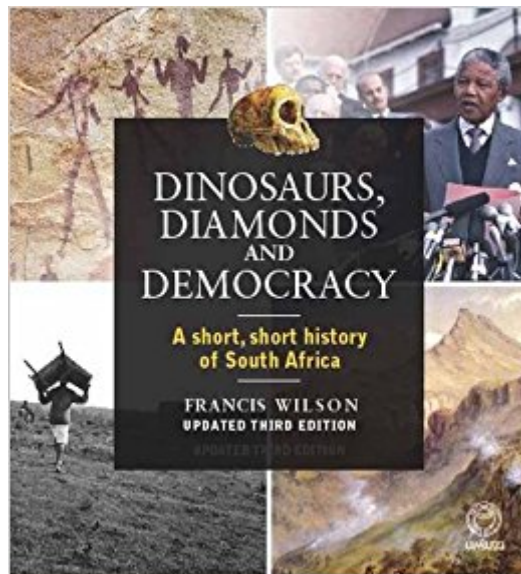


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# Dinosaurs, Diamonds And Democracy: A Short, Short History Of South Africa



## Synopsis

An asteroid the size of Table Mountain crashed into what was to become South Africa over 2 billion years ago, marking the spot. The country's history since then has always been robust and full of energy. This book takes you in record time from that moment, when the earth's richest gold reefs were shaped, to the advent of democracy in 1994, another event that stunned the world. Along the way you will encounter some of the most ancient dinosaurs on record, the very first people on the planet, and the first cultures. You will see outsiders moving in to reshape history: hunters and gatherers, cultivators and herders, iron-workers from the north, and immigrants from Europe and Asia. They fought and made peace; they stumbled upon gold and diamonds; they rose to the heights of excellence and sunk to the depths of oppression, until on one day they all queued as equals to elect a government. That is the story marked by dinosaurs, diamonds and democracy.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"You can't understand Mandela or today's South Africa without looking at the entire history of this complex, fascinating country and at the dreams of land and quick riches that have done so much to determine its course. This is a highly readable, quick survey, profusely illustrated, by a distinguished South African economist, Protestant layman and social-justice activist." --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

FRANCIS WILSON, an emeritus professor at the University of Cape Town, taught in the School of Economics for 40 years. He has written widely on the South African political economy, founded the

South African Labour & Development Research Unit and directed the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development. He was Chairperson of the Council of the University of Fort Hare and chaired South Africa's National Water Advisory Council. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an excellent brief history of South Africa. A must read for anyone interested in getting a quick background on the history of South Africa.

For anyone wishing to gain an understanding of the complexity of South Africa's past and present, without the time to read one of the heavier volumes, this is a very good read - highly recommended to anyone visiting the country for the first time.

The book is a requirement for a January seminar. I was disappointed that I could not purchase the quantity that I needed for my group of students.

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