

## BOOK REVIEWS

Museveni, Yoweri. *Selected Articles on the Uganda Resistance War*, Second Edition. Kampala: NRM Publications, 1986. 87 p. Ushs 3000/- paperback.

The five articles in this important collection were written between 1981 and 1985. During their writing, Yoweri Museveni was the leader of the National Resistance Movement (NRM). He is now the President of Uganda. In the first article, Museveni explains the strategy and necessity for the guerilla war which was then beginning. The next four articles were written during the war: the second in response to Obote's 1983 claim that the National Resistance Army (NRA) had been defeated and the third in 1985 to explain that the end of the war was near. In the fourth chapter, Museveni sets out his policies and programs for Uganda's recovery from the war and from the ruins caused by the governments of his predecessors. The fifth chapter is a brief statement of the NRM's position on the junta that replaced Obote in July, 1985.

The first part of the book is by far the more thoroughly developed. In Chapter One, Museveni explains the coming "protracted people's war". He clearly distinguishes between conventional war, in which battles are fought for control of territory, and guerilla war, in which attacks against the opposing army itself are followed by withdrawal to safety. This distinction is used in Chapters Two and Three to explain why Obote's claims that his troops were "occupying rebel territory" were in error. In the first three chapters of this volume, Museveni writes in plain language. He entirely avoids the use of political or military jargon. For this reason, the volume is very appropriate for undergraduate courses.

The fourth chapter is of great interest, now that the NRM is in power. Museveni sets out the NRM's Ten Point Program for Uganda's recovery. The ten points are: democracy; security; elimination of sectarianism; national independence (non-alignment); independent national economy; rehabilitation of social services; elimination of corruption; redressing dislocation; co-operation with other African nations for human rights; a mixed economy. This is not only a vast program, but a very complicated one, since the points are inter-related. For example, corruption will prevent the improvement of social services such as medical clinics and roadwork projects. Sectarianism prevents the redress of dislocation, especially in Lango, Acholi, and Karamoja Districts. And democracy is impossible without security for citizens.

A program so large and complicated is difficult to explain briefly. The fourth chapter of this book accordingly lacks some of the clarity and coherence of the earlier explanations of military strategy. It is not stated, for example, whether the ten points are intended as strategies, as goals, or simply as hopes. Nor is this clear from the context. On the one hand, the tenth point, mixed economy, is explained as a strategy for economic improvement. The government will guide the economy by nationalizing certain projects while private ownership of smaller businesses will promote efficiency. On the other hand, the discussion of democracy is definitional. Museveni notes that his meaning of democracy is broad. He includes popular democracy and a decent standard of living as well as parliamentary democracy. He also states that democracy is necessary for economic improvement, but does not say how it will promote economic recovery. Moreover, it is unclear whether Museveni wants to commit the NRM to democracy as a practice, or whether he only means to make it an important goal.\* The discussion of corruption simply states that the problem must be eliminated. The causes of corruption in the civil service - for example, low income and shortages of consumer goods - are not discussed. Finally, the discussion of security for persons and "legitimately earned property" simply promises that "[a]s soon as NRM takes over the government, not only will the state inspired violence disappear, but so will even criminal violence." The importance of eliminating governmental violence against citizens cannot be overstated. One would like to see suggestions, at least, for disarming and controlling the people

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\* Given the suspension of political activity in March, 1986 we may suppose that for the present, this point is a goal, rather than a practice.

who have been perpetrating that violence.

We must keep in mind, however, the context in which the articles were written and the purpose for which they were originally published. The pieces came out during a long military struggle with obvious strategic victories. They were meant not only as explanation of those situations, but also as encouragement for supporters. For that reason, the articles are limited to the issues that were of greatest concern when they were written. It would be extremely foolish to take them as a full exposition of President Museveni's views, or as a complete statement of NRM policy.

The context in which these articles were written also accounts for their somewhat exhortatory flavor. They were originally intended to be read by people who were supportive of the NRM, to explain both the policies of the organization and the potential roles of supporters. For this reason, the reader must not expect any attempts to justify NRM goals to the unpersuaded - whether neutral or hostile. The readers must expect a brief introduction to the political vision of the author, as it has developed during the author's years in the bush. This book provides a starting point from which to track the further development of President Museveni's philosophy and NRM policies, as they are influenced by the experience of running a national government.

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Dodge, Cole P. and Weibe, Paul D., eds. *Crisis In Uganda: The Breakdown of Health Services*. Pergamon Press, 1985, pp. 262.

*Crisis in Uganda* is a unique collection of articles, written by people many of whom have been involved in the provision and organization of health and related services in Uganda. It outlines the medical and health services as they were before their breakdown during the period of military misrule of the 1970s, the problems associated with their breakdown, and the beginnings of their rehabilitation. *Crisis in Uganda*, however, does not dwell only on Uganda's dismal period. While it registers some of the experiences of the country during its "dark ages", it also throws some rays of light and hope for the future.

The book is divided into four sections. The first section is titled "Background to the Crisis". In this section, Professor Senteza Kaju