



Unravelling the New World Order

*An Exposé of How Government, Religious, and Financial Insiders
Are Deciding Your Future*

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INVICTUS IDOLATRY

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This stirring new film on South Africa's 1995 Rugby World Cup victory includes serious distortions of history. Directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Morgan Freeman as President Nelson Mandela, *Invictus* makes a major contribution towards building up the mythology of Nelson Mandela as the modern-day idol.

While *Invictus* focuses on the Springbok rugby team victory, it also focuses on President Nelson Mandela, as he donned the Springbok rugby team's green and gold jersey and cap and publicly associated with the Springbok's triumph. There is no doubt that it was a most astute political move to appear in public at the World Cup Finals in the Springbok uniform jersey and cap while one billion people were watching. In the context of the racially polarized New South Africa, this gesture was meaningful and it was appreciated. It particularly won Nelson Mandela much admiration and support from white South Africans, to whom rugby was much more than their national sport. However, it was political token amidst a much broader context of Marxist violence.

Political Agenda

This beautifully crafted and inspiring film clearly has a political agenda. It has dangerous distortions of reality and a selective focus which portrays the whites in South Africa as narrow-minded, disgruntled, racial bigots. In fact, all the white characters in *Invictus* are one or two dimensional, with no depth of character. Incredibly, this includes Matt Damon's portrayal of Francois Pienaar, the South African rugby team captain. One never gets to see quite what makes him tick. His leadership seems inadequate to explain his spectacular triumph of the Springboks over the previously unbeatable Australian and New Zealand rugby teams.

Incredibly, *Invictus* boldly gives all the credit for the Springboks' World Cup victory to President Nelson Mandela. Doubtless, Nelson Mandela genuinely wanted the national team to win, not only for the desirable national unity it could inspire, but for the international prestige it could give to his government. However, the film maker should not have oversimplified the fascinating story by separating it from its real context of crime and violence after a brutal 30-year terrorist war waged by Nelson Mandela's ANC.

Imaginative Idolatry

Time and again the film focuses on Mandela's imprisonment on Robben Island, often with dream-like imaginative flashbacks of Nelson Mandela breaking rocks on Robben Island. The film even includes a pilgrimage to Madela's cell, but there is never any mention of why he was imprisoned. The impression given is that he was imprisoned for opposing apartheid; but many people, including Bishop Desmond Tutu, vigorously opposed apartheid without ever being imprisoned.

The fact is that even Amnesty International refused to take on Nelson Mandela's case because they asserted that he was no political prisoner but had committed numerous violent crimes and had had a fair trial and a reasonable sentence.

Nelson Mandela was the head of UmKhonto we Sizwe, (MK), the terrorist wing of the ANC and South African Communist Party. He had pleaded guilty to 156 acts of public violence including mobilizing terrorist bombing campaigns, which planted bombs in public places, including the Johannesburg railway station. Many innocent people, including women and children, were killed by Nelson Mandela's MK terrorists. South African President P.W. Botha had, on a number of occasions, offered Nelson Mandela freedom from prison, if he would only renounce terrorist violence. This Mandela refused to do.

In the *Invictus* film, Mandela's 26 years in jail, custody and prison becomes 30 years in the cell on Robben Island. The truth is, prisoners on Robben Island were allowed to walk freely around the Island during the day and were only locked up at night. No mention was made of the very comfortable warden's house at Victor Verster (five star) prison where Mandela spent his last years of confinement.

Inspiring Words

Invictus regularly portrays Nelson Mandela as a most gracious, kind and forgiving man. Many commendable words are put in his mouth including, "*the past is past. We need your services. We can only succeed with your help... reconciliation starts here... forgiveness liberates the soul... forgiveness is a powerful weapon.*"

Under Clint Eastwood's directorship, *Invictus* dogmatically asserts that Nelson Mandela and the black people needed to forgive the whites. Never does the film portray how much the whites had to forgive people like Nelson Mandela and his ANC terrorists who were responsible for the murder of thousands of South Africans. There is no mention of the three decades of vicious terrorist warfare, including the burning down of thousands of schools, hacking to death of thousands of innocent people in homes and in the streets, pouring gasoline over a thousand innocent victims and setting them alight in the brutal "necklace" murders, the car bombs in public streets, limpet mines in shopping centres, assassinations, and petrol bombs and grenades lobbed through windows at night.

A Negotiated Settlement

At one point in the film, Morgan Freeman's Mandela character reminds his secretary, "The whites still control the army, the police and the economy." *Invictus* portrays grudging, unwilling, narrow-minded white racist bigots; but the fact is, white South Africans, who had the political, military and economic power and who had defeated Mandela's ANC terrorists consistently, willingly handed over the reins of power after a negotiated settlement.

The Communist Connection

Invictus never mentions Nelson Mandela's open support for brutal communist regimes such as Fidel Castro's Cuba, Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe, Red China, Gadhaffi's Libya, Saddam Hussein, Yassar Arafat and other dictators. During the period covered by *Invictus*, Mandela received Fidel Castro, the longest reigning dictator in the world, and gave him the highest award that South Africa could give and then had both Houses of Parliament gather to hear an address from the Cuban tyrant.

During that same time period, many hundreds of white farmers, and their wives and children, were being brutally murdered, actually tortured to death, many of whom were part of the South African National Defence Force.

Double Standards

Although *Invictus* gives the glory for the Springbok win to Nelson Mandela, it does not attach any blame to him for the rising crime and plummeting economy. During one short visual in the film Mandela looks at a newspaper headline which speaks of the rising crime and the plummeting rand. This reality deserved a bit more attention. During 46 years of National Party apartheid rule, over 18,000 people had been killed on all sides by rioters, terrorists, the police and the army. That number included terrorists, civilian victims, and military and police casualties: a total of 18,000 dead during 46 years of conflict. However, in peacetime, under Nelson Mandela, *an average of 20,000 to 25,000 people were murdered every year.*

In the 1970s, while South Africa endured terrorism, riots and a border war with the Cubans in Angola, the South African Rand was stronger than the U.S. Dollar. However, after years of U.S. sanctions, the South African Rand had fallen to R2 to the Dollar. Under Nelson Mandela – with no war, no sanctions, no riots, no conscription, and with massive international aid and investment – the Rand plummeted to R8 to the Dollar, then to R10, R12 and even to R14 for a time. But according to *Invictus*, no blame can be attached to Nelson Mandela for the economic deterioration and the sky-rocketing crime rate under his presidency.

Legalizing Abortion and Pornography

Viewers also need to be aware that the kind and thoughtful gentleman portrayed in *Invictus* was the prime mover of the legalization of abortion, pornography, gambling and homosexuality in South Africa, and the introduction of sex education in public schools. Since Nelson Mandela forced through the legalization of abortion in 1997, over 900,000 South African babies have been killed through abortion: officially, legally and with tax-payers' money.

Censoring Christianity

Another disturbing aspect of *Invictus* is the editing out of the Christian Faith of key members of the Springbok rugby team. There were many consistent reports of a core of the Springbok rugby team being Bible-believing Christians who regularly met for prayer before the matches. Yet that is never depicted. The film does give a very anemic presentation of a Springbok team kneeling in prayer after their victory, but it is a lame "Thanks, Lord, for letting us win the game" that just doesn't ring true.

Francois Pienaar declared in his BBC Sport Interview in 1995 that when the final whistle went, "I fell right to my knees. I'm a Christian and wanted to say a quick prayer for being in such a wonderful event, not because of the winning. Then all of a sudden, the whole team was around me, which was a special moment."

Despite Pienaar's testimony, *Invictus* incredibly portrays him as fornicating before the winning match and swearing during it. And although the Springbok rugby team gave all glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for their triumph, Clint Eastwood's production of *Invictus* transfers that glory to Nelson Mandela and a humanist poem by English poet William Ernest Henley, which he quotes: "I thank whatever gods may be for my unconquerable soul... I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." It is the title of that poem, *Invictus*, after which the film is named.

It is unfortunate that *Invictus* reinforces stereotypes of narrow-minded white racists, but at the same time, whitewashes Nelson Mandela and the Marxists in the ANC. South Africa and its history is far more complex and interesting than this film suggests. It would be interesting to know the source of the funding for this film. At times it seemed like a paid political advertisement for Nelson Mandela and the ANC.

Editor's Note: This review is published with the writer's permission. It has been edited, due to space limitations. To see the full review by Dr. Hammond, go to the Frontline Fellowship website at www.frontline.org.za.