

My main criticism on this book is that while it gives us a comprehensive picture of urbanization in West Africa and the problems that followed, it does not give us an alternative model of urbanization.

C. Moremi

African Social Studies (A Radical Reader)
Edited by Peter C.W. Gutkind and Peter Waterman -481 pp.
Heinemann Education Books · London, 1977 . £2.90

Gutkind and Waterman have produced the sort of text which many young Africanists have for a long time been waiting for. It is a pioneer work with an announced broad left radical orientation, and boasts of a wide collection of sources which lend the work a very rich and informative character. The text is divided into eight parts: Methodology, Historical Stages and Transition, The Political Economy of Colonialism and Neo-Colonialism, Social Structure - the Process of Class Formation, Ideology, Politics and a Bibliographical Guide. Under these rubrics extracts for selected papers have been collected in a well-arranged manner. The study concentrates almost exclusively on Africa south of the Sahara. Also Southern Africa comes in vaguely for an altogether rather spare treatment. Another weakness in the collection is that some of the papers are too brief, often the reader's appetite is not sufficiently satisfied, he is stimulated but effectively tantalized. All the same the authors by producing this work have given leftist approaches to social sciences of Africa a major shot in the arm. Students have now a basic refreshing radical textbook of readings to grow on. The appearance of this book also lends institutionalised respectability to radical views, a position which some of us have long awaited, but now obviously this has started in earnest.

K. Prah