

james ferguson the anti politics machine

James Ferguson and The Anti-Politics Machine: Unpacking Development and Power

james ferguson the anti politics machine is a phrase that resonates deeply within the fields of anthropology, development studies, and political economy. Ferguson's seminal work, **The Anti-Politics Machine: Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho**, has become a cornerstone text for anyone interested in understanding how development interventions can unintentionally—or sometimes intentionally—reshape political landscapes by masking underlying power dynamics. This article will explore the core ideas behind Ferguson's influential critique, unpack his analysis of development discourse, and discuss its ongoing relevance for scholars, policymakers, and activists alike.

Who Is James Ferguson and Why Does The Anti-Politics Machine Matter?

James Ferguson is a renowned anthropologist whose work critically examines development programs and their socio-political impacts. Published in 1990, **The Anti-Politics Machine** draws on his fieldwork in Lesotho, a small, mountainous country in Southern Africa. Ferguson's ethnographic approach leads him to challenge the mainstream narratives of development agencies, exposing the ways in which these organizations depoliticize social problems, framing them as technical or economic issues rather than political ones.

The book's title itself—**The Anti-Politics Machine**—refers to the tendency of development projects to operate as if politics didn't matter. Ferguson argues that by ignoring the political context, development programs not only fail to address the root causes of poverty and underdevelopment but also inadvertently reinforce state power and bureaucratic control. This insight has made his work a critical reference point for debates around the politics of aid, neoliberal reforms, and the role of bureaucracy in shaping social realities.

The Core Argument of The Anti-Politics Machine

At the heart of Ferguson's analysis is a critique of how development discourse constructs its "problems." In Lesotho, for example, development agencies identified rural poverty and underdevelopment as the primary issues needing intervention. However, Ferguson shows that these issues were framed in a way that obscured the historical and political factors contributing to Lesotho's economic challenges.

Development as Depoliticization

One of Ferguson's key contributions is the idea that development projects act as a form of depoliticization. By presenting issues like poverty as technical problems solvable through economic

planning or resource allocation, development efforts remove the political dimension—such as land ownership conflicts, class struggles, or state-society relations—from the conversation. This “anti-politics” approach renders complex social realities into manageable bureaucratic tasks, which benefits state agencies and international donors by simplifying their roles and responsibilities.

Reinforcing Bureaucratic Power

Ferguson also illustrates how development projects expand and legitimize bureaucratic power in countries like Lesotho. By framing rural populations as backward or in need of external intervention, development initiatives justify increased state intervention and control. This process often ends up strengthening state institutions that may have little accountability to local people, thereby entrenching existing power structures rather than challenging them.

The Legacy of Ferguson’s Work in Development Studies

Over three decades since its publication, **The Anti-Politics Machine** continues to influence how scholars and practitioners understand development’s political economy. Ferguson’s work is frequently cited in critical development literature for its incisive analysis of how knowledge production and institutional practices shape development outcomes.

Impact on Anthropology and Political Economy

Ferguson’s ethnographic method combined with political economy analysis has encouraged a generation of anthropologists to examine development projects not just as technical interventions but as political phenomena. His critique has paved the way for more nuanced studies that reveal how development discourses and practices are embedded in global power relations and local political struggles.

Relevance to Contemporary Development Challenges

In today’s context, Ferguson’s insights remain highly relevant. Modern development programs continue to grapple with questions of governance, accountability, and political will. The tendency to depoliticize complex issues persists, whether in climate change adaptation, humanitarian aid, or economic reform initiatives. Recognizing the “anti-politics machine” in action helps practitioners avoid simplistic solutions and encourages a more holistic, politically aware approach.

Understanding The Anti-Politics Machine Through Examples

To better grasp Ferguson’s arguments, consider some real-world instances where development

projects have exhibited characteristics of the “anti-politics machine.”

Rural Development Projects

Many rural development initiatives aim to modernize agriculture or improve infrastructure, assuming that lack of technology or capital is the main barrier. However, Ferguson’s analysis urges us to look deeper at land tenure systems, historical marginalization, and power relations that influence who benefits from such projects. By ignoring these political dimensions, development efforts can inadvertently exacerbate inequalities.

International Aid and Bureaucracy

International donors often require detailed reporting and measurable outcomes, encouraging projects to focus on quantifiable indicators rather than political change. This bureaucratic logic can depoliticize interventions and prioritize short-term fixes over structural reforms. Ferguson’s critique highlights the need for donors to engage with political realities rather than sidestep them.

Applying Ferguson’s Insights: Tips for Development Practitioners

Understanding the dynamics described in **The Anti-Politics Machine** can help those working in development design more effective and equitable interventions. Here are some practical takeaways:

- **Prioritize political analysis:** Before implementing projects, conduct thorough political economy assessments to understand local power structures and historical contexts.
- **Engage communities:** Involve local stakeholders in decision-making to ensure interventions address their needs and respect their agency.
- **Challenge depoliticization:** Resist framing problems purely in technical terms; acknowledge and address underlying political factors.
- **Promote accountability:** Design mechanisms that hold state institutions and development agencies accountable to the populations they serve.
- **Balance metrics with narratives:** While measurable outcomes matter, also collect qualitative data that capture political and social impacts.

Why The Anti-Politics Machine Remains a Vital Lens

James Ferguson's **The Anti-Politics Machine** is more than a critique of a particular development project in Lesotho; it provides a powerful lens through which to view the intersection of power, knowledge, and intervention. By exposing the ways development discourse can depoliticize and obscure, Ferguson invites us to ask deeper questions about who benefits from development, whose voices are heard, and how change truly happens.

As development challenges grow increasingly complex in the 21st century—from climate crises to global inequalities—Ferguson's work reminds us that technical solutions alone are insufficient. Understanding the political contexts and power relations that shape development is essential for creating more just and sustainable futures.

Engaging with **The Anti-Politics Machine** encourages scholars, policymakers, and activists to remain critically aware of the risks of depoliticization and to strive for approaches that recognize and navigate the inherently political nature of social change.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is James Ferguson in the context of 'The Anti-Politics Machine'?

James Ferguson is an anthropologist and author of 'The Anti-Politics Machine,' a critical study of development projects in Lesotho, which examines how development initiatives depoliticize local issues.

What is the main argument of James Ferguson's 'The Anti-Politics Machine'?

Ferguson argues that development projects often depoliticize social and economic problems by framing them as technical issues, ignoring the political and historical context, which ultimately serves to reinforce existing power structures.

In which country did James Ferguson conduct his research for 'The Anti-Politics Machine'?

James Ferguson conducted his research in Lesotho, a small country in Southern Africa, focusing on development programs implemented there during the 1980s.

How does 'The Anti-Politics Machine' critique international development efforts?

The book critiques international development efforts by showing how they often misunderstand local realities, reduce complex social problems to technical issues, and fail to address underlying political and economic inequalities.

What role does bureaucracy play in Ferguson's analysis in 'The Anti-Politics Machine'?

Bureaucracy is portrayed as a key mechanism that shapes development projects, producing certain representations of problems and solutions that depoliticize issues and maintain the status quo.

Why is 'The Anti-Politics Machine' considered influential in development studies?

'The Anti-Politics Machine' is influential because it challenges conventional development thinking, emphasizing the political nature of development and encouraging critical reflection on how development projects are designed and implemented.

Does James Ferguson propose any alternatives to traditional development approaches in 'The Anti-Politics Machine'?

While Ferguson mainly critiques existing development paradigms, he suggests the need for approaches that recognize political and historical contexts and actively engage with local social dynamics rather than imposing external technical solutions.

How has 'The Anti-Politics Machine' impacted anthropological research on development?

The book has encouraged anthropologists to critically examine the assumptions behind development projects, incorporate political economy perspectives, and highlight the complex realities and agency of local communities in development processes.

Additional Resources

James Ferguson and The Anti-Politics Machine: A Critical Examination of Development Discourse

james ferguson the anti politics machine stands as a pivotal work in the critical study of development and the politics embedded within it. Ferguson, an anthropologist, offers a penetrating analysis of how development projects often depoliticize inherently political issues, effectively creating an "anti-politics machine" that obscures structural inequalities and power dynamics. This concept has since become foundational in development studies, anthropology, and political economy, challenging conventional narratives about aid, modernization, and the role of the state.

Understanding James Ferguson's The Anti-Politics Machine

Published in 1990, James Ferguson's seminal book, **The Anti-Politics Machine: Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho**, investigates the failures and unintended consequences of development interventions. The study focuses on Lesotho, a small, mountainous

country in Southern Africa, where a World Bank-funded development project intended to boost agricultural productivity ultimately failed to achieve its goals. Ferguson's ethnographic research reveals how the project's design and implementation ignored the political and economic realities of Lesotho, reducing complex social issues to technical problems solvable through bureaucratic means.

At the core, Ferguson argues that development agencies systematically "depoliticize" issues by framing them as purely technical challenges rather than political problems rooted in historical inequalities and power relations. This process, which he terms the "anti-politics machine," serves to expand bureaucratic authority while sidelining local voices and political contestation.

The Mechanisms of Depoliticization in Development

Ferguson's analysis identifies several key mechanisms through which development projects enact depoliticization:

- **Technical Framing:** Development problems are portrayed as technical challenges requiring expert intervention, sidestepping questions about who benefits or loses from the existing social order.
- **Displacement of Context:** The political, historical, and economic contexts are often ignored or simplified, leading to misguided interventions that fail to address root causes.
- **Expansion of Bureaucratic Power:** Development agencies increase their authority by positioning themselves as neutral experts, which can marginalize local political agency.

This framework exposes how development efforts, rather than empowering communities or challenging structural injustices, frequently reinforce existing hierarchies under the guise of neutrality and progress.

Significance and Impact in Development Studies

James Ferguson's critique has had a profound influence on how scholars and practitioners understand development. By unveiling the "anti-politics machine," Ferguson challenges the optimistic assumptions that development projects are inherently beneficial or apolitical. His work encourages a more nuanced approach that recognizes the embedded politics in aid and development.

Comparisons with Other Development Theories

Ferguson's perspective contrasts sharply with modernization theory, which dominated development discourse in the mid-20th century. Modernization theorists posited that developing countries could follow a linear path to progress through industrialization and technological adoption. In contrast,

Ferguson highlights the limitations of such approaches by showing how they often neglect the specific political economy and social structures of recipient countries.

Similarly, dependency theory, which focuses on global economic inequalities, complements Ferguson's analysis by emphasizing external power relations but may not fully explain the bureaucratic dynamics within development institutions. Ferguson's anthropological lens adds depth by focusing on how development bureaucracies function on the ground.

Relevance in Contemporary Development Practice

The insights from **The Anti-Politics Machine** remain relevant as international development continues to evolve. Current debates around participatory development, governance, and rights-based approaches reflect an awareness of the pitfalls Ferguson identified. Yet, challenges persist:

- Many development programs still struggle to integrate political analysis into project design.
- Donor agencies often prioritize measurable outputs over addressing structural power imbalances.
- The expansion of technocratic solutions can obscure community voices, echoing Ferguson's concerns.

In this context, Ferguson's work serves as a cautionary tale and a call for more politically informed and context-sensitive development strategies.

Key Features of Ferguson's Methodology

Ferguson's approach is notable for its ethnographic depth and critical perspective. Unlike many development reports that rely heavily on quantitative data and technical assessments, Ferguson immerses himself in the local context to understand the lived experiences of those affected by development projects.

This methodological choice allows him to uncover:

- The disconnect between development rhetoric and local realities.
- The ways local populations interpret and respond to development interventions.
- The unintended consequences that emerge when political and economic factors are overlooked.

By grounding his critique in detailed fieldwork, Ferguson provides a compelling and empirical

foundation for his theoretical arguments.

Pros and Cons of the Anti-Politics Machine Framework

While Ferguson's thesis has been influential, it is not without critiques. Examining the strengths and limitations of his framework offers a balanced understanding:

- **Pros:**

- Highlights the political nature of development, challenging technocratic neutrality.
- Encourages greater reflexivity among development practitioners.
- Provides a framework for analyzing bureaucratic power and its effects.

- **Cons:**

- May underplay the agency of local actors in shaping development outcomes.
- Some argue it risks overgeneralizing development failures as inherent to the system.
- Less focus on successful development interventions limits discussion of best practices.

Despite these critiques, the anti-politics machine remains a vital analytical tool in understanding the complexities of aid and development.

Legacy and Continuing Influence

James Ferguson's **The Anti-Politics Machine** continues to influence fields beyond anthropology, including political science, development economics, and international relations. Its core argument about the depoliticization of development challenges policymakers to rethink how aid is formulated and implemented.

Moreover, Ferguson's work has inspired subsequent research on the politics of expertise, the role of NGOs, and the intersections between development and neoliberalism. Contemporary scholars often revisit his analysis when examining the persistence of poverty despite decades of aid.

In a global landscape marked by complex crises—climate change, migration, inequality—Ferguson's emphasis on politics underscores the necessity of addressing structural issues rather than relying solely on technical fixes.

The continued citation and relevance of *The Anti-Politics Machine* attest to its critical role in shaping more reflective and effective development discourse. Its lessons urge a move towards approaches that embrace political complexity and foreground the voices and rights of those whom development aims to serve.

James Ferguson The Anti Politics Machine

james ferguson the anti politics machine: *The Anti-politics Machine* James Ferguson, 1994
Development, it is generally assumed, is good and necessary, and in its name the West has intervened, implementing all manner of projects in the impoverished regions of the world. When these projects fail, as they do with astonishing regularity, they nonetheless produce a host of regular and unacknowledged effects, including the expansion of bureaucratic state power and the translation of the political realities of poverty and powerlessness into technical problems awaiting solution by development agencies and experts. It is the political intelligibility of these effects, along with the process that produces them, that this book seeks to illuminate through a detailed case study of the workings of the development industry in one country, Lesotho, and in one development project. Using an anthropological approach grounded in the work of Foucault, James Ferguson analyzes the institutional framework within which such projects are crafted and the nature of development discourse, revealing how it is that, despite all the expertise that goes into formulating development projects, they nonetheless often demonstrate a startling ignorance of the historical and political realities of the locale they are intended to help. In a close examination of the attempted implementation of the Thaba-Tseka project in Lesotho, Ferguson shows how such a misguided approach plays out, how, in fact, the development apparatus in Lesotho acts as an anti-politics machine, everywhere whisking political realities out of sight and all the while performing, almost unnoticed, its own pre-eminently political operation of strengthening the state presence in the local region. James Ferguson is an associate professor of anthropology at the University of California at Irvine.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: *The Anti-Politics Machine* Julie Jenkins, 2017-07-05
James Ferguson's 1990 study *The Anti-Politics Machine* was a radical intervention in development studies that remains influential in the field today. It is also an excellent example of the way in which creative thinking can help shake up an idea, and show problems in a new light. Ferguson's interest was development strategies in the Third World - the interventions by which aid agencies, NGOs and individual countries try to raise poor areas or countries' economic and living standards. Embedded in the community in Lesotho (a small country in southern Africa), Ferguson noted that, time and time again, the same strategies were used by agencies and foreign powers, despite the fact that they had failed many times before. Seeking to analyse the implications of this discovery, Ferguson made a move that is often employed by creative thinkers: he stepped outside of the standard interpretative framework, and applied a novel way of interpreting the problem. In this case, Ferguson imported his framework and methodology from the French philosopher and historian Michel Foucault, whose theories of power dynamics enabled Ferguson to see the failed development strategies from an entirely new perspective. It is a simple but impactful move that helped revolutionise the discussion.--Page 5.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: *The Anti-politics Machine "Development, Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho* James Ferguson, Thaba Tseka Rural Development Program, 2017

james ferguson the anti politics machine: *The Anti-politics Machine* , 1992

james ferguson the anti politics machine: *The Anti-politics Machine in India* Vasudha Chhotray, 2011
This book assesses the validity of 'anti-politics' critiques of development, first

popularised by James Ferguson, in the peculiar context of India. It examines the new context provided by decentralization of state functioning where keeping politics out of development (development as the anti-politics machine) can no longer be taken for granted. The case of a highly technocratic state watershed development programme that also seeks to be participatory is used to illustrate the tensions between prescriptive development policy and a growing political democracy.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: An Analysis of James Ferguson's The Anti-Politics Machine Julie Jenkins, 2017-07-05 The Anti-Politics Machine (1990) examines how international development projects are conceived, researched, and put into practice. It also looks at what these projects actually achieve. Ferguson criticizes the idea of externally-directed 'development' and argues that the process doesn't take proper account of the daily realities of the communities it is intended to benefit. Instead, they often prioritize technical solutions for addressing poverty and ignoring its social and political dimensions, so the structures that these projects put in place often have unintended consequences. Ferguson suggests that until the process becomes more reflective, development projects will continue to fail.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: Does Commons Grabbing Lead to Resilience Grabbing? The Anti-Politics Machine of Neo-Liberal Development and Local Responses Tobias Haller, Fabian Käser, Mariah Ngutu, 2021-01-06 This Special Issue contributes to the debate on land grabbing as commons grabbing with a special focus on how the development of state institutions (formal laws and regulations for agrarian development and compensations) and voluntary corporate social responsibility (CRS) initiatives have enabled the grabbing process. It also looks at how these institutions and CSR programs are used as development strategies of states and companies to legitimate their investments. This Special Issue includes case studies from Kenya, Morocco, Tanzania, Cambodia, Bolivia and Ecuador analysing how these strategies are embedded into neo-liberal ideologies of economic development. We propose looking at James Ferguson's notion of the Anti-Politics Machine (1990) that served to uncover the hidden political basis of state-driven development strategies. We think it is of interest to test the approach for analysing development discourses and CSR-policies in agrarian investments. We argue based on a New Institutional Political Ecology (NIPE) approach that these legitimize the institutional change from common to state and private property of land and land related common pool resources which is the basis of commons grabbing that also grabbed the capacity for resilience of local people.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: Nature Conservation in Southern Africa, 2018-11-26 Nature conservation in southern Africa has always been characterised by an interplay between Capital, specific understandings of Morality, and forms of Militarism, that are all dependent upon the shared subservience and marginalization of animals and certain groups of people in society. Although the subjectivity of people has been rendered visible in earlier publications on histories of conservation in southern Africa, the subjectivity of animals is hardly ever seriously considered or explicitly dealt with. In this edited volume the subjectivity and sentience of animals is explicitly included. The contributors argue that the shared human and animal marginalisation and agency in nature conservation in southern Africa (and beyond) could and should be further explored under the label of 'sentient conservation'. Contributors are Malcolm Draper, Vupenyu Dzingirai, Jan-Bart Gewald, Michael Glover, Paul Hebinck, Tariro Kamuti, Lindiwe Mangwanya, Albert Manhamo, Dhoya Snijders, Marja Spierenburg, Sandra Swart, Harry Wels.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: Everyday State and Democracy in Africa Wale Adebani, 2022-07-12 Bottom-up case studies, drawn from the perspective of ordinary Africans' experiences with state bureaucracies, structures, and services, reveal how citizens and states define each other. This volume examines contemporary citizens' everyday encounters with the state and democratic processes in Africa. The contributions reveal the intricate and complex ways in which quotidian activities and experiences—from getting an identification card (genuine or fake) to sourcing black-market commodities to dealing with unreliable waste collection—both (re)produce and (re)constitute the state and democracy. This approach from below lends gravity to the mundane and recognizes the value of conceiving state governance not in terms of its stated promises and

aspirations but rather in accordance with how people experience it. Both new and established scholars based in Africa, Europe, and North America cover a wide range of examples from across the continent, including bureaucratic machinery in South Sudan, Nigeria, and Kenya infrastructure and shortages in Chad and Nigeria disciplinarity, subjectivity, and violence in Rwanda, South Africa, and Nigeria the social life of democracy in the Congo, Cameroon, and Mozambique education, welfare, and health in Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burkina Faso Everyday State and Democracy in Africa demonstrates that ordinary citizens' encounters with state agencies and institutions define the meanings, discourses, practices, and significance of democratic life, as well its distressing realities. Contributors: Daniel Agbibo Victoria Bernal Jean Comaroff John L. Comaroff E. Fouksman Fred Ikanda Lori Leonard Rose Løvgren Ferenc Dávid Markó Ebenezer Obadare Rogers Orock Justin Pearce Katrien Pype Edoardo Quaretta Jennifer Riggan Helle Samuelson Nicholas Rush Smith Eric Trovalla Ulrika Trovalla

james ferguson the anti politics machine: Territories of Poverty Ananya Roy, Emma Shaw Crane, 2015-11-15 Territories of Poverty challenges the conventional North-South geographies through which poverty scholarship is organized. Staging theoretical interventions that traverse social histories of the American welfare state and critical ethnographies of international development regimes, these essays confront how poverty is constituted as a problem. In the process, the book analyzes bureaucracies of poverty, poor people's movements, and global networks of poverty expertise, as well as more intimate modes of poverty action such as volunteerism. From post-Katrina New Orleans to Korean church missions in Africa, this book is fundamentally concerned with how poverty is territorialized. In contrast to studies concerned with locations of poverty, Territories of Poverty engages with spatial technologies of power, be they community development and counterinsurgency during the American 1960s or the unceasing anticipation of war in Beirut. Within this territorial matrix, contributors uncover dissent, rupture, and mobilization. This book helps us understand the regulation of poverty—whether by globally circulating models of fast policy or vast webs of mobile money or philanthrocapitalist foundations—as multiple terrains of struggle for justice and social transformation.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: How People Respond to Violence Monica Carrer, 2022-09-19 This book explores the powerful role of ordinary people's agency in times of violent conflict. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and a Critical Discourse Analysis, the author draws out the motivations, drivers and strategies at individual and community levels. With a focus on people's own voices, this research highlights rich findings showing a wide range of experiences and actions that people engaged in during the violent conflict, and dimensions that are often missed in dominant explanations of violent conflict. Therefore, while looking at peace and conflict from an everyday perspective, the question of power and the meaning of peace knowledge become central. This monograph addresses the power of people's agency not only in shaping the politics and dynamics of violence, but also in redefining what 'peace' and 'change' ought to look like. Essential reading for researchers and students of Peace and Conflict Studies, and also International Relations, Security Studies, Resistance Studies, Anthropology, Politics, International Development.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: Exploring the link between poverty and human rights in Africa Edited by Ebenezer Durojaye and Gladys Mirugi-Mukundi, 2020-01-01 About the publication This book addresses poverty, one of the important issues confronting Africa, from a multi-disciplinary approach. With contributions from eminent scholars from diverse backgrounds, the book explores poverty from a human rights perspective. Its central message is that poverty is not necessarily a failure on the part of an individual, but rather caused by the actions or inactions of governments, which are often exacerbated by structural inequalities in many African societies. This in turn requires a more pragmatic approach grounded in respect for human rights. Exploring the link between poverty and human rights in Africa will be useful to researchers, policymakers, students, activists and others interested in addressing poverty. Table of Contents PREFACE viii ACKNOWLEDGMENTS x CONTRIBUTORS xi 1. General introduction to poverty and human rights in Africa Ebenezer Durojaye & Gladys Mirugi-Mukundi 1 Introduction 2 Understanding poverty 3

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Little angels: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 2.4 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa 3 Other instruments relating to poverty 3.1 AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (Anti-Corruption Convention) 3.2 Declaration on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa 3.4 Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme 4 Institutional frameworks for addressing poverty 4.1 African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights 4.2 African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child 4.3 African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights 4.4 Need for complementarity: The road not taken 5 Other related mechanisms 5.1 New Partnership for Africa's Development 5.2 African Peer Review Mechanism 6 International best practice dealing with poverty 7 Concluding reflections 11. Realising access to justice for the poor: Lessons from working with rural communities Victoria Balogun 1 Introduction 2 What is access to justice for the poor? 3 How are non-profit organisations such as the Centre for Community Justice and Development promoting access to justice in South Africa post-1994? 4 Are there any barriers to access to justice and do they have any implication(s) for the poor in poor communities? 5 The intersection between poverty and access to justice for poor communities 6 Access to justice, the role of legal aid offices and the commitment to serve the poor in poor communities 7 Equality and access to justice for the poor 8 Conclusion 12. The role of the South African Human Rights Commission in ensuring state accountability to address poverty Rachael Adams 1 Introduction 2 Poverty and human rights 2.1 International human rights law 2.2 Poverty and human rights in South Africa 2.3 Socio-economic rights 3 What do we mean by state accountability? 3.1 State accountability 4 South African Human Rights Commission 4.1 Mandate and functions 4.2 Reporting requirements 5 Structures of accountability 5.1 Complaints 5.2 Reporting 6 Inequality and intersectional discrimination 6.1 Interdependence of rights and the role of government 7 Conclusion: The role of the South African Human Rights Commission

james ferguson the anti politics machine: The Kingdom of God Has No Borders Melani McAlister, 2018 In *The Kingdom of God Has No Borders*, Melani McAlister offers a sweeping narrative of the last fifty years of evangelical history outside of the United States, weaving a fascinating tale that upends much of what we know--or think we know--about American evangelicals.

james ferguson the anti politics machine: The Road to the Two Sudans Souad Ali, Richard Lobban, 2014-03-17 Parallel with the previous volume of conference papers in 2008, *Sudan's Wars and Peace Agreements*, most of these selected and thematic articles were originally presented as papers at the 31st meeting of the Sudan Studies Association (SSA) at Arizona State University in 2012. Since that time, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of 2005 provided for the self-determination referendum of 2011 that resulted in the independence of the new Republic of South Sudan. The previous book presaged this present volume as the, perhaps inevitable, outcome of endless conflicts with no serious effort to "make unity attractive." As this book goes to press, the new Republic of South Sudan is itself wracked with violent conflict. The hopes to build a new, democratic and civil society in the south from the many inherited problems have now devolved to dysfunction itself. Reading this book will realistically help in understanding these "Roads" taken. The editors and authors have created a multi-faceted account which reveals the complex foundations of these conflicts between north and south, and recently within the south itself. While Khartoum struggles onward with the Islamist project, regional conflicts and grave economic problems, Juba stumbles with corruption, armed rebellion and a grave humanitarian crisis. The half-full glass of dreams of social and economic development supported by oil revenue has been replaced by a glass half empty with new varieties of political dysfunction in which both nations have grave problems in security and economic stability in a generally troubled regional "neighborhood."

james ferguson the anti politics machine: African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania Priya Lal, 2015-12 Drawing on a wide range of oral and written sources, this book tells the story of Tanzania's socialist experiment: the ujamaa villagization initiative of 1967-75. Inaugurated shortly after independence, ujamaa ('familyhood' in Swahili) both invoked established socialist themes and departed from the existing global repertoire of development policy, seeking to reorganize the

Tanzanian countryside into communal villages to achieve national development. Priya Lal investigates how Tanzanian leaders and rural people creatively envisioned ujamaa and documents how villagization unfolded on the ground, without affixing the project to a trajectory of inevitable failure. By forging an empirically rich and conceptually nuanced account of ujamaa, *African Socialism in Postcolonial Tanzania* restores a sense of possibility and process to the early years of African independence, refines prevailing theories of nation building and development, and expands our understanding of the 1960s and 70s world.

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