PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

South Africa is a place of stunning contrasts: extreme wealth and desperate poverty, heroic devotion to the greater good and klepto- and megalomaniacal self-interest, exceptional natural beauty and environmental desecration. It is, perhaps, not so much a “World in One Country” as the official tourism slogan once claimed, but a universe where worlds collide, always jarringly, sometimes violently. This, the fourth edition of *A History of South Africa*, includes a new chapter describing the major developments of the post-Mandela years, a time when the euphoria over the political redemption from apartheid ended and a new struggle for equality and democratic maturity began.

My thanks in this enterprise go to many friends and colleagues in South Africa, the United States, and elsewhere. My deepest gratitude goes to Sarah Miller, my editor at Yale University Press, who endured my frequent delays with equanimity and patience.

This edition is dedicated to the memory of Leonard Thompson.

Lynn Berat

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