

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

taken step-by-step through the sociocognitive approach to handling cases. Because it holds a systemic view to therapy, family therapists will find this book very useful. The relabelling of personal problems, not as psychopathology, but as personal limitations, helps the therapist to see the client in a positive light from the beginning.

Dr Hurvitz's crisis management techniques are very practical and also the incorporation of contracts between family members is a very useful technique which many clinicians will find very valuable if they incorporate this in their work with clients, whether in crisis or not.

I would recommend the book to all clinicians who work with individuals and families whether they be family therapists, social workers or psychologists.

Reviewed by E Muzenda, Training and Clinical Director, CONNECT (Zimbabwe Institute of Systemic Therapy), Harare.

Teaching Secrets: The Technology in Social Work Education, by Ruth R Middleman and Gale Goldberg Wood (eds), 1991, The Haworth Press, New York, 138 pp, ISBN: 1-56024-213-2 (h/b, \$22,95).

Ruth Middleman and Gale Goldberg Wood have produced a book that has given me hope in my aspiration to be the best lecturer that I can possibly become. In this book, both authors have articulated various ways of being a creative teacher. The way they have presented and discussed the relationship between the "secrets" of practice and the use of self is excellent. This is the book that is a must for teachers of social work and I will have no hesitation to recommend that the School of Social Work should obtain a copy for each of its staff. If all lecturers read this book, they would be stimulated to become more creative in their teaching methods.

Middleman and Goldberg Wood have done an excellent job in editing various chapters of the book and making them read congruently. My favourite chapters in the book are: "Helping Students Learn from Each Other", and "Standing for Values and Ethical Action: Teaching Social Work Ethics". In fact, all the chapters written by various academics are excellent and one finds it hard to pinpoint the weaknesses of this book.

This book has left me with a renewed sense of excitement that it is possible for one to become a creative and excellent teacher without having gone through a Faculty of Education. I highly recommend this book for all the lecturers who teach social work without having learnt "teaching methods" as taught at Teacher Training Colleges. Anybody who is interested in becoming an outstanding lecturer will find this book compelling and useful as a constant reference book.

Reviewed by Ruth H Kiire, Lecturer, School of Social Work, Harare.