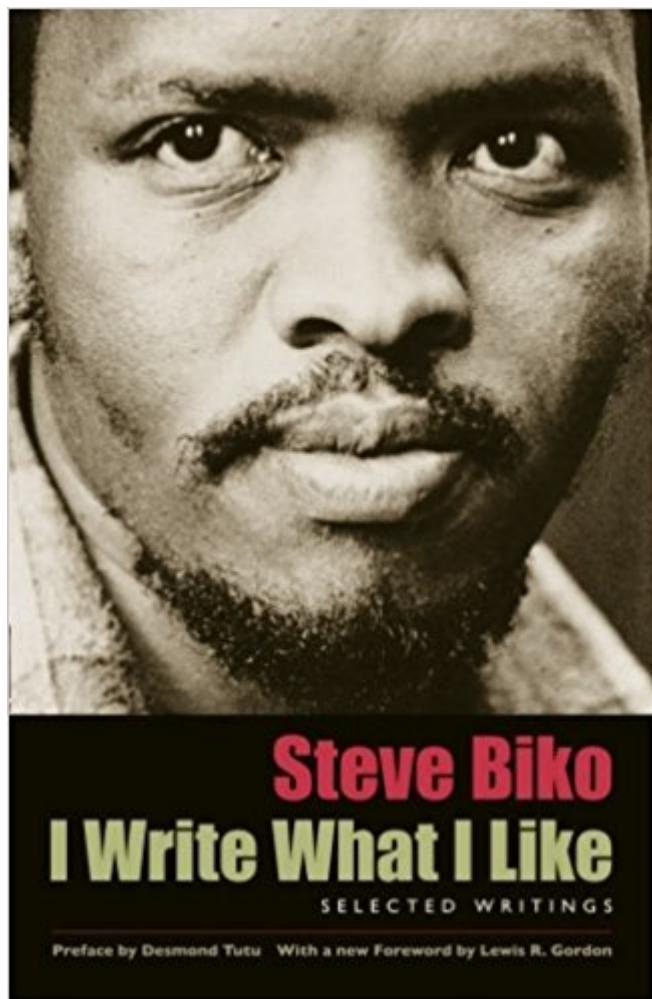


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# I Write What I Like: Selected Writings



## Synopsis

"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." Like all of Steve Biko's writings, those words testify to the passion, courage, and keen insight that made him one of the most powerful figures in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. They also reflect his conviction that black people in South Africa could not be liberated until they united to break their chains of servitude, a key tenet of the Black Consciousness movement that he helped found. *I Write What I Like* contains a selection of Biko's writings from 1969, when he became the president of the South African Students' Organization, to 1972, when he was prohibited from publishing. The collection also includes a preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; an introduction by Malusi and Thoko Mpumlwana, who were both involved with Biko in the Black Consciousness movement; a memoir of Biko by Father Aelred Stubbs, his longtime pastor and friend; and a new foreword by Professor Lewis Gordon. Biko's writings will inspire and educate anyone concerned with issues of racism, postcolonialism, and black nationalism.

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## Customer Reviews

"Readers will find his essential humaneness, intelligence, and lack of malice as impressive as his eloquence and compelling arguments," said LJ's reviewer (LJ 2/15/79) of this volume combining articles and interviews that Biko first wrote under the nom de plume Frank Talk. It includes a preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"The most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed." Like all of Steve Biko's writings, those words testify to the passion, courage, and keen insight that made him one of the most powerful figures in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. They also reflect his conviction that black people in South Africa could not be liberated until they united to break their chains of servitude, a key tenet of the Black Consciousness movement that he helped found. *I Write What I Like* contains a selection of Biko's writings from 1969, when he became the president of the South African Students' Organization, to 1972, when he was prohibited from publishing. The collection also includes a preface by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; an introduction by Malusi and Thoko Mpumlwana, who were both involved with Biko in the Black Consciousness movement; a memoir of Biko by Father Aelred Stubbs, his longtime pastor and friend; and a new foreword by Professor Lewis Gordon. Biko's writings will inspire and educate anyone concerned with issues of racism, postcolonialism, and black nationalism.

Biko believed that once Africans achieved a level of awareness that they would beinfused with a new sense of pride and incorporate African values into their country. In addition, Steve Biko wrote acrimoniously about Apartheid because he came to same conclusions that African Americans concluded about America; Whites have conditioned them to believe that Blacks are inferior. In that sense Biko's philosophy of Black Consciousness will remind you of the Black Power movement of the sixties in the United States of America, an image of Stokely Carmichael with fist in the air comes to mind. Yet, if you read closer he wanted Black South Africans to seek something more important, ubuntu-a sense of community and humanity.

Very deep, informative, and poignant book. I haven't finished the book but what I've read so far is very impressive. Biko was not only a very strong and principled leader, he was also a genuine political intellectual who understood the root causes of the black South African's dilemma. Nelson Mandela is the household name and face associated with the black struggle in South Africa. Mandela's place in history is well deserved but Biko is often forgotten and I never understood that. Black Consciousness was a mindset every black had to reach before they could free themselves from white rule. People must accept themselves and their history before they can begin the fight to free themselves from subjugation and reach political legitimacy. Biko's movement was a raging inferno that laid the foundation for the ANC's eventual victory over apartheid and free elections in South Africa. Blacks could never experience self-determination if they first didn't see themselves as

people deserving of human rights, dignity, free will, and the right to vote and elect their own political representatives.

With everything we have heard in the media recently, this book is right on. Every racial group should develop its own consciousness, and come together as one. We seem to be missing many points, not least is "we are all in this together!". By raising our consciousness as individuals we can elevate our own understanding and make the world a much better place. Steve Biko's writings help us to understand how we can move forward. This book should be used as a teaching tool in every school. With deepest sincerity and effort we can change the world, and make it a better place for all. Biko!

This is an excellent book. I had never heard of Steve Biko until I took a trip to South Africa. As an American we have been pushed to believe that Nelson Mandela is the only true hero in the effort to end apartheid. But just like Malcolm X is an unsung hero, so was Steve Biko and countless other heroes who've most people have never heard of.

A great look inside the mind of a martyr of African liberation. It's amazing how these writings are still applicable today.

This is a collection of Steve Biko's writings and testimonies and others' essays analyzing the collection of writings or the relationship they had with Biko. While I found Biko's writings and testimonies to be extremely interesting, they constituted about half of this book. The remainder was the essays I formerly mentioned. While some of these writings were very interesting studies of the material presented, others, while informative, were uninteresting.

This book is very important in studying apartheid and the movement that ended it. It should be required reading in any study of racism. I'm glad to have bought it.

Very poignant book about a man fighting the evils of apartheid. I highly recommend the book.

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