

ETHIOPIA

Failure of Land Reform and Agricultural Crisis

Kidane Mengisteab

Contributions in Afro-American and African Studies,
Number 137



GREENWOOD PRESS

New York • Westport, Connecticut • London

Contents

| | |
|--|------|
| Illustrations | xi |
| Acknowledgments | xv |
| List of Abbreviations | xvii |
| | |
| 1 Objectives of the Study and Theoretical Framework | 1 |
| Different Explanations of the Agricultural Crisis | 2 |
| Cabral's Solution to the Neo-Marxist Impasse | 9 |
| Conditions for Cabral's Solution | 12 |
| General Methodology | 13 |
| Methodology for the Second Objective | 15 |
| Methodology for the Third Objective | 16 |
| Notes | 17 |
| | |
| 2 The Relevance and Essential Aspects of Land Reform | 21 |
| Arguments for Land Reform | 22 |
| Arguments against Land Reform | 26 |
| Attributes of Successful Land Reforms | 29 |
| Conclusion | 36 |
| Notes | 37 |
| | |
| 3 Background to Agricultural Stagnation in Ethiopia | 39 |
| The Feudal Era of Technological Stagnation | 40 |
| Land Tenure Patterns | 42 |
| The <i>Diessa</i> Pattern | 43 |
| The <i>Rist</i> (Kinship Ownership) Pattern | 45 |
| The Private Ownership Pattern | 48 |
| Church Ownership of Land | 50 |

| | | |
|---|---|-----|
| | State Ownership of Land | 52 |
| | Land Tenure Constraints | 53 |
| | Notes | 57 |
| 4 | Ethiopia's Agriculture after the Country's Incorporation into the International Capitalist System | 61 |
| | Ethiopia's Agriculture between 1940 and 1974 | 67 |
| | Reasons for the Failure of the Package Projects | 73 |
| | The Effects of Agricultural Stagnation on the Commercial Sector | 79 |
| | Notes | 81 |
| 5 | Overthrow of the Imperial Regime | 83 |
| | The Land Redistribution Proclamation | 87 |
| | Justifications for the Change | 92 |
| | Notes | 94 |
| 6 | Land Redistribution: Implementation Problems and Impacts | 97 |
| | The Development through Cooperation Campaign | 98 |
| | Technical Problems during the Implementation of the Land Redistribution | 99 |
| | Problems of Measurement | 103 |
| | The New Tax Law | 107 |
| | Farm Gate Price Controls | 109 |
| | Post-1975 Agricultural Output | 113 |
| | Analysis of the Results | 114 |
| | Notes | 118 |
| 7 | Leadership and Social Change in Post-1974 Ethiopia | 121 |
| | Background to Military Intervention | 122 |
| | The Military in Power | 125 |
| | The Distribution of Political Power | 132 |
| | The PMAC and the Issue of Democratic Rights | 132 |
| | The Ethiopian Workers Party and the Declaration of a Civilian Government | 135 |
| | The Question of Nationalities | 136 |
| | The Eritrean War | 139 |
| | Notes | 144 |
| 8 | Agricultural Strategy in Post-1975 Ethiopia | 147 |
| | Capital Accumulation | 152 |
| | Employment Creation and Poverty Alleviation | 153 |
| | Productivity | 154 |

| | |
|--|------------|
| Income Redistribution | 155 |
| Environmental Protection | 156 |
| Difficulty of Implementation | 157 |
| Constraint of Capital | 157 |
| Foreign Exchange Constraint | 158 |
| Support and Motivation of Producers | 159 |
| Management and Technical Skills | 160 |
| Collectivization and Socialism | 162 |
| Why the PMAC Opted for the Prevailing Agricultural Strategy | 163 |
| The Nature of the Ethiopian State | 165 |
| 9 Conclusion | 169 |
| Notes | 175 |
| Appendix | 177 |
| Bibliography | 187 |
| Index | 205 |