

Commodity-based extension is dealt with in Chapters 2 and 3, using the examples of the cash crops cotton and tobacco. In both cases the approach is top-down and the extensionists provide all the necessary resources. The next set of chapters are an exposition of the training and visit system. In Chapter 4, the editor argues in support of this system, but both sides of the case are well-presented. In Chapter 5, Gentil raises a number of questions on the T and V system, and a case study is provided.

Chapters 7 and 8 discuss, elaborately, farmer participatory extension methodologies, and Belloncle proposes group instruction. Chapter 9 is a case study of a Village Producers Association in Mali. The theory behind farming system research and on farm research is given in Chapter 10. Chapter 11 is a case study of farming systems research in Senegal. Morris discusses the merits and demerits of T and V and the farming system research methodologies under East African conditions in Chapter 12. He concludes that the two systems are complementary and are useful in the generation and dissemination of technology. In Chapter 13 the economic return on public investment in extension reforms is considered, and the management of field personnel is discussed. The final chapter, Chapter 14, is a review of issues in extension that require continuous attention.

Although each chapter is clearly separated by section breaks and simple language is used, the presentation is marred by a lack of illustrations and other visual aids. Diagrams, pictures and other aids break the monotony of reading print continuously, help reduce the number of words used and enhance comprehension. However, overall, readers, especially academics, will find the book informative, educative and interesting.

Reviewed by Livai Chenjerai Matarirano, Agritex, Harare.

The End of the Third World: New Industrialising Countries and the Decline of an Ideology, Nigel Harris, Penguin, London, 1987 (pp231, £3.95).

In recent months there has been much talk about Zimbabwe trying to join the ranks of the Newly Industrialising Countries (NICs). For those interested in pursuing such a course in this country, Nigel Harris' *The End of the Third World* should be required reading.

The NICs are a group of Third World countries which have transformed their economies over the last two decades. Starting out as mainly primary producers they have moved to the production and export of a wide range of goods. There is little argument amongst economists that such transformations have taken place in the six countries studied by Harris: South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Brazil and Mexico. Indeed the rate of increase in production in these nations has been prolific. South Korea, for instance, advanced from a minuscule builder of ships (20 000 tons per year in the 1960's) to a 23% share of the world market by 1983 (4 million tons). Taiwan, which like South Korea oriented its economy toward exports, organised a sophisticated electronics industry which by 1982 made the Taiwanese the leading Third World electronics manufacturer. The city-states of Hong Kong and Singapore, as well as the two Latin American giants Brazil and Mexico, underwent similar changes to become large-scale exporters of goods ranging from textiles and office machinery to weapons' systems.

The conclusions which economists have drawn from the advances made by these NICs vary widely. Conservative 'liberalisers' have been quick to praise the new industrial might of these countries as a success for free market forces. They view countries like Taiwan and South Korea as the first wave of a successful capitalist future for the underdeveloped world. This is certainly the prevailing view amongst international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank.

As a Marxist, Harris dissents from this analysis. He details how history and international economic conditions were on the side of these NICs. His first point is that none of the countries noted are really 'new' industrialisers. By as early as 1950 all had success in some industrial fields. Their expertise and technology were at a level far above most underdeveloped countries when they began rapid expansion.

Even more importantly, the NICs growth took place at a time when the developed world was experiencing a boom. In the late 60's and early 70's Western powers were receptive to the importation of goods produced in places like Taiwan and Singapore. In addition, multinational banks were eager to finance overseas ventures. But, in Harris's view, all this has changed. Since the mid-1970's global capitalism, except for Japan, has somewhat slumped. Western countries now feel the need to protect their own industries. In the wake of mounting world debt, banks and international financial institutions are less willing to gamble on Third World enterprises. Thus the possibility for other countries to follow the path of the NICs seems somewhat remote.

Besides showing the limited chances for NIC style growth in the future, Harris details how the newly industrialising countries were not based on a free market system at all. According to traditional free market notions the state should play an absolutely minimal role in the economy. Yet during South Korea's expansion period Harris claims the (p42) "state dominated the entire process of growth". The government nationalised the nation's five largest banks and the state controlled two-thirds of investment. Even the Chairperson of Daewoo, one of South Korea's largest corporations, complained that (p42) "the government tells you its your duty and you have to do it, even if there is no profit. Maybe after the year 2000 Korean businessmen will be able to put their company's interests ahead of those of society or government". With similar evidence, Harris concludes that all of the six NICs, with the possible exception of Hong Kong, were "state capitalist" rather than free market economies.

Harris's last and perhaps most relevant point is that NIC type growth must be carried out at the expense of the majority. He alleges (p196): "The aim of the governments of the NICs has been to do all in their power to frustrate the growth of the most modest forms of worker involvement embodied in independent organisation and bargaining." In other words, even if international conditions were favourable, an authoritarian state prepared to suppress moves to democratise the economic system is an integral part of NIC type growth. As Harris puts it (p195): "A regime whose main instrument to enforce conformity is terror for the majority and bribes for the few can keep up an impressive rate of growth of crude output regardless of what the workforce thinks". Only in such a state can the type of low wages and industrial revolution style labour conditions, such as those found in South Korea or Mexico, be sustained.

As an advocate of democratic socialism Harris does not see the NIC model to be of benefit to the workers of underdeveloped countries. While he does argue that the NICs have changed the structure of their economies so that they can no longer be considered to be 'Third World', these changes have, in his view, merely brought new problems, not prosperity, to workers in the NICs. For Harris the only salvation for the majority of citizens in underdeveloped nations lies in the development of some type of international working class solidarity. The NICs blossomed in a period where technology, particularly in transport and telecommunications, gave multinational corporations the option of producing where labour costs were lowest. Frequently this meant relocation of factories from North America and Western Europe to cheap labour areas in underdeveloped nations. Foremost among these cheap labour areas were the NICs. It was this sort of foreign investment which was a precursor to the rise of locally owned multinationals.

But Harris does not think the future economic expansion of undeveloped countries should rest merely on the super-exploitation of the workforce. He contends that the type of labour exploitation which occurred in these NICs can only be stopped when labour becomes as international in perspective as the multinational corporation employers. No form of local nationalism is enough to deter the rising force of international Capital. Without any powerful international labour organisations, Harris believes multinational corporations will continue to gravitate toward nations where labour is cheapest. The result will be super-exploitation in these nations, and millions of unemployed in other countries whose chief hope for finding a job will rest in underbidding their fellow workers across the globe.

Clearly Harris would be no advocate of trade liberalisation programmes such as Zimbabwe's new Investment Code. Those who are now championing the liberalisation cause locally would do well to consider Harris's points. The author clearly knows his economics. Furthermore, unlike economists in general, and Marxists in particular, he writes in an accessible style that is devoid of rhetoric. His biggest shortcoming is that in offering international labour solidarity as an alternative vision to rapid capital accumulation, his suggestions are not very concrete. Some hints about what type of international labour organisation could effectively serve workers' interests, and how they could develop into a global force, would go a long way towards making his arguments more worthy of serious contemplation as an alternative to the present world dominance of the free market idea.

Reviewed by John Pape, Harare.

Africa and Empire: W M MacMillan, Historian and Social Critic, Hugh MacMillan and Shula Marks, Gower, Aldershot, 1989 (353pp, £29.50).

This fine collection of stimulating essays on Southern African historiography is a trifle over-generous towards its subject, W M MacMillan. His gentle Fabian approach to politics was wholly ineffective in the face of the rapaciousness of those who gave Southern Africa segregation and apartheid while removing the gold. His writings, in retrospect, have not the power of Eddie Roux's *Time Longer Than Rope*, nor the understanding later to be found in Simons's *Class and Colour in South Africa*. One who could write in 1930, when the