International Businesses in the Political Economy of South Africa

Abstract

Ten year ago, South Africa became democratic in a remarkably peaceful process of transition from one of the morally most appalling, and socially and economically most segregating regime into one of the most promising democracies and striving economies of the developing world. However, the achievements as well as the shortcomings of this exemplary transition need to be understood from the broader light of the history of South Africa. This paper more particularly examines how international businesses have contributed to shaping South African Society over the last century, from the formative period (1975-1948), until apartheid after 1948 (1948-1976), the gradual erosion of the apartheid regime the current new context of reconstruction (1990-2003).