



Francis Antonie is the Director of the Helen Suzman Foundation. He is a graduate of Wits, Leicester and Exeter Universities. He was awarded the Helen Suzman Chevening Fellowship by the UK Foreign Office in 1994. From 1996 to 2006 he was Senior Economist at Standard Bank; thereafter he was director of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at Wits University. He was the founding Managing Director of Strauss & Co.

The previous edition of Focus, dedicated to commemorating 100 years of Statehood, had as its theme, Change and Continuity. This theme of change and continuity could also characterise this edition of Focus, which is dedicated to South Africa and the Changing World.

Jack Spence provides an overview of International Relations from the end of the Second World War, through the Cold War period, to the present. He draws attention to the fact that the aftermath of 9/11 is still with us. This is no longer a brave new world, which many had envisaged with the collapse of the Wall in 1989, but a world in which national interests are again re-defined more narrowly than the hopes which globalisation had heralded.

Jesmond Blumenfeld's paper poses difficult, if not, uncomfortable questions about South Africa's relationship with Africa. He argues that there is no clarity regarding the essence of South Africa's international political agenda in Africa, nor, is there a coherent understanding among our policy makers of the relationship between the politics and economics of regional cooperation and integration.

Raphael de Kadt comprehensively deals with the changing nature of the international political system and its overriding western ideology. The changes, currently taking place, at the international level see a resurgent China, accompanied by other fast growing emerging powers like India, Brazil and Russia, all intent on positioning themselves within the newly emerging power structures of the international political economy. Raphael argues, that the shifts adverted to in global economic power, will impact significantly on South Africa, as the new economic giants of the Asia-Pacific will continue to play an ever increasing role in South Africa's –and the region's economy.

Antoinette Handley explores the relationship between the state and business in Africa, and brings to the fore the issue of neopatrimonial relations, which, have so often bedevilled Sub-Saharan development. She balances, finally, the different roles of the business elites with those of the political elites and she introduces us to an important term, 'constructive contestation'.

Laurence Boulle examines the relationship between South Africa and the 'Grand Narrative' of the global investment regime. He draws attention to the fact that the quality of investment is as significant as the quantity, a theme which is more fully explored in the papers by Stephen Chan and Natasha Menell

Tim Kenny reflects on the world of international sport as South Africa's extraordinary successful hosting of the Soccer World Cup took centre stage. Embodied in his Clausewitzian reading of sport is also a vision, and that search for a vision (and action) is carried through in Greg Mills' paper. His conclusion is a sober one and policy makers might do very well to take note and reflect on where South Africa is, and where we should be going.

Errata. Merle Lipton's review in the May issue should have been headed "Land, Liberation & Compromise in Southern Africa" – a correction which places her argument in a very different context!