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*State Against Development: The Experience of
Post-1965 Zaire.* Mondonga M. Mokoli.

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BOOK NOTES

Mondonga M. Mokoli. *State Against Development: The Experience of Post-1965 Zaire*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1992. \$45 hardcover.

The post colonial era in the Third World has been characterized by state interventionism. As indigenous elites assumed power after the collapse of European imperial rule, they sought not only to consolidate their control over the state apparatus but to extend it. The declared intention of their statism was to promote economic and social development. They believed that the considerable resources of the state could be mobilized to promote economic growth, foster social progress and transform backward agrarian communities into advanced industrial nations.

In this detailed study of government rural development programs in Zaire, Mokoli argues that the statist strategy for development failed miserably. Although the country's political leaders consistently claimed that government actively promotes development for the benefit of ordinary people, the record is dismal. Applying established theories of the state to analyze the cause of this situation, Mokoli concludes that the absence of a pluralistic political system has permitted elites to take control of the state for their own benefit. While Mokoli's study has obvious relevance to other nations and for understanding the role of the state in development, his findings should not foster the conclusion that statism has been universally disastrous.

Klaus Misgeld, Karl Molin and Klas Amark (Eds.). *Creating Social Democracy: A Century of the Social Democratic Labor Party in Sweden*. University Park, PA: Penn State Press, 1993. \$65.00 hardcover, \$16.95 papercover.

Despite widespread ignorance of what Swedish social democracy comprises, it has either been a subject of derision or veneration in American political circles. For some, the Swedish system offers a utopian vision of what government direction of economic and social affairs can achieve. For others, Sweden is an oppressive society in which individual creativity is stifled by high taxation, government regulation and social uniformity.