

CHOICE
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*MANDELA, Nelson. *Nelson Mandela: the struggle is my life: his speeches and writings brought together with historical documents and accounts of Mandela in prison by fellow-prisoners.* Pathfinder, 1986. 249p ill Index 86-61594. 23.00 ISBN 0-87348-862-6; 6.95 pa ISBN 0-87348-863-3. DT 763x

This reissue of Nelson Mandela's speeches and other documents related to political activities prior to his 1964 sentence to life imprisonment could not be more timely or useful for observers of the current South African scene. Originally produced in 1978 by the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, this new edition has been expanded to include, inter alia, two statements made by Mandela in 1985, one of which is his unequivocal rejection of the South African government's offer of a conditional release. The basic collection covers a 20-year span, ranging from the 1944 Manifesto of the African National Congress (ANC) Youth League to Mandela's famous statement from the dock at the 1964 Rivonia Trial that ended in his conviction. The documents reflect the ANC's transition from a commitment to nonviolence to the reluctant conclusion that the government's apartheid policies of confrontation and coercion left the Africans with no alternative other than armed struggle. The volume also includes two "Memoirs of Robben Island" written by fellow inmates, which are insightful descriptions of Mandela's character and personality. There are 34 documents organized under 13 categories; three appendixes provide an autobiographical note, an index of his speeches, and a list of honors bestowed on Mandela and his wife. New material also includes 38 illustrations and an excellent index. Although most of these documents can be found in *From Protest to Challenge: A Documentary History of African*

Politics in South Africa, ed. by Thomas Karis and Gwendolen Carter (4v., CH, Sep '77), this book is a handy reference to many of Mandela's most famous speeches, and is enhanced by the additional material.—*M.E. Doro, Connecticut College*