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as a spokesman for a country a continent and the developing world thabo mbeki played a crucial role in world politics but to many people he remained an enigma throughout his presidency is this simply because he was a secretive man or were there complicated political factors at play who was the real mbeki in this book multiple award winning journalist william mervin gumede chronicles mbeki s spectacular rise to dominate africa s oldest liberation movement he explores the complex position that mbeki occupied following in nelson mandela s footsteps holding together an alliance with deep ideological differences and ruling an intensely divided country revealing the political and personal tensions behind the scenes gumede

explains how mbeki sought to mould the anc into his image through tight control and exposes the intrigues behind the battle for succession covering mbeki s attempts to modernise the economy and kick start an african renaissance and investigating his controversial stance on issues from aids to zimbabwe the book offers invaluable insights into the arcane machinations behind political decisions that touch the lives of millions every day

the office of strategic services the forerunner of the cia was founded in 1942 by william wild bill donovan under the direction of president roosevelt agents were enlisted from both the armed services and civilians to produce operational groups specialising in different foreign areas including italy norway yugoslavia and china in 1944 the number of men and women working in the service totalled nearly 13 500 this intriguing story of the origins and development of the american espionage forces covers all of the different departments involved with a particular emphasis on the courageous teams operating in the field the volume is illustrated with many photographs including images from the film director john ford who led the oss photographic unit and parachuted into burma in 1943

a story of war and peace in mozambique and beyond memories at low altitude spans four decades of southern african history from the point of view of one of its main protagonists jacinto veloso fought in the mozambican liberation struggle and served as a minister in samora machel s cabinet after independence when the region was dominated by civil war and the conflict between east and west veloso s story covers many fascinating issues of this period among them the conflict between frelimo and the south african backed renamo the negotiations that resulted in the nkomati accord in which he was a key participant the processes that contributed to the withdrawal of cuban and south african troops from angola and the independence of namibia the impact of post independence mozambique s strictly socialist economy and its subsequent shift to a more market orientated approach and the aeroplane crash in which samora machel was killed velosa s insights are particularly interesting given his role in the commission of inquiry into the crash

democracy in south africa turns twenty on 27 april 2014 in a rumour of spring max du preez investigates and analyses the progress and lack of progress the country has made during these twenty years a rumour of spring looks at the legacies of nelson mandela and thabo mbeki in an attempt to understand how we got here and examines jacob zuma s presidency to better understand where we are in the context of blatant corruption populism and tragedies such as the marikana massacre the book considers the current state of the ruling party and the opposition and dissects the big issues currently afflicting our society including the state of education land reform crime and policing the judiciary nationality and race and then with images of the arab spring fresh in our collective memory it dares to look to the future and what it may hold an honest and balanced account a rumour of spring tackles the questions asked by ordinary south africans every day how are we really doing what is really going on in our country how should we understand what is happening here and will it get any better

in the winter of 1975 erich rautenbach s life took a serious turn for the worse when he was bust for selling weed by gun toting undercover cops he d been selling the dope to raise money to leave south africa in a bid to escape his army call up and resist having to shoot people in the name of apartheid but instead he found himself in the infamous john vorster square at the mercy of drug squad policemen who seemed convinced that he was part of some notorious drug ring this wild memoir recreates the cape town of the 1960s and 70s where erich hung out with people from district six and the bo kaap and jammed with fellow musicians at the office on long street he describes his travels around the country to durban johannesburg the zulu village where he bought durban poison and all the places in between and recounts his experiences at john vorster square the fort and sterkfontein sanatorium where events quickly spiralled out of control written in an electric and hilarious style the unexploded boer is destined to become a cult classic

presents ideas on how to create websites for teenagers from the basics such as links and catalogs to technical skills relating to elements like blogs feeds and podcasting

a fortnightly bulletin on financial and political trends

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