

Caption by Walter D. Greason
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HIDDEN VOICES

STEVE BIKO

Stephen (Steve) Bantu Biko was a popular voice of Black liberation in South Africa between 1962 and 1977. With Nelson Mandela imprisoned, it was Biko's Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) that came to prominence, challenging the apartheid state. He wrote, "The most potent weapon of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed," and inspired a movement of student outrage. The protests Biko inspired ultimately forced the world to boycott the racist white government of South Africa. The police assassinated Biko before his thirty-first birthday, but his influence on South Africa continues to shape the now free and democratic nation.