South Africa Pushed to the Limit

About this Publication:

Close to half the South African population lives in poverty, jobs are scarce and the country is more unequal than ever. In its wide-ranging, incisive and provocative analysis, *South Africa Pushed to the Limit* shows that although the legacies of apartheid and colonialism weigh heavy, many of the strategic choices made since the early 1990s have compounded those handicaps. Building on his acclaimed book *Limits to Change*, Marais examines South Africa’s most pressing issues - from the real reasons behind President Jacob Zuma’s rise and the purging of his predecessor, Thabo Mbeki, to piercing analyses of the country’s continuing AIDS crisis, its economic path and the changes wrought in the world of work. *South Africa Pushed to the Limit* presents a riveting, benchmark analysis of the incomplete journey beyond apartheid.

Peer Reviews:

“This is an important and original book, scholarly, but at the same time readable. It is better in my view, than any recent book on the political economy of South Africa’s transition.” - *Professor John Sender, Department of Economics, SOAS, University of London.*

“If students can read only one book on South Africa’s transition, this should be the book.” - *Professor Jaclyn Cock, Department of Sociology, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg.*

“South Africa: Limits to Change breaks new ground both in its analysis and in its discussions of the options available to the South African left.” - *Professor Adam Habib, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Johannesburg.*

“Hein Marais is probably the most intelligent and articulate author who writes about South Africa in a Marxist paradigm.” - *Professor David Welsh, Professor Emeritus, University of Cape Town.*

Contents Include:

Foreword
Acknowledgements
Introduction
doldrums.

Chapter 2: Saving the system

Chapter 3: Contours of the transition
Big stakes, high risks. Taking the plunge. Terms of the deal. Salvaging the economic system. South Africa in the global economy.

Chapter 4: Sticking to the rules: the evolution of post-apartheid economic policy
ANC economic policy in the early 1990s. The GEAR plan.

Chapter 5: All dressed up: the economy in the twenty-first century
South Africa’s economic makeover. The meanings of neoliberalism. Black economic empowerment in the 2000s. The ecological frailty of South Africa’s development path.

Chapter 6: The world of work

Chapter 7: Poverty and inequality in the post-apartheid years

Chapter 8: The social protection system
Social expenditure in South Africa. The universal income debate. Social rights, the state and the market.

Chapter 9: AIDS and TB: like ‘waiting for a tidal wave to hit’
Tuberculosis and AIDS. A political economy of AIDS in South Africa. The impact of a hyper-epidemic.

Chapter 10: False starts: the health and education systems
Rebuilding the health system. Worlds apart: the new education system.

Chapter 11: A South African developmental state?

Chapter 12: Last man standing: the Mbeki-Zuma battle
The arms deal. Face-off: Zuma versus Mbeki. What was the Mbeki-Zuma duel really about?

Chapter 13: Power, consent and the ANC

Chapter 14: Left behind: challenge and protest
The gravity field of national liberation. COSATU and the SACP take a shortcut. Popular activism beyond the Alliance. Keeping perspective.

Acronyms
Bibliography
Index

Of Interest and Benefit to:

- Students and academics in the fields of sociology, politics, African studies, economics, public health, and history
- Parliamentarians
- Policymakers
- Political journalists
- Anyone interested in current affairs