

FOREWORD

In this issue, we are pleased to have three articles and seven book reviews covering a wide range of theoretical issues, analytic methodologies, and geographic regions. From an over-flight of issues related to globalization and culture to a statistical analysis of land and education reform in South Africa to a study of the media representation of a militant indigenous movement in southern Mexico, the articles demonstrate the complex variety of problems included in Third World Studies in general and the *ITWSJ&R*'s publication program in particular.

Building on many years of experience in Third World countries, Alvin G. Edgell takes a look at the relationship between globalization and culture. In a broad survey of recent works on the subject, he presents studies that depict various understandings of culture and the variety of ways in which culture is implicated in globalization. Within the frame of his own definitions, Edgell characterizes the "state of play" on the subject by looking closely at the contributions to Huntington and Harrison's *Cultural Encounters*, as well as Berger and Dore's *National Unity and Global Capitalism* and Dani Rodrik's *The New Global Economy*. Edgell's overview of his subject nicely complements the more narrowly focused contributions of Irogbe and McCowan.

Kema Irogbe explores the issues of land and education as they intersect with the racial disparities in post-apartheid South Africa. In education, he identifies efforts to reverse decades of racial exclusion from key universities, noting the uneven results of reform evident in various tables of social statistics. On the issue of inequities in land distribution, Irogbe highlights three programs of land reform: land restitution, land redistribution, and land tenure reform. He finds modest signs of progress toward a more equitable system, yet much remains to be done to fulfill the promises of the Mandela and later Mbeki administrations. In particular, Irogbe critiques attempts to correct past injustices on a market basis (e.g., "willing buyer, willing seller" in real estate) arguing that the distortions in access to both land and education are unlikely to be redressed adequately without a proactive policy.

Turning to Clint McCowan's study of the early 1990s Zapatista self-representation through Subcomandante Marcos and its appropriation by the international media and Mexican economy is an excellent example of the struggle for signs and symbols, in this case between a more powerful national political and military structure and a regional (Chiapas) indigenous movement. McCowan's analysis lies at the level of representation. Through Marcos, the latter were represented as a people fighting for their land; over the years, his rhetoric has employed varying degrees of socialist rhetoric. Critical questions remain about extent to which the voice of the indigenous peoples of the Zapatista movement has been overlooked under the dominant and media savvy presentation of Marcos.

The Book Review section of this issue includes seven reviews. Rory J. Conces reviews Fatos Tarifa's *Culture, Ideology and Society* (Smiet, 2001); Paul Allen Williams reviews Asma Barlas' *Believing Women in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an* (University of Texas Press, 2002); Ali Kamali reviews Robert Holton's *Globalization and the Nation-State* (St. Martin's Press, 1998); David T. Jervis reviews Princeton Lyman's *Partner to History, The U. S. Role in South Africa's Transition to Democracy* (U.S. Institute of Peace Press, 2002) and also Masao Miyoshi and H. D. Harootunian's *Learning Places: The Afterlives of Area Studies* (Duke University Press, 2002); Tanweer Akram reviews Abbas Alnasrawi's *Iraq's Burden: Oil, Sanctions, and Underdevelopment* (Greenwood Press, 2002); and Owen G. Mordaunt reviews Dinesh D'Souza's *What's So Great About America* (Penguin Books, 2002).

The editorial staff of the Journal invites you to continue manuscript submissions for consideration in future issues. As always, *ITWSJ&R* is a refereed publication and is open to articles and book reviews addressing any aspect of Third World studies. Articles examining the concept of the Third World are equally solicited. In addition, future issues will include reviews of films, translations, book notes, discussion notes, and interviews. Submissions should be mailed to the address printed in the Information for Contributors section of this issue.

In an attempt to make the journal more readily accessible, the editors are examining the prospect of providing an online version of the paper journal. Whether the journal moves to an online-only format will be determined by the success of this experiment.

The contents of Volume XIII (2002), Volume XIV (2003), and the Information for Contributors can be found on the journal's website. The journal's homepage is maintained by the Department of Philosophy and Religion at <http://www.unomaha.edu/ITWSJ-R>. For information on the annual Third World Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, see the Twenty-Seventh National Meeting notice in this issue and/or go to the Third World Studies Conference note on the website.

— *Paul Allen Williams*