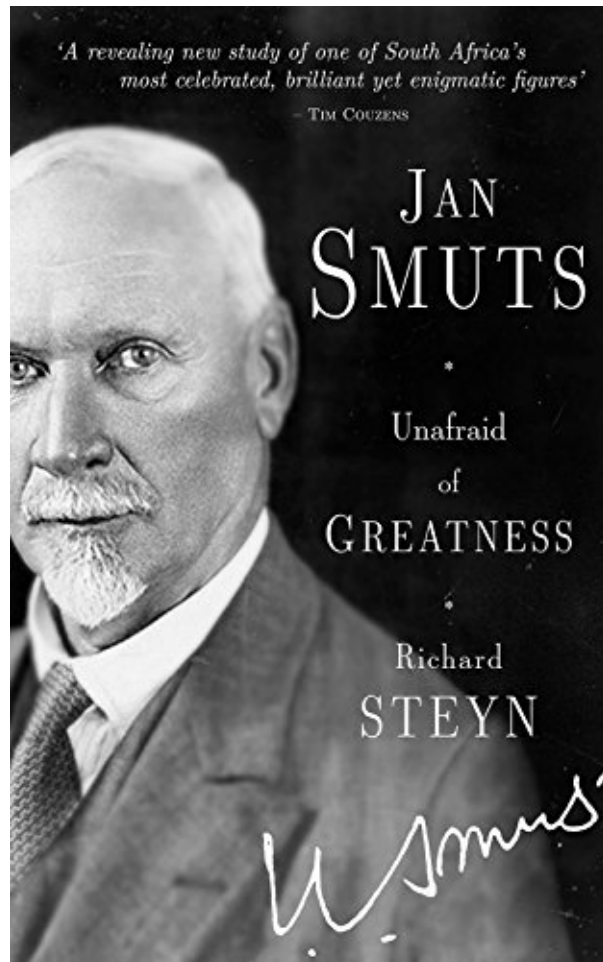


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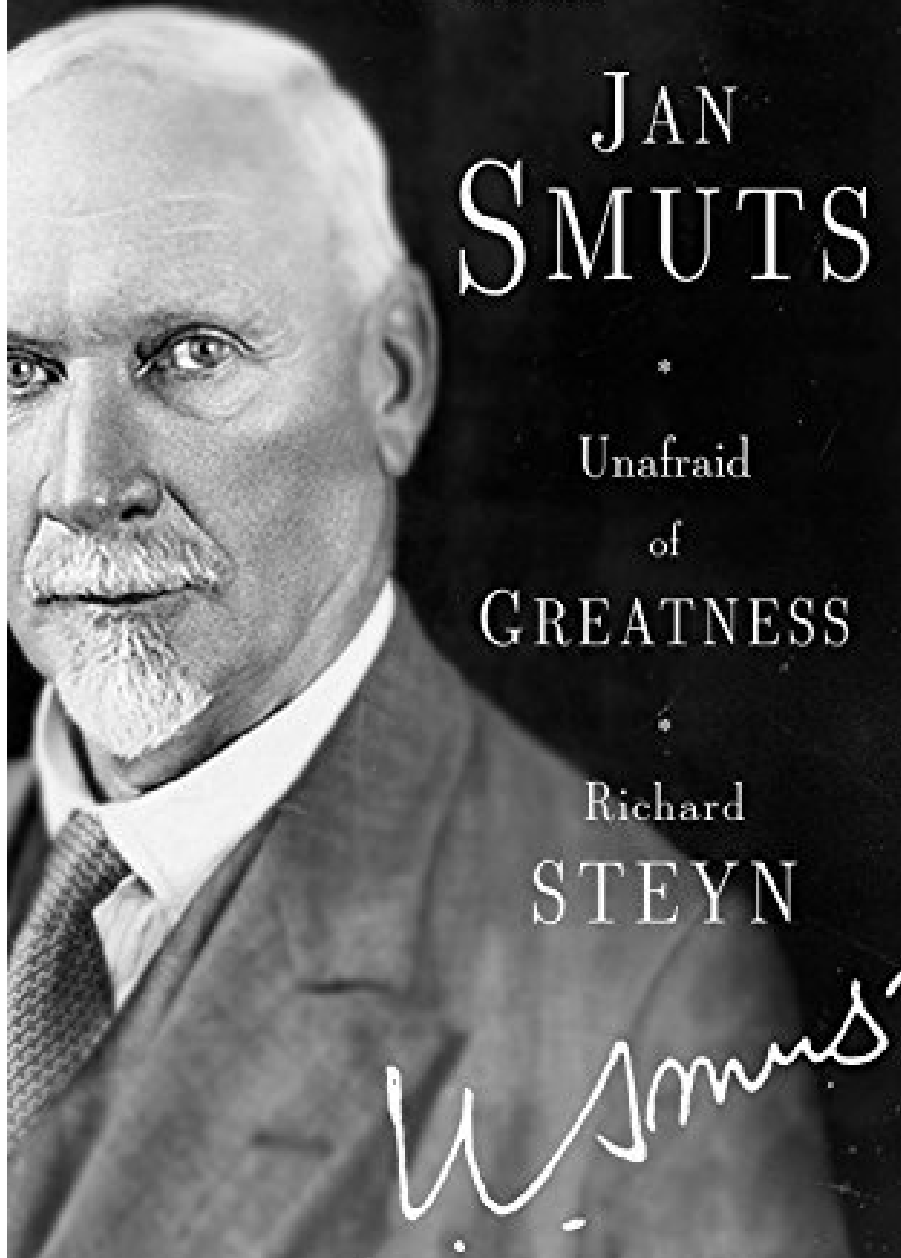


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Jan Smuts: Unafraid of Greatness is a re-examination of the life and thoughts of Jan Smuts. It is intended to remind a contemporary readership of the remarkable achievements of this impressive soldier-statesman. The author, a former editor of The Star, argues that Smuts's role in the creation of modern South Africa should never be forgotten, not least because of his lifetime of devoted service to this country. The book draws a parallel between Smuts and President Thabo Mbeki, both architects of a new South Africa, much lionised abroad yet often distrusted at home.

This highly readable account of Smuts' eventful life blends fact, anecdote and opinion in an examination of his complex character - his relationships with women, spiritual and intellectual life and role as advisor to world leaders. Political and international affairs receive the most attention, but Smuts's unique contributions in a variety of other fields, including botany, conservation and philosophy, also receive attention.

Jan Smuts: Unafraid of Greatness does not shy away from the contradictions of its subject. Smuts was one of the architects of the United Nations and a great champion of human rights, yet he could not come to terms with the need to include the African majority in the politics of his own country.

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Goodread

By Dr. Wilhelm Weber

Good recap, interesting parallels between Smuts and Mandela and fascinating insight into their promotion of reconciliation over and above retribution. Written more like a summary of history than a biography it is further burdened with the split into two parts: history and evaluation. To me it would seem appropriate if the author had from here gone the further step of combining these parts into a synthetic union, somewhat shorter and not quite so tedious, because so repetitive and even redundant. Still a good read and especially encouraging in showing how Smuts persevered through thick and thin, how he and Izy made it all those years and how gifted, bright and widely accomplished Smuts was. Fascinating what became of this uneducated herder of his fathers cattle and how impressive his learning capabilities were eg learning Greek Grammar in a single week or memorizing whole book chapters after a single hearing. I also appreciate the authors feel for history in that he shows Smuts to be very much a child of his time especially in his religious, political and scientific development and even as a family man, but also in his dealings with leaders, kings and queens of his time. Smuts was an aristocrat even as their time was passing, a true and excellent leader of the elite even as democracy was already replacing superior excellence with mediocre conformity. Somebody who valued unwavering service and sense of duty way beyond the popular acclaim of political correctness

and favor.

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Smuts and his place in history.

By lord farrow

Smuts is someone who I remember visiting London during the war. He was a person who enjoyed respect but little was known of him. This book goes a long way to explaining where he fits in and the type of person he was.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

and this one by Richard Steyn I rate as one of the best and certainly very well researched

By andyja@icon.co.za

I have read many books about Jan Smuts, and this one by Richard Steyn I rate as one of the best and certainly very well researched.

I recommend this book to all people who want an insight into the man Jan Smuts, i am sad to say that he is a forgotten man in South African History.

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