Books Banned in South Africa


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### Books Banned in South Africa

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<tr>
<td>Alternative title</td>
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<td>United Nations Centre against Apartheid</td>
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<td>Department of Political and Security Council Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>The South African Government has resorted to banning of writers and censorship of numerous publications in an effort to prevent the leaders of the liberation movement and other opponents of apartheid from reaching the public and to isolate the South African people from full awareness of the anti-racist sentiment in the world.</td>
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BOAF'i IN SOUTH AFRICA

The South African Government started banning the writings of numerous public figures, including the leader of the liberation movement and other opponents of the regime, and to isolate the South African people from full awareness of the anti-racist sentiment in the world.

The writings of hundreds of prominent leaders of the African people, including those of Chief Lutuli, Mangaliso Sobukwe and Nelson Mandela, are banned under the Suppression of Communism Act. Also banned are the writings of over a hundred exiles, including many prominent South African writers such as Ezekiel Mphahlele, Dennis Brutus, Lewis Nkosi, Yzizi Kunene, Bloke Modisane, Ronald Segal and Alex La Guma.

The total number of banned publications was estimated two years ago at 13,000. These include, in addition to those considered pornographic, numerous Communist, socialist and trade union publications and books concerning the Socialist States. Also banned are hundreds of publications which uphold racial equality, or describe the struggles of peoples against racism or colonialism.

Under the Suppression of Communism Act, it is an offence to publish or disseminate any speech, utterance, writing or statement or any extract from or recording or reproduction of any speech, uttering, writing or statement of any person listed as a member of the Communist Party or any other banned organization, or any person prohibited from attending gatherings. This provision affects hundreds of persons, including practically all leaders of the liberation movement and all prominent African writers.

The Customs and Excise Act prohibits importation of "indecent, obscene or objectionable" goods while the Publications and Entertainments Act prohibits the publication or manufacture of "undesirable" material in South Africa. Decisions on prohibition under these Acts are left to the Publications Control Board which has interpreted numerous Marxist, anti-racial, anti-colonial publications as objectionable or undesirable.

A selected list of banned publications is reproduced here to illustrate the range of publications banned: numerous publications on Marxism and Socialist States are omitted from this list, as almost all such publications are banned.

*All material in these notes and documents may be freely reprinted. Acknowledgement, together with a copy of the publication containing the reprint, would be appreciated.

BOOKS BANNED IN SOUTH AFRICA

Peter Abrahams. A Night of Their Own. 9 April 1965

Thomas R. Adam. Government and Politics South of the Sahara. 6 March 1964
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Aldridge (ed.)</td>
<td>The Beatles Illustrated Lyrics</td>
<td>27 February 1970</td>
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<td>Jorge Amado</td>
<td>Gabriela (dust cover only)</td>
<td>24 January 1964</td>
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<td>v American Committee on Africa</td>
<td>Would You Give South Africa Nuclear Power...The U.S. Did.</td>
<td>24 December 1970</td>
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<td>Herbert Apthekar (ed.)</td>
<td>And Whn not Every Man?</td>
<td>1 March 1963</td>
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<td>James Baldwin</td>
<td>Another Country</td>
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<td>John Barth</td>
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<td>Aubrey Beardsley</td>
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<td>Brendan Behan</td>
<td>Confessions of an Irish Rebel</td>
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<td>Alvah Bessie</td>
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<td>Mary Benson</td>
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<td>At-he Still Point</td>
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<td>v The Baagef' Slavery</td>
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<td>E.R. Braithwaite</td>
<td>Choice of Straws</td>
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<td>To Sir, With Love</td>
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<td>22 February 1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Braun</td>
<td>Love Me Do - The Beatles' Progress</td>
<td>22 November 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>Berthold Brecht</td>
<td>Published by Deutscher Kulturbund</td>
<td>6 March 1964</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Breitman (ed.)</td>
<td>Malcolm X Speaks - Selected speeches and</td>
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<td>21 October 1966</td>
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<td>Douglas Brown</td>
<td>Against the World - A Study of White South African Attitudes,</td>
<td>6 May 1966</td>
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<td>Brian Bunting</td>
<td>The Rise of the South African Reich</td>
<td>10 July 1964</td>
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<td>Wilfred Burchett</td>
<td>Come East Young Man</td>
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<td>Martin Burger</td>
<td>Dr. Verwoerd of South Africa - Architect of Doom.</td>
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<td>E skinke Caldwell</td>
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