

transition and the challenge facing global peasant movements confronting global capital (Akram-Lodhi and Kay 2010b: 280).

Indeed, waves of de-peasantization during the 1980s have given rise to re-peasantization during the 1990s and early 21<sup>st</sup> century. In this way, then, peasants have not become an ‘historical anachronism, unable to survive the dynamics of the capitalist development of agriculture’ (Veltmeyer 2006, 445). Rather, contemporary peasants remain at the heart of conflicts over land and resources in Asia, Africa and Latin America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Central to these conflicts has been large-scale corporate farmland acquisition in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, popularly known as land grabbing (Akram-Lodhi 2012). Land acquisition for farming, for resource extraction, or for the provision of environmental services has required the exclusion of peasants from the land on which they had previously been working. This exclusion has come about because, in the wake of global economic crisis of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, capital sought new sources of accumulation. Exclusion has been a result of the forcible displacement of rural populations, often by the state, or through the routine workings of highly unequal markets, where power differentials can be used to shape transactions to consistently benefit capital at the expense of peasants. These processes are most starkly witnessed when farming systems are reconfigured in order to increase the production of farm surpluses for export. This reconfiguration simultaneously witnesses increases in the share of land under capitalist farm production systems while at the same time seeing increases in the intensity of farm production, both of which are deleterious to peasant farms and peasant farmers as well as the biophysical foundations of farming. Contemporary conflicts over land and resources represent a systemic threat to peasant livelihoods, and for this reason have engendered the emergence of widespread peasant movements of resistance.

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