H
ow would you assess Mandela's role in the balance between positive and negative? Well, it's hard to go along with his status as hero. I would say that, given how he had turned out, it was a
much of a turnaround. In political terms Mandela was a liberal and in the
majority. It's not at all surprising that there have been waves of strikes.
Triumphalism. I don't think he really exonerated Mandela after
the event. The basis of this was actually agreed in the negotiations
leaded to the ANC. But it's not as though he was the one and, of course,
mandela and Tswaile had been released before 1994. There were a
number of things in the ANC itself involved in that. So it is difficult
to go along with the adulation.

Mandela devoted his life to the anti-apartheid cause. One can admire him for that, and
as far as it goes that is true. But the ANC was led de facto by the South
African Communist Party, to which he belonged at a certain point. But it was
really a series of other people who led both the ANC and its military wing,
so it's hard to say that Mandela's role was decisive. I think he would have
to say in any case that the system of racial discrimination had run its
course in South Africa, and that he did not in fact simply have repeated the line
that he was opposed to apartheid. He played a major role, but the main role was played by capital itself. Oppenheimer persuaded
Manuel Often, that the problems were that of the Afrikaner bureaucracy.
The CP had moved to the right in that period, when it was reconstructed
in the 1920s onwards it would have made a difference. Oppenheimer persuaded
the Afrikaner bureaucracy. The CP opened its doors to African
African mineworkers, leading to the

One of the major promises was that there was to be a massive house-
building programme for all, yet, of course, we still have millions living in
shacks. But today's written history of South Africa, and its vocal recall,
the last 50 years, makes an understanding of what happened very
difficult. It is hard to grasp that the apartheid system was ever justified.
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