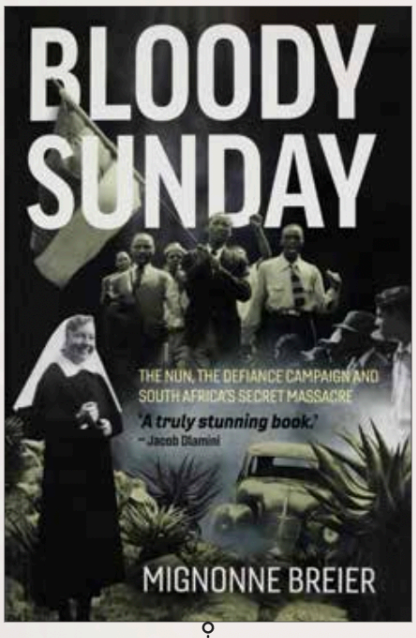
Bloody Sunday

MIGNONNE BREIER

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Bloody Sunday details the story of one of the many horrific atrocities that took place during apartheid in South Africa. The book is based on the murders allegedly at the hands of the police, that occurred in Duncan Village, East London on 9 November, 1952.

Although it does not say so in as many words it very deftly deals with questions of structure and agency, of the ways in which institutional oppression may account for the manner in which the laws and actual actions of apartheid oppression provide a context for reduced culpability when a people become so incensed by their oppression that they act in retaliatory ways.

The massacre in East London, which evidence suggests resulted in the deaths of far more victims than at Sharpeville but has been hidden and buried precisely because the press was not there to tell the story. Arguably then, very many stories remain untold by the book and will probably never be fully told.

What emerges though is "a story of calculated oppressive evil ranged against a mob". The killing of Sister Aiden and the dismembering of her body are obviously acts of incredible cruelty, but Mignonne Breier tries to demonstrate how some people could be pushed to inflict this kind of violent harm on another.

> "This read is a clear marker that there are more stories of inhumane atrocities that went under the radar during the time South Africa was divided racially, socially and institutionally."

Of course, the race issue looms large in the book as this happened during the height of apartheid. Mignonne Breier tries to cover all the evidential angles, but the questions still remain regarding what actually happened to the victims of this massacre.

She utilises research from old court, council and newspaper records to church archives and interviews with witnesses and family members of those involved to bring to life this event that contributes enormously to our understanding of the Defiance Campaign, the African National Congress, Eastern Cape society and politics.



It also seeks to shine new light on the history of apartheid and race relations in South Africa. The author paints the portrait of the key figures, for example, Dr James Njongwe, the acting Cape Leader of the ANC, Alcott Gwentshe, an ANC Youth League leader and Sister Aidan, a Dominican nun who was also one of the first woman doctors in South Africa.