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Madiba and Martin: A Bibliography Compiled by Martha Ruff

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A Bibliography Compiled by Martha Ruff, Librarian
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When future generations research the history of the 20th century, there will surely be acknowledgment of two outstanding Nobel Peace Prize recipients and social change agents, President Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (1918-2013) and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968).

As an anti-apartheid activist and the first black president of a democratic South Africa, Nelson Mandela had, according to his biographical sketch in *South African History Online*, an unrelenting commitment to end racial discrimination and inequality in his homeland. His decision to pursue a legal career led to his membership and involvement in the African National Congress, an organization whose mission was to fight for the rights of black South Africans and later included taking military action. As a result of these activities, in 1963, Mandela was arrested, convicted for treason and then was in prison for 27 years. Even in bondage, he was a lightning rod for an international movement to free the political prisoners and to impose economic sanctions against the apartheid South African government. As a result of the increasing internal and external pressure, the South African government released Mandela and other political prisoners, repealed apartheid laws and held the first democratic election. In 1994 with Mandela's presidential leadership, the people of South Africa began to lay the foundation for a "new" nation that would be welcomed back into the international community.

In the United States during the same time period, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a minister and civil rights activist who led nonviolent protests against the segregation laws and institutional racism of his country. Online information from the King Center and in numerous other sources suggests that, while growing up in Atlanta, Georgia, King had first-hand experience with the effects of segregation on members of his community and their aspirations. After attending seminary and graduate school in the North, King returned to the South to serve as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Alabama. In 1955, this city was the scene for the Montgomery bus boycott, which was the beginning of King's leadership of one of the major civil rights organizations, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that tore down many of the barriers to racial equality in the United States. In 1964, King's many efforts to confront racism resulted in Congress passing the Civil Rights Act, which essentially ended many of the segregation laws in the U.S., but the civil rights community continued to address many other social ills. Tragically Dr. King was assassinated in 1968 and the world lost the leadership he could have provided in areas such as poverty and the Vietnam War.

Thanks to the scholarship of both King and Mandela, the impact of some of their achievements will be viewed through the lens of their own writings. While in prison, Mandela wrote his first autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. Even though it was smuggled out to the ANC leaders, it was not published until 1995. A 1958 memoir about the beginning of King's role in the civil rights campaign is captured in his book, *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story*.

The following bibliography highlights a few of the many recent publications that have added to the study of the legacy of Nelson Mandela and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mandela, Nelson. *Conversations with Myself*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2010.

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Ngcaweni, Busani, and Sabelo J. Ndlovu-Gatsheni. *Nelson R. Mandela: Decolonial Ethics of Liberation and Servant Leadership*. Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press, 2018.

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Terry, Brandon. *Fifty Years Since MLK*. Cambridge, MA: Boston Review/Boston Critic Inc. 2018.

Hughes, Richard T., Robert N. Bellah, and Molefi Kete Asante. *Myths America Lives by: White Supremacy and the Stories That Give Us Meaning*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press 2018.

Dorrien, Gary J. *Breaking White Supremacy: Martin Luther King Jr. and the Black Social Gospel*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2018.