

Democratizing Southern Africa: Challenges For Canadian Policy

Adam and Moodley's analysis probes the competing political forces in the ongoing South African transition and assesses the prospect of democratic success or failure. It also traces the historical record of Canadian policy toward South Africa and speculates about the functions and background of a surprisingly activist policy by Canada's conservative government. The authors argue that developments in South Africa are widely misunderstood, even by informed policy makers. Public opinion abroad applies popular stereotypes of violent tribalism or false colonial analogies, and the personality cult surrounding Mandela and the accolades accorded de Klerk have romanticized and personalized a conflictual relationship. By aiming at the hidden reality beyond the pious resolutions and public posturing, Adam and Moodley contribute to a more nuanced understanding of South Africa today.

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