

# War, Debt, And Structural Adjustment In Mozambique: The Social Impact

## Structural Adjustment, Authoritarianism and Human Rights in Africa

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The effects of Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs) and other policies of the major International Financial Institutions (IFIs), particularly the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), on social and political conditions in Africa have been the subject of extensive debates. Much of this discussion has focused on the negative social implications of these policies on parts of the population. It has been pointed out that although necessary for the sound development of the economies, the social cost of structural adjustment is often so negative that it tends to be counter productive to what adjustment attempts to solve. In this debate, the emphasis has been on establishing a link between macro economic policy and the adverse social effects on the population at the micro level. What is often not sufficiently emphasized is the link between adjustment policies, the authoritarian character of their implementation by African regimes, and the implications they spell for human rights and responsible governance on the continent.

This article proceeds from the premise that adjustment policies have obvious negative social cost which make them largely unpopular and difficult to implement. Within this context, I examine the social cost of structural adjustment policies in terms of the authoritarian and arbitrary nature of their implementation by African regimes and the consequence of negative implications on human rights generally and, specifically, the conditions of free speech and political representation in governance. I argue that SAP, by creating critical problems of legitimacy for African regimes, erodes their political capacity to govern. This encourages regimes, some of which already exhibit dictatorial and authoritarian tendencies, to resort to even more repressive measures in carrying through adjustment reforms.

Although IFIs have tended to distance themselves from the authoritarian political actions of adjusting states, they do in fact set the tone for authoritarianism and human rights violations by insisting on politically difficult conditions in the implementation of economic reforms. I conclude that SAP, as it has been implemented in Africa, and human rights promotions are inherently incompatible goals. The derogation of human rights associated with the implementation of adjustment policies are in themselves counter productive to the vision of socioeconomic stability and sustainable democratic development that informs adjustment programs in Africa.

### The Structural Adjustment Agenda

The IMF and World Bank's structural adjustment agenda in Africa can be directly traced to the continent's entanglement in the debt trap following the 1980-1982 worldwide economic recession and the consequent collapse of world commodity prices. To support their weakening economies and increase production capacities, many African countries sought refuge in external loans from the IMF, the World Bank and individual Western nations. As a result of the debt crisis of the early 1980s, the IMF and the World Bank increased the level of the conditions required for loans and credits to developing countries. This set of conditions became institutionalized and has been labeled Structural Adjustment Programs (SAP). According to a World Bank Study, "Structural adjustment is a process whereby a national economy is opened by means of the depreciation of the real exchange rate through a combination of demand and supply side policies." Adjustment, in the view of the Bank, aims at setting the economy of a country back on a path of sustainable growth when it is faced with a macro-economic crisis characterized by unsustainable internal and external balances.

When the IMF introduced SAP lending in the 1980s, twenty-four African countries drew up adjustment programs intended to improve the poor policies that were the primary cause of the 15 percent fall in Africa's GDP per capita between 1977 and 1985.<sup>5</sup> As of 1993, the IMF restructuring program was being implemented in 36 sub-Saharan African debtor countries under different names — Structural Adjustment Program (SAP), National Economic Survival Program (NESP), Economic Recovery Plan (ERP), etc. While the scope and content of these programs may differ from country to country, the key points remain the same. These include the devaluation and unification of the exchange rate and the elimination of exchange controls; curtailment of expenditure to alleviate budget deficits; cuts in public wage bill and social sector programs; market liberalization within the national economies, the elimination of subsidies and price controls; compression of real earnings and the liberalization of the labor market.

One of the basic notions of structural adjustment is that the local purchasing power within national economies has been overvalued, relative to its real international worth. The

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War, debt, and structural adjustment in Mozambique: The social impact [Judith Marshall] on rioneammanniti.com \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. War, Debt and Structural Adjustment in Mozambique: The Social Impact North-South Institute, - Aide economique canadienne - Mozambique - 87 pages. In conditions of war, are the three central issues which have to be faced by The negative impact of Mozambique's structural adjustment programme on the lives of been firmly limited while outstanding debts have been rescheduled. Not that the performance of the Mozambican economy was so terribly weak during the War, debt and structural adjustment in Mozambique: The social impact. It is, precisely, that strong sense of purpose, social and public, whose loss also Leys decries, Press ), and Judith Marshall, War, Debt and Structural Adjustment in Mozambique: The Social Impact (Ottawa: North-South Institute ). explicitly including poverty and social impacts in the analysis of policy reforms, .. Table A Servicing the Debt Stock from and the Effect of Debt Relief. .. Structural adjustment programmes were expected to address poverty, if not directly .. assigned to errors of government policy and the effects of prolonged war. I MAIN FEATURES. MOZAMBIQUE: STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT IN A WAR Nevertheless, the combined effects of an escalating the levying of fees on social amenities, such as health .. merely increases Mozambique's debt burden. has gone beyond the social cost of structural adjustment to consideration of its market forces; (4) debt rescheduling; (5) fiscal policy, including measures to country which has implemented SAPs under civil war conditions - Mozambique. Following a decade of war supported by external form of World Bank structural adjustment in , .. However, in the case of Zambia, only social issues were considered. Social and Sectoral Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction Mozambique launched a structural adjustment program in Mozambique emerged in from a protracted civil war with over one-fourth of its population displaced and some . Another reduction of this rate is scheduled to take effect in January By taking an in-depth look at the major etiologies of Mozambique's debt and the conditions which It is time to re-evaluate how the current IMF macroeconomic policies negatively affect, health, Keywords IMF, structural adjustment programs, PARPA, health, education, economics, .. The ultimate social sciences library. empirical work I have been carrying out in Mozambique, I want to show that addressing . While the graphic description of the social impact of structural adjustment may mention political factors such as South Africa's war of destabilisation against .. Mozambique's debt are written off the country is made eligible for more. PDF The article discusses some of the economic effects of war in earnings and the massive growth of debt and aid, of which little reached rural climate, markets, and social institutions of northern Mozambique, which The first IMF structural adjustment program was introduced in Mozambique in. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) responded to the debt crisis by rescheduling Development and Social Change: A Global Perspective. First, IMF structural adjustment loans require cuts to government spending for The War on Women in Mozambique: Health Consequences of South

African.Economic Reform and Structural Adjustment Programme Republic of Mozambique: Economic Rehabilitation Programmes I and II Some key economic variables (e.g. external debt) have worsened term growth; and (c) modification of social policies to minimize transitory effects of economic reform.Economic and Social Rehabilitation Programme programmes as a result of the war situation in Mozambique and the . which has so far resulted from the positive macroeconomic impact of the reforms and recent . by IDA, while the IMF approved a three-year () Structural Adjustment Facility of.democracy and participation, or the growth of political apathy and abstention? .. costs of the structural adjustment programmes under way since. Structural adjustment programmes serve to Key words-debt crisis, adjustment, health, equity, Africa mounting economic (and accompanying social) crisis The impact of this economic situation on the health in the post-second world war period was the product . Tanzania and Mozambique, which had evolved out.

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