
Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Source: NovelList

Pramoedya Ananta Toer. *This Earth of Mankind* (New York, 1990)

Set in Indonesia and written by that country's greatest living author, this book explores similar themes in a different culture: colonialism and its legacy, innocence and European treachery, race and sexuality.

Nadine Gordimer. *July's People* (1982)

This book takes some of the tensions displayed in *Cry, the Beloved Country* and spins them out more explicitly, as is appropriate in a later decade after the limitations of South African white liberalism have been revealed.

Nelson Mandela. *Long Walk to Freedom* (1994)

Much of this autobiography was written during the 27 years when Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island by the apartheid regime. Mandela's generosity of spirit will resonate with the character of Stephen Kumalo.

Desmond Tutu. *No Future Without Forgiveness* (2000)

The title says it all; context and enrichment for our understanding of South Africa by this iconic figure and Nobel Peace Prize recipient.

Antjie Krog. *Country of My Skull: Guilt, Sorrow, and the Limits of Forgiveness in the New South Africa* (1998)

Here are the revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that exposed the sins of the apartheid regime, by a prominent journalist and poet.

Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart* (1958)

Here's a view from Nigeria, another African classic which presents an unsentimental portrait of tribal life and the disastrous collision with colonialism.

Wole Soyinka. *The Interpreters* (1965)

A novel by Nigeria's Nobel-winning playwright, a comical portrait of expatriate intellectuals coming home to confront and try to understand their Yoruba legacy.

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This Book Discussion Guide was developed by Susanna Rodell, a journalist and children's author who has worked for major metropolitan newspapers and magazines as a columnist, reporter, critic and editor.