

REVIEWS

South Africa's second democratic election 1999: An annotated bibliography

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(Most of the following information has been taken from the book itself)

This English language bibliography provides references to material relating to an important event in the history of South Africa – the country's second democratic election on 2 June 1999. It covers the run-up to the election, the electoral process, the results and the outcome. Books, pamphlets, periodical articles, reports and conferences are included, but newspaper articles are not.

In the months following the 1999 elections the Electoral Institute of Southern Africa (EISA) collected critical assessments, political analyses and academic meditations on the national and provincial polls. The bibliography is thus based on the stock of EISA's own library, reflecting its own focus and direction. Additional source material has been gleaned from the records of the Africa Institute, the Human Sciences Research Council, the South African Institute of International Affairs and the University of the Witwatersrand, as well as from relevant databases such as *African Studies* and *South African Studies*. Annotations derived from other sources have been acknowledged.

The book is divided into five sections, namely: Election 1999 Chronology, Bibliography, Author Index, Subject Index and Acronyms.

To provide a framework a brief chronology of salient dates is included, together with a map and a list of acronyms encountered in the preparation of this and other election related records. The text is arranged in numbered alphabetical sequence, by author, or title where no author is given. It is followed by an author index incorporating individual and corporate authors, compilers and sponsoring bodies, and a subject index linking terms and concepts to the numbered entries. The annotations are intended to show relevance to the main theme, to highlight special features and to reflect the attitudes and conclusions of the authors. They do not purport to provide complete summaries, only to give sufficient detail to indicate their possible usefulness to readers and researchers. No value judgements are made.

The literature reflects a renewed interest in the efficacy of the proportional representation system, in electoral system design and in the debates, both intellectual and empirical, surrounding electoral reform in South Africa. It also includes material on the political participation and representation of women, their achievements and objectives, and on gender issues in electoral context.

Other ancillary aspects include African National Congress dominance, dominant party systems, and the changing role and fortunes of the opposition and minor political parties. Comparisons are made with the 1994 founding election.

Chronology

The chronology starts with the events from August to December 1998, followed by those between January and June 1999. The events are listed by month and date with a brief statement of the specific issue pertaining to the date. The layout is spacious and easy to read.

Bibliography

Although the 850 entries are arranged alphabetically they are also numbered, a neat device that enables the reader to cross-refer efficiently from author to subject index and vice versa. The bibliographical information is followed by a paragraph summarising the contents of the publication. The main access points are highlighted by the use of bold capital letters, making them easy to find on the pages.

Author Index

This index is arranged alphabetically, with links to the numbers of the entries listed in the bibliography. This works quite well. All authors, individuals and corporate bodies are listed in one sequence. The index also includes some acronyms in cases where organisations prefer to use that form of name, or, alternatively, cross references from acronyms to the full forms of name.

Subject Index

In this very comprehensive index subjects are arranged alphabetically and are also linked to the numbered entries in the bibliography. Capital letters are used for lead terms, with one or two indentations underneath. All possible subjects covered by the sources are represented in the index. There are sufficient cross-references to guide the reader to specific, relevant subjects. Acronyms are not used as lead terms, but they are used in subheadings. Cross-references guide the reader.

Acronyms

The list of acronyms was compiled from background readings relating to both the 1994 and 1999 elections and comparisons between them. The acronyms are listed alphabetically with the full form next to each. If two organisations use the same acronym, or if there are variations of the same name, that is indicated. The list has the same spacious layout as the chronology.

This book reflects intensive research by Ms Strachan. It can be considered a valuable reference source on the specific topic.

Marlene Burger
Chairperson, Association of South African Indexers and Bibliographers

From Cape Town To Congo: Southern Africa Involving Security Challenges
Edited by Mwesiga Baregu and Christopher Landsberg
Lynne Rienner Publishers

From Cape Town To Congo is an African interpretation of the changing nature of the political economy of Southern Africa and the way it is connected to the rest of the continent, particularly the African Union and other influential international organisations and states such as the European Union, the Commonwealth and the United States. The book is divided into four parts, looking specifically at governments, the economic and security challenges, the role of civil society organisations, the impact of HIV/AIDS and land reforms in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region.

It is an outstanding collection of well-thought-out analyses of Southern African governance and military issues. The book uses South Africa's re-emergence on the international scene as the starting point in outlining the opportunities and threats that face Southern Africa. It poses critical questions about the economic and security relations between the powerhouse, South Africa, and the rest of the SADC, looking particularly at issues concerning economic relations, security and leadership in the sub-region, and it attempts to propose alternatives for achieving political stability and speeding up the integration process.

The book also enters the debate on democracy and security in Southern Africa, attempting to answer a critical question: Why, despite what seems to be a strengthening of electoral democracy and regional integration, does stability still elude the region? It further looks at the intriguing foreign policy links that have emerged since the early 1990s. These issues are discussed using historical perspectives to determine the meaning of what is happening and give future direction.

South Africa and Nigeria are discussed as the two most influential states on the continent, each of them facing two problems that affect their leadership position. The first is their determination not to be seen as imposing themselves, the second is resistance on the continent to accepting their status. The discussion does not pay much attention to the internal dynamics in the two countries that reduce their ability to project their power efficiently. There can be no meaningful discussion of foreign policy without an in-depth look at the national dimension. Also, the national interest that the two countries ought to secure by the pursuit of specific foreign policy options is not made clear.

A book on Southern Africa in this modern age would not be complete without an examination of the land issue and HIV/AIDS. The book discusses the former using both an historical and a theoretical approach, focusing specifically on Zimbabwe and South Africa. In the case of Zimbabwe it attempts to give a holistic picture, supported by historical facts, of the land question and the attempts at a solution that have, in recent times, divided both Zimbabweans and the rest of world. In relation to HIV/AIDS, the book outlines the social, economic, political and

security impact and challenges of the pandemic. It falls short of discussing the different strategies used by countries in Southern Africa to deal with HIV/AIDS and why South Africa was reluctant to roll out anti-retroviral treatment. Was it a political or ideological position or was it a governance and budgetary security issue? How can poor SADC countries sustain the provision of anti-retrovirals in the long run? These are questions that need to be debated and solutions proposed.

The book is also weak on the role of civil society in the changing environment of the region. The discussion is very thin and does not address the pertinent issues facing civil society on the continent, from funding to credibility and the management of its relations with state, regional and continental organisations.

The book ends with a set of recommendations for dealing with the many challenges facing SADC in its attempt to build a stable regional security edifice.

From Cape Town to Congo is a useful and well-argued document that makes a contribution to the debate about how to strengthen collective security based on shared values and regional economic integration and to build a peaceful SADC that interacts with the rest of the continent and engages the international community.

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