

This is an important, exciting and hugely impressive study which throws original light on the impacts of Zimbabwe's controversial Fast Track Land Reform Programme in one province, Masvingo. It makes a major contribution to our understanding of these complex events, moving away from standard myths and stereotypes to paint a rich and nuanced picture. It is without doubt a major contribution to scholarship which deserves to be widely read. *Robin Palmer, Mokoro Ltd, Oxford; formerly Global Land Adviser, Oxfam GB*

This book represents arguably the most comprehensive empirical evidence challenging the popular myths that Zimbabwe's land reform has been a total failure, attributed to political cronyism and lack of investment. The book will be most instructive for South Africa and Namibia as they ponder a way forward with their own land reform challenges. *Mandivamba Rukuni, Professor and Director, Wisdom Afrika Leadership Academy; formerly Chair, Commission of Inquiry into Zimbabwe's Land Tenure Systems*

This book is a comprehensive assessment of the nature of agrarian change during the last decade. It captures the diverse range of real life responses of newly resettled family farms and the new small to medium scale commercial farmers to changing commodity and financial markets within the new agrarian landscape, during a period of economic distress. *Sam Moyo, Professor and Director, African Institute for Agrarian Studies, Harare*

This important study presents compelling evidence that the accepted view that land reform in Zimbabwe has been a total disaster is inaccurate and highly misleading. It breaks new ground in its exploration of livelihood dynamics and the complexities of social differentiation within redistributive land reform. It is likely to influence both scholarship and emerging policy frameworks in the 'new' Zimbabwe. *Ben Cousins, Research Chair on Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies, University of the Western Cape*

Whatever you thought about the land issue in Zimbabwe, be prepared to change your mind. Events in Zimbabwe since 2000 have been so coloured by superficial media reporting and obscured by strident political posturing that little attention has been directed to what has become of the thousands of families that received land following the occupations. Despite the unevenness of outcomes to date, they have succeeded in establishing a base for themselves as serious producers with the capacity to contribute significantly to Zimbabwe's agricultural economy. *Bill Kinsey, Professor, Ruzivo Trust and Free University Amsterdam*

This fascinating study critically engages with a question being posed across Africa, as well as other regions: is small-scale agriculture doomed, as conventional ideas about development trajectories posit, or does it have a role that would be productive and equitable in a globalised world? *Pauline Peters, Professor, Center for International Development, Harvard University*

Controversy over the Mugabe regime, not least the consequences of its 'fast-track' land reform since 2000, too often generates more heat than light. This makes all the more important sound, well-grounded empirical research as reported in this study of agrarian change in the first decade of land reform in Masvingo Province. The design of the research, how it was conducted, its findings, the sensitivity and illumination of their interpretation and the authors' ability to connect Zimbabwean specificities with wider literatures and debates, make for an outstanding contribution. This book is as innovative and valuable as it was necessary. *Henry Bernstein, Professor of Development Studies in the University of London at the School of Oriental and African Studies*

This is an excellent book on the political economy of land reform and livelihoods in Zimbabwe that radically alters the boundary of existing knowledge on this highly controversial issue. The relevance of this study goes far beyond Zimbabwe: anyone interested in understanding the relationship between land, political power and rural livelihoods should read this book. *Saturnino M. Borrás Jr., Canada Research Chair in Development International Development Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax*

Much of Zimbabwe's land reform policy since 2000 was unwise, cruel or corrupt. Yet beneficiaries responded by using land and labour, and producing output, in different ways from the big pre-reform farms. Both casual and official observers missed this, reinforcing myths of unredeemed failure. The authors' careful fieldwork, in 400 farms over nine years, provides a powerful and reasoned alternative narrative. *Michael Lipton, Research Professor, University of Sussex*

This book is essential reading for those who wish to go deeper into the complexities and often unexpected outcomes of Zimbabwe's post-2000 land reform. It provides a richly detailed and eloquent examination of a radically altering agrarian landscape in a highly contested environment. *Amanda Hammar, MSO Professor in African Studies, University of Copenhagen*

This is an important book that injects substantial new empirical material into controversies over land reform in Zimbabwe. It is bound to stimulate new debate and become a prime point of reference and is essential reading for policy makers and academics concerned with agrarian intervention in southern Africa. *JoAnn McGregor, Department of Geography, University College London.*

This book gives us a detailed picture of the restructuring of the agricultural economy and the diversity in people's livelihoods that land reform brought to the province of Masvingo. It is a picture that defies generalisation, encompassing an extraordinary mix of shifting strategies, successes and failures. *Jocelyn Alexander, Professor of Commonwealth Studies, University of Oxford*

In this book, the pervasive views that Zimbabwe's land reform has been a disaster, causing food shortage, cutting off investment and benefiting only a coterie of 'cronies' are subject to the scrutiny of in-depth surveys over time, and on that basis dismissed as 'myths'. Material for an evidence-based verdict is now to hand, and very welcome. *Lionel Cliffe, Emeritus Professor, University of Leeds*

This book is required reading for all interested in going beyond the rhetoric and media headlines of the controversial land reforms in Zimbabwe. *Admos Chimhowu, Institute for Development Policy and Management, University of Manchester*

At last – a book that stretches across all the common-place myths and polarisations by delivering thorough empirical research and critical analysis to reveal the changing complexities, potentialities and pitfalls of Zimbabwe's dramatic agrarian reform. Highly focused, detailed, yet accessible and provocative, positive but uncompromising, this is a must-read for anyone concerned with land and livelihoods in Zimbabwe, the region and beyond. *Joost Fontein, Department of Anthropology and Centre of African Studies, University of Edinburgh*