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The Political Role and Democratic Contribution of Churches in Post-Apartheid South Africa

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Religious institutions have played a critical role in the political changes in South Africa during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Christian churches and interdenominational organizations, in particular, depending

on the context, affirmed or condemned apartheid, and numerous Christian organizations have contributed to the process of South Africa's nation-building experience through, for example, participation in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and civic education efforts. Although scholars have provided considerable insight regarding the churches' role in the political process during the apartheid era, the material devoted to religion and politics in the post-apartheid era is not as abundant. This essay seeks to rectify this imbalance by exploring the political role and democratic contribution of four churches or church-based organizations within South Africa in...

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