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**The maternity ward as mirror**

*Maternal death, biobureaucracy, and institutional care in the Tanzanian health sector*

Strong, A.E.

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**Part II: Contextualizing Maternal Health and Death: Historical,  
Policy, and Community Perspectives**

## **Introduction to Part II**

Part II provides the context and background needed to understand the dynamics of a regional referral hospital maternity ward. In Part II, chapter 3 includes a description and analysis of the historical development of healthcare services in the Rukwa region, then called Ufipa, and the development of global policies and initiatives focusing on maternal health. Chapter 4 includes an analysis of the gendered and locally specific logics operating in communities, which structure women's experiences and reproductive decision making within their families. Chapter 4 also includes an overview of some of the public health research generated by the Safe Motherhood Initiative in the mid-1980s and the ways in which top-down global policy and public health logics may operate differently than, or be in conflict, with the local logics of communities in the Rukwa region. These factors, and women's interactions with the biomedical healthcare system, subsequently form the background against which to view their experiences in the regional hospital.