

Recent Books from Zimbabwe – July 2021

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Biography

'The Color of the Skin Doesn't Matter' : A Missioner's Tale of Faith and Politics / Janice McLaughlin, MM
Harare: Weaver Press, 2021
xvi, 240p. ; 210x140mm.
9781779224033
\$ 26.00 / PB
340gm.

Sr Janice McLaughlin (1942-2021) was a remarkable woman, an American Maryknoll nun who dedicated her life to the twin causes of education and justice. This memoir, completed just before her death, tells her story with refreshing candor. Acknowledging her naivety, which so often gives sustenance to idealism and the drive for a better world, she wanted to be a part of the struggles for freedom and independence in Africa. Trained as a journalist, she first began work in East Africa in 1969. Eight years later, she came to Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), to work as press secretary for the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace at the height of the liberation war. Here, her outrage at the brutality of the Rhodesian regime led her to be denounced as a 'terrorist sympathiser'. She was imprisoned and deported. This defining incident led her to the ZANLA camps in Mozambique where she worked as an educator. Sr Janice spent four decades of her life in Africa, mainly in Zimbabwe. Celebrating the country's independence in 1980, she was consistently committed to work in social justice with

the newly developed ZIMFEP schools, at Silveira House, and with marginalised communities. As Bishop Dieter Scholz points out in his Foreword, she did not evade the hard truth that after forty years the new regime has not fulfilled its promises to create greater equality of opportunity for the disadvantaged; she continued to work for a better, kinder and happier world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774705>

Law

Family Law and Politics with Biology and Royalty in African and North America / Peter Ateh & Afac Fossungu (Ed) Tendai Rinos Mwanaka

Chitungwiza: Mwanaka Media and Publishing Pvt Ltd., 2021
x, 242p.

9781779295958

\$ 35.00 / PB

375gm.

This book comes to educate, re-enlighten, entertain curious minds, and stiffly challenge traditionalism in the academia - all at the same time. It is frantalkist (calls a spade a spade), crisebacological (balanced critical thinking), expibasketical (experience-based learning and taeching) and highly informative. It aims at reversing the *abstract-learning* trend by relating education and living to people's day-to-day realities. It brings to the entire world the Immaculate Freedom, Unity and Development Theory from Africa that is anchored on the trinity of Crisebacology, Frantalkism and Giveantakism. You wouldn't expect to hear everything here from me, of course. Better go inside where I have actually done the lecturing and discover the treasure for yourself!

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774707>

Women Law and Power : Perspectives from Zimbabwe's Fast Track Land Reform Programme / Makanatsa Makonese
Harare: Weaver Press, 2021

xvi, 152p. ; 229x152mm.
9781779223982
\$ 30.00 / PB
255gm.

Without adequate protection and consideration from the state, women were left out of Zimbabwe's Fast Land Reform Programme at the turn of the century. Leaving them to fight for land in a murky, convoluted system will not address women's rights to it. Giving specific ethical and legal attention to women's rights and needs is the only way to guard against land and other resources begin co-opted by the privileged and those with the requisite social, financial and political capital. Some commentators have argued that Zimbabwean women were better off identifying with Zimbabwean men as blacks in taking land from the former white farmers than to concentrate on their needs as women during the FTLRP. The primary battle was to take the land from the white farmer, after which a secondary battle by women to take land from men would ensue. Twenty years after the commencement of the FTLRP, the question remains whether the secondary battle by black women to take over land from black men has started and whether there are any chances that such a battle will ever be fought and won.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=774709>
