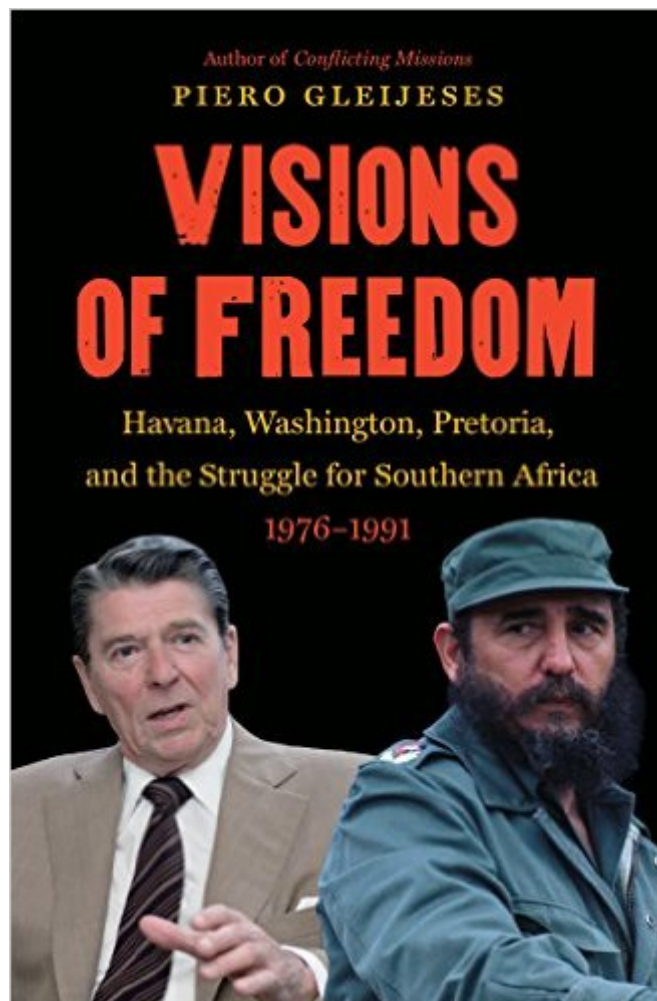


The book was found

Visions Of Freedom: Havana, Washington, Pretoria, And The Struggle For Southern Africa, 1976-1991 (The New Cold War History)



Synopsis

During the final fifteen years of the Cold War, southern Africa underwent a period of upheaval, with dramatic twists and turns in relations between the superpowers. Americans, Cubans, Soviets, and Africans fought over the future of Angola, where tens of thousands of Cuban soldiers were stationed, and over the decolonization of Namibia, Africa's last colony. Beyond lay the great prize: South Africa. Piero Gleijeses uses archival sources, particularly from the United States, South Africa, and the closed Cuban archives, to provide an unprecedented international history of this important theater of the late Cold War. These sources all point to one conclusion: by humiliating the United States and defying the Soviet Union, Fidel Castro changed the course of history in southern Africa. It was Cuba's victory in Angola in 1988 that forced Pretoria to set Namibia free and helped break the back of apartheid South Africa. In the words of Nelson Mandela, the Cubans "destroyed the myth of the invincibility of the white oppressor . . . [and] inspired the fighting masses of South Africa."

Book Information

Series: The New Cold War History

Paperback: 672 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; Reprint edition (February 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1469628325

ISBN-13: 978-1469628325

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.7 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #963,845 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #300 in [Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Cuba](#) #422 in [Books > History > Africa > South Africa](#) #860 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African](#)

Customer Reviews

Yesterday Nelson Mandela died, and you would think from all the gushing praises that the US government had supported him from the beginning. Nothing could be further from the truth. During Mandela's first visit to the US, it was leaked that the CIA had played a role in his capture. The US considered the ANC a "Communist" and "terrorist" organization. Of course everyone they didn't like

got called at least one of these things. In this book, as in its prequel *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976*, Piero Gleijeses, a professor of American foreign Policy at Johns Hopkins, discusses the opposing roles played by the US and Cuba in the battle to free Southern Africa. This is a work of careful research, the author using archives of the US, Cuba, South Africa, and Russia, as well as interviews with and quotes from memoirs of key players in these countries and others. It will be impossible to refute, although we can be sure some will try. The US supported Portuguese colonialism until revolution in Portugal forced an end to it. Then they supported the most pro-imperialist forces in the former colonies; those willing to collaborate with the apartheid regime to see that no radical change took place. UNITA in Angola was one such movement; their atrocities were glossed over, and their South African ties downplayed. While publically taking their distance from apartheid South Africa, the US government collaborated with them against the MPLA in Angola and SWAPO in Namibia (no country in the world publically opposed independence and free elections in the South African colony).

This is an incredibly well researched book that reads like a thriller. For those who follow or have followed events in southern Africa this is a MUST read. The shortcoming in this book is that Professor Gleijeses sees historical developments in terms of "goodies" versus "baddies" and is obviously enthralled by Fidel Castro's Marxist religious fervour. Castro could do no wrong in his "internationalist" vision of fighting imperialism and is presented as a wise knowledgeable leader. Therefore the massacres in Ethiopia by Cuban ally Mengistu are glossed over; Cuba's blatant interference in Angola's internal affairs (the Nito Alves affair) practically ignored. The massacre of tens of thousands of people that followed that attempted coup and ordered by Agostinho Neto (presented in the book as a sort of malevolent dictator) is also ignored. Jonas Savimbi was perhaps a ruthless bloody "war lord" (the professor's description) but to say that the dos Santos govt is "far better than the alternative Jonas Savimbi " makes one wonder: How does he know? It could hardly ever be more corrupt than the dos Santos government and it seems many African leaders would disagree (including perhaps Nelson Mandela who had a very tense relationship with the MPLA government) I am sure this was not professor Gleijeses intention but by the end of the book one cannot escape the feeling that the Cubans were not taking the Angolan government seriously.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Visions of Freedom: Havana, Washington, Pretoria, and the Struggle for Southern Africa, 1976-1991 (The New Cold War History) IS THIS WHY AFRICA IS? (Why Africa is poor, Why Africa is not developing, What Africa needs, What Africa needs to develop): Africa, Africa, Africa, Africa

Africa, Africa, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola, Ebola SOUTHERN COOKBOOK: Southern Cooking Bible: Smokin' Tasty And Authentic Southern Recipes (southern cooking, southern recipes, southern cookbook) Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976 Southern Cooking: for beginners - Simple Southern Food Recipes - Old South Recipes (Southern Food - Southern Meals - Southern Recipes - Soul Food - American Cuisine Book 1) Cuba: Cuba On My Mind: Cuba From Columbus To Fidel Castro (Cuba, Fidel Castro, Cuba straits, Cuba travel guide, Cuban missile crisis, Havana storm, Havana bay) World War 2 History's 10 Most Incredible Women: World War II True Accounts Of Remarkable Women Heroes (WWII history, WW2, War books, world war 2 books, war history, World war 2 women) 1976 U.S. Yearbook: Interesting original book full of facts and figures from 1976 - Unique birthday gift or anniversary present idea! Allende's Chile and the Inter-American Cold War (The New Cold War History) Mao's China and the Cold War (The New Cold War History) U.S. Intervention in British Guiana: A Cold War Story (The New Cold War History) U.S. Intervention in British Guiana: A Cold War Story (New Cold War History) A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev (The New Cold War History) Vietnam War: The Vietnam War in 50 Events: From the First Indochina War to the Fall of Saigon (War Books, Vietnam War Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series Book 6) Without Fidel: A Death Foretold in Miami, Havana and Washington Southern Pressure Cooking: Over 40 Quick and Easy Southern Meals and Secret Family Recipes for Your Pressure Cooker (Instant Pot & Southern Recipes) Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean: A Guide to the Ships & the Ports of Call (Cruising the Southern and Western Caribbean) (Cruising the Southern & Western Caribbean) Southern Cooking Cookbooks: southern cooking recipes Collection Of the Best, Healthy, Delicious And Recommended Soul Food Cookbook (soul food for diabetes,Southern Cookbook): Best Fried Chicken Home Remedies for Ulcers (ulcer, stomach ulcer, peptic ulcer, ulcer symptoms, stomach ulcer symptoms, ulcer treatment, mouth ulcer, mouth ulcers, cold sore, cold sore remedies, cold sores) World War 1: World War I in 50 Events: From the Very Beginning to the Fall of the Central Powers (War Books, World War 1 Books, War History) (History in 50 Events Series)