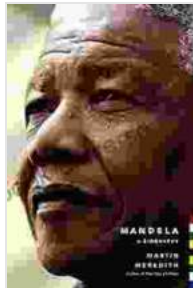


# Mandela: A Biography by Martin Meredith



**Mandela** by Martin Meredith

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 4442 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 690 pages



Nelson Mandela: A Biography by Martin Meredith is a comprehensive and authoritative account of the life of one of the most important figures of the 20th century. Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as the first president of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was a key figure in the anti-apartheid movement, and his imprisonment for 27 years on Robben Island became a symbol of the struggle against apartheid.

Meredith's biography draws on a wide range of sources, including interviews with Mandela, his family, and friends, as well as archival research. The book provides a detailed account of Mandela's life, from his childhood in the rural Eastern Cape to his presidency of South Africa. Meredith also explores the complex relationship between Mandela and the anti-apartheid movement, and the challenges that Mandela faced in leading South Africa through its transition to democracy.

## **Early Life and Activism**

Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918, in the village of Mvezo in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. He was the son of a Thembu chief and a Methodist minister. Mandela's early life was marked by poverty and discrimination, and he experienced firsthand the harsh realities of apartheid. In 1944, Mandela joined the African National Congress (ANC), a political organization dedicated to fighting for the rights of black South Africans. He quickly rose through the ranks of the ANC, and in 1951, he was elected president of the ANC Youth League.

Under Mandela's leadership, the ANC Youth League adopted a more militant approach to fighting apartheid. Mandela was arrested for treason in 1956 and sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. He spent 27 years in prison, most of them on Robben Island, a maximum-security prison off the coast of Cape Town. During his time in prison, Mandela became a symbol of the anti-apartheid movement, and his release in 1990 was a major turning point in the struggle against apartheid.

## **Presidency and Legacy**

After his release from prison, Mandela led the ANC in negotiations with the white-minority government of South Africa. These negotiations resulted in the end of apartheid and the establishment of a democratic government in South Africa. Mandela was elected president of South Africa in 1994, and he served until 1999. During his presidency, Mandela worked to promote reconciliation between black and white South Africans, and he oversaw the implementation of a number of social and economic reforms.

Mandela retired from politics in 1999, but he remained active in public life. He established the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which works to promote

education, health, and human rights. Mandela also served as a UN Messenger of Peace and a Goodwill Ambassador for the UN Development Programme. He died on December 5, 2013, at the age of 95.

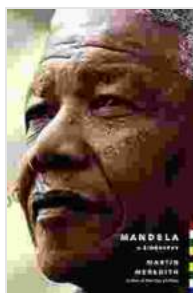
Nelson Mandela was a towering figure in the history of South Africa and the world. He was a symbol of hope and reconciliation, and his legacy will continue to inspire generations to come.

### **Awards and Honors**

Nelson Mandela received numerous awards and honors during his lifetime, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. He was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2012.

### **Further Reading**

- Nelson Mandela Foundation
- Nobel Peace Prize
- Presidential Medal of Freedom



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