DESCRIPTION

This book describes and explains the extraordinary wave of popular protest that swept across the so-called Third World and the countries of the former socialist bloc during the period from the late 1970s to the early 1990s, in response to the mounting debt crisis and the austerity measures widely adopted as part of economic "reform" and "adjustment".

• Explores this general proposition in a cross-national study of the austerity protests, or the 'IMF Riots' that have affected so many debtor nations since the mid-1970s

• Argues that modern austerity protests, like the classical "bread riots" in eighteenth-century Europe are political acts aimed at injustice, but acts that are an integral part of the process of international economic and political restructuring

• Evaluates how modern food riots are most important for what they reveal about global economic transformation and its social, and political, consequences

• Provides a general framework (drawing on comparative and historical material) and then trace the cycle of uneven development, debt, neo-liberal reform, and protest in Latin America, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe

• Focusses on the role of women in structural adjustment and protest politics and the features of seemingly anomalous cases which qualify the general argument
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Walton holds a joint appointment in the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of California, Davis. He is author of *Reluctant Rebels: Comparative Studies of Revolution and Underdevelopment* (1984) and most recently *Western Times and Water Wars: State, Culture, and Rebellion in California* (1992).

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