

Harris Dousemetzis with Gerry Loughran

The Man who Killed Apartheid: The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas

New Updated Edition

SERIES IN WORLD HISTORY

A good story, if nothing else, has been completely overturned by Harris Dousemetzis in his book, The Man Who Killed Apartheid: The Life of Dimitri Tsafendas. Everything in the official and widely believed version was wrong and deliberately so ... Dousemetzis has done a phenomenal task of researching his subject ... What he produced is the meticulous biography of a man robbed by history of his identity ... What Harris Dousemetzis has produced is nothing less than a classic example of the genre and one, more than most, that has changed the historiography of this significant event ... Harris Dousemetzis is to be congratulated on a fine work that will inspire other workers in the biographic field.

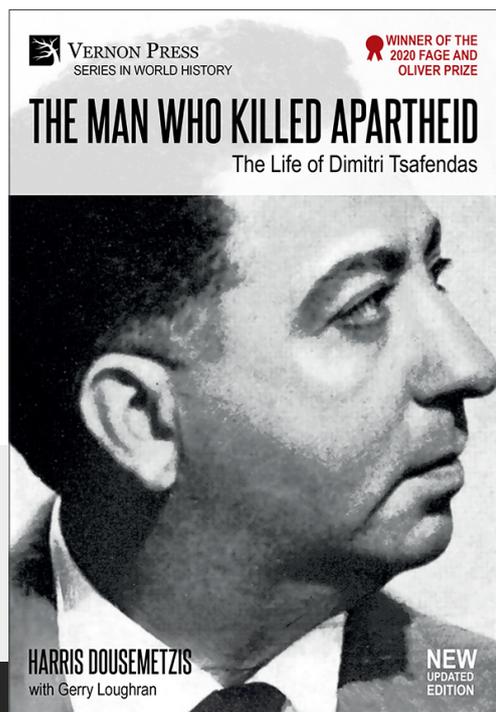
Dr. Robert M. Kaplan
South African Historical Journal

About the author

From 2009 to 2018, **Harris Dousemetzis** extensively researched the assassination of Verwoerd and the life of Tsafendas. For this research, he travelled to South Africa, Mozambique, Greece, France, and Turkey, and interviewed about 150 people who either knew Tsafendas or Verwoerd or were involved in the case of the assassination. He discovered about 12,000 pages of documents on the case, most of them previously unpublished, in archival collections in South Africa, Portugal and the UK. Dousemetzis collaborated with prominent South African jurists, psychiatrists and psychologists, and concluded his research by writing the 'Report to the Minister of Justice in the Matter of Dr. Verwoerd's Assassination'. The report conclusively proved that Tsafendas had assassinated Verwoerd for political reasons and that the apartheid authorities had orchestrated a massive operation to declare him insane and apolitical.

'The Man Who Killed Apartheid', based on Dousemetzis's groundbreaking research, chronicles in detail Tsafendas's life and conclusively demonstrates that he was a perfectly sane and deeply political person with a long history of political activism.

At the same time, the book exposes the lie at the heart of apartheid's posture on the assassination of Hendrik Verwoerd and provides a rare picture of how the racist regime operated and what it was like to live and die under apartheid.



Summary

On 6 September 1966, inside the House of Assembly in Cape Town, Dimitri Tsafendas fatally stabbed Hendrik Verwoerd, South Africa's Prime Minister and so-called "architect of apartheid." Tsafendas was immediately arrested, and before the authorities had even questioned him, they declared him a madman without any political motive for the killing. In the Cape Supreme Court, Tsafendas was found unfit to stand trial on the grounds that he suffered from schizophrenia and that he had no political motive for killing Verwoerd. Tsafendas spent the next 28 years in prison, making him the longest-serving prisoner in South African history. For most of his incarceration, he was subjected to cruel and inhumane treatment by the prison authorities. This new updated edition contains all the developments regarding the Tsafendas case after the publication of the book's first edition.

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