

Carl Widstrand, ed., Co-operatives and Rural Development in East Africa. New York: Africana Publishing Corp. and Uppsala: Scandinavian Institute of African Studies, 1971. 271 pp. \$12.50.

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Originally presented at a seminar organized by the Scandinavian Institute of African Studies in 1970, the papers collected in this book address a wide range of issues concerning co-operatives in East Africa. These questions include the relation of contemporary co-operatives to past forms of co-operation in Africa, the effects of the social and political environment on rural marketing co-operatives, the problem of balancing efficiency and democracy, the applicability of organizational analysis to co-operatives, and the means of evaluating the performance of co-operatives. The article most likely to be of interest to legal scholars is J.P.W.B. McAuslan's discussion of "cooperatives and the law in East Africa," which provides a useful survey of some of the major legal issues in the organization, management, and operation of production and service co-operatives. Inevitably somewhat dated since its publication, the book is limited by the uneven quality of its papers and its lack of a consistent theoretical focus, shortcomings common to

published volumes of conference papers. In view of the importance of the subject the latter is particularly regrettable, for the volume would otherwise supply the non-specialist with a useful introduction to the general issues concerning co-operatives and their role in social change. As it stands, the book's primary merit lies in raising a number of questions about co-operatives in East Africa from a variety of disciplines within a fairly brief compass.