


# South Africa's Insurgent Citizens: On Dissent and the Possibility of Politics

*By Julian Brown*

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By Julian Brown

Twenty years after South Africa’s first democratic election, the nation’s politics are more fractious than ever before. The lofty dreams of the early days of the post-apartheid era have dissolved into cynicism in the face of incessant police violence, the quashing of dissent, and the spread of corruption. To many South Africans today, politics is a failed enterprise, the preserve only of the corrupt, the self-interested, the incompetent, and the violent.

With this book, Julian Brown mounts a powerful, polemic argument against that sort of despair. Politics is alive and well in South Africa—if you know where to look. Brown reveals a new kind of politics, in the streets and the courtrooms, a politics created by a new kind of citizen, one that is neither respectful nor passive, but insurgent. South African politics, Brown argues, may be fractured—but it’s in those very cracks that a powerful new movement is beginning to grow.

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## Editorial Review

Review

“Julian Brown's book offers us a rich and intriguing account of ourselves as a country of protest. His analysis is insightful, and ultimately hopeful—for it is only through principled challenges to the present, on the streets, in the halls of power, and in the courts, that our constitutional ideals of dignity and equality for all can be realised.”

(Justice Edwin Cameron, Constitutional Court of South Africa)

“Julian Brown writes that moments of political insurgency 'can provide a lightning flash of illumination' into the inequalities of South Africa. His book is similarly revealing. He vividly analyses popular politics, insisting that the mobilisation of ordinary, insurgent citizens has and will impact on the shape of society and as yet unpredictable political outcomes.”
(William Beinart, University of Oxford)

“Whereas conventional readings of South African politics worry about a crisis of post-apartheid democracy, Brown offers a provocative argument that makes a welcome contribution to how we understand political agency among poor communities in South Africa today.”
(Thiven Reddy, University of Cape Town)

“*South Africa's Insurgent Citizens* provides an innovative understanding of rising popular protest in the country today. The book shows how, despite growing repression, activists and communities are finding new ways to exert their rights to protest and political expression.”

(Gillian Hart, author of Rethinking the South African Crisis)

“A fascinating account of protest based on an unshrinking belief in the importance of an organised, strong, powerful, and vibrant civil society, particularly of poor people. Its controversial thesis is that the early abandonment of protest and settling with the state can retard the strengthening of civil society.”
(Justice Zak Yacoob, former judge of the Constitutional Court of South Africa)

“Rooted in current South African case studies of community organisation, social protest and public interest litigation, this book makes an invaluable contribution to the literature on democratic politics. Beyond this, it offers a compelling vision of the possibilities of claiming justice from below.”
(Sandra Liebenberg, University of Stellenbosch)

“A timely and important analytical contribution to the growing scholarship on contemporary protest politics in South Africa. Brown both challenges existing analytical frameworks and offers innovative ways of thinking about protests.”

(Noor Nieftagodien, University of the Witwatersrand)

“Brown provides a provocative view of South African political society by championing a politics of

disruption by, and on behalf of, those left outside the realm of an oligarchic society. . . . This is a well-written, sober analysis bolstered by extensive research that provides a perspective anyone interested in South Africa and its future should read. Highly recommended."

(*Choice*)

"Brown's book features a similar diagnosis of what ails South Africa. Nonetheless, his focus on the growing mass mobilization of citizens through various civic associations, unions, and protest movements leads him to a cautious optimism about the future."

(*Foreign Affairs*)

About the Author

**Julian Brown** is a lecturer in political studies at the University of the Witwatersrand.

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**Joe Vizcarra:**

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**Michael Grammer:**

The book untitled South Africa's Insurgent Citizens: On Dissent and the Possibility of Politics contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains her idea with easy means. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do definitely not worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new age of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or program, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can wide open their official web-site and order it. Have a nice read.

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