance such as scientific and technical reports and similar publications have been excluded.

Cross references direct the reader to other works that are similar in content or present another focus.

The meticulously researched introduction to the bibliography provides a useful background. The compiler traces the history of Zimbabwe from the pre-colonial era leading to independence in 1980. Fundamental issues such as ethnicity (often unfairly exploited by the media), attempts to address new developments in education (to counter the colonial bias) and institutionalized racism give a balanced assessment of government's commitment to transformation. One aspect having far-reaching implications that is not adequately developed, is the reason for the failure of social transformation by a party and government committed to socialism. Two sets of reasons are advanced. 'First, the African political élites who led the liberation movement and are now in government are often claimed to be essentially petty bourgeois . . .', and second, there are inhibiting constraints imposed by the Lancaster House Agreement and the International Monetary Fund, the South African destabilization programme and the devastating drought. I believe there are other major reasons, such as the ideology of the ruling party and its constituency, which have contributed to changing an inherited social structure.

In a bibliography of this kind it is often difficult to achieve comprehensive coverage. The major objective of the publishers of *The World Bibliographic Series* is to include works that explain or demonstrate the country's uniqueness. Zimbabwe's uniqueness could be based on the economic paradigm used to advance development. At Independence, Zimbabwe inherited a capitalist economy and, in spite of some restrictions and interventions, it is still basically capitalistic. While major changes have taken place in education and health, present circumstances may reverse the trend. With the significant shift in the development paradigm, the future looks hazy. Government is now fully committed to a programme of less control in the economy. Can this lead to social transformation? Perhaps the next spate of publications will address this issue.

Based on the above rationale I have assessed the selection of items in the section on economy, trade and investment. The compiler has included 37 entries. On the basis of University of Zimbabwe library holdings and ECONLIT (CD-ROM database), I believe this section should have been expanded considerably. Similarly, I think that there could have been more coverage on the seminal works of Michael Gelfand that have 'social significance'. The volume cites 14 entries. From the Medical Library database (UTANO) I found 20 further titles that should have been included, such as 'apparent absence of homosexuality and lesbianism, traditional

African attitude towards death and dying, the N'ganga, the guardian of the Shona way of life' etc.

On the section on mass media there are 14 entries. Provincial newspapers such as *Gweru Times*, the *Cheziya Gokwe Post*, *Kwayedza*, to list a few, were excluded.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the publication is an invaluable source of information for interested readers, lecturers, researchers and persons working in the area of development.

University of Zimbabwe

D. PAKKIRI

Dambudzo Marechera: A Source Book on his Life and Work By Flora Veit-Wild. Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, London, Melbourne, Munich, New York, Hans Zell Publishers, 1992, xvi, 419pp., ISBN 9-908307-29-2, Z\$36.

This unusual book is a stunning achievement — a labour of love by the German-born Flora Veit-Wild. She sets out to trace the influences which shaped the outlook of one of Zimbabwe's most controversial writers, the late Dambudzo Marechera. For the first time those who have read Marechera's *House of Hunger* (1978), which won the Guardian Fiction Prize in 1978, and his novels, *Black Sunlight* (1980) and *The Black Insider* (1990), have an opportunity to understand the life of the author, his views on art, history, culture, sex, violence and what he sees as the endemic brutalities of the twentieth century civilization. The book reveals at length Marechera's relentless engagement with world literatures, those he enjoyed most and the writers who influenced him.

In terms of structure, the book is flexibly constructed and dependant on particular phases of Marechera's life, the places he visited and the people he interacted with. Most gripping are the revelations about his childhood in the ghettos of colonial Rusape, his experiences at secondary school and his reactions to English society and to the somewhat staid academic traditions of Oxford University, which he attended in Britain after his expulsion from the then University of Rhodesia in 1973. Particularly harrowing is the section chronicling Marechera's life as a tramp in London with no fixed address or recognized identity and social role. Fascinating to observe is the way the destitute writer relied on the generally sympathetic but increasingly frustrated Heinemann publisher, James Currey. The book also says much on Marechera's unorthodox rise to international fame, which reaches its peak during his visit to the cultural festival held in Berlin in 1979. Marechera relished the limelight of the occasion, gave a dramatic performance and projected himself as a rebel writer waging a guerrilla war in the world of literature. Flora Veit-Wild's book also chronicles Marechera's subsequent return to an independent Zimbabwe and the isolation and disappointment he encountered. Significantly, what Marechera says about himself, Zimbabwe and Africa,

bitter though it is, is very helpful to anyone striving to understand fully his later works: *Mindblast* (1984), *The Black Insider* (1990) and *Cemetery of the Mind* (1992).

What the literary researcher will find helpful are the numerous interviews and various recollections by Marechera himself. Arguably these constitute the core of the book and are supplemented by testimonial statements culled from confidential school records and university files on Marechera which Flora Veit-Wild unearthed in Zimbabwe, Britain and Europe. Substantial parts of the book are also based on confidential readers' reports on Marechera's work received by Heinemann Publishers over the years. Of particular interest to scholars of African literature is the light the book sheds on the process of publication and the degree to which African literature in European languages is only a screened version of the original. Also implicitly raised in the book are questions relating to the problematic role of publishers in promoting specific trends of writing and the impact this has on the overall picture of African literature.

Standing out in the source book is the personality of the writer. Marechera emerges as a challenging paradoxical figure, captivating to friends and foes alike — a person with an extraordinary capacity to elicit the goodwill and to incur the displeasure of Blacks and Whites both in Zimbabwe and Britain. He comes across as the proverbial scourge ripping apart those values and conventions cherished across generations. Marechera's dismissive attitude towards the African past and his relentless opposition to colonialism and to any forms of oppression are part of his iconoclastic vision. The same vision also defines his attitude to languages. Here is what Marechera said when, in a characteristically unorthodox manner, he interviewed himself:

Shona was part of the ghetto daemon I was trying to escape. Shona had been placed within the context of a degraded, mind-wrenching experience from which apparently the only escape was into the English language and education. The English language was automatically connected with the plush and seeming splendour of the White side of town. As far as expressing the creative turmoil within my head was concerned, I took to the English language as a duck takes to water. I was therefore a keen accomplice and student in my own mental colonisation. At the same time of course there was the unease, the shock of being suddenly struck by stuttering, of being deserted by the very medium I was to use in all my art. This perhaps is the undergrowth of my experimental use of English, standing it on its head, brutalising it into a more malleable shape for my own purposes. For a black writer the language is very racist; you have to have harrowing fights and hair-raising panga duels with the language before you can make it what you want it to do. It is so for the feminists. English is very male . . . (pp. 3-4).

Marechera's efforts to subvert and recast the English language for his own creative purposes are in fact part of his wider effort to question in a radical way what Africa and the rest of the world have often taken for granted. He is as scathing towards Western culture and society as he is towards Negritude, African personality and African nationalism. His writings

do not easily fall in line with the thrust of protest African literature. His is an unsettling voice closer perhaps to A. Kwei Armah's in *The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* (1968) and Yambo Ouologuem's *Bound to Violence* (1968). Flora Veit-Wild's book captures in detail the complex and often conflicting facets of Marechera's life and art. The work of Marechera and his life are shown as closely related and near the anarchist tradition. The book is accessible to most members of the public and a more than welcome source of information for literary scholars.

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University of Zimbabwe

R. ZHUWARARA

AIDS: Action Now: Information, Prevention and Support in Zimbabwe
By H. Jackson. Harare, Aids Counselling Trust and School of Social Work,
2nd edn., 1992, xvii, 334 pp., ISBN 0-7974-1146-1, Z\$25.

The second edition of *AIDS: Action Now* is so substantially revised that it scarcely resembles the first edition. The new edition bears the stamp of the author's own longstanding involvement in AIDS research, prevention and treatment programmes. The chapters are well chosen, covering most major areas of AIDS activity. The book is comprehensive, insightful and readable. It skilfully interweaves scientific publications, workshop proceedings, conference papers, donor-agency reports, newspaper articles, letters and interviews with AIDS workers. Its presentation is appealing as it includes numerous maps, graphs, charts, cartoons, samples of educational materials and photographs. Well-chosen quotations heighten the reader's interest. Boxes are skilfully used to complement the main text, particularly in highlighting the key points at the end of the chapter. Each chapter also contains reference lists.

The book begins with a chapter on the global, regional and national epidemiology of HIV and AIDS. The global review is excellent, as is the

Zimbabwean analysis which notes that, unlike many countries in eastern and central Africa, Zimbabwe has comparatively high levels of HIV infection in rural areas — probably because of Zimbabwe's relatively well-developed transport infrastructure. I think regional differences could have been more closely examined. Why, for example, are HIV rates in Zambia's Copperbelt and Luapula provinces apparently several-fold higher than those in Zaïre's contiguous Shaba province? Similarly, why are HIV infection levels apparently so much higher in many East African countries than in most of West Africa (excluding Cote D'Ivoire)? Are the underlying dynamics of HIV transmission inherently different between East and West Africa? Such an analysis has important implications for an understanding of the socio-economic concomitants of HIV transmission and for the formulation of prevention strategies.

The chapter on biomedical aspects of HIV and AIDS, notwithstanding minor technical quibbles, will be of particular value to individuals and families seeking to understand the symptoms and progression of HIV illness. The chapter on the transmission of HIV highlights the role of STD in facilitating HIV transmission, but does not address the derivative question as to whether substantial investment in STD prevention and control will demonstrably reduce HIV transmission. The section on avoiding HIV transmission gives sound advice for the individual and highlights general areas and issues for consideration in prevention programmes. Programmes for vulnerable groups, such as prostitutes and their clients, long-distance truck drivers and soldiers, are stressed, but the underlying logic and controversy of the 'core group' theory is not presented. By citing many reasons people give for not using condoms, the author may unintentionally actually 'mystify condom use'. Regardless of the objections people may cite, the evidence strongly suggests that wherever condoms have been intensively promoted in Africa, a rapid and dramatic increase in condom use has resulted. Up to now the fault has been with our programmes not our audiences.

The section on testing is good, probing the personal issues involved in seeking an HIV test and the economic wisdom of apportioning a large proportion of medical resources to HIV testing. The only possible addition to this chapter would be a critique of recent data from Rwanda and Uganda on the role of counselling centres and anonymous testing.

The chapter on self-help and community support provides useful advice for the individual and valuable examples of support programmes for communities, but concrete programme advice is not provided. Community care is well introduced and sound advice is offered to anyone with HIV or anyone who is caring for somebody with HIV but, as is the case with much of the literature, there is little analysis of its cost-effectiveness or large-scale feasibility. Recent studies by Susan Foster (1993) and her colleagues from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine of community care in Monze District Hospital in southern Zambia reflect a growing pessimism about the cost-effectiveness of community care. The founder of one of Zimbabwe's least expensive home-care programmes

recently estimated that the cost of their community-care programme was on average about Z\$200 per home visit. Ways of reducing the cost of community care are urgently needed.

The counselling section is probably the best I have read, but there is no debate regarding the priority that should be assigned to counselling. It may be argued that counselling is perceived by communities as less important than ongoing Person with Aids (PWA) support groups and solidarity, community care, material support and orphan and survivor support programmes and that counselling is frequently a refuge of organizations who feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of other needs and who do not have experience of outreach work or of planning and managing community-based programmes.

The section on AIDS and employment, drawn partly from Ms Jackson's seminal work (Jackson and Pitts, 1989) in this area, is very useful. The chapter on public awareness, policy and programmes is interesting and wide-ranging, perhaps too much so. The recommendations are admirable, but there is little indication of the four or five most critical areas upon which Zimbabwe should focus its greatest energies. The final chapter, on education for change, outlines many options and offers advice, but includes little concrete help on programme management. AIDS training programmes consistently find that organizations have a general linguistic and conceptual familiarity with AIDS approaches that belies their ability to plan and manage intensive, sustained outreach programmes. The cost-effectiveness of different intervention strategies could also have been examined.

In conclusion, *AIDS: Action Now* is comprehensive, readable and affordable. It is a remarkable achievement, one which deserves the widest possible circulation in Zimbabwe and elsewhere in Africa.

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University of Zimbabwe

D. WILSON