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**Forde, Fiona. 2011. An Inconvenient Youth. Julius Malema and the 'New' ANC. Johannesburg: Picador Africa, 236 pages.**

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thus both proper and justified and has long been expected by the Czech academe. So the work of the team of authors headed by Professor Vlastimil Fiala has a chance of becoming a text whose theoretical, analytical and informative aspects will be appreciated both by people interested in the regions outside Europe and by political scientists and specialists from other social sciences.

Blanka Říchová

**Forde, Fiona. 2011. *An Inconvenient Youth. Julius Malema and the 'New' ANC*. Johannesburg: Picador Africa, 236 pages.**

The value of this thick paperback is not its references but its original research. The Irish journalist based in Cape Town managed to interview dozens of key personalities around the ANC and other prominent South African politicians. Most importantly Fiona Forde gained the trust of Julius Malema, the controversial left-leaning youthful politician; during the most crucial years of his ascent and surfing at the top while President of the ANCs Youth League (ANCYL). The author describes Malema's childhood and the importance of his grandmother in it and after it. Malema's strength is not so much his recent opulent lifestyle but his poor background in a township near Pietersburg/Polokwane in the north of Transvaal, today Limpopo province. Apparently he showed signs of an intrepid character from the very beginning of his education at school. And his political activism started as early as his teens. For years Malema was a very copious ANC supporter and activists but also very ambitious nascent politician.

Today Julius Malema is a household name in South Africa. Many fear him, many more admire him. How many will follow him when he puts himself in front of them to lead a revolution? The book is full of facts which could serve as prerequisites for a revolution. One of them is well known: the majority of South Africans continue to live in poverty while the majority of whites enjoy well-endowed lives and with them the new class of blacks who gained privileges because of their positions in the ANC power structure and COSATU trade union. Malema pictures himself as a continuator of Nelson Mandela, especially in his guise of ANC youth leader. Thus the young Mandela assuming the leading role as a youth leader is an inspiration for Malema who first gave support to Jacob Zuma only to denounce him later when he became President of the country. The book was closed at the moment of Malema's controversies with the ANC leadership short of his exclusion or suspension as both ANCYL

president and even ANC member. Today Malema is 'commander in chief' of the Economic Freedom Fighters party. By its constitution the EFF is a radical, left-wing, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperialist movement. Malema claims that if he comes to power he will nationalize South African wealth without compensation. In the book Forde describes his populist propaganda methods about which an academic political analyst argued that Hitler's *Mein Kampf* must have been an inspiration for. Achille Mbembe, well-known Cameroonian scholar who lives and works in South Africa characterized Malema as "an enunciation of the entanglement of black and white in South African life" (p. 232) because Malema, a 'lumpen radical' uses constantly the colour rhetoric while blaming the misery of blacks on white supremacy and the collusion of the white with the black elite. Malema is squarely against the tacit agreement between the National Party and the ANC that ensured power transformation without social transformation. Forde draws Malema's portrait of an angry, intelligent but also reckless critic of the bankrupt collaboration policies of the ANC. The book is a compulsive read. True, it is not a strictly academic product but it is full of facts which were not known before. It is a very timely analysis of the personality and ambitions of the man who compares himself to Nelson Mandela but evidently differs from him by his no-nonsense crass personal style of politics. South Africa seems to be on a crossroads between 'managed democracy' and a more authoritarian system in which the masses will be led by highly problematic wilful 'prophets' à la Malema.

Petr Skalník

**Ige, Segun and Quinlan, Tim (eds). 2012. *African Responses to HIV/AIDS. Between Speech and Action*. Scottsville: University of KwaZulu-Natal Press, 273 pages.**

This collective work seems to be following on all-Africa scene the volume published by Macmillan in 2004 under the title *AIDS and South Africa. The Social Expression of a Pandemic*. It is a very fair evaluation of what happened and did not happen in tackling the pandemic which has been rocking Africa for some time. The subtitle indirectly pinpoints the striking time gap between the rhetoric of promises of African statesmen and stateswomen and their eventual action in order to stop or reduce the uncontrolled spreading of the virus. „Speech“ in the subtitle also means non-action or even counter-action vis-a-vis the virus. Of course, the most blatant example of the „speech“ in the latter meaning was the former South African President Thabo Mbeki's denial