

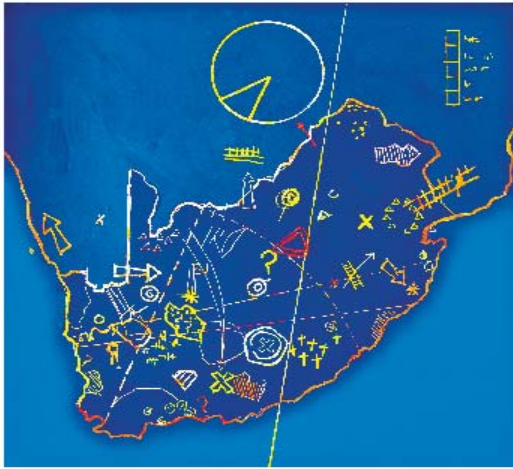
## With Faith in the Works of Words

*The Beginnings of Reconciliation in South Africa, 1985-1995*

Erik Doxtader

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THE BEGINNINGS OF  
RECONCILIATION IN  
SOUTH AFRICA, 1985-1995



ERIK DOXTADER

*With Faith in the Works of Words* is the first book to look behind the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and examine reconciliation's fundamental role in the transition from apartheid to nonracial democracy. Using documents that have received little public attention, including controversial texts from the religious community and fascinating transcripts from South Africa's constitutional negotiations, the author reveals how reconciliation was used to energize the struggle against apartheid and the ways in which it underwrote the negotiated revolution, including the development of a constitution whose very promise was pegged to the willingness of South Africans to pursue the work of "reconciliation and reconstruction." *With Faith in the Works of Words* challenges many common assumptions about the discourse and dynamics of reconciliation in South Africa. This book is an important history of reconciliation's rhetorical power, and it shows how reconciliation shaped the process of South African nation building long before the TRC took to the stage and captured the world's imagination.

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Erik Doxtader is Professor of Rhetoric at the University of South Carolina and a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

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