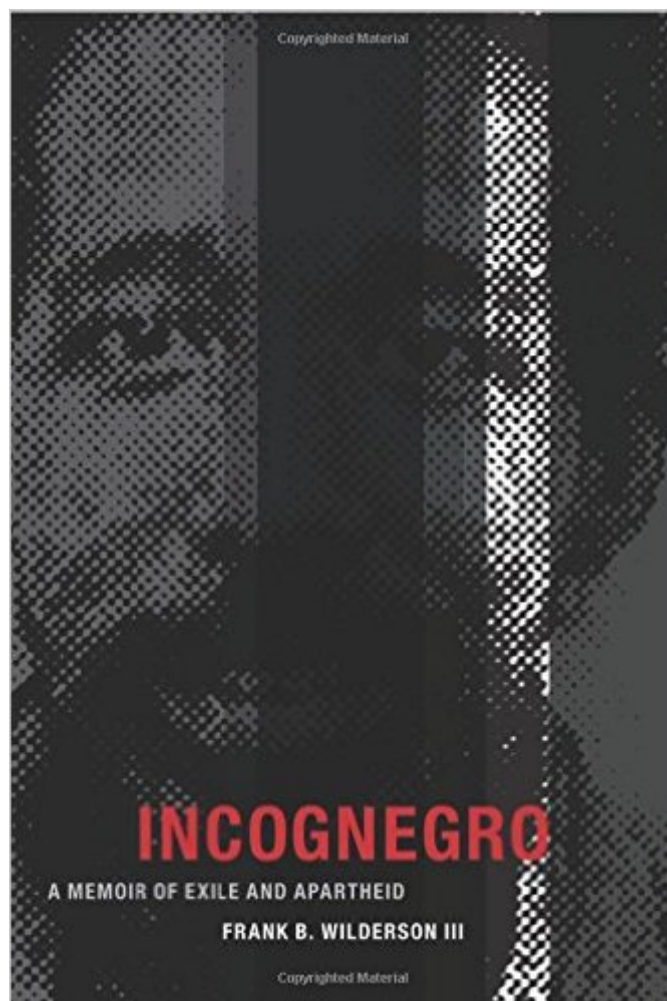


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# Incognegro: A Memoir Of Exile And Apartheid



## Synopsis

In 1995, a South African journalist informed Frank Wilderson, one of only two American members of the African National Congress (ANC), that President Nelson Mandela considered him "a threat to national security." Wilderson was asked to comment. *Incognegro* is that "comment." It is also his response to a question posed five years later in a California university classroom: "How come you came back?" Although Wilderson recollects his turbulent life as an expatriate during the furious last gasps of apartheid, *Incognegro* is at heart a quintessentially American story. During South Africa's transition, Wilderson taught at universities in Johannesburg and Soweto by day. By night, he helped the ANC coordinate clandestine propaganda, launch psychological warfare, and more. In this mesmerizing political memoir, Wilderson's lyrical prose flows from unspeakable dilemmas in the red dust and ruin of South Africa to his return to political battles raging quietly on US campuses and in his intimate life. Readers will find themselves suddenly overtaken by the subtle but resolute force of Wilderson's biting wit, rare vulnerability, and insistence on bearing witness to history no matter the cost.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (7 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

A beautifully written memoir that takes you from late 60s Minnesota to late 80s "end of apartheid" South Africa, and then to the 00s in California's "progressive" Bay Area through the eyes of the exceedingly dynamic academic and activist Frank Wilderson III. Wilderson weaves a tale that explores his inner torments, social struggles, family battles, and challenging relationships with amazing insight, biting political criticism, humor, poetry, and, above all, honesty. Inspired by Assata

Shakur's memoirs, Wilderson's book is a poignant trek through the ongoing evolution of a post-60s era black radical and a modern-day visionary. Highly recommended!

Racism doesn't die a sudden death. It's a concept that's tough, vengeful, and bitter. "Incognegro: A Memoir of Exile and Apartheid" is a story of race and the shifting attitudes of two countries. Frank B. Wilderson has in his life lived in two countries notorious for its cruel treatment of some of its own citizens solely for the color of their skin - The United States and South Africa. Drawing his ideas and views, Wilderson constructs a very highly readable piece of work, that will enlighten as well as entertain. Written as a response to Nelson Mandela "Incognegro" is a pivotal piece of writing for those studying race in today's world.

Some of the most unique commentary on the contemporary Black American experience, specifically the pain and frustration that comes with being Black in so called "post-racial" America. After the death of Mandela, his commentary on South Africa is especially timely in terms of balancing out the political commentary on this controversial figure. The smartest people I know swear by this book for good reason; it's completely unique and extremely insightful.

This book deserves to be right up there with the classics. It is beautifully written and painfully honest about the vulnerabilities and impossibilities of being a black man in contemporary America. At the same time, Wilderson tells a fascinating story of his time spent in South Africa and on the inside of the ANC, intertwined with reflections on his life back in the States. Speaking as a white woman, it's not often that we get such an intimate and forthright accounting of the inner racial turmoil our country generates and perpetuates for African-Americans. This book is a must-read for anybody who wants to better understand the racial havoc that is America.

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