## Le Monde diplomatique

The review below of the French edition of *Thomas Sankara Speaks* appeared in the December 2007 issue of Le Monde Diplomatique, a French-language monthly with worldwide circulation. Translation by Pathfinder Press

This new edition of speeches by and interviews with the Burkinabè president, first published in 1988 (in English) and in 1991 [in French], includes a previously unpublished interview with Mongo Beti. It is extremely useful both in marking the twentieth anniversary of Sankara's assassination, and in coming at a time when the current generation of young Africans frequently lacks guideposts. The originality of Sankara's ideas--ideas that are very well organized, contrary to the clichés you may hear--along with his awareness of the social and economic realities of his country, his understanding of the international relations of forces, of the mechanisms of economic domination, including the imposition of the consumer-society model, make this collection a highly useful tool. Expressed with passion and clarity, his views on the necessity of a new balance between the city and the countryside, on the crucial importance of the emancipation of women, not to mention on cutting back the state gravy train--the way his government operated in practice, for example--are in perfect keeping with the demands of the peoples of Africa today. "Dare to invent the future," Sankara said. A challenge that retains all its relevance today.