
Abstract: Before the enactment of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 1990, receivership in Nigeria was governed by case law, informal rules (of practice) and the Companies Decree 1968. Receivership is the situation in which an institution or enterprise is being held by a receiver, a person 'placed in the custodial responsibility for the property of others, including tangible and intangible assets and rights,' especially in cases where a company cannot meet its financial obligations or enters bankruptcy. In this article the receiver refers to the receiver or manager appointed over all or substantially all of a company's assets. Nigerian judges were heavily influenced by British case law, precedents were British and the Nigerian Companies Decree was a transplant of the British Companies Act 1948. Against this background, the Supreme Court of Nigeria delivered the Intercontractors decisions in 1988, which subsequently governed the nature, status and powers of Nigerian receivers. In 1990, CAMA introduced a more robust receivership regime which prescribed the nature, status and powers of the receiver, reversing some of the Intercontractors principles. However, the courts, particularly the Supreme Court, failed to enforce the relevant provisions of CAMA or to examine the applicability of the Intercontractors principles that they conscientiously enforced. This article examines the validity of the Intercontractors principles and their continued relevance under CAMA 2004. Notes, ref., sum.


Abstract: This article explores the prevalence of high-level political and bureaucratic corruption in postindependence Uganda, with particular focus on the narrow interests it serves and its impact on development and service delivery. The author argues that high-level political corruption endures largely because it is situated within the framework of 'neo'-patron-clientelism and skewed power relations. Although Uganda's official policy is 'zero tolerance' in regard to corruption, many observers have noticed a lack of 'political will'. This is illustrated by the role of the Inspector General of Government, the selective application of 'zero tolerance' in the case of the National Social Security Fund, the neglect of the findings of commissions of inquiry, and the manipulation of Parliament when it tried to engage the implicated inner-circle over corruption. Grand bureaucratic and petty forms of corruption are equally extensive and challenging, though only the former have been affected by 'zero tolerance' policies. The author concludes, however, that through its interplay of inclusion and exclusion, political corruption has generated contestations which undermine it and challenge the National Resistance Movement (NRM) regime. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French.


Abstract: Although it has been in existence for a while, Zambian literature is lagging behind the literatures from other African countries in terms of critical acclaim and exposure to international audiences. This contribution by an award-winning literary practitioner explores its author's positioning within (and towards) the field of 'African literature'. It also examines some of the reasons why Zambian literature is 'playing catch-up' with literature from other African countries, and discusses the challenges of writing for an international market. The article also discusses ways in which Zambian literature can develop and make its mark on the international literary map. Notes, ref., sum.

Abstract: In the literature and in Zambia's public life, there exists a dichotomy of perceptions about published works. The works published by mainstream publishers are viewed as prestigious: in cultural circles, in firm opposition to self-published books, they are 'the right thing to do'. This article seeks to problematise such perceptions. He discusses the Zambian publishing environment and his own experiences of self-publishing. He also explores ideological perspectives on the commonly assumed axioms that anchor the dichotomy of perceptions about published works. He maintains that literary products that enter the market should be judged according to their inherent appeal, quality, marketability and profitability, rather than their mode of publication. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.909662


Abstract: Based on a classroom encounter of the author, this article explores the gendered nature of African university space. It discusses a 2007-2008 policy that banned pregnant adult students from living in the student residence halls at the University of the Western Cape in Cape Town, South Africa. The policy was implemented despite protests from the university's students and staff. The article argues that the more visibly reproductive a student's body became, the more alien it was considered to be in spaces of knowledge production. This alienation was incongruous at a university widely considered as the most politically progressive in South Africa. It was rooted, however, in Western-oriented traditions of masculinist knowledge production in which there is no space for the female, let alone the pregnant, body in intellectual spaces; and in South African traditions of marginalization, exclusion, and 'passing' in public space. Exploring ideas of 'body language' and 'bodies of knowledge', the article concludes that there is a need for an interdisciplinary politics and epistemology of 'seepage' in higher educational institutions that recognizes women's minds and their bodies. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.3


Abstract: On December 23, 2009, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed a resolution (Resolution 1709) imposing sanctions on Eritrea and calling for a weapons embargo, a freezing of assets, and a travel ban on civilian and military leaders. This article examines the sanctions imposed on Eritrea, which are based on the country's alleged involvement in Somalia and its border dispute with Djibouti. The initiative to invoke the sanctions emanated from the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD). The author argues that the UN's failure to sanction the parties for reneging on their commitment to implement the Permanent Court of Arbitration's verdict on the border dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia casts doubt on the morality of the sanctions. It also argues that the decision may have been driven by political motives. These sanctions will hurt the people of Eritrea and the Eritrean nation, and there is a real risk that the outcome of the sanctions could be the collapse of the Eritrean State. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.46


Abstract: This article highlights the process by which the archipelago of São Tomé and Príncipe came to be the leading producer of sugar in the world from 1530 to 1560. In São Tomé two models of economic and labour organization - European and African - systematically mingled together for the first time. It was also the place where the system of production for growing and processing sugarcane which would later become known as "plantations", and which Europe
subsequently implemented in the tropics on a large scale, was first developed. Plantations were characterized by large scale production oriented towards foreign markets. Each plantation / mill unit articulated the specialized cultivation of sugar cane by means of industrial processing and by using almost exclusively slaves as labour force. The author examines the natural and historical conditions amidst which the plantation system emerged on the Island of São Tomé, paying particular attention to the African contribution, a contribution which was not limited to the labour force factor. Slaves in São Tomé, all coming from the West African mainland, brought with them African techniques and forms of organizing work that were later recreated and adapted to intensive production as required by the colonial context and the intense demand for sugar in European markets. From the 1570s onwards, some São Tomé owners moved their operations to Brazil. In historical terms, the most important aspect was undoubtedly the transfer of the operating model. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]


Abstract: This article argues that the publication of literary works in Zambia has been held captive by the challenges facing the book industry, in particular the economic crisis. The economic challenges have led to high costs in publishing, and inevitably the cost of purchasing books has also been high. The publishers have depended on government procurement for their book sales - but government is more concerned about purchasing textbooks. Many publishers have depended on the sales of textbooks to generate funds to publish literary works, but the overdependence on government procurement has left publishers financially vulnerable. The diminished publishing opportunities for writers of literary works have driven some writers into self-publishing as an alternative. However, this option has not answered the problem, in part because it is more concerned about quantity rather than quality of publications. The interventions into the book industry by writers' associations, the publishers' and booksellers' associations, the Curriculum Development Centre, writing awards and government policy have provided enough stimulation. A change in government policies, however, could go a long way towards stimulating the growth of the industry and exposing unknown writing talent. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.909659


Abstract: This ASR Forum, entitled ‘Homophobic Africa?’ is concerned with the concept of African homophobia, as it prevails in non-African but also African engagements with LGBTI rights on the continent. In the introduction, Ayo A. Coly argues that homophobic Africa is in fact a Euro-American-African co-production. In her article, Confronting the politics of nonconforming sexualities in Africa (p. 31-45), Sylvia Tamale shows that homophobia has become a political tool used by conservative African politicians to promote self-serving agendas. Patrick Ireland's article, A macro-level analysis of the scope, causes, and consequences of homophobia in Africa (p. 4766), discusses the phenomenon of State homophobia in Africa and explains the ways in which it is more complex and unpredictable than most scholars have assumed. Henrietta Gunkel's article, Some reflections on postcolonial homophobia: local interventions and LGBTI solidarity online: the politics of global petitions (p. 67-81), deals with the increase in online petitions and campaigns from Europe and North America against homophobia in various African countries, and reflects on the politics of global queer solidarity. Veronica Sigamoney and Marc Epprecht (p. 83-107) draw from research in two South African townships in 2010 to explore the significance of cultural translation when considering what constitutes same-sex prejudice and how it may relate to notions of authenticity. Finally, Babacar M'Baye traces the history of homosexual and transgender behaviour in Senegal from colonial times to the contemporary period (p. 109-128). Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [ASC Leiden abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.39

Abstract: At the 2006 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, President Hu Jintao announced the establishment of Chinese Special Economic Zones in Africa (CSEZAs), based on China's own Special Economic Zone (SEZ) model, in the spirit of mutual development and cooperation. The Chinese government launched seven such projects across Nigeria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Zambia and Mauritius. In most of these countries, there was social outcry over land expropriation for the construction of the CSEZAs and the resultant displacement of existing settlers. Seven years since their launch, the delayed CSEZA development only exacerbate the frustration of the host African communities as they contemplate whether the land they appropriated for the zone, at the expense of rural livelihoods, is getting an appropriate usage. Based on fieldwork carried out in China and Mauritius, this paper discusses how CSEZAs which were initially launched as diplomatic development initiatives get eclipsed by the land expropriation they entail. The case of Mauritius is particularly salient considering its size, location and outward economic dependence. The paper contemplates the extent to which land appropriation through CSEZAs can be equated to Chinese State land grab in Africa, and concludes on a note that resonates with Gopalakrishnan's observation that SEZs' only purpose is spatial presence. Bibliogr., notes, sum. 

Abstract: This article critiques the 'legal at the time' argument used by states and companies which historically practised slavery to defend themselves against claims for restitution. The authors examine the Mauritian case. Although slavery in Mauritia was largely legal before its abolition by the British, torts were common under slavery. Between 1794 and 1839 the local élite defied first French and then English law, which generated systemic unlawful activity. Most types of legal action for the restitution of slavery presented enormous obstacles; pursuing reparations supported by broad legal arguments was therefore a more viable route. Slavery was an illegitimate endeavour in itself. While the authors are sympathetic with this view, this article demonstrates that the 'legal at the time' argument against reparations contains significant lacunae even within its restricted terms. It also shows that French constitutional law offers possibilities in the form of rights that are not bound by time. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: This article examines gender mainstreaming in European Union (EU) development policy towards southern Africa. The aim is to detect how gender (in)equality in southern Africa is framed by the EU, and the extent to which this overlaps with Southern African Development Community (SADC) and civil society framing of gender (in)equality. The authors also explore potential reasons for the overlap and mismatch of frames. Using the methodology of critical frame analysis, EU policy programming documents are analysed and compared to SADC's Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan, and civil society texts on gender equality. The authors conclude that the EU approach to gender mainstreaming in its development aid towards southern Africa is to a large extent instrumentalist, predominantly integrationist and only partially participatory. Gender mainstreaming is framed as a way of more effectively achieving existing policy goals, and civil society groups are poorly integrated in the drafting process. Although the EU approach has significant overlap with the frames used by SADC, the latter seem to hold a broader, more holistic conception of gender mainstreaming. A major gap exists between civil society organisations' views on gender (in)equality and those expressed by the EU. This gap might be harmful for the relevance of EU policies and may compromise their effectiveness. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The deep seabed beyond national jurisdiction and the seabed's resources have been declared the common heritage of mankind. There are however divergent views on exactly what the common heritage of mankind is. Does it connote joint management or common ownership of this spatial area? This article argues that culture is one of the relevant factors to be considered in understanding the interpretation given to the common heritage of mankind by sub-Saharan African states and that the role of culture cannot be ignored in appreciating how states interpret concepts in international law. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Dans 'The Atlantic slave trade: a census' (1969) Philip Curtin remarque que 'le premier siècle et demi du commerce atlantique des esclaves reste nécessairement obscur'. Cet article vise à clarifier le rôle du marché des esclaves établit à Ribeira Grande, dans l'île de Santiago du Cap-Vert, au cours de ce premier siècle, le XVIème. Sources fondamentales pour cette étude sont les licenses de la Couronne Espagnole: documents donnant autorisation à un individu pour introduire aux Indes de Castille (Amérique Espagnole) des esclaves rachetés directement au Portugal, au Cap-Vert ou à la Guinee. L'analyse détaillée de l'exécution des licences permet de comprendre le mode de fonctionnement du ravitaillement des navires. Deux situations peuvent être distinguées: la première, celle des petits chargement individuels de noirs, qui appartenaient à plusieurs individus qui ensemble constituaient la cargaison d'un navire et dont le local d'embarquement n'était pas connu, mais qu'on pense serait à Séville ou Cadix; deuxièmement, lorsqu'il s'agissait de cargaisons beaucoup plus importantes l'île du Cap-Vert était toujours mentionné comme port de charge. Probablement ces deux situationz représentent deux circuits commerciaux distincts. Le premier était, peut-être, une route directe de l'Espagne vers les Indes; relativement au second, il s'agissait de négoce de grandes dimensions où participaient des marchants avec de grands intérêts dans la traite. Ces marchants choisissaient un voyage avec approvisionnement dans l'entrepôt de l'île de Santiago. La route qui passait par le Cap-Vert s'est révélé vite la meilleur option. L'analyse de l'exécution des licenses permet, en plus, d'arriver à des conclusions quantitatives en ce qui concerne le nombre d'esclaves exportés du Cap-Vert et de la Côte de Guinée vers l'Amérique Espagnole pendant le XVIème siècle (75,000 entre 1540 et 1594). Notes, réf. [Résumé ASC Leiden]


Abstract: Forest-based land investments affect rural livelihoods due to the interconnected nature of forest and agricultural incomes at forest margins. In Ethiopia, foreign investments in forests take many forms, including direct harvest of forest products, plantation establishment, forest conversion for agriculture and payment incentives for ecosystem services such as carbon. This paper uses document analysis and case-study evidence to identify and describe impediments to transparency and engagement with local communities in the context of foreign investments. Case-study evidence is based on 10 months of field research conducted in highland Ethiopia in 2009 and 2010. While private investment in Ethiopian forests is limited, a lack of citizen empowerment and transparent information inhibits local communities and advocates from effectively monitoring and protecting resource rights. The paper describes the tenure systems surrounding forests in Ethiopia today and examines two aspects of emerging forest investments in Ethiopia and highlights spaces within them for social transformation that might lead to more equitable benefit sharing. First, it describes the absence of a uniform definition of forestland, and a lack of clear institutional authority and information transparency surrounding land deals affecting forests. Second, it illustrates constraints to local citizen participation in decisionmaking. Bibliogr., note, sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2013.868670

Abstract: This article traces the history of a group of Zambian broadcasters who established the first radio station in the country and made their mark on broadcasting for years to come. It describes their contribution to modern Zambian culture and to nationalist mobilisation. African broadcasters developed formats, ways of presenting and choices of music that appealed to Zambian listeners and established new, authentically local styles. While radio quickly established itself as an integral part of everyday life and culture in the colony, its effect was highly ambivalent. Broadcasters at the same time undermined and enforced the colonial project of using the medium as a transmitter of modernisation ideology. The article explores Thomas Turino's characterisation of this team as 'cosmopolitans' and shows how they were influenced by BBC ideas of journalism and modernisation ideology. To do so, it analyses the relationships African broadcasters had with Europeans in senior positions and with colonial and postcolonial governments. This shared value system brought these Zambian broadcasters into conflict with the post-independence government and its plans to bureaucratisate radio, despite their nationalist commitment and strong support for the United National Independence Party (UNIP) before independence. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.909663

Abstract: Somalia is an exceptionally insecure State that nevertheless offers an arena in which police officers and institutions can - and do - function. This article argues that Somalia's three regional police forces offer insight into the dynamics that result when locally driven institution-building projects interface with international State-building projects. The resultant picture is nuanced because police negotiate with private actors even as they develop their State-based authority, and their achievements are limited by Somali power brokers sharing a political understanding of security provision, valuing external assistance as a business opportunity, and adapting international models of governance accordingly. Consequently, while the prospects for institution building are favourable, stabilization is unlikely to shift into State building or development. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/88.abstract

Abstract: Mozambique's liberation struggle was fought mostly on the terrain of the northern provinces of Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Tete. Yet, though the rural landscapes of northern Mozambique are intrinsically tied to the country's national history, the public commemoration of the struggle in the present-day context is a state-led narrative more closely linked to the urban experience of the predominantly male political elite. In this article, the author explores how female veterans living in the national capital, Maputo, in southern Mozambique, conceptualise national space and belonging, and construct its gendered meanings. Though significant numbers of girls and women were mobilised by the FRELIMO guerrilla army to fight in the struggle, to date little research exists on women's accounts of their experience. This article is based on life-history interviews conducted in Maputo with female war veterans in 2009 and 2011. On the one hand, the author shows how the abstract space of the nation is made sense of and personalised through the women's experience of the liberation struggle, and further juxtaposed with their current experience of the cityscape. On the other hand, the author discusses how the capital city as the spatio-temporal location of the 'history-telling event' continues to shape the memory of the liberation struggle, contributing to the enactment of a particular gendered spatiality of belonging. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.909256

Abstract: The spate of foreign investments in land in developing countries in recent years has sparked speculation about trends in agriculture in developing countries, including the nature of
land consolidation and the tradeoffs between food sovereignty and export-oriented growth. Consistent with policy favouring mechanization, irrigation, and chemical inputs, the economy of scale and access to infrastructure provided by large concessions is viewed as a means to overcome biophysical production constraints. However, this raises important questions about the historical track records of modern management techniques as well as existing claims on these lands. Low productivity areas are heavily used by pastoralists as extensive grazing tracts, but these lands have historically been viewed as an agricultural reserve. In the Sahel, policy discourse around large-scale leases has a long history that can be traced back to mise en valeur clauses that defined productivity solely in terms of agricultural output. This represents a consistent undervaluing of the economic and ecological contributions of pastoral production, prompting agricultural expansion and fragmentation of rangelands. Land reforms and land-use policies are underpinned by particular narratives of efficiency and long-held assumptions of degradation through overgrazing. Strategies promoting irrigation, mechanization, and large-scale farming have weakened symbiotic links between rangelands and croplands. Increased privatization and commodification of land will exacerbate the problem. Cases from Sudan and Mali reveal an increasingly rigid enforcement of fixed boundaries around the leases disrupting local livelihoods' use of movement and secondary claims on land to cope with climatic variability.

Abstract: The Sokoto caliphate in nineteenth-century Northern Nigeria was an astonishing episode in the history of Africa: a huge, prosperous polity that created unity where none had existed before. Today its history is underexplored, sometimes ignored or even disparaged, both within Nigeria and in Europe and the US. Yet that history is extraordinary. Sokoto town was, and still is, an anomaly within Hausaland; built speedily on a 'green-field' open bush site as both a trading and a political centre for the caliphate, it is a site of pilgrimage that to this day remains a rural town with no monumental buildings or fine edifices. As a by-product of a religious movement (jihad), Sokoto thus represents many of the dilemmas that faced and still face radically reforming Islamic groups if they expand rapidly and go to war. Thus Sokoto history remains deeply significant for modern Nigeria. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.38

Abstract: This article analyses the Mauritian regulatory framework on genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and highlights its shortcomings, with the aim of improving the regulation of the approval and monitoring of the use of GMOs in Mauritius. It examines key issues regarding the application for a GMO permit, risk assessment requirements, identification and labelling obligations, post-market monitoring, and liability and redress in the case of damages. There is a need for greater public participation in decision-making on the approval of GMO permits and the monitoring stage procedure, specific civil liability provisions for damage as well as regulation of the coexistence of genetically modified (GM) and non-GM crops in the Mauritian biosafety framework. Pending the proclamation of the entire Mauritian GMO Act 2004, relevant transitional provisions should also be provided. Beyond legal provisions on biosafety, a national policy on GM products and GMO-related activities should be elaborated. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract] http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/jal.2014.15

Abstract: Following Jacob Zuma’s ascension to the presidency in South Africa, the African National Congress (ANC) has been dogged by rumours of escalating corruption and the personalization of power. This article documents these trends and explores three ways of understanding neo-patrimonialism in South Africa’s ruling party. First, the article addresses the possibility that such political habits have a long history within the ANC but were restricted during its years in exile and have begun to resurface now that the armed struggle is over. Second, it
considers explanations that relate to the party's historical ties to criminal networks and pressures arising from the transition to majority rule and contemporary electoral politics. Finally, the article investigates whether neo-patrimonialism is a reflection of broader tendencies within South African political and economic life. All three factors are found to have played a role in the rise of neo-patrimonial politics, and it is the confluence of these trends that explains why these dynamics have taken such a strong hold on the party. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/1.abstract

Abstract: This article discusses the issue of the effectiveness of law in Africa, looking at it from a perspective different from those commonly used in dealing with this theme. It proposes an analysis of the interactions between traditional, religious and official law in the course of the historical development of African law through the lens of the stratigraphic method. The analysis takes into consideration the different legal layers that have been posed upon each other. The work focuses on areas of law that are not commonly considered in this regard; in addition, the discourse is conducted using examples taken from jurisdictions that are not normally present in debates on African law. This implies the use of references that are not commonly encountered in African legal literature, together with some from the most important and renowned authors. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/67.abstract

Abstract: Rape and sexual violence loom large in the study of civil war in Africa. Sierra Leone has been one of the most prominent cases for establishing rape as a 'weapon of war', yet little is known about how sexual violence was understood by commanders or combatants within the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). Mainstream analyses of armed groups and civil war rarely engage with gender dynamics, despite their centrality to war making, power, and violence; and research that does focus on sexual violence tends to overlook the complex internal dynamics of the groups responsible. This article examines the internal gender dynamics of the RUF from the perspective of male and female members in seeking to understand the perpetuation of sexual violence. It shows that both formal and informal laws and power structures existed to regulate gender relations and control sexual behaviour within the group. It identifies four categories of women - non-wives, unprotected wives, protected wives, and senior women - and shows that women's interests and experiences of sexual violence were not homogeneous, but were instead shaped by their status within the group. In this way, sexual violence, examined in social context, provides an entry point for understanding how power, protection, and access to resources are brokered in rebellion. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/67.abstract

Abstract: In China, Tanzania, and Zambia, state officials participate in an ongoing articulation of official memory of the TAZARA railway project of the 1970s. In high-level diplomatic relations, the TAZARA project and its construction workers are continually held up as a foundational legacy for China-African development cooperation and friendship. However, the now-retired workers who built the railway tell very different kinds of stories about their experiences. In the context of recent economic liberalization policies, retired TAZARA workers draw on individual and collective memories of railway building to achieve both recognition and material security in a world in which they feel forgotten. They seek resolution of their grievances in old age through the telling and retelling of narratives of their youth. By doing so, they claim their own right to remember in the face of ongoing official efforts to reinvent heroic pasts. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.5

Abstract: This paper discusses attempts by British colonial officials to transform African crop production in Botswana in the 1930s. From the early 1930s, the British colonial officials made some modest and largely insignificant attempts to improve crop production in Botswana. The key issues addressed here are the nature and extent of the initiatives undertaken, such as agricultural shows, co-operator farmer experimental plots and the diffusion of technology. The successes and failures of the programmes and whether these initiatives constituted a departure from earlier policy which many scholars and researchers have dubbed the 'general neglect' of the territory are examined. The paper argues that the major shortcomings of the initiatives were insufficient funding, lack of concerted efforts, the selective nature of the programmes and incomprehensive and unsustainable crop production schemes that would have made a major impact. It gives an overview of the role of the chiefs in agricultural programmes and argues that it was the pastoral sector (cattle) rather than crop production which largely accounted for social differentiation in Botswana. The paper also reveals the regional imbalances that characterized colonial interventions in the crop production sector. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Public policy in relation to alcohol consumption is still a contested terrain in southern African cities characterised by a heavy-drinking culture that tends to manifest itself in the form of shebeens (illicit African drinking houses) . Many such cities have well-known histories of colonial regulation that aimed to control alcohol production and consumption around African townships. This article analyses another socio-political trajectory that has been unfolding in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe's second city, which is known for its widespread shebeen operations. Since independence in 1980, politicians and a range of civic/residents' associations in the city have campaigned for the legalisation of shebeens. In particular, shebeens have been defended as necessary to address lack of economic opportunity in the city, as institutions that should be celebrated because of their supportive role during the nationalist era, as offering alternative, more respectable, drinking venues than beer halls for the middle class, and as part of an urban African tradition that should be celebrated in independent Zimbabwe. Some of these leaders have also argued that Matabeleland Province in which Bulawayo is located, which is dominated by the Ndebele-speaking people and other minorities, is being marginalised and sidelined in the allocation of financial resources for development because of ethnic bias and regionalism. This article, based on archival, newspaper and interview sources, argues that these unique campaigns by Bulawayo's politicians are embedded in the intricate politics of regionalism and ethnicity. The shebeen campaigns mask the articulation of broader dissent against both central and local government authorities, who remain opposed to shebeen operations. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.913426


Abstract: As one of South Africa's pioneer professional historians, William Miller Macmillan (18851974) is best remembered as the founder of the 'liberal school' of South African historiography. In his famous trilogy, 'The Cape Colour Question' (1927); 'Bantu, Boer and Briton: the Making of the South African Native Problem (1929); and 'Complex South Africa' (1930), he stressed the notion that the different races in South Africa constituted a single society. But he is also important for beginning the teaching of history at two of South Africa's English-medium universities, Rhodes and Wits, and for giving that teaching a strong European bias, which long survived him. The Department of History at Wits was his creation, and despite a brief reaction under his immediate successor, Professor Leo Fouché, the direction he gave it proved enduring. His contribution to South African historiography together with his inspirational teaching at Wits were cut short in 1933 when he resigned while on sabbatical in Britain, never to return to South
Africa on a long-term basis and never to find another academic home as a historian. In his autobiography Macmillan suggests there were two primary reasons for his resignation. The first was work related, that he was tiring of teaching and wished to focus on his research and writing. The second was political, that the University's leadership had been unsettled by his role as a public intellectual critical of government policy, and sought to silence him. This paper establishes that there was a third major reason, relating to his personal life. It indicates that the University's leadership likewise found his friendship, as a married man, with the young Mona Tweedie, daughter of the British Vice-Admiral in Simonstown, unsettling. The University's disquiet on the personal as well as the political fronts were central to Macmillan's decision to resign. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Current discourse on the fast-track land reform programme in Zimbabwe has addressed the increase in biofuel production, which has been pioneered by different State and non-State actors. This has led to debates about understanding who wields more power in terms of the regulation of the agro-based fuel industry at a time of land redistributive reforms in the country. Little attention, however, has been given to the issue of water resources in the current biofuel production projects. By examining the large-scale production of jatropha and sugar cane in Chisumbanje and Mwenezi districts in Zimbabwe, the authors unravel how the new investors have accumulated land and water resources. They analyse how this leads to water competition between the communities, settled in Chisumbanje and Mwenezi, and the new biofuel actors. The following questions are addressed: What is the configuration of the new politics of water and post-land reform in Zimbabwe and how has it been impacted by biofuel production? How has competing water interests impacted principles of the Water Act (1998) in Zimbabwe as biofuel production requires the use of large volumes of water? How are water resources creating conflicts over access and use in these communities? What role do water institutions play in these circumstances? How are different smallholder farmers and new conglomerates sharing water in a tense environment especially after fast-track land reform? On the basis of ethnographic fieldwork in Mwenezi district and archival research in the case of Chisumbanje the paper demonstrates how water dispossession and grabbing by large-scale agricultural corporations is adversely affecting livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2013.868673


Abstract: In 1901, Southern Africa had its first East Coast Fever outbreak which accounted for large cattle losses. As the veterinarians from all over the world worked to understand the disease, new 'unscientific' theories emerged from amongst the settler farmers and in the process added to the confusion that made the development of an effective drug difficult. In Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zimbabwe), this disease led to severe economic losses, both to the government and to the settlers. Drawing on primary sources, this study unpacks the conflicting positions of the settler farmers and the Veterinary Department in Southern Rhodesia over East Coast Fever between1901 and 1920. The study discusses its different conceptualizations by parties to the conflict. It demonstrates the general ignorance that pervaded the territory, both among the farmers and veterinary officials, and how this created a fertile environment for conflicts and, indeed, for the spread of East Coast Fever. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The new scramble for farmlands in Uganda is similar to the colonial practice of allocating productive land for plantation agriculture. This article reviews historical cases of capital accumulation by Asian investors of Indian origin in Uganda, the result of the failure of the dual
economy. The colonial cotton frontier changed into a more lucrative sugar industry. The Metha and Madhvani Groups embarked on large-scale acquisitions of land despite the unfavourable policy environment for foreigners. In general, both Metha and Madhvani incrementally acquired land through (1) purchasing freehold land from other non-Africans, (2) leasing untenanted Crown land directly from the British authority, (3) acquiring 'mailo' land indirectly from African landowners, a practice where 'mailo' land was surrendered as Crown land, and with Governor's consent, the land was regranted leasehold Crown land, (4) exchanging freehold for 'mailo' land with the consent of colonial government and Buganda authority, and (5) entering into yearly agreements with African landowners. The existence of relatively balanced domestic power relations during British colonialism protected the local indigenous population from land alienation. Although a maximum cap of 10,000 acres was institutionalized to limit the amount of land owned by non-Africans, both Metha and Madhvani companies circumvented the cap to acquire more land, an insight not really appreciated in the current land grab discourse. Using economic historical analysis, the article reviews how Metha and Madhvani accumulated more land, and compares this with the current quest for primitive accumulation of 7100 hectares in Mabira Forest Reserve and 40,000 hectares of communal land in Amuru district. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract, edited]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2013.868672

Abstract: The non-profit agency typifies the organizational form for civil society activity and this very fact recommends it as a medium for development processes. This article applies the non-profit organization model to the study of law in development, by identifying ways in which non-profit associations of civil society serve as useful channels for development and describing how the law can enhance their contribution. By combining multidisciplinary perspectives on the role of the non-profit sector with selected law in development approaches, the article also constructs an analytical framework for the study of the legal environment of the non-profit sector in Africa. Furthermore, using illustrations from Africa, it draws out nuanced aspects of non-profit sector activity in the developing world, an exercise which is critical to any effort to redefine law in development scholarship in Africa to include its non-profit sector ally. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: This fifth special issue of 'Language Matters' on language policy is devoted primarily to language in education. All of the studies reported allude to some of the cardinal differences between prescribed language policy, intentional language policy, perceived language policy and realised language policy. Although these differences may not necessarily contribute to cultivating language discontent, the findings suggest that in reality, this stage may already have been reached in many cases. Contributions: Language mapping for education policy realisation from below (Michelle Oliver); 'Declaration without implementation': an investigation into the progress made and challenges faced in implementing the Wits language policy (Emure Masoke-Kadenge and Maxwell Kadenge); A bilingual (Bemba/English) teaching resource: realising agency from below through teaching materials designed to challenge the hegemony of English (Joseph Mwelwa and Brenda Spencer); A situational analysis of the use of sign language in the education of the Deaf in Zambia: a case of Magwero and St Joseph's schools for the Deaf (Mildred Nkolola-Wakumelo and Mulonda Manyando); Divided loyalties: Zulu vis-à-vis English at the University of KwaZulu Natal (Stephanie Rudwick and Andrea Parmegiani); The educational effects of code-switching in the classroom - benefits and setbacks: a case of selected senior secondary schools in Botswana (Tsaona Mokgwathi and Vic Webb); Language conflict and change in language visibility in South Africa's Free State Province number plate case (Theodorus du Plessis). [ASC Leiden abstract]
Zambia’s writing in English (which casts it as aesthetically sub-standard and ‘underdeveloped’), by recasting it as the embodiment of a local literariness of crisis. For much of its history, written literary texts from Zambia have been produced by a tiny cultural elite, which was prevented (by economic and political circumstances) from specialising in, or professionalising, the practice of producing English-language literature. Furthermore, the economic, political and cultural determinants of Zambia’s decolonisation and its postcolonial history have given rise to a body of work in which the aesthetic functioning of texts is often integrated with pronounced non-aesthetic functionality. This is to say that, in this part of south-eastern Africa, the presence of nationalist pedagogy in literary works produced immediately after independence (which will surprise no one) frequently shades into other kinds of pragmatism, which may entail religious and spiritual moralism - and that this kind of literariness continues today, when Pentecostal Christianity exerts a strong influence on all kinds of local texts and meanings. Relying in part on terminologies related to world literature and new cosmopolitanisms, the author argues that such texts should, nevertheless, be regarded as participating in a specifically shaped system of literariness and literary value. The author illustrates his argument with readings of strategically selected moments in the history of Zambian fiction in English: the path-breaking work of Lusaka’s New Writers’ Group and novels by Dominic Mulaisho and Grieve Sibale. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: The paper examines Ethiopia’s programme of large-scale land investments with special emphasis on the rapid expansion of these investments between 2008 and 2011 when huge tracts of agricultural land were leased out to foreign and domestic investors over a short period of time. It is estimated that the total land ceded to investors from the mid-1990s to the end of 2011 may be in the order of 3-3.5 million hectares. The author presents a discussion of the programme in the context of the government’s grand strategy of State-led development, followed by an examination of the serious difficulties the programme is presently facing. State-led development is characterized by emphasis on large-scale public investment and huge public debt which has damaging implications for people’s livelihoods and has led to a non-inclusive and skewed growth path. Land investment, it is argued, is one among a number of public sector initiatives meant to enhance the country’s export market and contribute to the growing demand for State accumulation. The real needs of the country, on the other hand, are poverty reduction and food security which the programme does not address to any significant degree. Criticism of the land investment programme must focus not merely on issues of inadequate governance and lack of management capacity, but rather on fundamental issues of policy choice and principles. State-led development enhances the power of the State and exacerbates the vulnerabilities of small producers in the rural areas whose lands are increasingly being threatened by expropriation. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: Since the South African police killed 34 strikers in Marikana in August 2012, labour unrest has continued across the country’s mining sector. The continuing labour unrest represents the most significant internal crisis that has faced the Tripartite Alliance composed of the ANC, COSATU, and the South African Communist Party (SACP) since it came to power twenty years ago. This briefing begins by discussing the 2012 mining strikes when workers demanded major wage increases and rejected the intermediation of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), aligned with the ANC to demonstrate the complexity of the challenge faced by the NUM, as well as by unions in the Tripartite Alliance. It argues that beyond some degree of spontaneity on the part of the strikers, what made the strikes such an enduring challenge was that they were organized through and by the AMCU, the more recent and militant Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union. The fall of the NUM in the platinum sector is contextualized in the framework of post-apartheid labour relations that failed to transform and pacify a racially
segregated industry. Ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]
http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/128.short

Abstract: Urban poverty in southern Africa is a multi-dimensional issue comprising both deeply rooted historical factors expressed in the built environments of cities and contemporary factors related to ongoing political and economic changes. The tension between states and street vendors throughout southern Africa is part of a perennial struggle for the use of urban space. For many low-income urban people, vending provides crucial resources, both in terms of household income and the distribution of basic goods through informal networks. This article focuses on the consequences for urban food security of street vendor evictions in Blantyre in 2006, under Operation Dongosolo. Dongosolo reshaped the geographies of where people could buy food and where they could earn a living. It re-established the primacy of formal-sector businesses and middle-class lifestyles, which served both contingent political purposes and long-standing expectations of what urban space should look like. The author elaborates on three factors that led to Dongosolo: problems with the decentralisation process and the implementation of local democratic institutions; the formation of the Democratic People's Party (DPP) as the governing party and the associated shift in patronage networks; and the cultural attitude that the poor do not belong in the city. Close reading of the causal factors and consequences of Dongosolo for the urban poor demonstrates the structural nature of urban poverty in Malawi, which is embedded in local debates over the purpose of cities. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.913425

Abstract: Since the discovery of the Jubilee oil field in the Gulf of Guinea in 2007, Ghana has emerged as an oil-rich nation and emerging exporter of high-quality crude oil. Simultaneously the energy supplies available to Ghanaian citizens in everyday life have become increasingly unreliable, marked by persistent rolling blackouts. This article seeks to understand the complex relationship that has developed between Ghana and China, to illuminate Ghanaian perspectives on their energy needs, and to investigate how energy has become entangled in national politics and bilateral relations between Ghana and China. Bibliogr., notes, ref., sum. in English and French. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.8

Abstract: This article reviews the literature on resistance in South Africa's African townships that emerged in response to the township insurgencies of the 1980s and early 1990s. It focuses on two bodies of writing: the literature that chronicled the revolt as it unfolded on the one hand, and the historical literature that explored township politics and culture during the first half of the twentieth century on the other. It evaluates these writings' strengths and points to the inevitable gaps and blind spots. It also highlights the disjunctures that existed between the two. The current wave of historical writing on South Africa's liberation struggle as well as the reassertion of township-based resistance and of township history gives this survey a particular salience. The article argues for the need for both a 'joined-up' liberation history that gives due place to the township-based rebellions (as opposed to one that is subordinated to that of the exiled ANC in contemporary public history) and one that recognizes the deeper roots of, and continuities with, earlier phases of township resistance and rebellion. It also considers this body of writing in the light of subsequent critiques of the resistance paradigm and the social history approach that dominated the study of townships in the 1980s. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

Abstract: In the wake of US President Obama's re-election in November 2012, the African
Studies Association and the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars organized a joint plenary session to assess the evolution of USAfrica policies during Obama's first term and to anticipate future trajectories. Three panelists at that session contributed their remarks to this ASR Forum. Paul Tiyambe Zeleza (p. 165) contrasts the euphoria that greeted Obama's first election with the disillusionment that emerged as it became clear that inconsistencies and hypocrisies in USAfrica policies would continue as long as those policies were rooted in imperial power and the paramountcy of US interests. Abdi Ismael Samatar (p. 179) notes that much of the euphoria that emerged from the 2008 presidential election was misplaced. He argues that Obama's inherited economic depression and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan severely limited his ability to enact progressive Africa policies. Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja (p. 185) criticizes the Obama administration's hypocrisy and double standards when dealing with Africa and its failure to support democratic forces on the continent. He focuses especially on the implications of the second Obama administration on the Great Lakes Region. Bibliogr., notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/asr.2013.47

Abstract: Resource grabs, particularly land and water grabs, can be a proxy for geopolitical influence. As such, 'grabs' become intertwined in international power relations and the competing collective goals and State priorities of economic development, poverty elimination, ecosystem management, energy, self-sufficiency, and food supply stability. African land has become the most appealing and vulnerable to acquisition. In this article the authors analyse investor actions in Africa by South Africa to explain how regional and global geopolitics are fostering a 'new' scramble for natural resources on the African continent. This south-south geopolitical concern examines South Africa's investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo, and Lesotho. The authors argue that 'grabbing' is often not the foremost factor in south-south relations and, as such, is an inadequate basis for exploring the role of domestic capital and government investment corporations. They contend that grabbing is not only about food, finances, energy, or even water itself, but also about geopolitical influence. Land and water resource acquisition become intertwined in international power relations and the competing goals of State priorities. The article uses an International Relations framework to analyse these complex relationships. Its central argument is that countries with limited arable land 'securitize' their food supply and seek ways to increase the supply of food and sources of 'virtual' water by targeting 'easy targets' for resource imperialism, such as weak States. Bibliogr., notes, sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2013.868669

Abstract: To understand the politics of initiation ceremonies, this article discusses bojale, a traditional rite of passage among the Bakgatla-baga-Kgafela people of Botswana, through which a girl enters bosadi (womanhood). The author focuses on her experiences as an initiate and participant observer in the 2009 ceremony. Bojale has changed from a puberty rite limited to unmarried girls nearing first menarche into an initiation rite for females of any age and status, whether married or unmarried, with children or without. Despite bojale's overt purpose of preparing initiates for womanhood, as echoed in bojale songs, the author argues that its recent revival among the Bakgatla-baga-Kgafela follows a pattern indicative of 'transient culture' determined by the needs of the paramount chief. The women who have experienced initiation together join a regiment, a social organisation that becomes the chief's practical and symbolic socio-political base. Both revival and abandonment are triggered by royal-related factors and events, in a pattern of repetitive transiency. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03057070.2014.913424

Abstract: This article analyses the (mal)functioning of the South African State’s administrative machinery under the Second World War government of General Smuts, focusing on opposition to the war policy within the police. Prime Minister Jan Smuts controlled a small pro-war parliamentary majority, but he was assailed both by constitutional opponents and by extra-parliamentary adversaries like the Ossewa-Brandwag. The emphasis here is on the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Colonel J.J. (‘Bill’) Coetzee. The CID had a principal role in producing intelligence and countering subversion, but Coetzee’s actions respecting Axis espionage and South African anti-war republicans raised suspicions about his and the police’s loyalties among his fellow senior civil servants and other Union and Allied intelligence organizations operating in Southern Africa. Drawing on South African, British and American archives, the author examines the evidence against Coetzee and assesses both his motives and those of the domestic and foreign rivals who suspected him. The account shows how Smuts survived in power despite the extent of internal opposition to his government; reveals the complexities particularly of Afrikaners’ conduct in public service during the 1940s; interrogates the historiography of Anglo-South African intelligence relations; and confronts the challenges of establishing the disposition of an individual like Coetzee while relying predominantly on the untested views of his friends and foes. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: In the wake of a return to relative peace in the Acholi region, northern Uganda, since 2006, land matters have taken centre stage. After having been displaced into camps for many years, people have started to go back home. Their return is complicated by many factors, including above all, land disputes. While the Ugandan constitution and land legislation protects customary tenure, the social and economic institutions that uphold this tenure regime have been severely weakened as a result of war and displacement. The combination of demographic changes following large-scale displacement and gradual return, social and economic conflicts emanating from poverty for the majority of the population and accumulation by a few, uncertain territorial demarcations as a result of changing and contested statutory and communal boundaries in the context of weak and subverted regulatory institutions, together deepen conflict over resources. This article analyses these issues by focusing on a case of land acquisition in Amuru, namely a bid by the Madhvani business group to access huge tracts of land in western Acholi for purposes of growing sugar cane. The article examines the heated debates and protests this case has generated, as played out by political representation in different arenas such as the media, courts and representative assemblies. Bibliogr., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14725843.2013.868671


Abstract: This article analyzes the relations established between British trade networks and the Cape Verde archipelago from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries and their impact upon the latter’s insular economic, social, and military structures. Since the sources in Portuguese that relate to this colonial space are quite poor, the article make use of English sources, such as the writings of the privateer William Dampier and the small trader George Roberts. In the early 1570s, English military and naval strategy began to impinge upon Cape Verde. However, conquering Cape Verde was more of a burden than anything else, for which reason no one attempted to achieve this. The British simply wished to wipe out Portuguese and Capeverdean ships and to annihilate the archipelago as both a naval base and as commercial outpost for the Guinean slave trade. From the middle of the sixteenth century to the first decades of the seventeenth, the English came to be seen by royal officials and the Capeverdean population as foreigners, rebels, and thieves. From the first decades of the seventeenth century onwards, Cape Verde lost its
attractiveness and relevance, becoming a silent and minor partner in terms of the major transatlantic axis of the slave trade. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]


Abstract: In 2003 and early 2004 international peacemakers turned a blind eye when violence in Darfur, Sudan, first escalated into civil war. This article addresses the war's brutal beginnings, using a close reading of internal communications, interviews, and public statements to deepen an understanding of the predicament that key peacemakers like the UK and the US found themselves in, and dug themselves into. For a long first year, when the majority of violent deaths in Darfur occurred, peacemakers employed a set of discursive strategies that intentionally depoliticized Darfur's conflict. Despite knowledge to the contrary, peacemakers carefully avoided connections between Darfur and the ongoing north-south peace negotiations they were championing to end Sudan's long second civil war. These ideational moves gave peacemakers a degree of cover for not responding directly to the conflict, but they also shaped the political calculations and opportunities of domestic actors in ways that further enabled armed violence, ultimately leading to policy failure. The problems of peacemaking in Sudan highlight the particular challenges that arise from negotiating peace. Negotiations give words a privileged place in taming the materiality of violence, yet this also leaves peacemakers liable to shaping new trajectories of political violence born out of local dissatisfaction with the prospects for peace. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]

http://afraf.oxfordjournals.org/content/113/450/24.abstract


Abstract: The Atlantic world in the eighteenth century was a multicultural space that experienced intense movements of people, goods and ideas. This article describes the cultural, political and economic interactions between the "Estados do Brazil" and West Central Africa during the second half of the eighteenth century and how these interactions stimulated the development of a culturally mixed society. In this context, Benguela (in present-day Angola) and Rio de Janeiro are presented as the same extended Atlantic territory connected by a particular system of winds and maritime currents, one that allowed for the rise of a community of circulation constantly transiting between its shores. Given the multifaceted character of this community it is difficult to identify its members. They are sometimes labeled "Brazilians" and at other times "Luso-Africans", although many came from Portugal. They assumed different identities while developing their slaving negotiations and their loyalty relied on family connections. As such, the nature of their activities as slave traders in the Atlantic is more important for their classification than either their origin or skin color. Notes, ref. [ASC Leiden abstract]


Abstract: The transnational and global flows of people, ideas and capital across borders inescapably shape and develop people's gendered and sexual meanings, processes and identities. Drawing on our extended fieldwork, including interviews and participant observation in different social spaces, the authors seek to examine the negotiation and contestation of gendered and sexual identities among Zimbabwean migrants in Britain. Within transnational diaspora communities, women's bodies and their sexualities are not only symbols of homeland traditions, and cultural markers that distinguish migrants from the indigenous population, they are also sites of ideological and material struggles between different social actors. As Zimbabwean patriarchal traditions compete with liberal and egalitarian values in Britain, the diaspora becomes a site of cultural conflict. Empirical evidence suggests that, within the diaspora, sexuality has been decoupled from traditional marriage and is often expressed in non-normative sexual relationships. The authors illustrate how the boundaries of gendered practices and sexual behaviours deemed 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable', 'good' and 'bad' also seem to be shifting. Notes, ref., sum.

Abstract: In its 2008 World Development Report, the World Bank pleaded for a 'Green Revolution' for sub-Saharan Africa, pointing particularly to the importance of including smallholder farmers. This article focuses on the banana cropping system in Rwanda, and on the agricultural innovations introduced within this system. The authors first consider macro-level innovations that are designed to promote a modernized agricultural sector and that correspond to the rationale of the Green Revolution. They analyse how such ‘top-down’ innovations are received on the ground and show how smallholders seek to evade new government policies when they fail to reflect local economic and social realities. This demonstrates how some rural Rwandans are challenging the authority of the government in disguised ways in order to protect their local livelihoods. The Rwandan experience should inspire continent-wide Green Revolution policies to take account of the risk-coping rationale of small-scale farmers and their capacity to innovate ‘from below’.


Abstract: A solid stream of cases have been submitted to the quasi-judicial and judicial treaty monitoring bodies making up the African regional human rights system, namely the African Commission, the African Children’s Rights Committee and the African Human Rights Court, and also to sub-regional courts in Africa. Allowing ‘amicus curiae’ [literally 'friend of the court'; someone who is not a party to a case, who offers information that bears on the case but who has not been solicited by any of the parties to assist a court] briefs to supplement the parties' pleadings can enhance the soundness of the factual and legal findings of these bodies, especially given their institutional and practical constraints. Thus far, the use of ‘amicus curiae’ interventions before the African regional human rights bodies has been negligible. In order to ensure greater participation by ‘amici’, this article suggests that the possibility of ‘amicus’ intervention should be unequivocally provided for under each of the applicable legal regimes, that the grounds for accepting or rejecting interventions should be clearly articulated, and that access to information about pending cases should be provided routinely.


Abstract: The sudden collapse of Mali’s democracy in 2012 revealed the fragility of the State’s legitimacy and authority. This article argues that the decay of democracy was linked to the weakness of the country's legislature. Malian MPs collectively failed to scrutinize an increasingly discredited executive and parliamentarians typically operated in isolation from the vast majority of citizens. As a result, rising levels of popular discontent were rarely channelled into the formal political process, and the interests that did enter the political arena were largely restricted to the personal support networks and electoral constituencies of individual MPs. The prevalence of these particularistic interests undermined collective parliamentary scrutiny of matters of national interest. By demonstrating the link between these failures and the collapse of Mali’s democracy, this article contributes to the expanding body of literature examining the limited role of African parliaments in processes of democratic consolidation. In doing so it confirms the challenges that executive dominance poses to democratization, while highlighting the importance of representative legislatures to Africa's democracies.

Abstract: Cet article revient sur le rôle de la France dans le putsch de Seyni Kountché au Niger (1974), qui conduit à la chute du président Hamani Diori. La France fut suspectée d'être impliquée dans ce putsch parce qu'elle avait eu des désaccords avec Diori. L'article analyse cet événement en s'appuyant sur les archives de Jacques Foccart, Secrétaire général des affaires africaines et malgaches, jamais consultées à ce jour. Il montre que non seulement la France n'a pas été impliquée dans le putsch, mais qu'elle fut prise au dépourvu par le coup de Kountché. La France mit même sur pied, dans les jours qui suivirent le putsch, une opération aéroportée destinée à sauver Diori. Baptisée 'Plan Somme', cette opération fut annulée, face au fait accompli à Niamey, et du fait de la situation d'interrègne à Paris après le décès du président Pompidou, intervenu quelques jours avant le putsch. L'évènement est replacé dans le contexte des liens changeants entre la France et le Niger, dans celui des réactions des Nigériens face au changement de régime, et plus largement dans les vicissitudes de la politique africaine de la France. Notes, réf., rés. en anglais et en français. [Résumé extrait de la revue]


Abstract: This article starts with a hanging and ends with the passing of a colony. It uses the first judicial public execution in King William's Town in British Kaffraria (Eastern Cape, South Africa) in 1858 to explore how colonial processes played themselves out at local level. British authority was imposed in the area for the second time in December 1847, towards the end of the War of the Axe. Born out of war, British Kaffraria relied on military force as the basis for subjugating and controlling the Xhosa for most of its existence. The article examines three interrelated themes: the ad hoc nature of the establishment of colonial hegemony in British Kaffraria, especially with regard to the administration of law in dealing with 'grave' crimes; how the influx of white settlers, particularly German mercenaries, placed pressure on the rudimentary colonial legal system and resulted in further improvised measures to deal with them; and how efforts to establish more substantial institutions of government and attempts to foster a sense of Kaffrarian identity ultimately foundered on the incorporation of British Kaffraria into the Cape Colony. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]


Abstract: For various humanitarian, religious, and material reasons, nineteenth-century Cape liberals of South Africa were renowned for progressive views on African rights. Typically, historians have excluded James Sivewright (1848-1916), who advanced communications technology, industry, politics and diplomacy in South Africa from 1878 to 1898, from the Cape liberal tradition. This article examines the historiography of the Cape liberal tradition, its relationship to Marxist historiography of South Africa, and Sivewright's notorious life in South Africa and Scotland, arguing that this poorly understood Scot should be placed in the liberal company of both his old friend, John X. Merriman, and his personally hostile colleague, James Rose Innes. It examines the political actions of powerful Cape liberals in comparative perspective during the apex of their shared political careers within three areas of contention regarding African rights: the Masters and Servants Act Amendment Bill (1890), the Cape Franchise and Ballot Act (1892), and the Glen Grey Act (1894), Rhodes's 'Native Bill for Africa'. Sivewright's life in South Africa is also explored more generally in comparative perspective with Scots in major parts of the British Empire, arguing that Sivewright not only deserves to be included as a progressive within the Cape liberal tradition, he also belongs among global Scots who made significant contributions to the creation and maintenance of the British Empire. Notes, ref., sum. [Journal abstract]