

Journal of Social Development in Africa, "Book Reviews" Vol.6
No. 2, 1991

Women's Liberation and the African Freedom Struggle, Thomas Sankara, Pathfinder Press, London, 1990 (36pp, £1,60 hbk, ISBN 0 87348 585 8 pbk).

This publication contains two of Thomas Sankara's speeches on women: The Revolution cannot Triumph without the Emancipation of Women (March 8, 1987), and Women's Role in the Democratic and Popular Revolution (October 2, 1983).

Sankara basically explains the history of women's oppression in terms of the class struggle. He shows how a woman's duties evolved from the division of labour, and relegated her to an inferior position. Because of her love for the family, a woman suffers double oppression, both in the home and outside it.

The speeches are easy to comprehend, full of respect for women, and for their status, what they go through, why they go through it, and most of all, what they stand for. They lead the reader to appreciate the endeavours of governments in different countries who form ministries or departments focusing on the affairs of women.

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