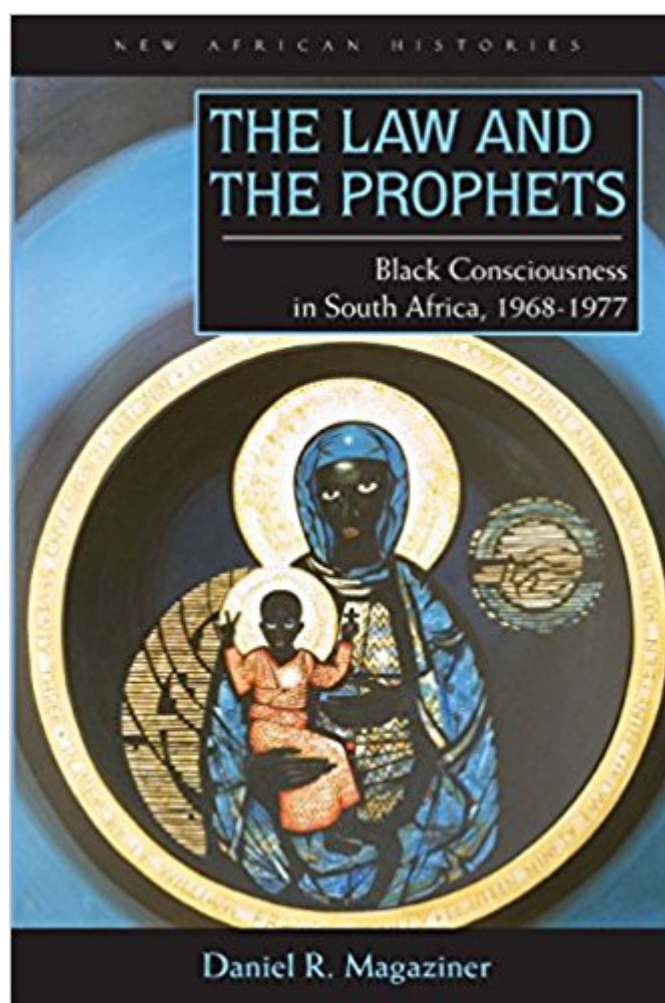


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The Law And The Prophets: Black Consciousness In South Africa, 1968-1977 (New African Histories)



Synopsis

“No nation can win a battle without faith,” Steve Biko wrote, and as Daniel R. Magaziner demonstrates in *The Law and the Prophets*, the combination of ideological and theological exploration proved a potent force. The 1970s are a decade virtually lost to South African historiography. This span of years bridged the banning and exile of the country’s best-known antiapartheid leaders in the early 1960s and the furious protests that erupted after the Soweto uprisings of June 16, 1976. Scholars thus know that something happened; yet they have only recently begun to explore how and why. *The Law and the Prophets* is an intellectual history of the resistance movement between 1968 and 1977; it follows the formation, early trials, and ultimate dissolution of the Black Consciousness movement. It differs from previous antiapartheid historiography, however, in that it focuses more on ideas than on people and organizations. Its singular contribution is an exploration of the theological turn that South African politics took during this time. Magaziner argues that only by understanding how ideas about race, faith, and selfhood developed and were transformed in this period might we begin to understand the dramatic changes that took place.

Book Information

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“A substantial work of scholarship, *The Law and the Prophets* is original both in its subject material and in the interpretation that is brought to bear upon it; logically coherent and supported by impressive evidence.” —Tom Lodge, author of *Mandela, A Critical Life*

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Daniel R. Magaziner is an assistant professor of history at Cornell University. He has published articles in Radical History Review, the International Journal of African Historical Studies, History in Africa, and elsewhere.

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