

# South Africa

- Union of South Africa had
  - Bantus (70%)
  - European Settlers (18%)
  - Mixed Race (9%)
  - Asians (brought as indentured labourers eg Indians brought after 1890 by white settlers) (3%)



# Gandhiji (1893-1915)

- Indians in South Africa were the Memen muslims (merchants) + indentured labour (came in 1890 as indentured/bonded labourer)
- Gandhiji began organising & educating them and later decided to stay on request of Indians as he was the only educated Indian who could assist them against the white government.
- 2 laws that that led to Gandhiji's Struggle
  - **Franchise Amendment Bill 1894 by Natal**: to disenfranchise Indians (earlier some had Right to Vote based on wealth criteria)
  - **Immigration Law Amendment Bill 1895**: [leave South Africa or be re-indentured for 2 yrs after end of contract] else, **pay poll tax** of 3£ p.a.
- Constitutional struggle from 1896-1906
  - petitions, prayers, Gandhiji began a newspaper 'Indian Opinion' to air Indian grievances.
  - Gandhiji also formed Natal Indian Congress.

## Gandhiji's-Extra Constitutional Phase (1906-1915)

- Extra Constitutional non violent struggle (1906-15): tools of passive resistance, non-cooperation, civil disobedience
  - Who is a **Satyagrahi**: truthful, nonviolent, fearless, ready to accept suffering, loves the evil doer, hate be alien to his nature.
  - **Satyagraha against Registration Certificates (1906-14)** via Passive Resistance Association
    - Registration Certificates were prescribed under **Asiatic Law Amendment Act or Black Act 1906** by Transvaal (\*Compulsory Aadhar in physical form to be carried at all times else fine, imprisonment & deportation).
    - Govt promised that if Indian voluntarily register then they would withdraw the law. Gandhiji was 1st to register.
    - But then breach of promise by the Govt  $\Rightarrow$  Gandhiji started bonfire of RCs and then responded by courting arrest i.e. Jail Bharo.

## Gandhiji-Extra Constitutional Phase (1906-1915)

- **Satyagraha against Immigration laws** (barred immigration of Indians into Transvaal from Cape Province, Natal and Orange Free State)
  - **Transvaal Immigration Restriction Act 1907:**
    - Response of Gandhiji: Illegally entered, courted arrests + Indians of Transvaal did 'hawking without a license'. Gandhiji himself jailed in 1908 and soon the prisons were overflowing.
- **Tolstoy farm 1910-** Began to keep up morale of Indians during passive phase of struggle. It was home to Satyagrahis where they were taught self sustenance via skill development & self help.
- **Visit of Gokhale 1912:** Govt promised to Gokhale that discriminatory laws will be repealed. However, the promise was again breached.
  - Gokhale advised Gandhiji to focus on RCs (Asiatic Law) & Poll Tax (Immigration law) to energise the Indians into political activity.

# Gandhiji (1893-1915)

- **Poll Tax Campaign 1913:** here the movement got mass character which was further boosted by a 1913 SC judgement **invalidating marriages** not conducted as per Christianity.
- **Final Countdown:**
  - Illegal crossing to Transvaal started (against **Transvaal Immigration Restriction Act**).
  - Even Kasturba Gandhi arrested. Hereafter all Indian workers mobilized by Gandhiji who then organised a march by 2000 workers into Transvaal. Those arrested would soon rejoin after release. Soon all Indian workers strike work.
  - Gokhale travelled across India. Viceroy Hardinge (1910-16) condemned actions of South Africa which led to talks between Gandhiji and the govt.
  - The govt agreed to Gandhiji's demands on Poll Tax, RCs, validation of Indian Marriages.