

1.	Record Nr.	UNICASRML0289184
	Titolo	vol. 2: Computational methods in the mechanics of fracture / edited by Satya N. Atluri
	ISBN	0444879552
	Descrizione fisica	x, 414 p. ; 24 cm.
	Disciplina	620.1001511
	Soggetti	Meccanica della frattura
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2.	Record Nr.	UNINA9910826091403321
	Autore	Ballard Clare
	Titolo	New South African review 4 : a fragile democracy - twenty years on / / edited by Gilbert M. Khadiagala [and others] [[electronic resource]]
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Johannesburg : , : Wits University Press, , 2014
	ISBN	1-86814-764-9
	Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (378 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
	Collana	New South African Review
	Disciplina	338.968
	Soggetti	Economic development - South Africa Democracy - South Africa South Africa Economic conditions 21st century South Africa Economic policy South Africa Social conditions 1994- South Africa Social policy South Africa Politics and government 21st century
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
	Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 09 May 2018).
	Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.

Introduction. South Africa's fragile democracy: twenty years on / Devan Pillay and Roger Southall -- pt. 1. Ecology, economy and labour. Introduction / Devan Pillay -- The South African labour market after eighteen years : It's class struggle, stupid! / Nicolas Pons-Vignon and Miriam Di Paola -- The state of organised labour : still living like there's no tomorrow / Ian Macun -- Citizen Wal-Mart? South African food retailing and selling development / Bridget Kenny -- Transcending South Africa's oil dependency / Jeremy Wakeford -- The politics of electricity generation in South Africa / Keith Gottschalk -- pt. 2. Power, politics and participation. -- Introduction / Prishani Naidoo -- Platinum, poverty and princes in post-apartheid South Africa : new laws, old repertoires / Aninka Claassens and Boitumelo Matlala -- amaDiba moment : how civil courage confronted state and corporate collusion / John G.I. Clarke -- Secrecy and power in South Africa / Dale T. McKinley -- The contemporary relevance of Black Consciousness in South Africa / Xolela Mangcu -- Death and the modern black lesbian / Zethu Matebeni -- pt. 3. Public policy and social practice. Introduction / Roger Southall -- Why does Zimbabwe's school system out-perform South Africa's? / Martin Prew -- Higher education in 2013: at many crossroads / Ahmed Bawa -- Democracy without economic emancipation : household relations and policy in South Africa / Sarah Mosoetsa -- Prisons, the law and overcrowding / Clare Ballard -- pt. 4. South Africa at large. Introduction / Gilbert M. Khadiagala -- South Africa in Africa : groping for leadership and muddling through / Gilbert M. Khadiagala -- South Africa and Israel : from alliance to estrangement / Ran Greenstein -- South Africa's economic ties with north-east Asia / Scarlett Cornelissen -- Regional parastatals within South Africa's system of accumulation / Justin van der Merwe -- The leadership challenge in Southern Africa / Mopeli L. Moshoeshe.

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Sommario/riassunto

The death of Nelson Mandela on 5 December 2013 was in a sense a wake-up call for South Africans, and a time to reflect on what has been achieved since 'those magnificent days in late April 1994' (as the editors of this volume put it) 'when South Africans of all colours voted for the first time in a democratic election'. In a time of recall and reflection it is important to take account, not only of the dramatic events that grip the headlines, but also of other signposts that indicate the shape and characteristics of a society. The New South African Review looks, every year, at some of these signposts, and the essays in this fourth volume of the series again examine and analyse a broad spectrum of issues affecting the country. They tackle topics as diverse as the state of organised labour; food retailing; electricity generation; access to information; civil courage; the school system; and - looking outside the country to its place in the world - South Africa's relationships with north-east Asia, with Israel and with its neighbours in the southern African region. Taken together, these essays give a multidimensional perspective on South Africa's democracy as it turns twenty, and will be of interest to general readers while being particularly useful to students and researchers.

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