

war in Southern Africa would suit neither super-power, and for that reason an eventual negotiation is likely to be forced on Pretoria. Yet no one should underestimate the length of time for which Pretoria can delay transition, nor the ability of South Africa's elites to use the gold to buy allies abroad.

Consider Danaher's conclusion:

"A foreign policy for the future must seek to be a majority policy: strengthening US ties to workers and peasants, not the generals, politicians and big businessmen who are the main beneficiaries of US policy. Abandoning a foreign policy that hitches the US star to elite groups around the world will require a domestic restructuring of the Pentagon, the CIA, transnational corporations and the other powerful institutions that have locked us into a foreign policy that favours minority rule" (p49).

If Danaher knows how to restructure the Pentagon, the CIA and the largest business corporations in the world so that United States ties to South African workers and peasants are strengthened, he has not told us. Nevertheless, his hyperbole is not entirely intolerable, given the clarity of his earlier text, and given the strong likelihood that there will be some mechanism, orchestrated by both superpowers, whereby apartheid is eventually ended.

Reviewed by Renfrew Christie, University of Cape Town, Cape Town.

Multinational Joint Ventures in Developing Countries, Paul W Beamish, Routledge, London, 1988 (145pp, £27.50 hbk).

Investment by multinational corporations (MNC) in 'less developed countries' has often been seen as a primary means of bringing capital, technology and technical skills into these countries. The effects of such investments, proponents argue, is to support government import substitution policies and to create employment (advantages for the host country) and as a means of obtaining access to foreign markets (advantage to MNC). Critics of multinational corporation investment show how their power (based on size, number of countries they operate in, and wealth - some MNCs have annual turnovers greater than national incomes of the developing countries they operate in) allows them to override the sovereignty of governments, and to distort their social and economic policies. In the end, of course, the aim of the MNC is to increase its profitability.

The questions of capital development, technological advance and industrialisation are of course fundamentally important. For economic and social development to occur - for people's incomes, living standards and social wellbeing to improve - national wealth must increase and national productive capacity must grow. But it must be seriously questioned whether the sacrifices in national sovereignty, in particular of economic policy-setting by true representatives of national interests, are worth making for the minor gains that accrue from multinationals. Surely more important are serious efforts to tap and direct national sources of capital and to mobilise and motivate national initiative and creativity.

This book by Paul Beamish does not, in fact, contribute much to a progressive discussion of strategies for economic development in the 'less developed countries'. Looking as it does, in a rather dry and academic, and occasionally turgid way, at equity joint ventures between American or European multinationals and private companies in LDCs, it is based on a presupposition that such joint ventures "speed up international development". Joint ventures involving direct participation of governments of LDCs are not considered, a fact which makes the book not very relevant in Africa. Though there is an interesting section on the experiences surrounding joint venture exploration with China between 1979 and 1986, it is certainly of more relevance to executives of MNCs thinking about setting up such structures and relationships, than for policy setters or analysts in the Third World.

Of course, if in Zimbabwe the trade liberalisation now underway, and the long awaited and still 'expected shortly' investment code, so direct, the book might become relevant here, but only in

boardrooms of local companies that might go into joint ventures, and for those critics who would be against selling out the nation.

Reviewed by John Stewart, Harare.

Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa 1880-1985, Patrick Manning, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1988 (xii, 215pp, £8.95 pbk, £25 hbk).

This book surveys French-speaking Africa from the southern border of Morocco (Mauritania) in the north-west to Zaire on the northern borders of Zambia to the south-east - an area covering some 40 percent of the African continent. The importance of the subject is obvious - 17 nations with over 100 million people.

The book will be useful to students because the most-up-to-date surveys by Coquery-Vidrovitch are in French and the books available in English (such as those of Brunnchwig and Hargreaves) are over twenty years old. Having said this, however, the reviewer must point out that Manning's book is not easy to follow for the uninitiated reader. No clear chronology emerges and the way in which the individual French colonies were acquired is not made clear. The approach is thematic and the style allusive and therefore requires not a little preexisting knowledge. One also wonders whether the French language, 'Francophonie', does give the subject real coherence, as the Belgian colonies of Congo (Zaire), Rwanda and Burundi had little history in common with the French Empire in Africa, whereas Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia had close contacts and similarities.

Nevertheless some broad themes do stand out, particularly in contrast to the development of English-speaking Africa, for example the French preference for direct rule rather than Britain's indirect approach, and 'federations' ruled from Dakar and Brazzaville - successfully equalled in British Africa only by white-settler South Africa. The French 'federations' have disappeared, of course, with the granting of independence but great similarities (in law and government) and cohesion (in currency management) remain, more so than the former British colonies share.

For such comparisons and ideas Manning's book is to be recommended.

Reviewed by R S Roberts, Dept of History, University of Zimbabwe, Harare.