

# **‘REVISITING THE HISTORIOGRAPHIES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION’**

Swaziland and South Africa since 1994: Reflections on Aspects of Post-Liberation  
Swazi Historiography

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In a 1997 article on Swazi historiography, attention was drawn to the fact that the writing of the country’s history had been hampered by its largely royalty-centred nature up to the late 1960s and early 1970s. It needed to move away from the narrowly ‘Swazi way’ and adopt a broader and more ‘people-oriented’ as well as a regional approach in order to portray the place of Swaziland in the wider world more fully<sup>1</sup>. This was particularly urgent in view of the new order in the region following the advent of the first democratically elected government in South Africa.

This paper considers the development of the study of Swazi history in the wake of the changes that have taken place in South Africa since 1994. While reviewing the overall contribution of historians of Swaziland generally in this period, its main focus will be on the way in which the work has approached the theme of Swaziland’s political, social and economic relations with South Africa, with special reference to Swaziland’s role in the liberation struggle of the period from the 1970s to the 1990s. Particular attention is paid to studies originating from Swaziland itself.

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<sup>1</sup> B. Nyeko, ‘History, culture and social change in Swaziland: a survey of recent studies’, *Uniswa Research Journal*, vol. 11, June 1997, pp. 1-16.