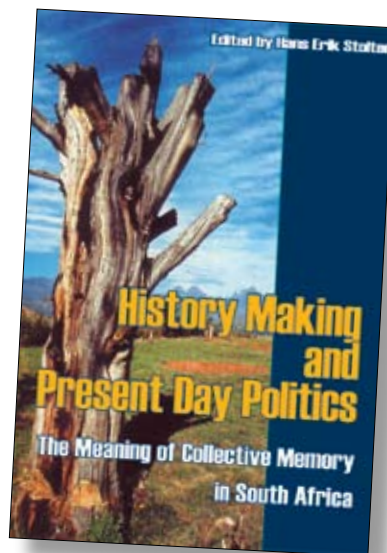


HANS ERIK STOLTEN (ED.)

History Making and Present Day Politics

The meaning of collective memory in South Africa

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Although popular use of history helped remove apartheid, the study of history lost status during the transition process. Some of the reasons for this, like the nature of the negotiated revolution, social demobilisation, and individualisation, are analysed in this book. The combination of scholarly work with an active role in changing society has been a central concern in South African history writing. This book warns against the danger of history being caught between reconciliation, commercialisation, and political correctness.

Some of the articles critically examine the role of historians in ideological debates on gender, African agency, Afrikaner anti-communism, early South African socialism, and the role of the business world during late apartheid. Other contributions explore continuing controversies on the politics of public history in post-apartheid South Africa, describe the implementation of new policies for history education, or investigate the use of applied history in the land restitution process and in the TRC. The authors also examine a range of new government and private initiatives in the practical use of history, including the establishment of new historical entertainment parks and the conversion of museums and heritage sites. For readers interested in nation building processes and identity politics, this book provides valuable insight.

In this collection, some of South Africa's most distinguished historians and social scientists present their views on the importance of history and heritage for the transformation of the South African society. Contributions are made by *Gary Baines, Anna Bohlin, Colin Bundy, Catherine Burns, Allison Drew, Saul Dubow, Albert Grundlingh, Martin Legassick, Merle Lipton, Bernhard Makhosezwe Magubane, Martin J. Murray, Thiven Reddy, Christopher Saunders, Hans Erik Stolten, Elaine Unterhalter, Georgi Verbeeck* and *Wessel Visser*.

Hans Erik Stolten is a historian working at the Centre of African Studies at the University of Copenhagen. He worked as Research Fellow at the Nordic Africa Institute from 1999 until 2002.

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Contents overleaf

Contents

Chapter 1. History in the new South Africa: An introduction Hans Erik Stolten	5
– Part 1 – The role of history in the creation of a new South Africa	
Chapter 2. Thoughts on South Africa: Some preliminary ideas Saul Dubow	51
Chapter 3. New nation, new history? - Constructing the past in post-apartheid South Africa Colin Bundy.....	73
Chapter 4 . Truth rather than justice? - Historical narratives, gender and public education in South Africa Elaine Unterhalter	98
Chapter 5. Claiming land and making memory - Engaging with the past in land restitution Anna Bohlin	114
Chapter 6. Reflections on practising applied history in South Africa 1994-2002 – From skeletons to schools Martin Legassick.....	129
Chapter 7. From apartheid to democracy in South Africa - A reading of dominant discourses of democratic transition Thiven Reddy.....	148
— Part 2 — The handling of heritage and the popularising of memory	
Chapter 8. The politics of public history in post-apartheid South Africa Gary Baines	167
Chapter 9. The transformation of heritage in the new South Africa Christopher Saunders	183
Chapter 10. Reframing remembrance: The politics of the centenary commemoration of the South African War of 1899-1902 Albert Grundlingh.....	196
Chapter 11. Structure of memory: Apartheid in the museum Georgi Verbeeck	217
Chapter 12. Building the “new South Africa” - Urban space, architectural design, and the disruption of historical memory Martin Murray	227
— Part 3 — Interpretations of South African history	
Chapter 13. Whose memory – whose history? - The illusion of liberal and radical historical debates Bernhard Magubane	251
Chapter 14. Four decades of South African historical writing: A personal perspective Christopher Saunders.....	280
Chapter 15. Revisiting the debate about the role of business under Apartheid Merle Lipton	292
Chapter 16. Afrikaner anti-communist history production in South African historiography Wessel Visser	302
Chapter 17. “1922 and all that” - Facts and the writing of South African political history Allison Drew	334
Chapter 18. A useable past: The search for “history in chords” Catherine Burns	351
Contributors.....	363
Abbreviations.....	369
Index	371

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