

Recent Politics and Current Affairs - December 2013

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The Japan Times, Ltd., Japan 2013

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After The Great East Japan Earthquake : Political and Policy Change in Post-Fukushima Japan / Al-Badri and Gijs Berends

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A Kind of Magic : The Political Marketing of the ANC / Rushi Ranchod

Jacana Media, South Africa 2013

256p,;

9781431408276

\$ 32.00 / HB

This book provides a completely new and fresh way of understanding the ANC, by looking at the way the organisation has marketed itself and built up a distinctive brand. The concern here is not so much with politics as with publicity, promotion and propaganda – that is, with techniques of political persuasion

In seven chapters we follow the development of the ANC's political marketing strategy from 1955 to 2011. The author makes a strong case for arguing that marketing has enjoyed a central significance within the ANC for a very long time. Through the use of previously untapped sources, he provides us with important insights into the strategy and decision-making process of the ANC at critical phases of its existence, right up to the election

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158134>

Jerm Warfare / Jeremy Nell

The Penguin Group (SA), South Africa 2013

9780143538431

\$ 22.00 / HB

Jerm Warfare represents the sharpest, most vicious, most outrageous, wittiest cartoons by Jerm, including those that got him fired for being 'too political'. With revealing notes on the history of some cartoons, this is more than a book of fierce and funny pictures. In addition to the political cartoons, Jerm Warfare also features Jerm's syndicated strip cartoons from Urban Trash and other occasional silly delights from one of the most original public commentators at work in South Africa today.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158135>

A Rumour of Spring / Max du Preez

Zebra Press, South Africa 2013

272p.;

9781770225435

\$ 29.50 / HB

In A Rumour of Spring, Max du Preez investigates and analyses the progress and lack of progress the country has made during these twenty years. He looks at the legacies of Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki in an attempt to understand how we got here, and examines Jacob Zuma's presidency to better understand where we are. In the context of blatant corruption, populism and tragedies such as the Marikana massacre, the book considers the current state of the ruling party and the opposition, and dissects the big issues currently afflicting our society, including the state of education, land reform, crime and policing, the judiciary, nationality and race. And then, with images of the Arab Spring fresh in our collective memory, it dares to look to the future and what it may hold. An honest and balanced account, A Rumour of Spring tackles the questions asked by ordinary South Africans every day: How are we really doing? What is really going on in our country? How should we understand what is happening here? And will it get any better?

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158136>

Academic Freedom in a Democratic South Africa / John Higgins

WITS University Press, South Africa 2013

288 pp; 22cm.

9781868147519

\$ 36.50 / HB

How do we understand academic freedom today? Does it still have relevance in the face of the managerial and ideological pressures which are reconfiguring higher education institutions? And what about the humanities? In an increasingly market-driven world, what do the humanities have to offer society? These two sets of questions provide the guiding threads of related enquiries that make up this hard-hitting and controversial study. Academic Freedom in a Democratic South Africa argues that the principle of supporting and extending open intellectual enquiry is essential to realising the full public value of higher education, and that in this task, the humanities and the forms of argument and analysis that they embody have a crucial role to play.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158137>

In the Shadow of Policy : Everyday Practices in South Africa's Land and Agrarian Reform / Ben Cousins, Paul Hebinck

WITS University Press, South Africa 2013

320 pp; 24cm.

9781868147458

\$ 45.00 / HB

Notions of land and agrarian reform are now well entrenched in post-apartheid South Africa. But what this reform actually means for everyday life is not clearly understood, nor the way it will impact on the political economy. *In the Shadow of Policy* explores the interface between the policy of land and agrarian reform and its implementation; and between the decisions of policy 'experts' and actual livelihood experiences in the fields and homesteads of land reform projects. Starting with an overview of the socio-historical context in which land and agrarian reform policy has evolved in South Africa, the volume presents empirical case studies of land reform projects in the Northern, Western and Eastern Cape provinces. These draw on multiple voices from various sectors and provide a rich source of material and critical reflections to inform future policy and research agendas.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158138>

On African Fault Lines : Meditations on Alterity Politics / Mudimbe, V-Y

University of Kwazulu Natal Press, South Africa 2013

480p.;

9781869142445

\$ 52.50 / HB

This collection of meditations reformulates the experience of African studies as a concern with three thematics: Africa's place within today's intellectual, economic and cultural configurations; the main axes that structure disciplinary practices concerned with African difference; and the possibility of understanding being-in-the-world with reference to alienation, creativity and friendship.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158139>

Rethinking the South African Crisis : Nationalism, Populism, Hegemony / Hart, Gillian

University of Kwazulu Natal Press, South Africa 2013

280p.;

9781869142513

\$ 52.50 / PB

Since the end of apartheid, South Africa has become an extreme but not exceptional embodiment of forces at play in many other regions of the world: intensifying inequality alongside 'wageless life'; proliferating forms of protest and populist politics that move in different directions; and official efforts at containment ranging from liberal interventions targeting specific populations to increasingly common police brutality.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158140>

Failure Of Decentralisation In South African Local Government, The: Complexity and unanticipated consequences / Siddle, A; Koelble, T

UCT Press, South Africa 2012

314p.;

9781919895055

\$ 50.00 / PB

This book examines the design of the local government framework and its contributing role in the crisis. It identifies 12 'dimensions of decentralisation' and studies the extent to which these dimensions are incorporated in the South African local government framework. Through empirical research conducted at 37 municipalities across the country, this study finds that municipalities are frequently incapable of meeting the demands imposed upon them by a highly complex model of local government. This complexity, coupled with the absence of essential conditions for success and the presence of a number of threats which are commonly identified in decentralised systems, leads to the failure of policy and the erosion of sound local governance. This book examines the design of the local government framework and its contributing role in the crisis. Through empirical research conducted at 37 municipalities across the country, it finds that municipalities are frequently incapable of meeting the demands imposed upon them by a highly complex model of local government. The aim of this book is to promote an understanding of the difficulties that confront local government in South Africa and the causes of its failure. It does not presume to provide the answers to the crisis; instead, it encourages debate by posing a number of questions about the future design for local government and suggests that a far simpler model which imposes less complex demands needs to be considered.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=153274>

Post-conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa : Concepts, role-players, policy and practice / Editors: T Neethling & H Hudson

UCT Press, South Africa 2013

320p.

9781775820048

\$ 45.00 / PB

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158141>

Why Israel? : The anatomy of Zionist apartheid - a South African perspective / Suraya Dadoo & Firoz Osman

Porcupine Press, South Africa 2013

664p.

9781920609009

\$ 29.50 / PB

Many people are shocked when Israel is compared to apartheid South Africa. 'Why Israel?' they ask. This book answers that question. The authors examine how and why Apartheid applies to the situation in Palestine by using expert academic analysis, commentaries, articles, and blogs of well-known and highly-respected activists and human rights organisations, as well as reports from NGOs with extensive on-the-ground experience in the region. The result is a comprehensive and easy-to-understand investigation into Israel's colonisation of Palestine, and its corrupting influence on the world. This challenging and controversial book has been endorsed by Ronnie Casrils, ex South African government minister, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158142>

Socio-Economic Development, Political Process and Electoral Participation : A Cross-Provincial Study of Voter Turnout in Thailand, 1979 - 2007 / Anusorn Limmanee

Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand 2013

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9786165516648

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The Simple Truth / Abhisit Vejjajiva

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The Second Chief Executive of Hong Kong SAR : Evaluating the Tsang Years 2005
-2012 / Joseph Y.S. Cheng (Editor)
City University of Hong Kong Press, Hong Kong 2013
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Suara Inisiatif Sdn Bhd, Petaling Jaya 2013
xiii. 184p. ; 22cm.
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\$ 12.50 / PB

282 gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=158619>

Electoral Dynamics in Malaysia (Findings from the Grassroots) / Meredith L. Weiss
ISEAS Publishing, Singapore 2014

xvi. 254p. ; 23cm.

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