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**If Steve Biko were to be a 'Christian': his contribution to ethnic reconciliation**

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Abstract

This article discusses the danger of ethnic and racial essentialism that would derail the project of non-racialism and the 'rainbow-nation' project in South Africa. The article will aim to demonstrate through selected texts how this is being fuelled and would be endangering the process of reconciliation in South Africa that is still fractured even after a tedious process of the South African TRC. The author argues that ethnic rivalry will jeopardize the haul to non-racialism in South Africa. The author argues that Steve Biko's work challenges 'ethnic' and 'racial' consciousness (not practice) through his notion of 'black consciousness'. The notion of 'black consciousness' of Biko would serve as a gift and complementary resource for 'Christianity' and, if it were to be embraced, ensure an authentic reconciliation process that has deep theological rootedness.