

the former book, Tom Østergaard, is right when he states that SADCC member states had reason to focus their efforts on transport and communication during most of the 1980s as South Africa's dominance and penalizing capacity *vis-à-vis* SADCC in this sector was enormous. But Østergaard soon reminds us that the 1980s are now over and that the new decade offers new challenges, requiring different strategies, and one of these strategies is investment and co-operation in the industrial sector.

While acknowledging that SADCC and indeed all Southern African states should invest and co-operate more in the industrial sector, Østergaard issues a word of caution. He provides a case study of the SADCC tractor industry, demonstrating how well-intentioned investment and industrial strategies can collapse. For industrial success, SADCC (and today's SADC) member states need to address various, inter-related obstacles: the evasive action of transnational corporations, for example, and external bank/financial controls, national restrictions and inter-state competition, and the unnecessary policy conditions of both donor agencies and multilateral institutions. Østergaard suggests ways in which policy initiatives and programme actions could be undertaken by SADCC states to reverse such constraints and to guarantee increased success in industrial co-operation and development.

There is no doubt that these two works provide an excellent beginning in the understanding of past investments and industrial action and the new challenges for SADC states and the broader Southern African region.

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Regional Cooperation in Southern Africa: A Post-Apartheid Perspective
Edited by B. Odén and H. Othman. Uppsala, Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, Seminar Proceedings 22, 1989, 243 pp., ISBN 91-7106-298-X, £15, 95.

A synthesis of the findings of ten researchers, this book represents a landmark in the analysis and understanding of the interaction between Southern Africa and the Nordic region. In his chapter Tor Sellstrom traces the origins of this interaction, citing the political support and humanitarian aid sent by Nordic countries to liberation movements in Southern Africa since the 1960s. Since then the Nordic countries have remained in the forefront of the condemnation of colonialism and imperialism.

The launching of SADCC in April 1980 created a solid base for enhanced economic co-operation between the two regions. Statistical evidence cited in the book proves that for most of the 1980s the Nordic states were the main donors to SADCC's transport and communication projects as well as other programmes. The chapter by Elling Njal Tjonneland reveals apartheid South Africa's strategies to hold back the tide of liberation in the region. The author shows clearly how those strategies began collapsing in the late 1980s as a result of the SADCC initiative.

An interesting aspect of the book is its historical survey, with clear statistical support, of labour migration within the region — centered on South Africa. It is also significant that C. K. Brown's chapter emphasizes

the need for co-ordinated regional information as a necessary part of regional co-operation in a Southern Africa freed of apartheid. Similarly, Ansu Datta provides a useful contribution on regional co-operation, emphasizing the need for co-ordinated action between governments, non-governmental organizations, and ordinary people in the region. The last two actors, it is argued, provide a back-up to inter-state co-operation in which governments are the key actors.

While it is true that Nordic assistance to SADCC states has been a major component of development assistance since 1980, Hans Abrahamson informs us in his chapter that such aid now needs to be reorientated. Apart from the physical development of roads, railways, ports, and so on, there is a need to channel resources to support networks such as forwarding services, insurance services, national and regional carriers and shipping services. This is indeed vital if investments made during the 1980s in the physical development of transport, communication and related facilities are to be made full use of by SADCC (now SADC) states.

In his chapter Tom Østergaard clearly reveals the contradictions of Nordic/SADCC co-operation. All aid programmes are not altruistic and such aid creates and reinforces the dependence of the recipient on the donor. The Norsad fund is used as an illustration of this anomaly. The desire of donor states to influence policy in the recipient state and the interest of the latter to preserve some form of autonomy in the allocation and consumption of donor resources have caused conflicts between Nordic and SADCC states, particularly in the agricultural sector.

Finally, although the authors hesitated to make precise predictions on the nature of regional co-operation after apartheid is wholly abolished, they do offer some opinions. One is that post-apartheid South Africa will have severe internal problems as it moves away from apartheid rule which could result in internal instability in that country, a factor that might undermine future regional co-operation. But, on the other hand, the authors seem to believe that the advent of a democratic South Africa would enhance economic possibilities in Southern Africa, and indeed Sub-Saharan Africa as a whole.

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The Black Insider By D. Marechera. Harare, Baobab, 1990, 128 pp., ISBN 0-949229-16-4, Z\$16.00.

The Black Insider (1990), together with *Cemetery of Mind* (1992), is one of Marechera's posthumously published novels (he died in 1987) and appears after the much-celebrated *House of Hunger* (1978), the often overlooked *Black Sunlight* (1980) and the controversial *Mindblast* (1984). Its publication is due to the tireless efforts and dedication of Flora Veit-Wild. *The Black Insider* is in all respects an unusual novel, one which relentlessly interrogates the nature of the novel itself, very much in the post-modernist sense.

Any reader expecting to find a conventional plot and developed characters in a recognizable social setting is in for a rude shock. In this novel