

**A.H. Marx: LESSONS OF STRUGGLE:
SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL
OPPOSITION, 1960-1990.** Oxford
University Press, Cape Town, 1992.

This analysis of internal opposition to the National Party government is written by a young American Assistant Professor of Political Science at Columbia University.

The book provides a useful analysis of the struggle against apartheid, with especially helpful insights into the development of the Black Consciousness movement and the emergence of a powerful black working class. After outlining the social, political and ideological framework of his research, Professor Marx focuses on the work of the Black Consciousness Movement.

One of the more interesting sections is his analysis of some of the inconsistencies in the ideology and strategies of the whole Black Consciousness movement. Another is his coverage of the 'race vs class identity' issue.

The rest of the book deals with the movement towards a 'national front', and eventually the

establishment of the UDF (the United Democratic Front), the severe repression of the P.W. Botha era, and what Professor Marx calls "Toward a Black Working-Class Movement and the watershed of 1989-1990".

The book relies heavily on oral evidence, gleaned through hundreds of interviews conducted by the author. This is one of the book's strengths and one of its weaknesses; there is a wealth of material not easily found elsewhere, and yet it has a 'sameness', an almost tedious predictability about it. Another irritation is the language and style used in the book. At times the jargon unfortunately descends to the level of a sociology or political science textbook.

It nevertheless provides a valuable insight into the events of the 1970s and 1980s and, as South Africa undergoes its transformation into a democratic society, Professor Marx's insights into the emergence of a mass-based opposition movement to the National Party government are of great value to us.

James Bisset