

# Newsletter 44

October 2020

Horst Kleinschmidt

Dear friends,

My jaundiced view at this time: an ANC heading to self-destruct; no political alternatives; a failing economy; frightening unemployment ahead; continuing collapse of state administrative systems; an incapable education system; continuing corruption; wealth flight/theft out of the country by a super-rich elite; more hate speech at both ends of the black-white spectrum; a compromised and crooked audit fraternity; corporate theft and corruption a la Steinhoff. Crookedness is not the preserve of the ANC alone!

It pains me that so many, once my comrades, betrayed us and what we stood for – not because they signed a settlement or truce with the enemy in 1990 – but because of their limitless lust for power and riches. In a recent social-media film-clip a once top SACP man confessed that his party omitted to pay attention to the economic dispensation when the ANC (in his name!) made a pact with the devil. In other words: unfettered capitalism was given the red carpet from apartheid into the present. It beggars belief. It pains me that I cannot stand proud and make bold of that which we thought we fought for. There were fault-lines throughout and in exile. Asking questions and debating, real debating was smothered. The holy grail at the top cast those who kept asking as somehow anti-revolutionary, ultra-left, maybe even enemy agents. - When a new generation goes into battle for égalité, this is one lesson from the past they must heed.

At this time President Ramaphosa's is, only just, the glue that holds the centre together, but his economic proposals for a post-covid economy are, in my view, timid and too conventional to inspire.

For inspiration I urge you to watch the YouTube the lecture by Prof Mahmood Mamdani, giving this year's Tambo Foundation lecture, held on 21 October 2020. His recasting of our recent history is important. His take on the roles of the externally-based ANC, on the internal mass democratic movement during the 1980's, on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and more deserves our attention. Go to: <https://youtu.be/K7DKfAyuz64>

My 44th Newsletter – for what is worth – deals with recording and reflecting that of the past I was fortunate to share in.

1. About Khoekhoegowab – the now agreed term for the language that includes Nama, Damara and Haillom–#Åkhoe dialects. See website.
2. A letter to my daughter Zindzi at the time of Zindzi Mandela's passing in July 2020. Reflections on a the entwined past we share. (Website)
3. Review of a book *Women in Solitary* – and a personal connection to what they experienced in solitary confinement. Read *Women in Solitary – Inside the female resistance to apartheid*, by Shantini Naidoo, published by Tafelberg.
4. Cousin Rainer Heller in Köln, wrote in August 2020: Unsere Oma kommt kommt ins Museum! - zu einer Ausstellung des Historischen Museums Berlin. (Our granny is going to be in the Museum). His reference is to Tilly, my great-aunt, denied in colonial times, the right to marry a white man. See Zara and Hinrich pages.
5. My obituary on the passing of Priscilla Jana with whom I shared a part of our turbulent past.
6. A question to those visiting my website about who nurse Ella Kleinschmidt from District Six was – and the answers that came from Mackie and Mark Kleinschmidt. See website entry.

7. Thoughts about social and economic revival post covid in our neighbourhood, Muizenberg.
  8. Enemies of the State - INDEX OF APARTHEID-ERA SECURITY LEGISLATION  
DIRECTORATE FILES ON INDIVIDUALS. (Previously posted but it showed no content)
  9. A letter – signed with friends – to Mayor Dan Plato about homelessness and the City's failures. See the Ubumelwane page of my website.
  10. New (modest) additions on the Christian Institute and Family History pages. See on website pages.
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