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# Boeke

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## **ISOLATED STATES. A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS.**

Deon Geldenhuys. 1990.  
Jonathan Ball Publishers

Deon Geldenhuys is 'n kundige en bekende navorser oor Suid-Afrika en sy internasionale situasie. Hy is professor in die departement Politieke Studies by die Randse Afrikaanse Universiteit.

Die boek word besonder raak saamgevat in die volgende opsomming:

"Ostracised states have been known throughout the twentieth century. In the inter-war years, Bolshevik Russia, Weimar Germany and Fascist Italy were treated as outcast states by the community of nations. After the Second World War, several countries were subjected to various degrees of isolation by the world community: Portugal, Spain, Cuba, South Korea, East Germany, China, Rhodesia, Paraguay, Taiwan, Israel, Chile and South Africa.

While a good deal has been written about some individual isolated states, there is a striking lack of comparative studies of enforced isolation. This book fills the void by offering a detailed comparison of the international ostracism experienced by Taiwan, Chile, South Africa and Israel, while not neglecting earlier cases of isolation. A set of 30 indicators has been developed to compare the nature and extent of the various countries' ostracism. It is the first time that such a comprehensive check-list of isolation has been used in a scholarly investigation.

*Isolated States* is the result of three years' research, during which the author travelled to a number of different countries to collect material. The book contains a wealth of factual information on the international relations of particularly Israel, South Africa, Chile and Taiwan, the four principal case studies. Among the

aspects discussed, are their diplomatic networks, treaties, membership of international organisations, trade links, flow of capital and technology, arms purchases, and cultural exchanges. Not only the student of isolated states but any reader interested in the foreign relations of Israel, Chile, Taiwan and South Africa will find this book a valuable source of information.

Readers more interested in the conceptual aspects of international isolation will benefit from the framework for analysis devised by the author. Apart from the range of indicators of isolation, the framework offers concise definitions of both voluntary and enforced isolation and breaks it down into a number of structural and functional components to facilitate analysis. The book concludes with an agenda for further research, challenging readers to address some of the many questions raised in the study."

Dr F van Zyl Slabbert sê die volgende van dié boek:

"An important scholarly vacuum is being filled by this work of Geldenhuys. Our understanding of the dynamics of international and domestic politics of states that experience deliberate isolation and ostracism, is clouded with controversy and ideological special pleading.

The comparative nature of the analysis introduces a welcome note of dispassion into our understanding of the reasons for, manner and consequences of, the isolation of any single state.

Geldenhuys continues an imaginative analytical framework with sound empirical investigation in an attempt to devise a practical and reliable instrument for evaluating the extent of a state's isolation. As a respected scholar living in one such state, South Africa, he distinguished himself in previous publications and research as an incisive analyst with a provocative and engaging writing style. In this exten-

sive and wide-ranging piece of work he remains true to his abilities.

Dit is gewis 'n stuk navorsing wat deur Kommunikasiekundiges gebruik kan word, veral in politieke kommunikasie. Die gesprek oor Suid-Afrika se terugkeer uit isolasie sal vir die volgende jare baie relevant bly.

**Willem de Klerk**

## **INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMMUNICATION**

Barnouw E, Gerbner G, Schramm W, Worth T L en Gross L (Redakteurs) (1989). New York: Oxford University Press in samewerking met Annenberg School of Communications, University of Pennsylvania, New York.

Die "International Encyclopedia of Communications" beslaan meer as 2000 bladsye, vervat in vier volumes. Dit bied 'n voëlvlugbeeld oor die kommunikasiewetenskap ooreenkomstig die wydste definisie daarvan. In sy inleiding beskryf Barnouw (1989 (1):XX) hierdie wye siening soos volg:

We offer entries on the histories and social roles on media from cueniform tablets to communication satellites, from the genres of Niniveh to the genres of Hollywood."

Hierdie belofte word gestand gedoen. So byvoorbeeld word daar onder die letter B in die alfabetiese indeks inskrywings soos Balzac, Bambi (die film), Bandura en die Bangkok Recorder aangetref.

Die vraag ontstaan onmiddellik of die samestellers nie té wyd gemik het met so 'n benadering nie. Die antwoord is waarskynlik opgesluit in die gebruikmaking van die woord ensiklopedie in die titel. Dit telegrafeer die bedoeling van inhouds-

verbreding. Deur dié benadering te volg word die werk van ander kommunikasie werke soos die internasionale kommunikasie-jaarboeke, onderskei.

Die stof word alfabeties aangebied. 'n Indeks verskyn agter in volume vier. Soms is artikels oor dieselfde breë onderwerp, byvoorbeeld interkulturele kommunikasie, saam geplaas. Die woord kommunikasie is spaarsaam in die titels van onderwerpe gebruik. Kruisverwysings na aanverwante onderwerpe verhoog die gebruikswaarde van die werk. Dit geld ook vir die aanvullende bronnelys wat saam met elke artikel geplaas is.

Die daarstelling van die eindproduk, wat voorafgegaan is deur 'n uitgebreide lewensvatbaarheidstudie, is moontlik gemaak deur 'n redaksionele raad van nege persone, 25 afdelingsredakteurs en sowat 100 redaksionele spesialiste. Hoewel daar baie gedoen is om botsende style te versoen, word stylverskille tog plekplek aangetref. Dit geld veral wat die rangskikking van die stof aanbetref. 'n Bietjie meer dissipline kon hier van nut gewees het. Aangesien daar heelwat biografieë in die werk opgeneem is, sou dit dalk sinvol gewees het om dit saam in 'n afdeling te groepeer.

'n Ander punt van kritiek wat geopper kan word, is die beklemtoning van sekere onderwerpe ten koste van ander. 'n Enkele voorbeeld is die drie bladsye wat in volume twee aan kunsvervalsing afgetaan word (Fine, 1989 (2):194-198) teenoor die skamele twee bladsye wat aan diplomatie as belangrike verskyningsvorm van staatskommunikasie (Fry, 1989 (2):36-37) gewy word.

Hoewel 'n hele afdeling (1989 (1):7-27) aan reklame gewy word, kom die ander fasette van bemarkingskommunikasie nie tot hulle reg nie. Voorts kan diegene wat in interpersoonlike kommunikasie belangstel dalk ook bietjie afgeskeep voel. On-

derwerpe soos empatie en homofilie word byvoorbeeld glad nie genoem nie.

In die geheel gesien het die redaksie van die Annenberg School of Communications daarin geslaag om 'n naslaanwerk van formidabele gehalte daar te stel. Benewens die gebruikswaarde van die werk, behoort dit ook die beeld van kom-

munikasie as wetenskap te bevorder. Die uitwysing van die breë raakvlakke met ander dissiplines, wat duidelik in die werk na vore kom, is iets wat lankal nodig was. Dié pragwerk hoort in elke biblioteek in die land.

**Braam van der Vyver**