

Lars Buur, Steffen Jensen, and Finn Stepputat (eds), The Security-Development Nexus: Expressions of Sovereignty and Securitisation in Southern Africa, Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa, 2007, p. 288. ISBN: 13 978 0 7969 2184 0

As the title of the text suggests exposes critical perspective of analyzing development, i.e. an analysis of the linkage between security and development. As such the book is of utmost importance if one seeks to understand issues of development in the developing world, particularly Southern Africa as the book attempts to highlight.

The introduction by the editors of the book gave an overview to the linkage between security and development, tracing in brief the evolution of the concepts and their standing in current discourse on development and security. The authors justified the text's overall research underpinnings giving examples contained in the text.

Chapter 1 by Thomas Mandrup Jorgensen analysed the role of defense forces in contributing using South Africa's intervention in Democratic People's Republic of Congo (DRC) as a case study. He alluded to the effect that the forces were there to secure peace in volatile society through peace support operations. The author analysed how SANDF was transformed to serve both international and internal agenda of security since majority rule in 1994. Major security challenges of South Africa were identified and analysed. Internationally the author alluded to South Africa's new role in international conflicts

intervention using DRC as a case study. SANDF's contribution in the conflict resolution was examined in detail, to which the author noted,

'Even though South Africa is considered to be a regional power...the SANDF has been unable to live to the expectation that leaders in MONUC HQ in Kinshasa had before hand'.p.54.

The author exposed the lessons that South Africa has learned from the participation in DRC peace operations. In essence concluding that,

'The SANDF involvement in the DRC more than indicates that South Africa, in its current state and condition does not possess the capacity to act as a lead nation for future Africa headed peace missions'.p.62.

Chapter 2 by Stephen Jensen and Lars Buur analysed activism and re-making a South African with the attainment of majority rule. They identified those segments of society that came to be treated as a threat to South African society and constituted migrants from KwaZulu Natal and migrants from southern African countries. A good historical background to mobile livelihoods in 19th and 20th century was provided. In essence the authors did note that 'migrant world has undergone profound transformation, leaving in crisis'.p.67. Dwelling on citizenship the authors questioned citizenship in relation to rights distinguishing between old and new conceptions alluding to the Truth and Reconciliation mission and the paradox of apartheid in relation to human rights issues in

comparison to the present. Elucidated on how apartheid has tended to abuse human rights of migrants as they were viewed as a threat to the system. They analysed how violence ensued on the domestic front between African National Congress (ANC) and Ikhatha Freedom Party (IFP) and the explanations that have emerged behind these insecurity situations and how the democratic facilitated the resolution of the problems. On international migrants the authors managed to expose how the problems have continued outlining the dimensions to alienation and movement, and legal instruments and policies that were put in place to try and solve the emerging contestations. In essence they noted that ‘ the democratic revolution included large sectors south African black population for the first time but it also further excluded and marginalized vast numbers of migrants from SADC’ .p.81.

Dwelling on Namibia’s SWAPO as a case study Lalli Metsola and Henry Melber in Chapter 3 analysed issues of demobilization and reintegration of SWAPO’S former combatants and how it was intrinsically linked to security in Namibia. A historical perspective prior to 1989 was highlighted in terms of the making of Namibia from its colonisation. The authors dwelt on major issue of ex-combatants with the attainment of independence how some were integrated into government and others sidelined and the conflict that ensued as a result of marginalization. As a result of this the authors exposed the dual characterization of the ex-combatants noting,

‘on one hand, they are portrayed as national heroes who made sacrifice for liberation. On one hand, they are perceived as a persistent social

problem in need of economic, social and psychological rehabilitation, and potential threat to social, political and economic stability'.p.96.

The government's handling of this duality was analysed in detail and in essence noted that the government handling of ex-combatants reflects,

'the convergence of state capacity, patronage politics and formally democratic political framework as well as security concerns that have provided a major motive for state action'.p.103.

In chapter 4 Lars Buur dwelling on South African townships sought to analyse the struggles for security and development. The author provided an analysis of state led development projects and how through democratic channels resistance to some of the projects was undertaken and how the governments reacted. The author in the final noted of social movements in South Africa today as,

'To a larger extent draw and often in unwitting and contradicting fashion – upon array of past symbols and concrete activities of “people's power”, they nonetheless point towards another aspect of order, that of a government frontier which some how awkwardly supports the intrinsic political ethos of monism'.p.130.

Chapter 5 by Helene Maria Kyed dwelling on Mozambique's rural post war period captured how unity between the people and police was created in Dombe (a once Renamo strong hold during the civil war). The author gave a territorial outlook of the area- ethnicity, political standing vis-à-vis the conflict in Mozambique. An in-depth analysis of post war reconstruction of communities with Frelimo state activities and how the local leadership was integrated into the overall development objectives of the nation. One intriguing issue of this piece of work is its richness in ethnography research technique.

Using post independence Namibia as a case study Guy Lamb in Chapter 6 explored military politics and how it influenced development. A historical background to the militarization of Namibia was highlighted particularly in involvement of South Africa in Namibia which became a challenge at Namibia's independence and influencing the course of development. In essence the author noted,

'SWAPO's inheritance of the machinery and institutional memory of a militarized state from South Africa (which it had struggled to transform) is one of the central factors that has contributed to the militarization of post independence development and nation building projects'.p.158.

The military tradition of SWAPO was traced and analysed in greater detail and how it came to suffice in post independence Namibia. To which the authors noted,

...SWAPO's antagonistic intolerance of criticism has become a common place...critics of government and/or SWAPO policies and actions tend to be defined as unpatriotic, racist, tribalist or imperialist'. 165.

The author explained how nation building projects focused aspects of development through securitisation of the military. In essence,

'militarisation of development and nation building has arisen due to a combination of Namibia's colonial history, the dynamics of SWAPO's liberation struggle and partly political environment of post independence Namibia.'p.172.

Chapter 7 by Jacob Rasmussen analysed the struggles and experiences of evictions in inner city Johannesburg of South Africa. The author gave a historical analysis of inner city transition and the centrality of new government (post independence) in transforming the city outlook and how the processes that the evictions took. The author captured the response to these evictions. Using Manhattan Court as a case study the author illuminated on issues of city life and assumed advantages in contrast to the fear of eviction. In understanding the politics of inner city dwelling the author noted,

'the struggle for inner city is a question of different ideologies, visions and people. The 3 key actors are positioned at various levels within south African society and the struggles for the city therefore plays out as clashes

of profane practices and politics versus sublime imageries and ideologies'.p.190.

Steffen Jensen in chapter 8 analysed the paradox of community violence and contestations within the framework of land claims in rural South Africa. The author gave background of Nkomazi (the research area) which could easily be conceived in terms of marginalization in a number of spheres of life. A detailed explanation of the extent of marginalization was given and its linkage to confrontation that ensued was alluded to. The author explained the formation of Khukula that sought to correct the society of its ills and how it affected the community and how the targeted people responded.

In Chapter 9 Amanda Hammar using the Zimbabwean case study analysed how the government in the interest of security and development launched evictions that sought to deal with criminality that had risen in the post colonial state. A historical background to eviction in Zimbabwe was alluded to particularly in post colonial rural areas. Begun by highlighting the recent operation to clean cities and moved on to dwell on land evictions in rural areas of Zimbabwe. In essence the author concluded that 'criminality, security and development are recurring running through everyday encounters between states and citizens especially in authoritarian post colonial states such as Zimbabwe'.p231.

The final Chapter by Tina Sederis analysed the new ways for old forms of violence in relation to domination and subordination could feature within the framework of gender and rights. A historical background to forms of violence against women was examined.

Using recent cases the author explained how violence has manifested itself into modern society in the geographical location of Nkomazi in rural South Africa. In essence the author noted,

'In South Africa old patterns of violence between men and women are being reproduced at an alarming rate in the moment of political transformations that advances human rights with the aim of promoting freedom from violence and facilitating human development'.p.248.

In conclusion the book is quite insightful and rich in concrete case study for understanding and appreciating the nexus that exist between development and security in post independent southern Africa.

Reviewed by:

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