

1. Concentration on his academic career & work. As well as his ideas??
But was a political activist - first. And I suggest last! His last work was a political donation to new SA.
2. Never was in any tower. Joined YCL in his early undergrad days, CP not long after, still a student. And in illegal party STILL! on way to 2nd or 3rd degree.
3. However remarkable his record as student, then as barrister and later solicitor in political cases, career as activist was more remarkable:
MK mapping & intelligence work.
Arrest and escape.
Character of man - quiet, unflashy - contrast with companion Goldreich - and how character changed in a spectacular escape - including disguises, plane blow-up in Botswana, etc.
4. Which led to a new life as an academic here. ~~MARAL~~: always get at least two degrees if you want to survive in politics.

2.

5: But did not give up his activism! He was active in ANC in exile, active in SA Marxist circles - although his work took him from the centre - LONDON. So he thought, he thought, he wrote.

6. Writing not for career, but for the movement. I do not pretend to know all of it, ~~or to~~ but 3 outstanding themes in his political thoughts.. all relate to the critical central ~~is~~ problem of SA politics - the relation between class and race factors?.

ed. Not appalled by Gov to Nat. Commission on Higher
Ed. did not. Put his talents to work
where he believed they did most good - in
the sphere of educating younger generations
of SAs.

He was prime mover in National Education
Crisis Committee, ^{in 80s} the driving spirit in devising
and securing political endorsement of a new
education policy for a new country. It came
then on into his last great academic task -
establishment of a major study of black
higher education and a long-term data
base for future - a massive study on which
he was engaged at his death - & which
probably hastened it.

He worked - & overworked - even for a
cause which undervalued his ideas and
reduced his status he deserved.

He was a quiet man, ~~but~~ his college
door was always open to students, and his
mind to new ideas.

But he left behind a legacy of thought &
organised study. ~~The star~~ which will
survive long after the memory of others who

stars flared more spectacularly ~~again~~

~~but~~ ~~perished~~ but will ~~last~~ not last as
long :-

This ~~unfortunate~~ ~~fact~~

The success of the SA liberation struggle has been based on a broad consensus of ideas - in academic terms somewhat simplified ideas - that held together a complex mix of races, classes and ideologies.

HW was part of the process of creating that consensus in his political work towards the FC! He did not undervalue or discount it! But in his theoretical writings he sought to deepen understanding, & to move the politics on.

Unfortunately, mass movement with consensus is not flexible, adaptable to new ideas. Every new idea tends to create factional groupings - not the best. Many in ANC ~~are~~ had horizons expanded by his work & ideas - but chose as let priority to preserve the UNITY & CONSENSUS.

His theories cut across well trodden lines, seemed dangerous, destabilising.

~~Therefore~~ HW seemed to ~~was~~ being seen by some as flaky, not 100% reliable,

A lesser man would have withdrawn in hurt.

A MEMORIAL MEETING
TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF



HAROLD WOLPE

JANUARY 14 1926 - JANUARY 19 1996

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH

SCHOOL OF ORIENTAL AND AFRICAN STUDIES
LONDON

PROGRAMME

INTRODUCTION:
SAMI ZUBAIDA

SPEAKERS:
RONALD SEGAL
MAXINE MOLYNEUX
ANDILE MASEKO
MARY MCINTOSH
STAN COHEN

EMILY SEGAL, PIANO:
ANDANTE FROM CONCERTO IN
C MAJOR (K.467) - MOZART

SPEAKERS:
SHAWN SLOVO
RUSTY BERNSTEIN
NICHOLAS WOLPE
MENDI MSIMANG

EMILY SEGAL, PIANO

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM: NKOSI SIKELEL' IAFRIKA
SUNG BY ANDILE MASEKO

REFRESHMENTS

HAROLD WOLPE

Harold Wolpe was deeply involved in the making of the new South Africa. He had been an activist against apartheid before his escape to Britain, was a theoretician of the movement during twenty seven years of exile and went back in 1991 to play a part in forming higher education policy.

A member of the Communist Party and of the ANC and a practising lawyer, he took up many political cases and drafted the disciplinary procedures for the UmKhonto we Sizwe, the military arm of the ANC. He would undoubtedly have been among the Rivonia trialists in 1963, had he and three comrades not managed a dramatic escape from prison and from South Africa.

Once in England, and re-united with his wife and children, he turned to teaching sociology, at Bradford University, the Polytechnic of North London and from 1973 at Essex University. He was one of a small group who founded the Marxist journal *Economy and Society* in the early 70s. His major contribution was an exemplary analysis in which he argued that apartheid was a distinctive system for providing cheap labour in South African capitalism - as well as being unjust and racist. He was involved in setting up the Solomon Mahlangu College in Tanzania. In the late 1980s he ran a project **Research on Education in South Africa**, funded through the Ruth First Memorial Trust. This was the work he was to continue once it became possible for the exiles to return. He set up the Education Policy Unit at the University of the Western Cape and it was there that he was based until he died, hours after completing a major report for the National Commission on Higher Education.

His wife AnnMarie lives in Cape Town, his son Nicholas in Johannesburg and his daughters Peta and Tessa and grandchildren Jonathan and Alicia in London.

ACTIVIST INTELLECTUAL EDUCATOR

NKOSI SIKEL' IAFRIKA

Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakamis' uphondo lwayo
Yizwa imithandazo yethu
Usisikelele, usisikele

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika
Maluphakamis' uphondo lwayo
Yizwa imithandazo yethu
Nkosi sikelela, Thina lusapho lwayo

Woza Moya (woza, woza)
Woza Moya, oyingcwele
Nkosi sikelela
Thina lusapho lwayo

Morena boloka Sechaba sa heso
O fedise dintwa le matswenyeho
Morena boloka Sechaba sa heso
O fedise dintwa le matswenyeho

O se boloke, o se boloke
O se boloke, o se boloke
Sechaba sa heso, Sechaba sa heso
O se boloke Morena, o se boloke
O se boloke Sechaba, o se boloke
Sechaba sa heso, se Sechaba sa Afrika



HAROLD WOLPE MEMORIAL TRUST

We, family and colleagues of Harold Wolpe, have set up a Trust Fund in his name to honour through a range of appropriate academic activities Harold's intellectual and critical legacy. More specifically we are considering having an annual lecture and/or colloquium, and, initially a publication arising from this, sponsoring individuals to conduct short research and/or write on policy and other issues relating to the educational and related needs of South Africa and set up a reading room in a university which could house Harold's papers.

President Nelson Mandela has agreed to be a Patron. The following people have agreed to act as Trustees: Minister Kadar Asmal, Prof. Nasima Badsha, Professor Jakes Gerwel, Minister Pallo Jordan, Mr. Eric Molobi, Prof. Njabulo Ndebele and Professor Mala Singh, as well as AnnMarie, Peta, Tessa and Nicholas Wolpe.

If you or your organisation would like to contribute to this Trust and would like to be included on our mailing list for more information please complete the tear off slip and return to the address below. Please could you distribute this notice to other people who might be interested or include their names and addresses with yours. We are confident that many individuals and organisations will be contributing to this Trust.

I am interested in contributing to the Harold Wolpe Memorial Trust.

Contact Name:

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Tel: (H)

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E-mail:

Please return to:
Peta Wolpe (address below)

Education Policy Unit, University of the Western Cape, Private Bag X17, Bellville, 7535, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 959-2580, Fax: +27 21 959-3278, Internet : admin@epu.uwc.ac.za

Peta Wolpe, 15 Elm Grove, London, N8 9AH, Tel: 0181 348-0193 Fax: 0181 340-5001

Trustees: Kadar Asmal, Nasima Badsha, Jakes Gerwel, Pallo Jordan, Eric Molobi, Njabulo Ndebele,
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