

CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT?

Chester Crocker & American Policy
in South Africa, Namibia & Angola

How Reagan's administration tried
to support South Africa without
appearing to endorse apartheid

Its failure has lessons for today
Can constructive engagement bridge
national interest and human rights?

J.E.DAVIES

Constructive Engagement?: Chester Crocker and American Policy in South Africa, Namibia and Angola, 1981-8

By J.E. Davies

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The notion of engagement underlies the history of diplomacy, and as such represents the most important tool in a foreign policy practitioner's armoury. Today, improved communications are allowing citizens of democratic nations to see the real nature of the states with which their governments engage, including those with dire records concerning the human rights of their own citizens. The idea of 'constructive engagement' is forwarded by governments as a method whereby pressure can be brought to bear on these countries to improve their record on human rights, while diplomatic and economic contacts can be maintained. But does this approach achieve positive outcomes? To answer this question, this book offers a critical evaluation of one of the best known examples of constructive engagement - the Reagan administration's policy towards South Africa. North America: Ohio U Press; South Africa: Jacana

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Review

A well-written, thoroughly documented case study of US foreign policy. Recommended. CHOICE Her analysis focuses on the role of Dr Chester Crocker, President Reagan's policy of constructive engagement and Crocker's role in particular.' - Professor J.E. Spence, OBE, King's College, London

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