

presies hierdie onderwerp, nl die nuwe Suid-Afrika en hoe dit moontlik daar gaan uitsien. Dr Van Aardt se boek staan egter uit omdat die skrywer duidelik goed onderleg is in sy onderwerp en 'n objektiewe standpunt tov die hoogs emosionele kwessie oor die gevolge van die apartheidstelsel vir die land en sy mense, handhaaf. Die inhoud is deeglik nagevors en duidelik uiteengesit. Die leser kry die indruk dat die skrywer moeite gedoen het om die boodskap wat hy wil tuisbring so maklik as moontlik vir alle lesers te maak. By die eerste deurlees van die boek word die leser swaarmoeding gestem deur die enormiteit van die taak wat vir Suid-Afrika voorlê. Daar word egter werkbare oplossings vir die probleme aan die hand gedoen - ofskoon dit lank sal duur en 'n groot tol van al sy inwoners sal eis om die land dié utopie te maak wat dit kan wees.

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FOUNDATIONS OF THE NEW SOUTH AFRICA

John Pampallis

Maskew Miller
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As a history teacher to Forms 4 and 5 (Standard 9 and 10), John Pampallis found that "a pressing need for a general textbook to cover the South African section of our syllabus" existed. Pampallis set out to document the history of South Africa and the fruits of his labour emerged in the form of his book *Foundations of the New South Africa* which is written from refreshingly different perspective.

Pampallis belongs to a group of writers who have through their endeavours sought to bring about some equilibrium in the representation of the events which helped to shape this country's history. In so doing these writers along with others were contributing to a substantial part of South Africa's past which has until recently remained largely peripheral. It was perhaps this discrepancy amongst other factors which induced him to set out a syllabus for the exiled South African students who attended the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College near Moro-goro in Tanzania.

The book itself is published with a soft paperback cover which makes paging through it a relatively easy task and comfortable to read

almost anywhere. Of greater importance, however is the manner in which the author presents the history in a structured format. When one considers that the period covered dates roughly from 1860 to 1990, selecting the most appropriate and relevant material to be included in the book without losing the essence of the overall message must have been a daunting task, which Pampallis accomplishes with ease.

The topics in the book include the formation of the ANC in 1912, the Native Land Act of 1913, the 1922 Miners Strike, the birth of the Apartheid policy in 1948, the Sharpeville Crisis and other important events, culminating in the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. The style of writing, although geared particularly toward an academic environment, does not result in product which is inaccessible to those wishing to gain a better understanding on this aspect of South Africa's history.

The *Essay Topics* and the *Topics for Group Discussion* at the end of each chapter give the book a certain dynamic and allow for greater participation with the information or subject matter contained the text. Incorporated into each chapter are passages/extracts in the form of paragraph quite distinct from the rest of the text, obtained from newspapers, interviews, secondary sources etc. These serve to enhance or elaborate certain of the features discussed in each chapter. It is regrettable that these are the only references in the book for which the sources have been acknowledged.

The inclusion of photographs and a few maps are a great plus but what really came in useful were the list of abbreviations at the beginning of the book. Of value too are the appendices placed at the back of the book which provide additional information on diverse subjects such as the ANC's 1949 Programme of Action, the Freedom Charter, Prime Ministers of South Africa and presidents of the ANC.

For those with only a rudimentary knowledge of this dimension of South Africa's history, Pampallis' book is an ideal starting point from which to build a broader, general framework of reference. The book should, in most cases, prompt further reading, the Select Bibliography included at the back of the book will provide one with ideas and point out of a few of the more prominent and authoritative sources on what else has already been written on this subject.

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