
the inefficacy of their "crisis management" approach and, furthermore, through diversion of effort, cost America its nuclear edge. While Gaddis deals only briefly with more recent administrations, his main point is likely to hold: Shifts in U.S. policy respond less to Soviet moves than to turnover in the White House.

**MARKETS AND STATES
IN TROPICAL AFRICA:**

**The Political Basis of
Agricultural Policies**

by Robert H. Bates
Univ. of Calif., 1981
178 pp. \$19.50

Over the past decade, farm output in most sub-Saharan nations has been on the decline. Bates, a political scientist at the California Institute of Technology, shows how government leaders, some trying to bolster nascent industries, others simply lining their pockets, have intervened in the agricultural markets, cutting peasant producers' income and prompting many to quit the land. Leaders of countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zaire, often working through state marketing boards (set up by colonial governments to stabilize food prices), have lowered food prices in order to provide cheap sustenance for city dwellers. At the same time, they have failed to provide small farmers with subsidies for seed, fertilizer, and farm machinery. Because domestic industries are protected from competition, farmers must pay higher prices for manufactured goods. As a result, many potentially self-sufficient African nations are now forced to import food. Peasant farmers are left with so little hope that those who remain on the land deal increasingly through black markets. Unless African leaders sacrifice short-term political advantages and personal financial gain for more balanced agricultural policies, warns Bates, they are apt to face steeper economic decline and political upheaval.

EQUALITIES

by Douglas Rae et al.
Harvard, 1981
210 pp. \$19.50

Equality, as the ideal behind public policies such as affirmative action and bilingual education, has become its own most consistent adversary. Seldom in policy debates do we find an argument for equality pitted against