

A SHORT HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

- ❖ Portuguese and Dutch explorers rounded the Cape of Good Hope to find a trade route to the East.
- ❖ The Dutch East India Company landed the first European settlers in 1652.
- ❖ They were known as Boers or Afrikaners and spoke a Dutch dialect known as Afrikaans.
- ❖ The British settled in 1795 and took possession in 1815.
- ❖ The Dutch made the Great Trek inland and established the republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.



FIRST WHITE SETTLEMENT

❖ Diamonds and gold were discovered in these inland areas in 1867, bringing an influx of “outlanders”

❖ The British had let the Boers in the northern part of South Africa govern themselves for almost 100 years; however, when Gold was discovered in the Transvaal, The Boer War broke out between the British and the Dutch.

❖ This was the first guerrilla war where the enemy wore no uniform.

❖ The war officially ended in 1902, but the Boers fought a guerrilla war for another 8 years.

❖ The Boers submitted to English rule in 1910.

❖ South Africa was now a British colony.

❖ In 1910 the Union of South Africa was formed.

❖ Louis Botha, a Boer, became the first PM and established the African National Congress in 1912 to represent the Black Africans.

❖ The grand African nations once led by Shaka Zulu had long since been defeated and their culture forgotten.



THE BOER WAR (1899 – 1902)

- ❖ Jan Smuts took the nation into World War II on the side of the Allies.
- ❖ South Africa was a Charter Member of the United Nations but refused to sign the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- ❖ Black voters were removed from voter rolls in 1936.
- ❖ 1948 Apartheid (racial separation) dominated domestic politics as the National Party gained power. Restrictions were placed on all Coloreds (meaning any non-white person).
- ❖ The Group Areas Acts forced Africans to move from cities to rural townships where they lived in poverty under repressive laws.
- ❖ Africans had lost their homeland and were forced to live in Homelands.



THE HOMELANDS

❖ South Africa declared itself a republic in 1961.

❖ The white supremacist National Party ruled for three decades.

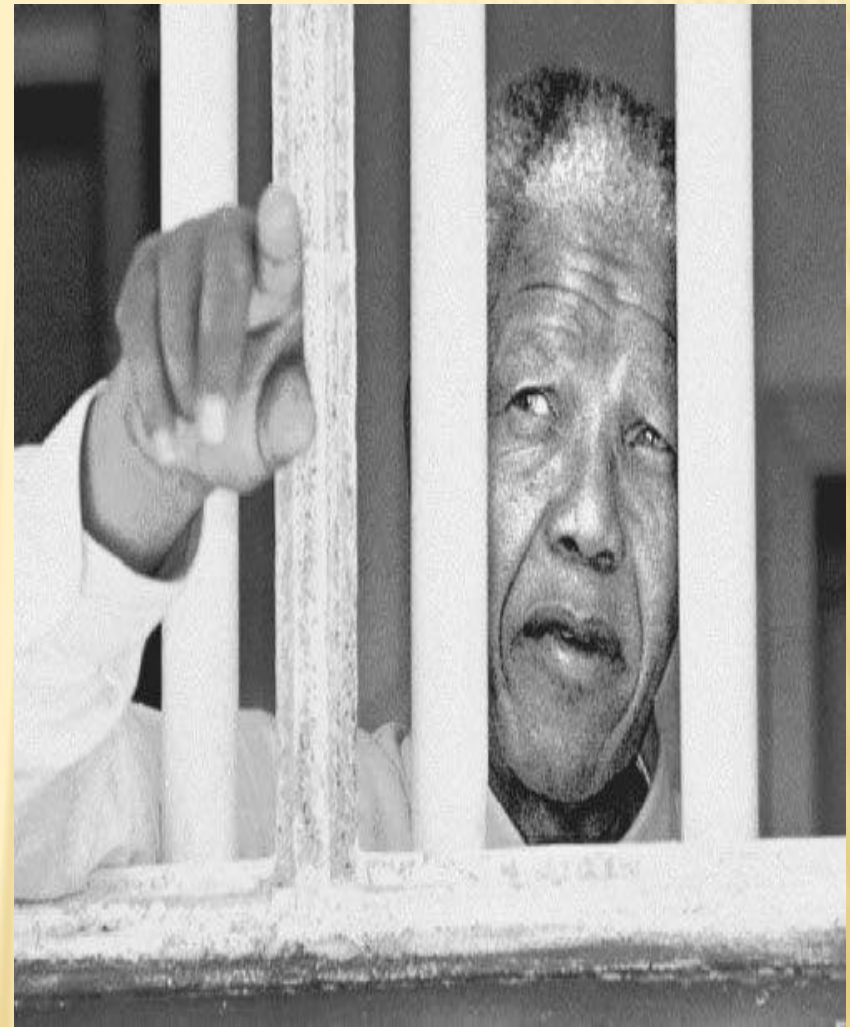
❖ Apartheid became an official policy for all.

❖ Shanty-towns grew on the outskirts of major cities to first house workers for the mines and other industries then as the only refuge for the poor who could not survive on poor land.



SHANTY-TOWNS

- ❖ In 1960, 70 Black protestors were killed in a peaceful demonstration in Sharpsville.
- ❖ The African National Congress was banned.
- ❖ Its leader Nelson Mandela was jailed in 1964.
 - ❖ Banning
 - ❖ Exile
 - ❖ Political Prisoners
- ❖ Black protests against apartheid grew stronger and more violent.
- ❖ In 1976, an uprising in the black township of Soweto spread to other townships and left 600 dead.
- ❖ The UN imposed sanctions and many countries divested their South African holdings.



PROTESTS AND RIOTS

* While Apartheid was first introduced as a sensible (if questionably moral) solution to the race question, its regimentation and violent repression horrified the rest of the world, even though many other countries administered similar, if less overt, practices.

* In Australia, Aborigines had no right to vote till 1967.

* Americans fought a campaign for and against racial integration in schools and universities in the 1960's.

* Apartheid was a complete, legal separation of races (on streets, on beaches, parts of the country, in toilets, schools, public places, etc.)



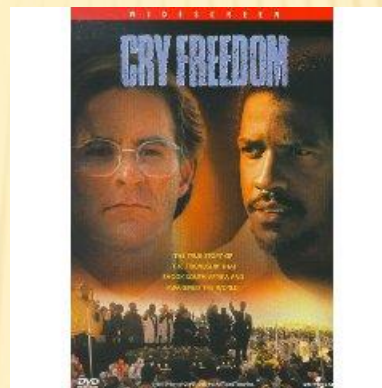
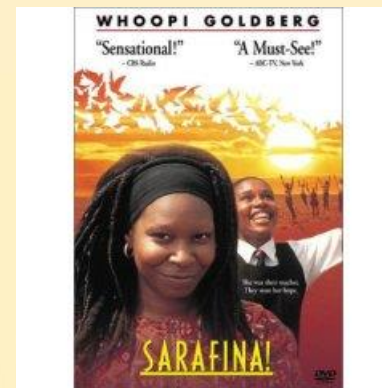
APARTHEID

* International condemnation grew as the Arts and Entertainment industries began to popularize the cause.

* A number of films were made highlighting the situation for a common audience. (Including *Cry Freedom*, the bio-pic of activist Steven Biko.)

* The South African Cricket Team and other national representative sides were banned from participating in International Competition.

* Entertainers and Golf Players boycotted the opening of South African tourist resorts. A protest song was recorded. (*Ain't Gonna Play Sun City*).



CONDEMNATION

- ❖ Apartheid's grip on South Africa began to give way when F.W.de Klerk replaced P.W. Botha as President in 1989.
- ❖ The ban on the ANC was lifted.
- ❖ Nelson Mandela was released after 27 years of imprisonment.
- ❖ A multiracial forum in 1991 began working on a new constitution.
- ❖ Apartheid was dismantled providing for a multiracial democracy with majority rule.
- ❖ Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- ❖ The 1994 election resulted in a massive victory for Mandela and his ANC.



TRANSITION

