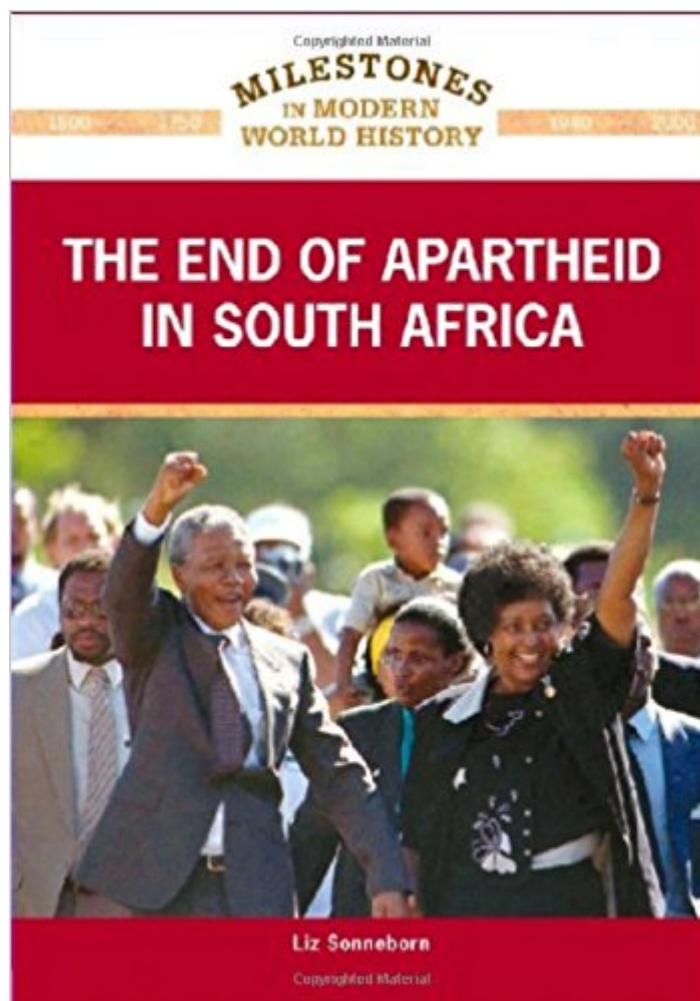


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The End Of Apartheid In South Africa (Milestones In Modern World History)



Synopsis

In 1948, the Parliament of South Africa passed a series of laws designed to systematically strip the nation's black majority of all political, economic, and human rights. The result was apartheid, a legislative program that made the South African government one of the most oppressive of the 20th century. The End of Apartheid in South Africa describes the impact apartheid had on South African society and the emergence of the powerful protest movement that fought to combat it.

Anti-apartheid leaders such as Stephen Biko and Nelson Mandela inspired a worldwide campaign against their government. This internal and external struggle brought a peaceful end to apartheid in 1994, and in the process, transformed South Africa from an international pariah into a modern democracy.

Book Information

Series: Milestones in Modern World History

Hardcover: 120 pages

Publisher: Chelsea House Publications (January 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1604134097

ISBN-13: 978-1604134094

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.5 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #3,990,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #90 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Africa #135 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Modern #787 in Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Reference

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8 Despite its title, this book focuses predominantly on the history of apartheid from the beginning of the colonization of South Africa in 1652 through Jacob Zuma's presidency in 2009. The narrative is coherent and interesting, as it keeps a number of different threads going and explains in some detail the complex history of conflict in the country. Sonneborn describes how South Africa came to be engulfed in an uprising in the 1980s, that its political leaders were released in 1990, and how a future constitution was negotiated, leading up to the first free elections in 1994. She pinpoints the issues tackled by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, economic development, and AIDS as challenges faced by the post-apartheid government. There are a number of inaccuracies, many

of them fairly minor. However, one is more serious, and it could lead to a misunderstanding of the nature of resistance against apartheid. Sonneborn claims that black trade unions were illegal during apartheid: in fact, they were legal, but not recognized. This meant that employers did not have to negotiate with them. The fact that these organizations were able to operate openly helped to make them an important force in the anti-apartheid struggle. The black-and-white photographs are adequate in number and clear. Text boxes around topics of special interest are helpful, but the time line and chronology are not detailed enough to provide useful information. Buy only where there is demand for this topic. Sue Giffard, Ethical Culture Fieldston School, New York City Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

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