

THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN LAND REFORM

The Case of Land Reform in Zimbabwe, 1998 –2003

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This article examines the case of land reform in Zimbabwe from 1998 to 2003, in relation to the role of the state in a developing capitalist democracy. Through an analysis of recent debates on the capitalist state, it offers an investigation of the generation and outcomes of the process of land reform in Zimbabwe.

It is important to note that the social pressure exerted by the landless peasants, workers and the war veterans of the second war of liberation (1966 - 1980) for the redistribution of land and the subsequent dissolution of the hegemony of the white settlers on land ownership and agriculture generated the conditions for a land reform that only partially satisfied the needs of the landless peasants, workers and the war veterans.

Simultaneously, the mediation of the state enhanced the overall interest of the nascent domestic bourgeoisie. In this context, land reform produced contradicting results that favored the process of accumulation of capital and legitimization of a revolutionary process of democratic renaissance.