

UNITA's fratricidal war against the Angolan people, a mighty contribution to the Southern African struggle will have been made.

Charles Marshall

*South Africa: In Transition to What?* Helen Kitchen, Editor. 1988. The Washington Papers, #132. The Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington, D.C. and Praeger, New York.

'Discussion of the prospects for "meaningful" or significant change in South Africa has engaged Marxist liberal and conservative scholars for years. Like other participants in this perennial debate, I have tripped over my own predictions often enough to have bruised my *hubris*.'

-William J. Foltz, in essay "South Africa: What Kind of Change?"

Helen Kitchen's *South Africa: In Transition to What?* is an edited collection of 12 essays, written between 1982 and 1987, that collectively say much about the dangers of prophesying "hubris" in discussions on South Africa. Though comparatively short in time, the roughly eight years covered have seen a tremendous number of important events, currents and shifts that have altered the rapidly changing course of South African history.

The contributors to this volume are an eclectic bunch, including scholars, editors, journalists, and a corporate executive, of several different nationalities. What all of them have in common in these pieces is the natural yearning to go beyond mere description of politics to dally in the realm of prognostication -- with varying degrees of certitude. It is instructive (at times, almost humorous) to see the progression and juxtaposition of their analysis with the events that have occurred. Presidents have been killed, wars escalated, treaties signed and broken. Afrikaners have held discussions with communists, a controversial constitution put in place, a top ANC member released from prison, etc. The lesson is clear: South Africa's dilemma is one of the most unique complex situations of the twentieth century -- the latter of which it inaugurated, and which, with little doubt, it will outlive.

Essays such as those by Heribert Adam and Stanley Uys ("Eight new realities in Southern Africa"), Robert Rotberg ("Seven scenarios for South Africa"), and Steven McDonald ("A guide to black politics in . . .") all attempt to assess the interactions of the various political actors, old and new, and project some sort of outcome. In their 1985 article

Adam and Uys, for instance, are critical of Mozambique for signing the Nkomati Accords with Pretoria and suggest that South Africa business is stronger than ever in its influence over the government and its support of the union movement. Time and a very small amount of it, has subsequently shown the Mozambiquan move to have been the wisest possible, under the circumstances, for FRELIMO's survival, particularly in respect to influencing Western sympathies against the MNR and for increased aid. South African business joined the government in 1987 in breaking the back of the largest miners' strike in the country's history, and discouraged the likes of prominent corporate reformer, Tony Bloom, who decided recently to leave the country entirely.

A few of Kitchen's contributors even indulge in guessing at the lifespan of white rule. Ken Owen ("A fundamental shift in South African politics?") goes so far as to claim that "very few *informed* people [emphasis added] are still prepared to envisage 20-or 25 year scenarios. . ." While conceding that "possible revolution [in] five years" is unlikely prudent commentators in recent years have generally realized the futility of such predictions.

This varied collection provides valuable insight into the fallibility of both "informed" people and laymen alike in plotting the course of a highly volatile setting. Nonetheless, it remains an informative, thought-provoking history and analysis of South Africa's tumultuous recent past.

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*Return to the Homeland: Travels in Nigeria - No Snakes, No Monkeys, No Apes* by Ola Washington. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company, 1988. pp.ix + 295 + 23.

This book is the record of the journal kept by the author who participated in a Seminar on Nigeria" for Community College instructors, organized by the University of Southern California and led by Professor Vasicht Malhotra of that institution. The participants travelled to Nigeria where they were lectured on various aspects of Nigerian culture and development by Nigerian university professors. They were based at the country's oldest university, the University of Ibadan. The local coordinator of their program was J.F. Ade Ajayi, an eminent Nigerian historian. The seminar trip lasted from Monday, June 23, 1982 when the group arrived in the country and ended Saturday, July 31 when it left to return to the United States. The promotions for the trip, the actual invitation and preparation for it, and the events that