The final section explores the role of the market in regulating the activities of PMCs. Avant examines the emergence of this market, drawing our attention to the lack of competition and transparency that exists at present. Avant is also concerned with the ease with which individuals can move between companies to avoid being disciplined for inappropriate behaviour. While the lack of other regulatory tools means that more emphasis has been placed on the market to bring about normative behaviour, in the end the market itself is too weak to guarantee specific standards. Indeed, the failings of the market are shown up in Cockayne's chapter that draws on principal-agent theory to examine the relationship between PMCs and their clients. While the chapter offers an interesting insight into this relationship, I felt the facts were being made to fit the theory instead of the theory explaining the facts about the industry. Dickinson's chapter was probably the most interesting in my opinion. She has certainly highlighted an underdeveloped area of research regarding PMCs. Most of the legal studies on the subject focus on international law, when in fact the best chance of controlling PMC behaviour at present is through contract law. Finally, Bearpark and Schulz consider the role of self-regulation in the absence of government regulation. They argue that this is a realistic approach, and will give a competitive advantage to those companies that sign up to self-regulation.

I have three concerns after reading the book. First, it tends to take a US angle. Even though some of the chapters try to extend their work beyond the US market, virtually all of the chapters rely on US examples to support their argument. Second, no attempt is made to explain the different histories between the UK and US companies, that may go some way to explaining why they behave differently. Third, some of the footnotes in the early chapters are doubtful. This aside, the empirical work is solid, lucid and thorough. As a piece of academic work the book achieves its task very well.

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Global Shadows: Africa in the neoliberal world order by JAMES FERGUSON
Durham, NC and London: Duke University Press, 2006. Pp. 257, £13.95 (pbk.).
doi:10.1017/S0022278X08003273

Ferguson's latest book is certainly a good read, and presents a clear argument about Africa's engagement with the global system. While much of the book draws heavily from work that Ferguson has already published (for example the chapter on Chrysalis in Zambia), he has managed to pull together the strands of his previous research to generate a new set of arguments. Ferguson maintains that Africa is unique because the informal/illicit economy is deemed to be larger than the formal economy; Africa is a continent where much is unknown and unknowable. He uses the idea of 'shadows' to explain the complex processes at work when we try to understand how 'Africa' engages with the international system: this involves a kind of *doubling* – in the case of the economy, the shadow and formal economies run in parallel with one another. Ferguson argues that the formal economy can be understood as an implicitly Western model, and the shadow is the dark African version. Ferguson extends his argument further to

suggest that the shadow is not a copy, instead it is an attached twin: it is not a negative space or a space of absence, but rather it is a likeness, which is inseparable for the formal version (p. 17). As such, his work builds on and challenges previous studies of the informal economy and 'shadow states' by academics such as Reno and Nordstrom.

One of Ferguson's core claims is that 'Africa is and is not global' (p.29), so that understanding Africa in the international system sheds new light on what we mean by globalisation; most notably, he argues that capital hops and skips across the continent, so that there are there are two types of Africa emerging, what French colonialists called *Afrique utile* and *Afrique inutile*: that is usable/useful Africa versus unusable/useless Africa (p. 39). In terms of debates about the nature of sovereign power in sub-Saharan Africa, Ferguson's argument is clear: that sovereignty in Africa is not about control over territories, it is instead the ability to provide contractual legal authority to extractive foreign firms. Political instability, and even civil war, do not interfere with such forms of sovereignty, partly due to the patchwork of private security offered to enclaves (p. 207).

This is an extremely useful book for anyone interested in understanding the complexities of Africa's role in a neoliberal world order. Its arguments can be used to provoke further discussion on how parts of Africa that are drawn into the global economy are distinct and separate from the areas 'left behind' by the neoliberal world order. In many cases, marginalisation, exclusion and poverty exist hand in hand with inclusion and wealth, in a way that fits well with the notion of the shadow as the attached twin.

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A Dirty War in West Africa: the R.U.F. and the destruction of Sierra Leone by LANSANA GBERIE
London: Hurst, 2005. Pp. 224, £16.95 (pbk.).
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Lansana Gberie's book should be compulsory reading for anyone interested in Sierra Leone's 1991–2001 war, which killed about 50,000 citizens and displaced almost half of the population. Those familiar with writing on Sierra Leone's war know that this event can be an intellectual Rashomon, in which one sees what one wishes. Scholars, diplomats and relief agency workers refer to youth rebellion, the grievances of marginalised people or spectacles of violence, to explain RUF's destructive behaviour. Gberie sets a different stage. Student radicals, the initiators of most of the continent's other anti-colonial rebellions, were a spent force in Sierra Leone by the late 1980s. This was partly due to the corrupt regime's use of youth gangs and thugs as political muscle. This and terrible economic conditions created a sub-culture of delinquency and violence that overwhelmed political organisers. Those who sought the rewards of politician-sanctioned anti-social behaviour became the main organisers and foot-soldiers of RUF's violence.

Gberie shows, however, that Sierra Leone's war was an invasion from Liberia and not a mass uprising. He argues that RUF head, Foday Sankoh, and Liberia's