



Advance Information Sheet

Title: **Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa**

Subtitle: *The National Peace Accord, 1991-1994*

Author: Liz Carmichael

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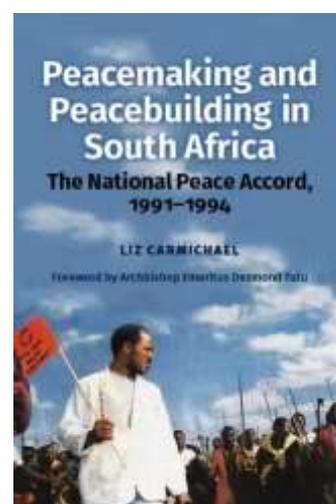
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Description:

“This book tells the story of Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa, a stage in South Africa’s journey to freedom and democracy. It was facilitated by churches and business, negotiated by the politicians, and supported by the international community, but the people accomplished it.” – *The late Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.*

It examines the creation and implementation of South Africa's National Peace Accord and this key transitional phase in the country's history, and its implications for peace mediation and conflict resolution.

It is now 30 years since the National Peace Accord (NPA) was signed in South Africa, bringing to an end the violent struggle of the Apartheid era and signalling the transition to democracy. Signed by the ANC Alliance, the Government, the Inkatha Freedom Party and a wide range of other political and labour organizations on 14 September 1991, the parties agreed in the NPA on the common goal of a united, non-racial democratic South Africa, and provided practical means for moving towards this end: codes of conduct for political organizations and for the police, the creation of national, regional and local peace structures for conflict resolution, the investigation and prevention of violence, peace monitoring, socio-economic reconstruction and peacebuilding.



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This book, written by one of those involved in the process that evolved, provides for the first time an assessment and in-depth account of this key phase of South Africa's history. The National Peace Campaign set up under the NPA mobilized the 'silent majority' and gave peace an unprecedented grassroots identity and legitimacy. The author describes the formulation of the NPA by political representatives, with Church and business facilitators, which ended the political impasse, constituted South Africa's first experience of multi-party negotiations, and made it possible for the constitutional talks (Codesa) to start. She examines the work of the Goldstone Commission, which prefigured the TRC, as well as the role of international observers from the UN, EU, Commonwealth and OAU. Exploring the work of the peace structures set up to implement the Accord - the National Peace Committee and Secretariat, the 11 Regional Peace Committees and 263 Local Peace Committees, and over 18,000 peace monitors - Carmichael provides a uniquely detailed assessment of the NPA, the on-the-ground peacebuilding work and the essential involvement of the people at its heart. Filling a significant gap in modern history, this book will be essential reading for scholars, students and others interested in South Africa's post-Apartheid history, as well as government agencies and NGOs involved in peacemaking globally.

Praise for *Peacemaking and Peacebuilding in South Africa*:

It's the hitherto untold story of people who, finding themselves unexpectedly together and called upon without precedent or guidelines to prepare a safe climate for negotiations which in turn would be without precedent or guidelines, creatively and imaginatively invented pragmatic solutions. A strong story, strongly told by one of the key participants, it not only provides a key ingredient for understanding how precarious the transformation from apartheid to non-racial democracy was in South Africa, but offers rich lessons for securing foundations for peace processes throughout the world.

Albie Sachs, former Judge on South Africa's Constitutional Court

This is a timely book. It closes a gap in knowledge about what exactly happened during the period of the National Peace Accord and what its contribution was to the democratic order that emerged. There are fascinating insights into how the idea of 'peace' was contested, and the notion of peacebuilding as hybrid, driven both from below and above. This book shows how ordinary citizens and concerned individuals play a part in facilitating peace processes. It helps to recast the perspective from a single narrative of a major political party that delivered change, to the complexity of political change as shaped by multiple actors with different perspectives and skills, but a shared interest in building a stable future. I really enjoyed reading this.

Mzukisi Qobo, University of the Witwatersrand

The National Peace Accord brought us from a life of violence under apartheid to a multifaceted quilt of warring parties working together to save lives and lay the foundation for South Africa's transition to a peaceful democracy in 1994. This book tells how it was done.

Jay Naidoo, General Secretary of COSATU 1985-1993

Documents an important aspect of the history of South Africa's transition to democracy and describes the interaction between South African civil society and its political actors in enabling its peace process. ... a useful resource not



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only for scholars in peace studies and South African history, but also for institutions and actors facing the task of making/building/forming peace.

Andries Odendaal, Institute of Justice and Reconciliation, Cape Town

South Africa owes Dr Carmichael an enormous debt of gratitude for documenting, in such fascinating detail, this significant piece of South African history.

Val Pauquet, National Peace Committee and Secretariat, 1991-1994

About the Author:

Revd Dr Liz Carmichael MBE is an Emeritus Research Fellow at St John's College, Oxford, where she convenes the peace studies network of Oxford University. She worked as a medical doctor in Soweto 1975-1981, and in the Anglican Diocese of Johannesburg 1991-1996 while also serving on the local and regional peace structures.



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