

South African Journal of International Affairs

Book Review: Dams, displacement, and the delusion of development: Cahora Bassa and its legacies in Mozambique, 1965–2007

Richard Meissner

Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Pretoria, South Africa

Abstract

Allen and Barbara Isaacman give a sobering account of the consequences of large dams on people living in such a project's immediate vicinity and further afield. The authors focus not only on the impacts on people, but also the social-ecological systems on which people depend for their livelihood. The authors also recount the harsh working conditions of the workers involved in constructing Cahora Bassa and the transnational dimension of the project, where hydro-electricity bypasses those within the region and is exported to South Africa.