



G. MOSS and I. OBERY (eds.). *South African Review 5*. Ravan Press: Braamfontein, 1989. 490 pp. R34,95 (exclusive). ISBN 0869753940.

The fifth of these joint collaborative efforts from Ravan Press and the Southern African Research Service (SARS) consists of 30 articles from a wide range of individuals. Like the previous reviews the articles are grouped into four sections — state and politics, Southern African regional politics, labour and rural politics. The sections do help in giving the book some structure but the placement of certain contributions is problematic. In particular the

placing of two implicitly anti-Inkatha pieces under the rubric of rural politics ignores the organisation's substantial and growing urban support base and appears politically rather than intellectually motivated.

The nine articles in the first section cover the period between the announcement of the nation-wide state of emergency in June 1986 and the fall of P.W. Botha in 1989. In the words of one of the contributors the contributions survey the organisation and aims of the state and the response of popular movements (hence the exclusion of Inkatha in this section) thereto. The articles inter alia examine the central policy-making and repressive roles of the security forces in the above period, the 1989 parliamentary election, the strategic tension within the ANC between scenarios based on insurrection and negotiation, intraleft politics in the Western Cape, peoples' courts and state attempts at deregulation and privatisation. (In the section on labour there is also a contribution on the privatisation of working-class health care.)

The six articles covering the regional politics of Southern Africa trace the changing policies and balance of military forces within the region from the mid to late 1980s. One contribution provides an overall comparison of South Africa's regional policy prior to Cuito Cuanavale (1988) and there-

after, while another traces shifts in the country's regional policy since 1978 and divides it into six distinct phases. Others look specifically at (i) what really occurred militarily at Cuito Cuanavale, (ii) Mozambique after Samora Machel's death in mid-1986, (iii) South Africa's acceptance of Security Council Resolution 435 and the Namibian independence process from the mid-1980s and (iv) developments within Lesotho subsequent to the Jonathan coup in January 1986.

In the section on labour the articles focus on the 1985-1988 debates and developments within Cosatu (the relationship between trade unions and the national liberation struggle), the significant 1988 amendments to the Labour Relations Act, and 1987-1988 industrial trends in union membership, worker militancy and strike rates. More specific contributions consider the General Motors and Ford disinvestments in 1987-1988, labour attitudes towards the domestic housing crisis, home ownership on the mines, employee share ownership schemes and industrial unionism in the food industry.

The six articles in the section on rural politics explore a number of the most important processes which affected rural political mobilisation during the 1980s. Issues addressed include forced removals and upgrading, the May-August 1986 struggle against independence in KwaNdebele and the violence in Natal. The section concludes with an interesting and well-written if somewhat one-sided analysis of Inkatha by Mare and Ncube.

As said above most of the articles roughly span the years 1987 to 1989. Because of the far-reaching domestic political changes since then many have unfortunately dated rather quickly. The collection — in spite of its implicitly radical or critical social science orientation — remains nonetheless a useful reference work for researchers and teachers over a wide field.

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