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TRANSFORMATION 30

Critical perspectives on Southern Africa
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CONTENTS

Articles

RE-FORMING THE POST-APARTHEID STATE?
CITIZENSHIP AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN CONTEMPORARY SOUTH AFRICA

WILLIAM MUNRO argues that development literature on South Africa underestimates the importance of the rural development endeavour. This in turn means promoting an effective state presence in rural areas that can incorporate rural people politically while enabling economic and social development to take place. These two processes must be understood as part of a common hegemonic project of transformation. In examining this theme, a critical gaze at development in KwaZulu-Natal is cast.

FANCY DRESS: CONCEALMENT AND IDEOLOGY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The role of the traditional in South African politics, particularly in the IFP, is interrogated by JASON MYERS. Myers explores struggles over legitimacy, the use of forms of identity as a means of producing legitimacy and the need to query and expose the reality behind the form.

THE WOMEN’S STRUGGLE FOR EQUALITY DURING SOUTH AFRICA’S TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY

SHEILA MEINTJES explores the active promotion of women’s issues during the transition period of the early 1990s with a focus on the women’s charter movement. If this kind of mobilisation was a necessary component for advancing women’s causes, it did not necessarily succeed in sustaining momentum once the transfer of power occurred.
The feminist movement too, argues AMANDA GOUWS, has been affected by the post-modern ‘politics of identity’ with all-embracing claims being made for experiential legitimacy. Without denying the importance of experience and difference, however, the way towards a more generalised and effective epistemology needs to be found.

Transformation has concerned itself in recent years with the prospects for a corporatism that involves a powerful trade union movement. DAVID HEMSON, using the example of a key labour force in Durban, the dockers and looking both at the history of labour mobilisation and the changing face of capital, questions the possibilities for corporatism. He also comments critically on a major chapter in the history of modern South African trade unionism.

DAVID KAPLAN and DAVID LEWIS defend the position of the Industrial Strategy Project’s assessment of productivity in the South African case and project the need for industrial policy, as opposed to a macro-economic policy environment that may merely promote inward industrialisation instead of export expansion and transformation.