

it will become less important in political maneuverings in future. He discusses the manifestations of conflict and their effect on the overall situation. For example, in relation to the consumer boycotts he says "One of the most important effects of the boycotts was that a new politics of negotiation emerged". Throughout the book, Van der Merwe distinguishes between aspects of conflict and violence, and shows some of the very positive aspects of conflict, how they have been used, and can be used, to bring about real change. He shows quite clearly that conflict will always be there, but that it can be positive and should be harnessed to produce positive change.

Being deeply Christian himself, the author examines the attitude of the Christian churches to the struggle, and the part they play in it. He also underlines the increasing conflict within the Christian conscience concerning the legitimacy of the use of violence in the conflict. "Church leaders are by no means unanimous on the issue of violence and its relationship with liberation. But it is clear that support for the just revolution view will grow. As it does, state-church conflict will escalate".

Seldom is one able to find in one publication such an in-depth study of the unhappy situation in South Africa, in so concise a form. The author not only describes the complex problems faced by the country, but also offers concrete suggestions for their solution. The final sentence in the book reads "Our present task is to work towards constructive accommodation of conflict in our continuing pursuit of justice and peace. I have argued that this is indeed much more likely than popularly perceived". I believe this to be true. As the author suggests in his preface, this is not a source book on South Africa, but, in my view, it is a text book on the conflict in that country which should be considered required reading by those who share the author's hope and faith in the future.

Reviewed by Mjchael Auret, Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, Harare, Zimbabwe.

**Visions for the Future: Social Work and Pacific-Asian Perspectives**, Daniel S Sanders and Joel Fischer, University of Hawaii School of Social Work, Hawaii, 1988 (186pp, price not given).

The first chapter slaps you in the face with a forthright challenge to the American psyche to consider their sins of omission and commission. These sins, together with abuse of wealth and power, bring untold misery to millions the world over, and missed opportunities to many American children, especially in the lower classes. The former Attorney-General of the United States of America, Ramsey Clarke, shoots from the hip as he says "I will ask you what prospects you see for a nation that participates in an arms race that is the greatest crime against humanity in history, contributing to it more annually than is available for the sustenance of 60% of the earth's population" (p4). It is from the first chapter that one identifies the feeling of the whole book.

The book is an outcome of a workshop, held in Hawaii, to consider the issues of social work and social justice in the Pacific-Asian region. However, its content has a universal applicability that makes the book both a prophetic message for the future and a scientific guide for the practitioner - the latter being most clear in chapters 3, 5, 6, 9 and 20 which give actual intervention strategies that have been tried out in Hawaii and adjoining areas.

**Visions for the Future** is divided into 14 chapters, organised in 4 parts. The first part is an overview of the burning issues in social work, now and tomorrow, and builds up a perspective that puts the remaining three parts, which deal with families and children, the elderly and employment, and income security, into one mould. Different as the subjects might sound the book manages to successfully show the differential application of justice and social policy in the United States, and how the questions of ethics and private interest continue to fuel inequality and distort social service provision. The book considers these issues in the US context, and in terms of how they impact on the Pacific-Asian region

as a whole. This region is defined as the South Pacific Islands, the island chains which make up Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Australia and New Zealand, the US Pacific insular jurisdictions, and South, Southeast, and North East Asia - ranging from "impoverished Bangladesh to the awakening giant China and to technologically advanced Japan". One is tempted to wonder if the workshop from which the book came attempted too much in trying to cover so wide and diverse an area.

However, the general relevance and applicability of the subjects, and the information and recommendations, make the book a good reference book for social work education, including casework, family work, community work, social administration, socioeconomics and the use of cross-cultural research. The book is quite interesting to read and brings a vibrant pulse to the field of social work and politics. This makes the book relevant not only to the Pacific-Asian region but also to the Third World in general and to anybody with a sympathy for social justice.

The book begins on a light informal note that is both appetising and informing; with Ramsey Clarke haranguing the reader with such anecdotes as "There was an Oklahoman - I come from Texas - who said that man shifted his ideology from cannibalism to capitalism when he discovered that it is more profitable to exploit your neighbour than to eat him."

As you get into Chapter 2, which considers "Futuristic Considerations in Social Work", more specific implications for social work practice are highlighted, viz the development of a "more holistic, broad-based approach", "change from a remedial to a developmental perspective", "introducing an international/cross-cultural perspective in social work", putting "greater emphasis on interdisciplinary efforts", developing "closer linkages between research and practice", and putting "emphasis on ethical considerations in policy development and practice".

The chapters on family work, children and the elderly get down to the basics of social work. They ask the basic ethical questions of children in foster care and the children of poor families, and their future in a nation "that prioritises guns over human life".

The elderly are considered a major area of work for social work and caregiving in the future Pacific-Asian region. Thus the book gives timely advice on the need to indigenise meanings and approaches to the concepts of "aging, health, illness, trouble and help", and to meet the gap between client needs and service delivery, especially in ethnically plural communities. Also important is the need to close intergenerational gaps and to create special programmes for what are referred to in the book as "geriatric orphans", usually "single males with minimal education or skill training [who have] lost their ties with their families".

The last section on employment and income security looks at the real issues and root causes of the problems highlighted earlier. Midgely, in Chapter 11, raises a lot of questions and issues on the elusive subject of social security, but leaves the subject as open-ended as it currently is. The last chapter is more specific and pedantic, taking up the impact of Reagan's policies on US poverty, employment and income security. This chapter argues about the way "advanced capitalism" thrives on "racist policies", whether overtly or covertly. Concluding the book on the race issue leaves one asking questions about the role of social work in this problem.

Visions for the Future certainly advocates a new form of social work, but it is perhaps not bold enough to bring out any radical new directions that diverge from current community development and so-called "participatory approaches" that are designed for the people *without* them. The book skirts over the real issues of the impact of US imperialism in the Pacific-Asian region, and thus skirts with socioeconomic analysis, leaving a lot of questions unanswered. In other words the book sometimes sounds naively objective, for example where it makes blanket comments on the Pacific-Asian region without making a purposive stand for the poor. Thus oil-rich Brunei with a per capita income in excess of US\$20 000 is covered together with Vanuatu and Tonga with per-capita incomes between US\$30 and \$500.

These last comments should not detract too much from this invaluable work of goodwill. They are meant to show the other side of an otherwise excellent piece of work, that would be invaluable for

students, practitioners or scholars in social work. Available in paperback, it should be reasonably affordable. The printing is perfect and the references immense.

Reviewed by Tapiwanashe Vengai, Glen Forest Training Centre, Harare.

**Adolescent Mothers in Later Life**, Frank F Furstenberge Jr., J Brooks- Gunn, and S Philip Morgan, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1987 (xiv +204pp, US\$29,95 hbk).

**Adolescent Mothers in Later Life** is a longitudinal follow up study of the original Baltimore research described in **Unplanned Parenthood - the Social Consequences of Teenage Childbearing** (1976, and referred to in this publication). The original research studied between 300 - 400 mostly unmarried teenagers, over a 5 year period, who had sought prenatal services in the mid 60's, most of whom were black low income females in their mid teens. The groups' experiences were then compared, in areas such as education, occupation, income, fertility, and marital decisions, with their classmates who had delayed child bearing.

The follow up, carried out in 1983-84, looked at the life courses of over 300 families over three generations, and intended to produce results useful for policy makers and practitioners concerned with the issue of teenage motherhood and its role in the maintenance of an underclass in society. The study also explores the interconnection between a mother's life decisions and her children's 'life course trajectories'.

While in many countries today there is increasing concern over the issue of single mothers and school girl pregnancies, the authors point out that teenage child bearing was never uncommon in the US, although only in the mid-twentieth century did a substantial percentage marry and have children. The prevalence of early parenthood in 1950's, for example, was far more common than today, with nearly half of all women marrying in their teens and a quarter having a first child before 20. However, by 1970 adolescent pregnancy had suddenly emerged as a 'social problem' and increasingly gained wide public concern into the 80's.

The authors see this shift in public attitudes as largely a longstanding demographic change, with adult fertility taking a dramatic plunge (as a result of contraception, easier legislation on abortion, etc) not seen in teenage pregnancy. In addition, with the ascendancy of the marriage age in the 60's, there was a growing number of teenage births to unmarried women. The shift from early to late marriage patterns is partly explained by changing economic opportunities, the doubling of unemployment between the '60s and '70s, and the viability of early marriage. Higher education also began to be seen as the vital ticket to the labour market.

Black families in particular experienced the most dramatic change, with marriage among teenage blacks virtually disappearing over the last two decades. However, rather than being viewed as a black trend, this is now seen as a pace setter for the larger population with the major difference between early child bearing in the past and present, teenage fertility, now occurring outside marriage. With early marriage in any case failing to survive, children of teenage mothers also have a far higher probability of living in single parent families.

The original Baltimore study highlighted the struggle of early parenting both for the mothers and children involved, with the majority of participants seemingly destined to live a life of social and economic disadvantage. This book, however, tries hard (perhaps too hard) to disprove the stereotype of the inevitable poverty cycle, and reliance on welfare, of teenage mother. There is, however, little evidence of the "remarkable and surprising results" of the study in respect of longstanding adaptation to early parenthood, heralded in the inside book cover. Rather, while the stereotype may be exaggerated, the evidence found it not wholly wrong. While still well below their counterparts, many were better off