

About This Book

Reviews to the German Edition

Waldorf Schools in South Africa – A Critical Appraisal

“The fact that Waldorf schools took in black students during the times of segregation in South Africa is often used as evidence that racism did not exist in Waldorf circles. Author Eric Hurner, who himself went to a Waldorf school in South Africa, draws a more differentiated picture which deserves discussion.

Casting neither general suspicion on Steiner nor attempting to whitewash possible flaws, Eric Hurner succeeds in establishing his own position, which is new to the debate thus far. The little book, however, has not only this discursive aspect but also offers an exciting account of someone who personally witnessed the adventurous development of a Township Waldorf School amidst poverty, violence and destructive political conflict. Stories of how murder and manslaughter repeatedly took place right in front of the school grounds and which difficulties Waldorf education has had to endure there, in places really gets under one’s skin.

It deserves wide attention in Waldorf circles and could initiate important debates there.”

Jens Heisterkamp for *Info 3*

<https://www.info3-magazin.de/waldorfschulen-in-suedafrika-kritisch-gesehen/>

“A Clever Book”

“The book describes the beginnings, mentions names well known also in Europe, Germany and the Netherlands and gives readers a fairly accurate insight into the South African situation at the time.”

Michael Mentzel in *Themen der Zeit*

<http://www.themen-der-zeit.de>

“After he began teaching at the Michael Mount Waldorf School in Johannesburg in 1982, (Eric Hurner) witnessed how his school, and also those that were founded in the Townships, changed from the inside out by taking in Black families and colleagues from all walks of life.

In the second part he deals with cultural racism, the role of anthroposophy and Rudolf Steiner's theory of race. Also here he works from personally reflected life experience, (showing how) in the drive for official recognition (...) these non-white colleagues too, of their own accord and deeply rooted personal conviction, played an important role. ... further arguments and eye-witness accounts should be taken directly from the little booklet, which is very easy to read, vivid and fluent.”

Christian Boettger, in *Erziehungskunst*

<http://www.erziehungskunst.de/artikel/sachbuch/paternalistische-beleidigung>

Integrating South Africa's Waldorf Schools

A Brief History

with a discussion on
Cultural Racism and Anthroposophy

Eric Hurner

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) as a Paperback or Kindle publication

Further reviews and an Interview Germany and Switzerland

Gerold Aregger for *Gegenwart – Zeitschrift für Kultur, Politik und Wirtschaft*, Gysenstein Switzerland
and Interview with Ansgar Martins: [Diesseits von Apartheid und Anthroposophie: Waldorf in Südafrika – eine Diskussion mit Eric Hurner](#)



The Author

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