



Revolutionary HOPE

vs.

Free-Market FANTASIES

Keeping the Southern Africa
Liberation Struggle Alive:
Theory, Practice, Contexts

John S. Saul

John S. Saul, born and first educated in Toronto, Canada, moved to Tanzania almost sixty years ago and, since then, has also taught in Mozambique and South Africa as well as back in Canada at York University. In Tanzania, he discovered the centrality of the war for freedom from white rule and global capitalist dictate then taking shape further south – in Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa. Both his scholarly interest and his activist bent drew him to support and to seek to better understand the struggles in these nations-in-the-making, a political choice that now culminates in a final trilogy of books under the general title **The Rethinking Southern African Liberation Trilogy**. The first volume of this trilogy, *On Building a Social Movement: The North American Campaign for Southern African Liberation Revisited*, was published by Africa World Press/Fernwood Books (2017). The present book is the second in that trilogy, with a third volume entitled *Class, Race and the Thirty Years War for Southern African Liberation – A History* set to conclude his work to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2022.

Here, Saul's extended first chapter lays out the broad premises of the thinking that has guided his endeavours, ideas that takes the core reality of economic production and exploitation centrally but that are alive to the tangible impact on outcomes of a wide range of other social realities, including class, race, gender, sexuality, nationalism, the environment, politics and the state. A second section covers the essential unity of theory and political practice that underpins Saul's findings. And a third and final section paints illuminating pictures of some core aspects of the diverse regional contexts — sites of both recolonization and continuing struggle, and all contexts whose trajectories will be further explored in his forthcoming third volume.

This is not a book to rush through, but one to savor as one would a fine wine. The relevance of the analyses goes far beyond Southern Africa, and beyond Africa, but leads one to consider the dimensions and challenges faced by a 21st-century emancipatory project.

– **Bill Fletcher, Jr.**, trade union activist and former president of TransAfrica Forum and co-editor of *Claim No Easy Victories: The Legacy of Amílcar Cabral*, among other books

A tour de force from a scholar who exemplifies the value of praxis, in this volume John Saul encourages us as always to face grim realities while inspiring us to hope. Also: a cracking good read!

– **Shireen Hassim**, Canada Research Chair, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. She is author of *Women's organizations and democracy in South Africa: Contesting authority*.

