

The Feminist Theory, on the other hand, discusses the position of women in terms of social and cultural factors that restrict women's access to the labour market: "*A woman's place is in the kitchen*". The argument is that the reproductive and productive roles of women are inseparable. It is only when men perceive women as equals that a balance can be realised. But while men expect women in employment to fall back on their gender-based social expectations, and continue treating women as sexual objects, then this still remains an issue.

Janet Henshall Momsen discusses and presents in the book ten case studies with personalised stories of women's lives and how they have developed coping strategies in the context of the Third World. She has established that women are central to development; they control most of the non-money market economy through bearing and raising children; they provide labour for the household; provide maintenance and subsistence agriculture. They also contribute to both the formal and informal sector of the economy.

She concludes the book by challenging policy makers by calling for increased opportunities for women so that they can become economically independent.

I recommend the book to students of social work for it would give them an insight into some of the problems that society today faces, and gender differentiation is just but one of them. The book is very informative, educative, interesting and attempts to clarify some of the myths that arise because of women's issues; perhaps the question remains as to whether there should be positive discrimination so as to accord women an equal status. Definitely the problem cannot be isolated to the Third World. It is a global issue and therefore needs a united (global) confrontation.

Reviewed by Agatha Tsitsi Dodo, National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO), Harare.

**The Politics of Africa's Economic Recovery**, Richard Sandbrook, Cambridge University Press, New York, 1993, ISBN: 0-521-41543-8 (h/b), 0-521-42563-8 (p/b), 27,95 pounds (h/b), 10,95 pounds (p/b).

Sandbrook raises the most perplexing and unsettled question of concern to the student of African politics: which is the appropriate development strategy for Africa? Since independence, there has been no agreement on a suitable model of development, hence two predominant ideologies of development were adopted: state-capitalism and (African) socialism. The issue of appropriate development strategy is particularly important because of the current economic crisis in Africa and the need for a model that would overcome the crisis to promote sustainable development. Sandbrook's work is a vivid portrayal of economic hardship in sub-Saharan Africa.

The book contains data for comparative analysis of Africa's economic performance and illustrates that very few countries have been successful while the majority have had dismal records. Sandbrook outlines the link between economic stagnation and state decay. Chapter 2 highlights the failure of both state-capitalist and socialist-oriented models of development adopted in sub-Saharan Africa. His explanation for the failure of both strategies centres on both lack of political will of leaders, and lack of state abilities for initiation and execution of development programmes. He tackles the controversial structural adjustment programmes (SAPs), stating their merits and demerits as well as their flawed or faulty assumptions. He correctly points out that SAPs have not had the intended impact. Citing cases to back-up his arguments, he concludes that overall, SAPs have neither improved the socioeconomic conditions of the poor majority, nor increased production and foreign investment.

More important and illuminating is his valuable assessment of the current strategy of development based on the free market economy and democratisation favoured by the international donor community and embraced by African governments. He dispels the notion that the free market economy and democracy are 'twin panaceas' of Africa's economic and political ills as promoted by such institutions as the World Bank, and cautions the high expectations of African leaders and the people as to the results of such a model of development.

Sandbrook convincingly illustrates that in the short-run the current strategy would help revitalise African economies. However, he is sceptical of its long-run utility. He recommends an alternative strategy called the transformational approach for long-term and viable development. He is critical of the World Bank's inadequate consideration of the global economy's restraints on African development prospects because of its emphasis on domestic hindrances. He emphasises the negative consequences of external dependency on African economies. Therefore, he echoes the radical writings of dependency theorists like Gunder Frank in assigning the prime role to world market forces to explain under-development and the need for re-orientation of Third World economies as well as self-reliance. Sandbrook, however, discusses internal constraints on African development and illustrates inter-relationship between external and internal factors as deterrents on African development. Moreover, he acknowledges that the transformational approach (based on self-reliance, state intervention, mass participation and promotion of people's basic needs), though an alternative to the market economy approach, has not been a success in the past, both at national and regional levels. Therefore, he is cautious of its implementation in the future.

He also takes to task the other assumptions of the free market economy and democratisation strategy of development: the limited role assigned to the state

which he considers faulty because historical experience elsewhere (eg 19th Century Europe – Russia) shows the need for an active developmental state to spearhead economic development. Africa, being underdeveloped, needs an ‘interventionist’ state, not only to initiate productive investment and create a conducive economic environment for prospective investors, but also to provide economic goods to the disadvantaged majority for improved human welfare. He challenges the assumption that democratisation is a sufficient condition for equitable distribution of the fruits of economic liberalisation. He is not at all sure that conditions in Africa are conducive to the sustenance of liberal democracy. He, therefore, brings up the popular concern of whether or not democracy and political stability are feasible in view of the economic hardships experienced by the majority of Africans.

It makes stimulating and easy reading. It is a useful analysis of major problems affecting African development and keeps alive the debate about Africa’s development prospects. It is a must for academics, especially for college and university students of African and International Politics, international aid institutions and political leaders alike.

Reviewed by Prof Kwaku Osei-Hwedie, Senior Lecturer, Department of Political and Administrative Studies University of Botswana, Gaborone.

**Marriage and Family Therapy: a Sociocognitive Approach**, Nathan Hurvitz and Roger A Straus, Haworth Press, New York, 1991, ISBN 1-56024-060-1 hard/1-56024-061-X soft, 229 pp + index, \$29,95 (h/b), \$17,95 (p/b).

*“A revelatory new book, Marriage and Family Therapy is important reading for therapists working with clients of varied social, cultural and economic backgrounds. Drawn upon concepts from sociology and techniques from psychology, this book is the result of the extensive work of the late Dr Nathan Hurvitz. It is rich with transcripts and case examples, culled from the authors’ more than 35 years of practice, providing valuable background information on difficult-to-reach populations. The result, a humanist approach to family problems, as detailed in Marriage and Family Therapy, enables the therapist to cross social, cultural and racial boundaries to work effectively with and make an impact of families whose social characteristics differ greatly from his or her own” (The Haworth Press).*

I unreservedly agree with the press release statement because I found reading this book very pleasurable and refreshing. It is very practical and the clinician is