

A Note on Style

Throughout this volume we have tried to remain true to the tenor and meaning of the original texts. Very often we have had to substantially abridge texts, for which we offer our apologies. South Africa's linguistic history and racially divisive past has produced a combustible politics over the words that people have used to describe themselves and others. Generally, we have preserved language that today is offensive but that remains a part of the country's difficult history. In some instances we have standardized spelling and usage to avoid confusion. Where further explanation seemed absolutely necessary, we have confined this information between unobtrusive brackets, or in the occasional note. A short glossary serves as an additional guide to navigating South Africa's past and present.