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| Goldblatt, David (1930--) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| David Goldblatt, who is generally considered to be South Africa’s leading photographer, was born in Randfontein in the former Transvaal in 1930, into a family that had fled from the pogroms in Lithuania in the 1890s. The landscape of Goldblatt’s youth on the Witwatersrand was characterised, on the one hand, by the gold-mining industry that was still central to the South African economy and, on the other, by more or less marginalised Afrikaner communities that eked out a primitive existence on smallholdings. Goldblatt’s early photography negotiated his relationship with these two distinct communities, and it is clear that these experiences contributed to the development of both his political identity and his photographic vision. However, unlike more developed countries in the North, South Africa at this time could not sustain a career in documentary photography, and Goldblatt was obliged for many years to make time for what he has always called ‘personal work’ between commercial commissions. It has only been since the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994, and the opening of that country to international fine art markets, that Goldblatt has been able to concentrate on his own work on a regular basis. |
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| Further reading:  (Bester)  (Goldblatt, Diserens and Enwezor)  (Lawson)  (Watson) |