David traces Sierra Leone's transition from colonial rule to post-war democracy with impressive succinctness while maintaining a scrupulous care to avoid the pitfall of stereotype. With each chapter, the reader is given further insight into the myriad of factors which helped bring together the fabric of Sierra Leone's modern political identity. This book attempts to explain the political history of Sierra Leone in a vacuum. What I mean is, how can you write a history about ANY country in Sub-Saharan Africa without analyzing the economic climate which precipitates political upheaval? For the outside world, Sierra Leone is defined by its resources. Liberia and Sierra Leone: an essay in comparative politics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Clarke, J. A. 1966. “Political constituencies,” in Clarke, J. A. (ed.), Sierra Leone in Maps, pp. 33–4. London: University of London Press. Cox-George, N. A. 1961. Finance and Development in West Africa: the Sierra Leone experience. London: Dobson. Dieterlen, G. 1951. Essai sur la religion bambara. Little, K. 1951. The Mende of Sierra Leone: a West African people in transition. London: Routledge. McCulloch, M. 1950. “Indirect political participation in two Sierra Leone chiefdoms,” Journal of Modern African Studies 11 (1), 129–35. Moseley, K. P. 1978. “Land, labour and migration: the Safroko Limba case,” Africana Research Bulletin VIII (2), 14–44. Thus in Sierra Leone, the institutions of indirect rule created a political movement that captured the central state at independence in 1961. The system persisted, however, because even when the central state was captured by new movements after 1967, indirect rule mutated into a generalized form of incumbency bias. The work on patrimonialism and why it does not transition to a rational-legal state focuses on the idea that patrimonialism is, at root, a method of organizing power and exercising control over society. In 1951 the British promulgated a new constitution which opened up the Legislative Council further. That is, they cannot access political rights by appealing to the modern state, for it is nearly non-existent in rural areas.