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# FOREWORD

This issue indicates the *ITWSJ&R*'s commitment to reflecting the wide range of Third-World issues. It's a diverse collection; authors Aaron Hale, Owen G. Mordaunt, and John R. Warner, Jr. examine disparate subject matter from a variety of perspectives. The topics in this issue include security and environmental decline in Burundi, the restoration of respectability as exemplified in Abioseh Nicol's "The Truly Married Woman" and Alice Walker's "Roselily," and the persecution of women, the most persecuted minority group in the world.

Aaron Hale's essay, "Burundi's Regroupment Camps: Environmental Decline and the Role of Collective Discontent," explores the socio-political dynamics of conflict in Burundi by addressing the linkage between security and environmental decline and how such decline may lead to further conflict and political instability within Burundi. The three contributing factors to environmental decline that Hale addresses and links to political instability within Burundi are the country's socio-economic condition, the regroupment of a significant portion of society which has increased ethnic tension, and the lack of available resources to access and maintain adequate living standards. He concludes that if Burundi is to have lasting peace, the people of Burundi must address and resolve their identity crisis, their most important problem.

In "Respectability Restored in Abioseh Nicol's 'The Truly Married Woman,' Echoed in Alice Walker's 'Roselily,'" Owen G. Mordaunt shows how Nicol and Walker, writing about very different contexts—Sierra Leone and the United States—capture the plight of women who have had children out of wedlock, as well as the "restoration of respectability" that women acquire as they live through the ceremonies of engagement and marriage. The process of restoration is expressed in the heroines Ayo and Roselily in "The Truly Married Woman" and "Roselily," respectfully. In both cases, there is a transformation that restores each woman's respectability. Ayo's view of her position in the household and her relationship with the man who has become her husband now demands respect and dignity, whereas Roselily is transformed "from a woman who is passionate, natural, and in the eyes of society, impure and immoral, to one who is resurrected and reborn." Mordaunt's article gives a fascinating glimpse of how women are portrayed in two different, but related, cultures.

Although feminist ideologies have brought about many advances in the understanding of women and the roles of women in the Western world, John Warner, Jr. notes that these same ideologies have made little gain in the Third World. In "The Silence of Women, The Voices of Women," Warner uses a "symbolic interactionist" approach to the roles of women in the Third World in order to interpret the oppression of women with a typology of male definitions. Warner examines phenomena such as son preference, honor killings, purdah, bride burning, and female genital mutilation. He ends the article with a discussion of how the voices of women are being heard and the international organizations that are attempting to help women find the rights and protections that many of us consider "inalienable."

The Book Review and Book Note sections conclude this issue with four reviews and one note. Rory J. Conces reviews Fatos Tarifa's *The Quest for Legitimacy and the Withering Away of Utopia* (Smiet, 2001); Owen G. Mordaunt reviews Theodore G. Vincent's *The Legacy of Vicente Guerrero, Mexico's First Black Indian President* (University Press of Florida, 2001); Maria Arbeláez reviews Damián J. Fernández and Madeline Cámara Betancourt's *Cuba, the Elusive Nation* (University Press of Florida, 2000); Paul A. Williams reviews Georges Nzongola-Ntalaja's *From Zaire to the Democratic Republic of the Congo* (Nordiska Africain Institutet, 1998) and *The Congo from Leopold to Kabila* (Zed Books, 2002) and Matthew Marx comments on Anthony Payne and Paul Sutton's *Charting Caribbean Development* (University Press of Florida, 2001).

With great pleasure, I announce a new member of the editorial staff, as well as a new member of the Editorial Board of *ITWSJ&R*. Dr. Paul Allen Williams, a member of the Department of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, will serve as an Associate Editor. Dr. Jasminka Babić-Avdspahić, a member of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina, will serve on the Editorial Board.

The editorial staff of the *Journal* invites you to continue manuscript submissions for consideration in future issues. As always, *ITWSJ&R* is a refereed publication and is open to articles and book reviews addressing any aspect of Third World studies. Articles examining the concept of the Third World are equally solicited. In addition, future issues will include reviews of films, translations, book notes, discussion notes, and interviews. Submissions should to be mailed to the address printed in the Information for Contributors section of this issue.

In an attempt to make the journal more readily accessible, the editors are examining the prospect of providing an online version of the paper journal. Whether the journal moves to an online-only format will be gauged by the success of this experiment.

The contents of the last four volumes and the Information for Contributors can be found on the journal's website. The journal's homepage is maintained by the Department of Philosophy and Religion at <http://www.unomaha.edu/%7Ewwwphrel/intern.htm>. For information on the annual Third World Studies Conference at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, go to <http://www.unomaha.edu/~twsc>.

Rory J. Conces