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The Joint Committee on African Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council commissioned the two papers contained in this issue for presentation at the Twenty-sixth Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association, December, 1983, Boston, Massachusetts, as part of its continuing series of papers assessing the current state of social science and humanistic research on Africa. The African Studies Review welcomes the opportunity to publish these major papers once again this year.

ARTICLES

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