Apartheid Booklist

Nonfiction

The Apartheid Handbook: A Guide to South Africa's Everyday Racial Policies Roger Omond

South Africa's policy of racial segregation is the subject of this straightforward reference book, which delineates the day-to-day workings of the legal divisions between the white minority and the and black majority. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Apartheid: A History by Brian Lapping

A history of the development of the peculiar brand of race relations practiced in South Africa.(1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Beyond the Barricades: Popular Resistance in South Africa by twenty South African photographers; historical essay by Andre Odendaal.

Photographs and text describe "one of the longest and bloodiest periods of political resistance to apartheid. (4 copies available in district)

Coming to Terms: South Africa's Search for Truth by Martin Meredith

Journalist Martin Meredith follows the progress, successes and failures of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission as it considers the crimes of the apartheid era and the legacy of South Africa's violent history. (1 copy available in district)

Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa by Antjie Krog

To begin the healing process, Nelson Mandela created the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by the renowned cleric Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Established in 1995, the commission faced the awesome task of hearing the testimony of the victims of apartheid as well as the oppressors. Amnesty was granted to those who offered a full confession of any crimes associated with apartheid. Since the commission began its work, it has been the central player in a drama that has riveted the country. In this book, Antjie Krog, a South African journalist and poet who has covered the work of the commission, recounts the drama, the horrors, the wrenching personal stories of the victims and their families. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Desmond Tutu: Fighting Apartheid by Samuel Willard Crompton

This book offers a fresh and even-handed look at Tutu's life and work in relation to the Peace Prize. Students will learn about Tutu's legacy, find out what other world leaders have said about his efforts, and gain an understanding of the rise and fall of apartheid. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Kaffir Boy: An Autobiography: The True Story of a Black Youth's Coming of Age in Apartheid South Africa by Mark Mathabane.

Mark Mathabane was weaned on devastating poverty and schooled in the cruel streets of South Africa's most desperate ghetto, where bloody gang wars and midnight police raids were his rites of passage. Like every other child born in the hopelessness of apartheid, he learned to measure his life in days, not years. Yet Mark Mathabane, armed only with the courage of his family and a hard-won education, raised himself up from the squalor and humiliation to win a scholarship to an American university. (Several copies in the Jefferson Library)

Mandela: An Illustrated Autobiography

Tells the extraordinary story of Nelson Mandela's life, an epic of struggle, setback, renewed hope, and ultimate triumph. With nearly 200 stunning photographs - many of them published here for the first time - and with text adapted from his remarkable memoir Long Walk to Freedom, this moving book captures the indomitable spirit of a moral giant and dramatically portrays his struggle toward freedom. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Nelson Mandela: From Political Prisoner to President by Ann Kramer

This is a biography of Nelson Mandela, who led the fight against apartheid in South Africa to become that country's first black president in its first-ever multiracial election.(1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Nelson Mandela: The Struggle is My Life by Reggie Finlayson

Nelson Mandela's speeches and political writings from his days as a leader of the African National Congress Youth League in 1944 until his release from prison in 1990. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Rabble-Rouser for Peace: The Authorize by Desmond Tutu by John Allen

Written by a distinguished journalist and longtime associate of Desmond Tutu, this definitive biography captures the flavor and details of Tutu's life while shedding light on the struggles and triumphs of modern

society. Drawing on personal experiences with Tutu, as well as unprecedented access to his papers, this account explores how Tutu transformed from a barefoot schoolboy in a deprived black township into an international symbol of the democratic spirit and religious faith. During face-to-face confrontations with South African leaders and violent protests in the streets, Tutu maintained his faith in the power of peace, and when appointed to head the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Tutu seized upon it as an instrument of healing and redemption. Through his moral example and his lyrical command of language, he has successfully appealed to the conscience of the world and brought a whole new meaning to the phrase "human rights." (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

When She was White: The True Story of a Family Divided by Race by Judith Stone

During the worst years of official racism in South Africa, the story of one young girl gripped the nation and came to symbolize the injustice, corruption, and arbitrary nature of apartheid. Born in 1955 to a pro-apartheid Afrikaner couple, Sandra Laing was officially registered and raised as a white child. But when she was sent to a boarding school for whites, she was mercilessly persecuted because of her dark skin and frizzy hair. Her parents attributed Sandra's appearance to an interracial union far back in history; they swore Sandra was their child. Their neighbors, however, thought Mrs. Laing had committed adultery with a black man. The family was shunned. And when Sandra was ten, she was removed from school by the police and reclassified as "coloured." As a teenager, Sandra eloped with a black man, and her parents disowned her. The young woman, who had only known the privileged world of the whites, chose to begin again in a poor, rural, all-black township, where life was a desperate, day-to-day struggle against poverty, illness, and a legal system designed to enslave. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Twilight People: One Man's Journey to Find His Roots by David Houze

David Houze was twenty-six and living in a single room occupancy hotel in Atlanta when he discovered that three little girls in an old photo he'd seen years earlier were actually his sisters. The girls had been left behind in South Africa when Houze and his mother fled the country in 1966, at the height of apartheid, to start a new life in Meridian, Mississippi, with Houze's American father. This revelation triggers a journey of self-discovery and reconnection that ranges from the shores of South Africa to the dirt roads of Mississippi—and back. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Short Story Collections

Out of Bounds: Seven Stories of Conflict and Hope by Beverly Naidoo

Seven stories, spanning the time period from 1948 to 2000, chronicle the experiences of young people from different races and ethnic groups as they try to cope with the restrictions placed on their lives by South Africa's apartheid laws. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Somehow Tenderness Survives: Stories of Southern Africa selected by Hazel Rochman

Ten major South African writers, representing all races and including Nadine Gordimer, Doris Lessing, and Mark Mathabane, explore the political, social, and emotional impact of apartheid. (1 copy in the Jefferson Library)

Fiction

92 Queens Road by Dianne Case

Growing up surrounded by loving family members, including her mother, a fussing grandmother, a fun-loving uncle, and free-spirited Delores, a young girl struggles with the realization that her skin color causes outsiders to treat her differently. (1 copy available in district)

Cry, the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Cry, the Beloved Country is a beautifully told and profoundly compassionate story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son Absalom, set in the troubled and changing South Africa of the 1940s. The book is written with such keen empathy and understanding that to read it is to share fully in the gravity of the characters' situations. It both touches your heart deeply and inspires a renewed faith in the dignity of mankind. Cry, the Beloved Country is a classic tale, passionately African, timeless and universal, and beyond all, selfless. (Several copies available in district)

Journey to Jo'Burg by Beverly Naidoo

When their baby sister becomes dangerously ill, thirteen-year-old Naledi and her younger brother make a journey of over 300 kilometers from their village to Johannesburg, where their mother works as a maid for a white family. (6 copies in the Jefferson Library)

The Madonna of Excelsior by Zakes Mda

Presents the story of a family in the South African town of Excelsior who defied the Immorality Act forbidding interracial liaisons and Popi, the mixed-race daughter of Niki who comes of age in the years after the end of apartheid. (3 copies available in district)

The Power of One by Bryce Courtenay

Follows Peekay, a white British boy in South Africa during World War II, between the ages of five and eleven, as he survives an abusive boarding school and goes on to succeed in life and the boxing ring, with the help from a chicken, a boxer, a pianist, African prisoners, and many others.

The Syringa Tree: a novel by Pamela Glen

In this heartrending and inspiring novel set against the gorgeous, vast landscape of South Africa under apartheid, award-winning playwright Pamela Gien tells the story of two families—one black, one white—separated by racism, connected by love. (1 copy available in district)

Waiting for the Rain by Sheila Gordon

Tengo and Frikkie are childhood friends -- one is black, one is white. Tengo, a "boy" on Oom Koos's farm on the South African veld, and Frikkie, the farmer's nephew, who one day will inherit the family's land. Though they live in different and conflicting worlds, their friendship is forged when they are too young to know that there are lines that must not be crossed. (1 copy available in the Jefferson Library)

The Year the Gypsies Came by Linzi Glass

In Johannesburg, South Africa, in the late 1960s, twelve-year-old Emily, who longs for affection from her quarreling parents, finds comfort in the stories of a Zulu servant and in her friendship with a young houseguest who has an equally troubled family. (4 copies available in district)