

But the introduction of any technology should go together with other factors, namely money, training and the availability of raw materials. In this regard, the articles in the book call for the introduction of special courses in the fields of processing, preservation, and storage of agricultural produce in local institutions of learning. Besides, the articles recommend that women in para-professions associated with the identified technologies should be trained in the various technical skills so that they are able to acquire, learn, and understand the engineering and related details embodied in the technologies.

Women and Food Security contains information about the nine countries as well as suggestions for further study which local academics and policy makers should seriously examine because, as the article on Zimbabwe notes:

Some of the technologies developed at public research centres have been designed by scientists who have little or no understanding of the communal women who should benefit from the introduction of the technology. There is a general failure to address women's real priorities, failure to include input from women with a choice of alternatives, and failure to establish any viable communication networks at the local level to assess community-level impact (p. 81-82).

The book, however, contains one major weakness. Although the writers of the articles correctly pay attention to the roles and needs of women in developmental processes, they fail to relate these roles and needs to those of men. If developmental innovation is to be successful, planners need to attend to both men and women.

The editing and printing is good, but the book contains no index and only four of the articles refer to other sources. Nevertheless, *Women and Food Security* provides a welcome addition to the existing literature on women, food security and technology.

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Zimbabwe — (World Bibliographic Series: Volume 4) Revised and expanded edition Compiled By Deborah Potts. Oxford, Clio Press, 1993, xxxi, 368 pp., ISBN 1-85109-195-5, £56.50.

Each volume in the *World Bibliographic Series* consists of annotated entries on works dealing with many aspects of the country concerned. The intended objective is to reflect each country's culture and 'its place in the world, the qualities and background that make it unique'. *Volume 4* is on Zimbabwe. The Bibliography's publication is timely, i.e., 13 years after Independence, when Zimbabwe is fully immersed in an Economic Structural Adjustment Programme and when major changes are taking place in Southern Africa.

The volume is divided into 36 chapters covering broad subject areas. There is a special listing of periodicals, encyclopaedias and directories,

bibliographies and includes three indexes (author, title and subject). Selected theses and dissertations on Zimbabwe are also included.

The largest number of entries is in the section on history followed by agriculture and economy, trade and investment. The annotations are sometimes subjective, especially in the section on history. Some entries include useful background information on authors. The bias is towards books, with a limited number of journal citations. Publications that have little or no social significance such as scientific and technical reports and similar publications have been excluded.

Cross references direct the reader to other works that are similar in content or present another focus.

The meticulously researched introduction to the bibliography provides a useful background. The compiler traces the history of Zimbabwe from the pre-colonial era leading to independence in 1980. Fundamental issues such as ethnicity (often unfairly exploited by the media), attempts to address new developments in education (to counter the colonial bias) and institutionalized racism give a balanced assessment of government's commitment to transformation. One aspect having far-reaching implications that is not adequately developed, is the reason for the failure of social transformation by a party and government committed to socialism. Two sets of reasons are advanced. 'First, the African political élites who led the liberation movement and are now in government are often claimed to be essentially petty bourgeois . . .', and second, there are inhibiting constraints imposed by the Lancaster House Agreement and the International Monetary Fund, the South African destabilization programme and the devastating drought. I believe there are other major reasons, such as the ideology of the ruling party and its constituency, which have contributed to changing an inherited social structure.

In a bibliography of this kind it is often difficult to achieve comprehensive coverage. The major objective of the publishers of *The World Bibliographic Series* is to include works that explain or demonstrate the country's uniqueness. Zimbabwe's uniqueness could be based on the economic paradigm used to advance development. At Independence, Zimbabwe inherited a capitalist economy and, in spite of some restrictions and interventions, it is still basically capitalistic. While major changes have taken place in education and health, present circumstances may reverse the trend. With the significant shift in the development paradigm, the future looks hazy. Government is now fully committed to a programme of less control in the economy. Can this lead to social transformation? Perhaps the next spate of publications will address this issue.

Based on the above rationale I have assessed the selection of items in the section on economy, trade and investment. The compiler has included 37 entries. On the basis of University of Zimbabwe library holdings and ECONLIT (CD-ROM database), I believe this section should have been expanded considerably. Similarly, I think that there could have been more coverage on the seminal works of Michael Gelfand that have 'social significance'. The volume cites 14 entries. From the Medical Library database (UTANO) I found 20 further titles that should have been included, such as 'apparent absence of homosexuality and lesbianism, traditional

African attitude towards death and dying, the N'ganga, the guardian of the Shona way of life' etc.

On the section on mass media there are 14 entries. Provincial newspapers such as *Gweru Times*, the *Cheziya Gokwe Post*, *Kwayedza*, to list a few, were excluded.

Notwithstanding these limitations, the publication is an invaluable source of information for interested readers, lecturers, researchers and persons working in the area of development.

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Dambudzo Marechera: A Source Book on his Life and Work By Flora Veit-Wild. Harare, University of Zimbabwe Publications, London, Melbourne, Munich, New York, Hans Zell Publishers, 1992, xvi, 419pp., ISBN 9-908307-29-2, Z\$36.

This unusual book is a stunning achievement — a labour of love by the German-born Flora Veit-Wild. She sets out to trace the influences which shaped the outlook of one of Zimbabwe's most controversial writers, the late Dambudzo Marechera. For the first time those who have read Marechera's *House of Hunger* (1978), which won the Guardian Fiction Prize in 1978, and his novels, *Black Sunlight* (1980) and *The Black Insider* (1990), have an opportunity to understand the life of the author, his views on art, history, culture, sex, violence and what he sees as the endemic brutalities of the twentieth century civilization. The book reveals at length Marechera's relentless engagement with world literatures, those he enjoyed most and the writers who influenced him.

In terms of structure, the book is flexibly constructed and dependant on particular phases of Marechera's life, the places he visited and the people he interacted with. Most gripping are the revelations about his childhood in the ghettos of colonial Rusape, his experiences at secondary school and his reactions to English society and to the somewhat staid academic traditions of Oxford University, which he attended in Britain after his expulsion from the then University of Rhodesia in 1973. Particularly harrowing is the section chronicling Marechera's life as a tramp in London with no fixed address or recognized identity and social role. Fascinating to observe is the way the destitute writer relied on the generally sympathetic but increasingly frustrated Heinemann publisher, James Currey. The book also says much on Marechera's unorthodox rise to international fame, which reaches its peak during his visit to the cultural festival held in Berlin in 1979. Marechera relished the limelight of the occasion, gave a dramatic performance and projected himself as a rebel writer waging a guerrilla war in the world of literature. Flora Veit-Wild's book also chronicles Marechera's subsequent return to an independent Zimbabwe and the isolation and disappointment he encountered. Significantly, what Marechera says about himself, Zimbabwe and Africa,