



# Albert Rene: The Father of Modern Seychelles, A Biography

*Kevin Shillington*

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Albert Rene is a towering figure of modern Seychelle, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean, east of mainland Southeast Africa and northeast of the island of Madagascar. He arouses intense emotions in both admirers and opponents. This first full-length biography analyzes Rene's early years, his political awakening, and his struggle for full electoral support in the face of strong opposition. Frustrated by the slow pace of Seychelle's economic development and the extent of social division along racial lines, Albert Rene took the fateful decision to seize power by coup d'etat in 1977. It is a dramatic story, which includes an attempted invasion by South African mercenaries. In 1992-93, Rene finessed a change from a one-party socialist state to multi-party rule. He bequeathed to his successor a transformed nation that had shed its oppressive racial hierarchy and had attained the highest social and economic indicators within the African region. Underlying the political drama is the story of the compassion and romance of the all too human man that is Albert Rene. The book adds authority to this account by the depth of research through archives and contemporary newspapers, as well as extensive interviews covering both his political and personal life, the latter including interviews with all three of Albert Rene's wives. \*\*\* "A saga of political drama, struggle, and ultimately hope...fascinating from cover to cover, and highly recommended especially for public and college library biography collections." -- Midwest Book Review, Library Bookwatch, The Biography Shelf, October 2014 [Subject: Biography, Politics, History, African Studies]Eöe

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