**The 1956 Women’s March**

An organized march to protest the extension of apartheid pass laws to women.

Pass laws required black men to carry a pass that identified them, in 1956, the government sought to extent these restrictions to black women.

20,000 women of all races marched in the capital to protest the new laws.

Key leaders included trade unionists, anti-apartheid activists and youth leaders.

The protest was widely supported in different parts of the country, with 100,000 people signing a petition that opposed the new laws.

2

The march highlighted the important role that women played in the struggle for independence in the country.

The fact that all races participated also showed that apartheid was opposed by the majority of people in the country.

The march also highlights the racial tensions related to apartheid that are explored in *Born a Crime.*

The march showed that active resistance was necessary if progress was to made in eliminating apartheid.

**The Sharpeville Massacre**

1

Protests against pass laws in Sharpeville in Gauteng turned violent, leading to the shooting of 69 peaceful protesters.

Protests against pass laws had been organized in most parts of the country, with protesters in the thousands failing to carry passbooks, making it difficult for the police to arrest them.

Police in Sharpeville however opened fire on unarmed protesters.

The events of the massacre led to the declaration of a state of emergency that saw the arrest leaders of the ANC and PAC.

2

The massacre generally led those opposed to the apartheid regime to realize that violence and radicalization was necessary if meaningful change was to be attained.

The international community also reacted to the events and imposed sanctions on the South African government.

The massacre remain a notable event that highlighted the brutality of the apartheid regime and the resilience that those opposed to it needed to have to overcome it.

**Steve Biko**

1

Steve Biko made significant contributions to the fight against the apartheid regime.

Biko believed resistance against the regime needed to be led by black South Africans, as they could do more to highlight the dangers of apartheid.

He advocated for the mental liberation of South Africans that would make them more proud of their culture and heritage.

Biko also believed the country’s black population needed to establish their own institutions as a way of reducing their reliance on the apartheid regime.

2

Biko generally encouraged black people to be more proud of their culture and heritage, which will make it easier for them to confront apartheid.

He also inspired protests and strikes that played a critical role in the fight against the regime.

His leadership and braveness generally inspired many others in the country, and played a crucial role in the elimination of apartheid in the country.