

not of themselves make a good story, but Tsitsi Dangarembga's fluid style of writing, her ability to evoke the sights, sounds and smells of the rural Rhodesia of the 1960s and her knack of portraying the events and characters in her novel in a lifelike and believable fashion make this novel 'a very good read'. Furthermore, this story, by its very nature, widens the understanding and deepens the sympathy of the reader, especially those readers who, like myself, have very little experience of life in the rural areas of this country. This book deserves the success it has achieved, notably in winning the Commonwealth Literature Prize (Africa region) in 1989.

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**Leeds Southern African Studies** Leeds, Univ. of Leeds Southern African Studies Leeds, Univ. of Leeds, African Studies Unit and Department of Politics, 1988-, pp. and price vary.

This series of working papers began in 1988 and is already into its sixteenth publication. They vary in length (20-40 pages A5) and in price (£1.50 - 2.00).

The first to concern Zimbabwe was No. 5, M. Sato's *The Organisation and Effectiveness of Cooperatives in Zimbabwe* which was published in 1988. Based on his doctoral thesis (Leeds, 1987), Sato's paper traces the development of co-operatives since 1980 and attempts to delineate their position in the changing political economy of Zimbabwe.

The next, No. 6, was D. Pankhurst's *Women's Lives and Women's Struggles in Rural Zimbabwe*, also published in 1988 and based on her doctoral thesis (Liverpool, 1982). This paper reports a study of a village in Mangwende Communal Land, undertaken in order to establish the linkages between gender relations and agriculture.

The next, No. 7, was L. Cliffe's *Prospects for Agrarian Transformation in Zimbabwe*, also published in 1988. This is an extended version of his essay, 'The prospects for agricultural transformation in Zimbabwe', published in C. Stoneman (ed.), *Zimbabwe's Prospects* (London, Macmillan, 1988). In analysing the forces at work, the author seems to have a gloomy view of the likelihood of change unless the grip of technical experts and bureaucrats can be broken.

The latest in the series to focus on Zimbabwe is L. Sachikonye's *The State and Agribusiness in Zimbabwe: Plantations and Contract Farming*, published in 1989 and also based on a doctoral thesis (Leeds, 1989). The term 'contract farming' here means out-grower production, in this case of tea and sugar, under contract to large estates owned largely by foreign capital. The study concentrates on the labour process among out-growers and the emergence of differentiation between grower and of competition between out-growers and the workers on the plantations.

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