

‘Professor Woolman makes an unduly modest assertion when, near end of this remarkable book, he writes that his object has been to encourage its readers ‘to reconsider previously held practices’. He sells himself short. The book certainly does encourage the reader to attempt such a reconsideration. But it does much more. Its analysis of the modes of thought now current in South African constitutional practice cuts to the quick; but he does not stop there - he does not rest merely on a mordant exposure of fallacies. He puts up a formidable case not only for the need to rethink matters constitutional, but, also, proffers a basis for curing its misconceptions. That cure, he shows persuasively, lies in the adoption of doctrines that are in accord with modern thought and scientific discoveries, at the same time as they address pressing problems and offer means for their solution well within our horizon. While writing with verve and panache, Woolman manages to advance a truly unique view of South African constitutional jurisprudence that remains universal in both its foundation and application. The ability to connect what we know about ourselves and the human condition, philosophically and empirically, with South Africa's early engagement with constitutional democracy, places this work in a league of its own. The scope is breath-taking, the work a treat. The reader is provoked by its many challenges, and rewarded by its still greater accomplishments.’

**David Zeffertt, Professor Emeritus, University of the Witwatersrand**