Nonviolent Revolution in South Africa: The Long March to Freedom

The Black South Africans and their sympathizers have for a long time been victims of the internationally despised regime of ‘Apartheid’ (racial segregation), which ranks next to Nazism. They have suffered losses such as separation from families and friends, lack of social security, imprisonment and torture to death. Great restraint, however, was shown by these Africans in the face of continuous provocation. Their match to the hard-won freedom was a true reflection of the road charted by nonviolent believers like Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela amongst others; and despite the government’s use of riot police to destroy the spirited black African’s determination to end apartheid, the deep rooted discontent in South Africa was well expressed in strikes, boycotts and riots. They refused to answer back violence with equal violence because they opted for a South Africa belonging to all who live in it, both black and white. The African National Congress Party and its leadership marched a long way from suppression to success; and even after the struggle, this party did not come to power through violence nor took their people to fight the enemies, but it united all South Africans together. As well, the party’s president, Nelson Mandela, did not see the end of the long road through the eyes of rage but through calmness, asking both his enemies and friends to unite to build a united nation, where the whole world could see unity in diversity.