

Die slotbeskouing van die boek is geskryf deur Mamokgethi Setati Phakeng van die Universiteit van Kaapstad. Sy het die hoop uitgespreek dat die boek *Good Hope* “is the start of a new way of representing the ties between the Netherlands and South Africa ... (and that) we can look forward to tracing South African tracks in Dutch culture, political economy and science”. Sy meld dat baie van die bydraes in die boek gefokus het op die impak van Nederland op Suid-Afrika. Sy sou graag wou sien dat daar meer aandag geskenk word aan Suid-Afrikaanse invloed op Nederland.

Good Hope is ’n baie besondere boek, veral omdat dit die geskiedenis lewendig en aanskoulik voorstel. Aan die einde van die boek is daar 20 bladsye inligting oor endnote, ’n uitgebreide bronnelys, ook wat al die illustrasies betref. Bondige inligting oor al die outeurs word ook verskaf. Die boek word van harte aanbeveel vir almal wat in Nederlands-Suid-Afrikaanse betrekkinge belangstel.

Iron in the soul: The leaders of the official parliamentary opposition in South Africa, 1910-1993

(Pretoria, Protea Book House, 2017, 224 pp. ISBN 978-1-4853-0550-7)

FA Mouton

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FA Mouton is a renowned historian who has written extensively about South African political history and Afrikaner nationalism. In his recent book *Iron in the soul: Leaders of the official parliamentary opposition in South Africa*, he analyses the careers of official opposition leaders in the South African parliament between 1910 and 1993. The book is a group biography which investigates leaders of the political parliamentary opposition and it evaluates their contributions to the shaping of the South African history. Mouton brought into life those who did not become prime minister or president of South Africa in 1910-1993. The group biography is about eight leaders of the opposition in parliament; Sir Leander Starr Jameson, 1910-1912, Sir Thomas Smartt, 1912-1920, JGN Strauss, 1950-1956, Sir De Villiers Graaff, 1956-1977, Radclyffe Cadman, 1977 (June –November), Colin Eglin, 1977-1979

and 1986-1987, Frederik van Zyl Slabbert, 1979-1986, Dr AP Treurnicht, 1987-1993. What sets *Iron in the soul* apart is that it gives an analytical overview of the work that was done by opposition leaders who hardly made it into the history books, or at least were forgotten in the history of South African politics because they did not win elections unlike JBM Hertzog, JC Smuts and DF Malan who have been investigated by historians.

In analysing the opposition leaders' charming, engaging, ambiguous political careers, Mouton explored a rich variety of archival sources, primary printed and secondary sources, newspapers and periodicals as well as interviews, conversations and correspondence with those who were close to and had relations with the leaders. Mouton states that a career as a leader of the opposition was never a pleasant one in politics. Thus, as mentioned by Van Zyl Slabbert, one had to have "iron in the soul" to be an effective leader. Mouton analyses personal traits of opposition leaders in parliament and how they dealt with political heavy weights of the ruling party. He followed their political careers, their contributions and challenges they faced until the end of their term in office.

Throughout the book, Mouton gave accounts of the ups and downs, milestones and achievements of the eight leaders and how they were received in general politics. For instance, Sir Leander Starr Jameson was disliked by the Afrikaners in parliament because of his love and loyalty to Cecil John Rhodes and the British Empire. In turn, his presence provoked the Afrikaner and he became a target of their taunts and abuse (p. 16). On the other hand, Sir Thomas Smartt who represented the interests of the Empire was regarded a popular member of the House of Assembly but carried no weight as a politician. Governor General Herbert opined that Smartt was a vigorous talker who did not impress him at all (p. 41).

JGN Strauss was one opposition leader who received a lot of criticism from the ruling party. Strauss was Smuts' favourite and hero-worshipped him. The two developed a strong relationship. In 1944 Smuts offered Strauss the portfolio as Minister of Agriculture. The appointment caused a stir because Strauss was a lawyer and knew nothing about agriculture, hence, it was believed that he was ill-equipped for the portfolio. Furthermore, Strauss was criticised for not being a true Afrikaner because he married an English woman. It was perceived that Strauss had turned his back on the Afrikaner identity. Strauss often criticised apartheid in parliament and the National Party held him responsible for the violence during the Defiance Campaign, claiming that his criticism of apartheid fuelled black grievances and encouraged violence. In

this account, Mouton shows that members of parliament were not forgiving when it came to anyone who stood against Afrikaner values.

In Chapter 4 Mouton analysed Sir De Villiers Graaff's political career as a leader of the United Party in 1956-1977. Graaff was infamous for his views that associated white supremacy with disgust. He held the National Party responsible for forcing the black majority to resort to violence in opposing apartheid. Graaff believed in "white leadership with justice". He assumed that 'it was the duty of whites as representatives of an older and more experienced group to guide the slow and evolutionary process of blacks towards democracy to establish South Africa as a bastion of Western civilization in Africa' (p. 91). Although Graaff had faith, honesty, sense of duty, work ethic and was a soldier; all that could not compensate for his lack of political acumen, vision and ruthlessness. He was regarded an inefficient politician because he was unquestioning and that doomed his United Party to extinction.

Radclyffe Cadman is one of the few politicians who stood out in parliament as a leader of the opposition although his leadership was the shortest and lasted only five months. He was a brilliant debater in the House of Assembly. He cut PW Botha and John Vorster down to size in parliament. Cadman 'was a man who could dissect any argument with skilled precision and then hold up the pieces for everyone to see' (p. 115). He was one of the highly respected figures in parliamentary circles; even FW de Klerk was highly impressed by Cadman. After his defeat in a general election in 1977, Cadman disappeared from politics and immersed himself in his farm and interests of sugar-cane farmers. He returned to public life in 1989 when he was appointed Administrator of Natal.

Collin Eglin led the Progressive Federal Party twice in parliament in 1977-1979 and 1986-1987. During his leadership, he attempted to convince white people about the necessity to reject apartheid and that their future could only be secured through a democratic South Africa based on merit and not race. Eglin was applauded for creating a well organised and confident party that was a big competitor of the National Party. In the early 1990s Eglin played a significant role in the negotiations to bring about a democratic South Africa and in the writing of the new constitution.

Finally, Mouton's analysis of Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert to me is outstanding one. Slabbert was not only the youngest ever leader of the official parliamentary opposition, he was also the most gifted. Mouton states that Slabbert

was a man of brilliant gifts, a sharp intellect and was likened to President JF Kennedy's politics of glamour with a "pretty face, a quick tongue and a sense of style" (p. 145). In as much as Slabbert was well educated and well spoken, he lacked tenacity. He was a strong critique of apartheid and stated that the system lacked legitimacy and a sustainable social order. Slabbert's Afrikaner identity attracted a large number of Afrikaans speaking white people to the Progressive Party. Moreover, some National Party MPs admired and loved Slabbert for his charisma and intellect. After his death in 2010, Slabbert was praised as one of South Africa's greatest sons and a giant who played a leading role in demolishing apartheid and Afrikaner nationalism.

Iron in the soul is a book of great value that provides biographies of not very known opposition leaders and their vital roles in the political history of South Africa. The eight biographies provide readers with an idea of the challenges and victories opposition leaders faced in their political careers that shaped the making of modern South Africa. Through his analyses, Mouton managed to show that the journey of an opposition leader is not a relaxed one and to have a successful political career one has to have "iron in the soul".

Jan Smuts 'n van boerseun tot wêreldverhoog

(Pretoria, Protea Boekhuis, 2017, 650 pp., Tydlyn, Lys van eerbewyse en toekennings, Fotoseksie met 1 volkleur-kaart, 33 swart en wit fotos en 5 spotprente, eindnote, bibliografie, register. ISBN: gedrukte boek 978-1-4853-0614-6; ISBN: e-boek 978-1-4853-0615-3; ISBN: ePub 978-1-4853-0616-0)

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Jan Smuts, een van die bekendste Suid-Afrikaners van die 20ste eeu, se bydraes op verskillende terreine word 67 jaar ná sy dood, binne die konteks van sy tyd en omstandighede deur 'n span akademië beoordeel en herwaardeer.

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