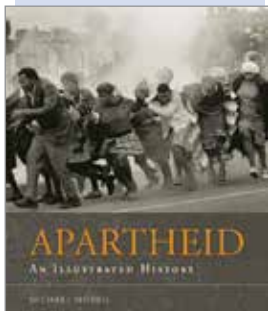


Wim Louw is an intern at the Helen Suzman Foundation.



**APARTHEID: AN
ILLUSTRATED HISTORY**
By Michael Morris
ISBN 978-1-920289-41-6
Publisher: JONATHAN
BALL PUBLISHERS

BOOK REVIEW

Apartheid: An Illustrated History by Michael Morris

Michael Morris is an author and the Assistant editor for the Cape Argus.

Michael Morris presents South Africa's struggle for democracy in an engaging and accessible way. The book combines an easy journalistic-style with a rich collection of photos – retracing South Africa's journey from 1948 to 1994, in five chapters.

In the book he briefly discusses colonialism, Union, and then covers in greater detail the terrifying rise of Afrikaner nationalism and the construction of the Apartheid machine, the unrelenting struggle against it, and the eventual falling-apart of everything, up until the euphoric but complicated transition to democracy. In the postscript Morris notes that South Africa's history, while familiar, is complex and imperfectly understood. Morris does not attempt to analytically interrogate historical events or to pursue matters in any great detail from a specific perspective – the book is an engaging retelling of South Africa's story. Morris draws from a number of academic and newspaper sources and presents events as they were observed.

Morris' presentation employs a time-line, along the bottom of each page, indicating significant dates and creating a chronological context for the events and themes he discusses in the main text. The time-line is very useful, and often encourages the reader to flip back and forward through the book. Perhaps unavoidably, the time-line and main-text do not always run in-step. The text is accompanied by many captioned photos, head-lines, illustrations and cartoons that are well-selected and interesting. The style is concise, and factual.

The history is well known, but Mr Morris' choice of presentation engages the reader. There is nothing new here. But, the text is not dry- Morris incorporates quotes, anecdotes and extracts. Morris also commits to a linear narrative, and avoids digression. The result is an easy 183-page, visual documentary with a text that is uncluttered and informative.

Although Morris presents some of his views in the introduction and postscript of the book, the book, while good on context, offers little on analysis. Instead it lets the history speak for itself.