

# The Economics of Peace and Security Journal

© www.epsjournal.org.uk, ISSN 1749-852X

## Book Note

**Batchelor, Peter and Kees Kingma, eds. 2004. *Demilitarisation and Peace-building in Southern Africa*. Vols. I-III. Series: *The International Political Economy of New Regionalisms*. Aldershot: Ashgate. *Vol. I: Concepts and Processes*. xv +173 pp. ISBN 0-7546-3314-4 (hardback). Price £45.00. *Vol. II: National and Regional Experiences*. xvi + 237 pp. ISBN 0-7546-3315-2 (hardback). Price £49.50. *Vol. III: The Role of the Military in State Formation and Nation-Building* (co-editor Guy Lamb). xv + 150 pp. ISBN 0-7546-3316-0 (hardback). Price £45.00.**

by Bjørn Møller (9 May 2006)

This three-volume work is devoted to the reorientation and partial build-down of the armed forces in southern Africa after the end of the Cold War and, at least as significantly, after the dismantling of the apartheid regime in South Africa in 1994. The editors have previously written about both conversion (Batchelor) and demobilisation (Kingma) in Africa, and for this anthology they have managed to recruit as contributors some of the most prominent experts from the region. The altogether nineteen chapters cover both conceptual aspects of demilitarization, general analyses of region-wide trends, and concrete country experiences.

In the first volume André du Pisani thus provides an introduction to the changing concepts of security, from the narrow concept of national security (in actual fact, a misnomer for regime security) to the more all-encompassing one of human security. Laurie Nathan analyses the complicated conflicts springing from the no less complex crises in which many of the region's countries have found themselves, involving both economic and governance matters. Gavin Cawthra follows up on this with an analysis of the challenges posed by the "democratisation imperative" to the military establishments of the region, and Peter Batchelor looks at the economic challenges and opportunities of arms build-down and demilitarization in states with few resources and high unemployment. This is followed by a sociological analysis (by Jacklyn Cock) on demilitarization processes, accompanied by a more concrete account, written by Kees Kingma, of the challenges of DDR, i.e. of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration, of former combatants in countries coming out of (often protracted) civil wars.

The second volume is less rigidly structured, featuring chapters on such diverse themes as the land issue in Zimbabwe's present conflict (by Tapera Knox Chitiyu), environmental causes of conflict (by Clever Mafuta and others), the growing privatization of conflict and security (by Bernedette Muthien), and the role of peace organizations in bringing about demilitarization (by Jacklyn Cock).

Volume three is again more thematically integrated, focusing on the role of the military in nation-building and state formation, with case studies of Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Taken as a whole, this monumental work provides an excellent overview of the peace and security situation of this rapidly changing region.

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