

FIEC CONGRESS: BERLIN 2009

PANEL 6: TURNING POINTS IN THE RECEPTION OF CLASSICAL ANTIQUITY

TITLE OF PAPER: SOUTH AFRICA AND THE CLASSICS: ATHENS, SPARTA AND ROME ON THE VELD

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

ABSTRACT: In South Africa, the study of Classical Antiquity was used by both the British and Dutch settlers, particularly in the field of missionary education, to foster exclusive identities, which have left their traces on contemporary debates between Eurocentric and Africanist approaches to education and the curriculum.

During the years of liberation politics, freedom fighters in the 'struggle' used their study of Classical Antiquity to make points about justice, freedom and the struggle against oppression.

The study of Classical Antiquity thus forms an interesting link between both right and left-wing politics in South Africa's troubled history, signaling significant turning points in the reception of Athens, Sparta and Rome in Africa (less than 700 characters).

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