

James North. *Freedom Rising*, 2nd edition. (New York: New American Library, 1986) xx, 347 pp., \$8.95 paper.

Freedom Rising seeks to personalize for the reader the dehumanizing effects of apartheid, the political and economic system in South Africa which is based on race. This is accomplished by providing the reader with an understanding of the nature of apartheid, by showing how it affects the lives of the people who live within its reach, and by providing a history of the resistance to apartheid. The book itself is a chronicle of the people North encountered and the places he visited during his four and one half years of traveling in South Africa and its neighboring countries. For the second edition North adds an epilogue written upon his return to South Africa covering the events of two years since the first edition of his book. To help the reader keep up with the many terms, place names, and personal names mentioned throughout the book, North provides a glossary, a pair of maps, and a list of participants who proved to be useful. The publication is not a scholarly work, which North admits, but rather a journalist's description of what he saw taking place in a troubled part of the world.

North provides a very adept description of how apartheid served to create and maintain the economic system of South Africa which puts most of the wealth under the control of the white minority, leaving the coloreds, Indians, and blacks to share in a small portion of the wealth according to their status. In contrast, when North focuses on the political aspects of apartheid the description becomes less objective because he injects his own political views. To begin with, North spends a great deal of time relaying the views of the victims and resisters of apartheid, the people with whom he sympathizes. These sympathies cause North to portray the situation in terms of the traditional dichotomy of good and evil, the victims and resisters of apartheid being wholly good and the perpetrators of apartheid being wholly evil. This characteristic becomes particularly evident when North explains away the violence that took place during the period of attempted reconciliation in Zimbabwe. The book would have provided a more objective picture if additional time had been directed at understanding, but not necessarily condoning, the views of the dominant group.

Because apartheid is a system based on racial division, the book is a useful tool for understanding race relations in South Africa. In contrast the book puts only minimal emphasis on the views of specific ethnic groups, favoring a general political focus, which makes it less valuable in the study of the various groups affected by apartheid.

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