Several considerations emerge from the study of "Indian multi-nationals." Lall suggests that while there are smaller Indian companies which occasionally venture abroad, much of the field is dominated by large firms with considerable experience and financial resources. In part the growth of these multi-nationals was conditioned by the lack of local investment potentials due to the state's anti-monopoly restrictions.

The Indian 'multi-nationals', according to Lall, utilize different market strategies. For example, the Birla group exploits its expertise by direct investments through projects and technical services, while the Tata group relies on a more diversified range of exports. A major problem with the 'Indian multi-nationals' is associated with their inability to create new technological breakthroughs. This has to do more with lack of research and development activities by most of these companies. Lall also notes that the technology which is transmitted by Indian enterprises has a very high "embodied" content in terms of Indian plant, equipment and components.

What emerges from Lall's discussion of the Indian case is that multi-nationals from developing countries are showing the organizational capabilities to set up large-scale, complex, well-diffused technology, marketing-intensive projects, making it possible for them to compete on a par with multi-national firms from the industrialized countries.

While much research on South-South relations has yet to start, the articles in the book raise a number of theoretical and policy issues. Although the articles are unevenly written, collectively they represent a beginning towards a more comprehensive study on South-South relations.

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BOOK NOTES


Colonialism and its profound impact has occupied a prominent place in the study of the social and economic history of Africa. The demise of colonialism in Africa has taken two
distinct phases. In the first phase, the process of decolonization was negotiated between the colonial power and the indigenous strata, resulting in a limited political and economic autonomy. In the second phase, particularly in the former Portuguese colonies, decolonization came about by a protracted military, political and diplomatic struggle in which the forces of national liberation assumed popular control of the political and economic processes.

Dr. Yansané's book on the decolonization of West Africa discusses the first phase and provides a comprehensive analysis of the divergent paths taken by Guinea, the Ivory Coast and Senegal in the aftermath of the demise of French colonialism. The book offers a fresh examination of the motives and foundation of French colonial policy and traces the dynamic process that led certain modifications to accommodate the interests of the emerging indigenous ruling strata.

A significant aspect of the book's contribution to African Studies lies in the in-depth comparison between the non-capitalist development of Guinea, on the one hand, and those of the capitalist model of Senegal and the Ivory Coast, on the other. In particular, Dr. Yansané assesses the political and economic implications of the divergent paths taken by each country and concludes by way of providing an alternative framework for achieving political and economic autonomy for these three countries.

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BOOKS RECEIVED*


*This is a list of books in our hands for which we couldn't find room in this issue. Some of them will be reviewed in subsequent issues. (Ed.)


