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0521024684 - The Politics of Harmony: Land Dispute Strategies in Swaziland

Laurel L. Rose

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*The Politics of Harmony* analyses how traditional ruling elites in Swaziland, as in other parts of Africa, use harmony ideologies to downplay and resolve land disputes. Such disputes could be used by foreign development agents or indigenous new elites as justification for implementing land tenure changes, including a reduction of traditional elites' power based upon land control. Swazi commoners accept the cultural value and legitimacy of most harmony ideologies, but they use strategies when disputing about particular land rights to produce more favourable outcomes.

This book is unusual in its focus on political rather than economic dimensions of land tenure and disputes. It searches for links between individual concerns with land use rights and national concerns with land policy. It also examines gender and leadership issues associated with land, showing how women and new elites threaten land interests of men and traditional leaders.

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THE POLITICS OF HARMONY

AFRICAN STUDIES SERIES 69

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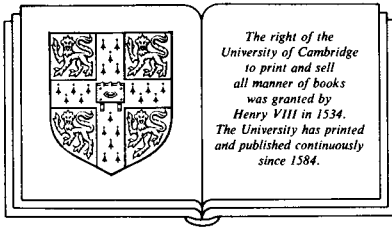
An unmarried Swazi woman who struggled to acquire and retain her land plot, separates, with her children's assistance, maize kernels after the harvest.

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# THE POLITICS OF HARMONY

Land dispute strategies in Swaziland

LAUREL L. ROSE



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To the memory of my grandparents,  
Harold and Emma Rose

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## Glossary

- bandlakhulu* – council of community elders  
*bandlancane* – chief's inner council  
*bemdzabuko* – true Swazi  
*emafikawuva* – clans who 'came late'  
*emakhandzambili* – clans 'found ahead'  
*imvimba* – valuables paid to the father of a girl impregnated out of marriage  
*Incwala* – celebration of kingship  
*Indlovukati* – Queen Mother  
*indlu* – house on a Swazi homestead  
*indlu yaka gogo* – grandmother's house  
*indvuna* (pl. *tindvuna*) – chief's deputy, governor chief, local commander of age regiments, head of *Inkhundla*  
*Ingwenyama* – King of the Swazi  
*inhlanti* – woman who marries the husband of her sister who could not have children  
*inhlonipho* – respect for people, especially superiors  
*Inkhosi* – King  
*Inkhundla* (pl. *Tinkhundla*) – regional committee comprising several chiefs  
*insulamnyembeti* – the cow paid to compensate the mother of a girl getting married  
*khonta* – see *kukhonta*  
*kraal* (Afrikaans) – livestock enclosure  
*kubekwa* – placing of a person on land (or, installing of a chief or king)  
*kuboleka umhlaba* – land loan from one individual to another  
*kukhonta* – (noun) offering of allegiance to obtain land; *khonta* (verb) to offer allegiance to obtain land  
*libandla* – council  
*libutfo* (pl. *emabutfo*) – warrior regiment  
*lihambate* (pl. *emahambate*) – sub-areas entrusted to a chief  
*lincusa* (pl. *emancusa*) – representative  
*Liqoqo* – inner council

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## Glossary

*lobolo* – valuables transferred from a man's family to a woman's family at marriage

*lusendvo* – family pedigree (or council)

*Mfecane* – movement of clans during the nineteenth century out of present-day Natal to escape Zulu conquering armies

*Ndabazabantu* – official created by British bureaucracy who links chiefs to customary hierarchy of national councils

*Ndvunankhulu* – traditional Prime Minister

*sikhonti* – man who pledges allegiance to a chief, is accepted as a subject, and may receive land

*sikhulu* (pl. *tikhulu*) – clan chief

*sis* – to lend out cattle

*umgijimi* (pl. *bagijimi*) – chief's runner

*Umntfwanenkhosi* (pl. *Bantfwabenkhosi*) – member of the royal family (may be allotted land and a following)

*umnumzane* (pl. *banumzane*) – homestead head

*Umpakhatsi* – a chief's or the King's homestead

*umsumphe* (pl. *imisumphe*) – long-term resident of an area

*umuti* (pl. *imuti*) – largest residential unit on Swazi Nation Land (homestead)