

Alan is also known to
be a serious

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Alan Stewart Paton is a famous South African writer and an anti-apartheid activist. His first novel, *Cry, The Beloved Country* (1948) is a poignant tale of racial injustice that steered international attention toward this glaring issue. He started his career as a teacher but quit to run a reformatory for young African offenders. This is what inspired him to write his first book. Subsequently, he turned into this prolific writer producing 19 novels between 1948 and 1989.

His works include *The Land and People of South Africa* (1955), *South Africa in Transition*, written in collaboration with Dan Weiner (1956), *Hope for South Africa* (1959), *Debbie Go Home*, a collection of short stories (1961), *Jan Hofmeyr*, a biography of the former deputy Prime Minister of South Africa (1965) and *Too Late the Phalarope* (1953). He is also known to be a serious activist and politician who spoke up against apartheid. Paton's intent to contribute to social service led him and his wife to open a tuberculosis center near his hometown.

He was perpetually torn between his role as a writer and an activist. Owing to his condemnation of the racial injustice during the apartheid regime, he was tried for treason in an infamous trial in 1960. His contribution both in the literary and political arena fetched him recognition the world over.