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Arthur Abraham

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ETHIOPIA: REVOLUTION, LAW AND POLITICS

216 pp., DM 44.-/ISBN 3 8039 0136 7

Ethiopia: Revolution, Law and Politics chronicles and analyses the momentous events that led to the deposal of Haile Selassie I and the seizure of power by the anonymous 120-man military council. Briefly setting these events in their historical context and treating them comparatively, the book details the complex interrelation of law and politics resulting from a revolutionary socialist regime's attempts to grapple with problems that echo throughout the Third World.

Although the 'style' of Ethiopian politics has remained unchanged and law continues to be complementary to, rather than a limitation upon, the political process, radically different politics are being implemented and new approaches to law are being utilised in response to the crises of legitimacy, stability, justice, popular participation and legal penetration. After the suspension of Haile Selassie's Constitution, 'constitutional' rules were designed in an attempt to legitimate and stabilise the new regime. Few changes in administrative law were introduced and direct military supervision of the bureaucracy was instituted. Changes in penal law and procedure, designed to increase the speed and certainty of conviction of 'enemies of the people', represent significant truncations of human rights. Ethiopian Socialism has manifested itself in the nationalisation of business concerns, urban land reform and agrarian reforms.

As eyewitnesses, the authors convey some of the interest and excitement engendered and provide a balanced account of recent events in Ethiopia. Detailed appendices – many of which have previously been available only in Amharic – document the authors' findings.

Im März 1974 begann die äthiopische Armee die Kontrolle über das Land auszuüben, und im September wurde Haile Selassie I. von ihr abgesetzt. Die Verfasser legen eine ausgewogene Analyse des schrittweisen Prozesses vor, durch den das unbekannte 120 Mann starke Militärkommittee zur Macht kam. Die komplexe Wechselbeziehung von Recht und Politik wird hier im Falle eines revolutionären, Die komplexe vvecnseibezienung von Recht und Politik wird nier im Falle eines revolutionaren, sozialistischen Regimes aufgezeigt, das sich mit den allgemeinen Schwierigkeiten der Dritten Welt hinsichtlich Legitimität, Stabilität, Rechtsordnung, Volksbeteiligung und Ausdehnung der Rechtsstaatlichkeit auseinander setzen muß. Die radikal sich vom Bisherigen unterscheidende Politik zeigt sich in neuen Rechtsansätzen bei Verfassungsrecht, Strafrecht und Prozeßverfahren. Äthiopischer Sozialismus tritt zutage durch Nationalisierung des Handels, städtische Bodenreform und landwirtschaftliche Reformen. Detaillierte Quellen, von denen viele bisher nur in amharischer Sprache zugänglich waren, vervollständigen die Ergebnisse der Verfasser.

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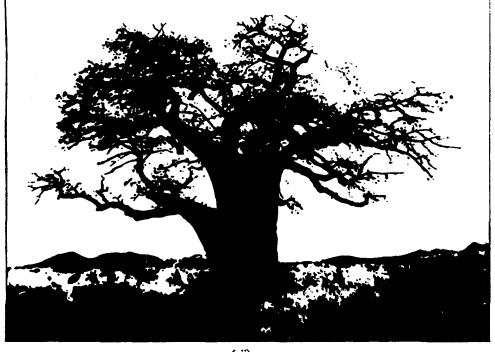
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