



Enemy of the People: How Jacob Zuma stole South Africa and how the people fought back

Adriaan Basson , Pieter Du Toit

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Enemy of the People is the first definitive account of Zuma's catastrophic misrule, offering eyewitness descriptions and cogent analysis of how South Africa was brought to its knees – and how a people fought back.

When Jacob Zuma took over the leadership of the ANC one muggy Polokwane evening in December 2007, he inherited a country where GDP was growing by more than 6% per annum, a party enjoying the support of two-thirds of the electorate, and a unified tripartite alliance. Today, South Africa is caught in the grip of a patronage network, the economy is floundering and the ANC is staring down the barrel of a defeat at the 2019 general elections.

How did we get here?

Zuma first brought to heel his party, Africa's oldest and most revered liberation movement, subduing and isolating dissidents associated with his predecessor Thabo Mbeki. Then saw the emergence of the tenderpreneur and those attempting to capture the state, as well as a network of family, friends and business associates that has become so deeply embedded that it has, in effect, replaced many parts of government. Zuma opened up the state to industrial-scale levels of corruption, causing irreparable damage to state enterprises, institutions of democracy, and the ANC itself.

But it hasn't all gone Zuma's way. Former allies have peeled away. A new era of activism has arisen and outspoken civil servants have stepped forward to join a cross-section of civil society and a robust media. As a divided ANC square off for the elective conference in December, where there is everything to gain or to lose, award-winning journalists Adriaan Basson and Pieter du Toit offer a brilliant and up-to-date account of the Zuma era.

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Jacques Du Bruyn says

Very well written but also easy to read, which is the point of this type of book. For everyone to have access to information. I personally think this is a better book than 'The President's Keepers' - it does a better job of presenting the macro issue of state capture. Read it.

Shane Vontelin Van Breda says

This book is brilliant. I can highly recommend reading The Presidents Keepers as well. Both books do an excellent job at revealing sever extent of corruption in South Africa and how so many great institutions have been destroyed to feed the greedy in power.
