An analysis of the leadership of Nelson Mandela, emphasizing his role as a prophet of the liberation struggle in South Africa, his intellectual development, and his influence on other activists. Mandela's leadership is discussed within the context of apartheid and the political struggle in South Africa, as well as his journey from a political prisoner to a national leader. The challenges he faced and the impact of his leadership on South Africa's democratic transition are also highlighted. The author examines Mandela's role in the Defiance Campaign of 1952, his intellectual thinking, and his leadership qualities. The analysis concludes with an evaluation of Mandela's 'messianic' role in South Africa's democratic transition.