

Vijay Prashad. *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*. New York: The New Press, 2007. Pp. 364. Paper. \$19.95.

Vijay Prashad's book, *The Darker Nations*, provides a Third World perspective on many of the international confrontations and economic events during the Cold War. To do so, he highlights the Third World's response to the Cold War, the Non Aligned Movement. Investigating these events allows Prashad to successfully argue that economic interests and internal mismanagement stymied economic, political, and social justice.

The author broadly defines the Third World as those nations not affiliated with the United States or the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Prashad describes the collective action taken by countries in the Non Aligned Movement to protect their interests, such as the formation of commodities cartels, protests against the United Nations, and the renouncing of nuclear weapons. He then considers some of the Non Aligned Movement's failures in cases like the military defeat of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in the 1967 war with Israel and India's acquisition of a nuclear stockpile. With this foundation, he provides a framework for understanding the complex issues these countries faced.

Mindful of the topic's complexity, Prashad is careful to explain the financial hardships the Third World faced during the period of the Cold War. Prashad explores the issue of single crop economies, including their origins in colonialism and their negative impact on economic growth, in several examples such as the pre-revolution sugar cartels of Cuba and oil interests in Venezuela. Furthermore, he demonstrates the self-inflicted wounds of financial mismanagement with the socialist experiment in Tanzania known as the Tanganyika African National Union. With this detailed explanation, he illustrates the interference of outside entities while also stressing the responsibility of leaders in the Non Aligned Movement and the consequences of their poor decisions.

Prashad also draws attention to the impact that these kinds of external interference had on the Non Aligned Movement's larger goals. He emphasizes the role the United

Nations played in handicapping social justice, criticizing its ability to impose its will on other sovereign nations. In doing so, he makes the point that the United Nations' veneer of equal representation is simply a mechanism for upholding the status quo. Finally, his explanation of global financial institutions like the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and their deleterious business practices underscores the negative effects outside financial interests had on economic growth in Non-Aligned countries.

Prashad's research provides a thorough examination of work from politicians, economists, and activists with expertise in fields critical to the Third World. These sources include figures such as Sukarno, Raul Prebisch, and Frantz Fanon. He pays special attention to sources that investigate economic factors in the regions under examination. He also gives additional consideration to sources pointing out the contrast between Soviet communism and the unique economic models that emerged in areas of the developing world. The evidence is organized and presented in an accessible format covering one country at a time while also weaving together a larger narrative.

The Darker Nations is useful for scholars with an interest in the Cold War, especially those looking for perspectives from nations other than the United States or the Soviet Union. A perspective from Third World nations, who, in some cases, were manipulated by the "super powers," is invaluable in an effort to gain a more comprehensive view of the Cold War era. Prashad is the Director of International Studies at Trinity College and the George and Martha Kellner Chair of South Asian History.

James Steele

Lian Xi. *Redeemed by Fire: The Rise of Popular Christianity in Modern China*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2010. Pp. 297. Cloth \$45.00.

Lian Xi, Professor of History at Hanover College, tells a compelling story about the history and future of Chinese Christianity. His work highlights links between faith and modern