



HARRY OPPENHEIMER

Diamonds, Gold and Dynasty

MICHAEL CARDO

KEY SALES POINTS:

- The only full-scale, authoritative biography of Harry Oppenheimer, South Africa's foremost industrialist of the 20th Century
- Based on unrestricted access to all the Oppenheimer family papers and interviews with family members and former colleagues
- Meticulously researched and elegantly written

MARKETING AND PUBLICITY PLAN:

- Author interviews on tv and radio, extracts, online ads.
- #harryoppenheimer
- Twitter: 5 300 followers

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CATEGORY: Biography

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

MICHAEL CARDO is a Member of Parliament in South Africa, and serves as the Shadow Minister of Employment and Labour. Born in Durban, he was educated at the University of Natal and the University of Cambridge.

From the latter institution, he holds a PhD in History. He worked as a political researcher, speech writer and policy analyst before being elected to Parliament in 2014.

His previous biography, *Opening Men's Eyes: Peter Brown and the Liberal Struggle for South Africa*, was published by Jonathan Ball in 2010.

DESCRIPTION:

As chairman of the Anglo American Corporation and De Beers Consolidated Mines, Harry Oppenheimer held sway over his family's gold and diamond empire for a quarter of a century. He combined a passion for commerce with a streak of creative genius.

In this first full-scale biography of Oppenheimer, Michael Cardo has crafted a fully-rounded portrait based on unrestricted access to his subject's private papers and extensive interviews with Oppenheimer's relatives and close associates.

Cardo brings to life the places, people and events that shaped Oppenheimer's career at the intersection of business and politics. From the diamond fields of Kimberley, where his father, Ernest, arrived to seek his fortune shortly after the death of Cecil John Rhodes, through the heir's long apprenticeship, to Harry Oppenheimer's emergence on the world stage as a magnate and monarch in his own right – the 'King of Diamonds' and the man with the Midas Touch – Cardo tells the story of a dynasty.

As a financier, philanthropist and public figure, Oppenheimer straddles the history of 20th-century South Africa. In the 1950s the National Party regarded him as a threat to Afrikanerdom, the sinister embodiment of 'English' big capital. Forty years later, Nelson Mandela praised Oppenheimer as a nation-builder, a key figure in South Africa's transition to democracy. Yet, nowadays, Oppenheimer is demonised in some quarters as the archetype of 'white monopoly capital' and blamed, in part, for democracy's disappointing dividends.

Meticulously researched and superbly written, this authoritative work sheds new light on the multifaceted legacy of a renowned South African industrialist.

KEYWORDS:

Anglo American, apartheid, De Beers, diamonds, Ernest Oppenheimer, gold, Kimberley, London, Nelson Mandela, magnate, mining, philanthropy, political opposition, political transformation, South African economy

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