

FOREWORD

This issue of the *ITWSJ&R* deals with topics concerning the displacement of people in Guatemala, the writing of the African novelist Ahmadou Kourouma, and the problems associated with majoritarianism.

Jo Ann DiGeorgio-Lutz and Aaron Hale's essay, "Internal Displacement in Guatemala," is an investigation that attempts to fill the gap in the literature concerning the analysis of internal displacement in post-civil war Guatemalan society. It is based on fieldwork in several marginalized communities within Guatemala City, environs that were inhabited by numbers of conflict induced internally displaced persons (IDPs). It was generally thought that the end of the civil war in December 1966 also brought an end to internal displacement within the country. However, displacement did not cease following the peace; rather, it continues at a different level and for a variety of reasons. In examining the post conflict return and resettlement of indigenous Maya who were displaced, DiGeorgio-Lutz and Hale conclude that the relationship between the label IDP and how an individual's self-identity is a troubling one that suggests that Guatemala's internal displacement problem has not been resolved by the 1994 Accord on Resettlement, and the subsequent 1996 peace agreement. They end with the thought that a long lasting peace in that Central American country will not be achieved until the issue of internal displacement is settled for all its citizens.

In "History, Political Discourse, and Narrative Strategies in the African Novel: Ahmadou Kourouma's *Allah n'est pas obligé*," Paschal B. Kyiiripuo Kyoore focuses on Ahmadou Kourouma's novel *Allah n'est pas oblige* and shows that this novel fits the definition of a "historical novel" because Kourouma uses authentic historical names, places, and events as the raw material for his fictional creation. Kourouma makes use of historical "causality" in the same way that a historian does in compiling a historical work. However, the author of *Allah n'est pas oblige* evokes historical personalities in order to lampoon them, and to criticize dictatorship and those responsible for the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Kyoore makes it clear that Kourouma uses a variety of narrative devices to speak against injustice on behalf of the voiceless.

Peter Emerson's contribution, "Majoritarianism, A Cause of Conflict: The Rights and Wrongs of Self-Determination," sets the stage by briefly laying out the tragic history of recent attempts to implement a majoritarian interpretation of the right of self-determination. He makes a strong case against the West's obsession with majority rule as the only legitimate form of democracy, and concludes that many situations of decision making are best served by some sort of a multi-option preference vote. The suggestion is that recent history might have been different if majoritarianism was replaced with a procedure that displayed a greater multiplicity.

The Book Review section concludes this issue with 11 book reviews. Rory J. Conces reviews Azar Nafisi's *Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir of Books* (Random House, 2004); Thomas C. Buchanan reviews Selwyn H.H. Carrington's *The Sugar Industry and Abolition of the Slave Trade, 1775–1810* (University Press of Florida, 2002); David T. Jervis reviews Gliomee Hermann's *The Afrikaners: Biography of a People* (University of Virginia Press, 2003) and Fran Lisa Buntman's *Robben Island and Prisoner Resistance to Apartheid* (Cambridge University Press, 2004); Ali Kamali reviews Peter L. Berger and Samuel P. Huntington's *Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World* (Oxford University Press, 2002); Moshe Gershovich reviews David Schenker's *Dancing with Saddam: The Strategic Tango of Jordanian-Iraqi Relations* (Lexington Books and The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, 2003); A.B. Assensoh and Y.M. Alex-Assensoh review Joseph C. Dorsey's *Slave Traffic in the Age of Abolition: Puerto Rico, West Africa, and non-Hispanic Caribbeans, 1815–1859* (University Press of Florida, 2003); Joseph K. Adjaye reviews Verene A. Shepherd's *Slavery Without Sugar: Diversity in Caribbean Economy and Society Since the 17th Century* (University Press of Florida, 2002); Richard R. Super reviews *The Cuba Reader: History, Culture, Politics*, edited by Aviva Chomsky, Barry Carr, and Pamela Marie Smarkaloff (Duke University Press, 2003); Dale Stover reviews *Religious Fundamentalism in the Contemporary World: Critical Social and Political Issues* (Lexington Books, 2004), edited by Santosh C. Saha; and David Carey, Jr. reviews Sherry Johnson's *The Social Transformation of Eighteenth-Century Cuba* (University Press of Florida, 2001).