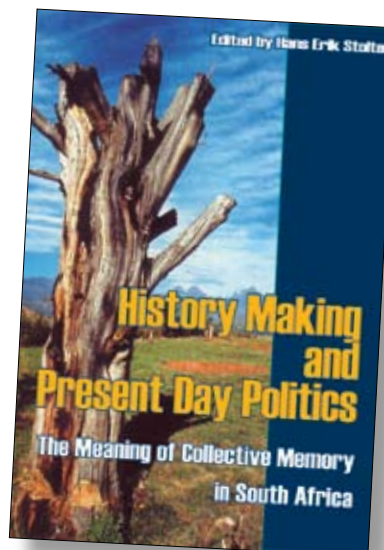


HANS ERIK STOLTEN (ED.)

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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