

Mozambique's Samora Machel : a life cut short (/review/10.5860/CHOICE.220237)

Isaacman, Allen F. (</search?exactauthor=Isaacman, Allen F>) by Allen F. Isaacman and Barbara S. Isaacman Ohio University, 2020

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Allen Isaacman (Univ. of Minnesota; Univ. of Western Cape, South Africa) and Barbara Isaacman elucidate the struggles of political revolutionary Samora Machel against Portuguese colonialism in Mozambique. They discuss the challenges confronting the fledgling regime as it attempted to consolidate socialist revolution and a Marxist nation-state. These included lukewarm Soviet support, internal dissension and civil war, external interference from neighboring apartheid South Africa, and the ravages of Cold War bipolarity. The book then delves into the controversial Nkomati Accord with South Africa in 1984, considering whether it was a sellout to the apartheid state (and if so, whether it was effective in keeping the peace), a betrayal by Machel, or a stopgap measure to buy time. In the decades since Machel's assassination in 1986, rumors have circulated about the identity of the assassins. The authors of this illuminating biographical account do not fail to deliver on this issue, confirming the long-standing rumors of South Africa's culpability and revealing the strategies used to carry out the heinous act. Divided into 10 chapters, the text considers Machel's foundational years, the difficulties that unfolded between 1983 and 1986, and Machel's growing popularity in popular culture.

Summing Up: Recommended. All levels.

Reviewer: [G. Emeagwali \(/search?reviewer=G. Emeagwali\)](/search?reviewer=G. Emeagwali), Central Connecticut State University

Recommendation: Recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels

Interdisciplinary Subjects: [African and African American Studies \(/search?q=&ints\[\]=afa\)](/search?q=&ints[]=afa)

Subject: [Social & Behavioral Sciences - History, Geography & Area Studies - Africa \(/search?q=&sbj\[\]=af\)](/search?q=&sbj[]=af)

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