

APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

THE ROOTS OF APARTHEID

Apartheid or segregation existed not only in South Africa but elsewhere in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the United States.

In many places around the world, laws forced Blacks to use separate facilities and attend separate schools.

SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICS

The **South African political party** won the country's first general election in **1910**.

This political party was led by **Louis Botha** and **Jan Christiaan Smuts**, both of whom were **Afrikaners**.

They believed in co-operating with the English speakers.

They also accepted membership of the British Empire.

Upon hearing these views, many Afrikaners believed that Botha and Smuts had sold them out.

Some became so upset that they no longer wanted Botha and Smuts as leaders.

These Afrikaners formed a new political party, the **National Party**, in **1914**.

Poor Afrikaners, as well as intellectuals, joined the National Party.

They fought to protect the interests of the **Afrikaner**.

NATIONAL PARTY COMES INTO POWER

After World War 1 (1914—1918), mine owners wanted to replace some semi-skilled White miners with Blacks, whom they could pay less.

The white union went on strike.

The government finally settled the matter by declaring **martial law** and using weapons, including tanks and machine guns.

2.

After this, the Afrikaners were so angry that they refused to vote for the South African party.

The National Party won the election in **1924**.

The new government passed more laws, **favouring Whites in general and Afrikaners in particular**.

SEGREGATION

THE NATIVES LAND ACT OF 1913

In **1913** the **NATIVES LAND ACT** was passed.

This prohibited Africans from buying land in all but a small percentage of territory, known as **RESERVES** which were set aside for Black people.

These reserves later became known as **homelands**.

According to this act, Africans were granted only **7.5 %** of the total land area of South Africa.

Africans were excluded from areas demarcated as White, and could stay there only as labourers.

This act had the most drastic consequences in the **OFS**, where the system of **sowing on the halves** was made illegal.

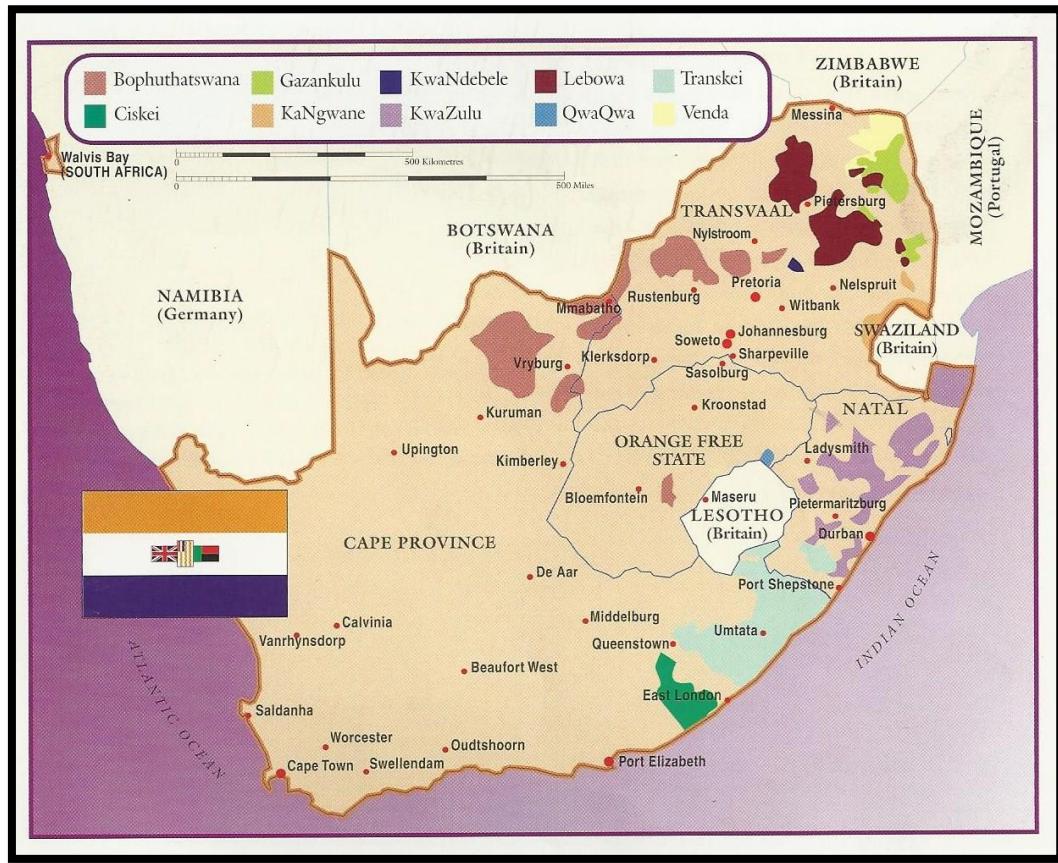
According to this system African farmers produced crops on White farms. They gave the White farmers half their produce in return for the use of the land.

NATIVES' TRUST AND LAND ACT OF 1936

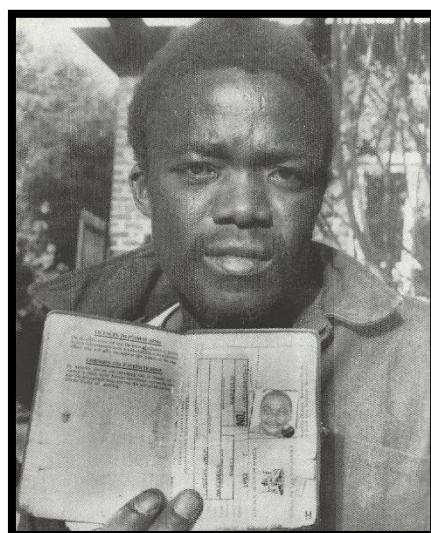
This act increased the maximum African areas to just over **13%**.

3.

HOMELANDS



Black people had to live in homelands and carry passes whenever they needed to travel outside the homeland.



4.

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

In **1912** the **African National Congress** was formed to oppose the land policies of the White government.

The founders of the ANC were Africans educated at mission schools.

They did not challenge White rule but wanted the White government to recognise African rights.

The ANC leaders adopted peaceful methods of trying to bring about change.

At that time South Africa was a British colony.

The ANC sent delegates and petitions to London to argue their case.

Their efforts were unsuccessful.

APARTHEID SINCE 1948

In **1948** the new National Party under **D. F. Malan** came into power.

Whites voted for the National Party because of the fear of Blacks (**swart gevaar—the Black danger**).

The election slogan of the National Party was **DIE KAFFIR OP SY PLEK**.

APARTHEID LAWS

The National Party went on to control South Africa for **40 years**.

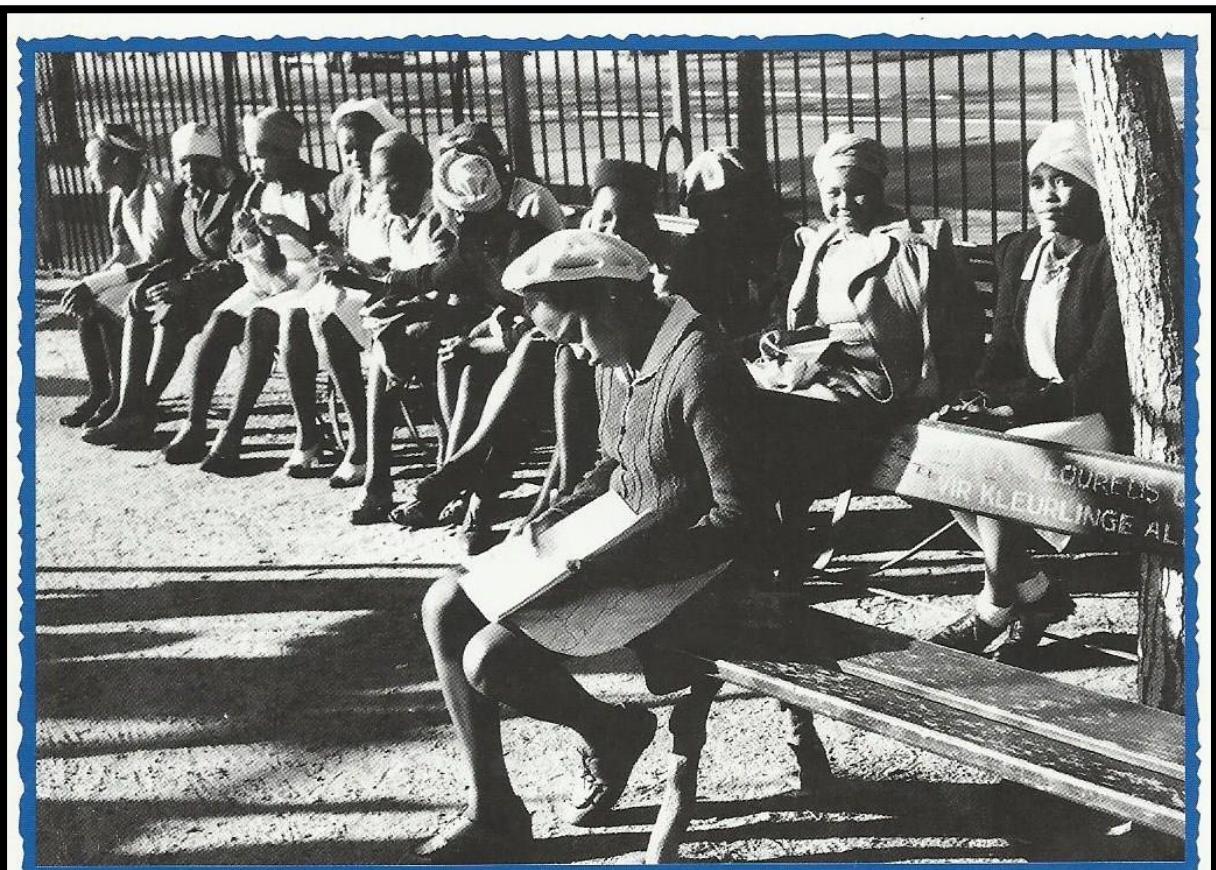
The National Party believed in **white supremacy**.

The National Party began reshaping the country by introducing **apartheid**, an Afrikaner word meaning **apartness** or **separateness**.

Examples of apartheid laws :

- **Prohibition of mixed marriages**
- **Population registration act classifies South Africans according to race**
- **Group Areas Act sets up different urban areas for each racial group**
- **Separate Amenities Act prevented races from mixing in public areas**

5.



Schoolgirls sit on benches marked 'for coloureds only'.

THE DEFIANCE CAMPAIGN

After the 1948 election the ANC drew up a programme of action for a mass movement against apartheid.

It was based on **non-violent civil disobedience** and would make use of **boycotts, strikes, demonstrations and passive resistance**.

Small groups of trained volunteers began to defy apartheid laws by **deliberately entering White areas without passes and getting themselves arrested**.

It was hoped that this would snowball into **mass defiance**.

6.

On 26 June 1942, thirty three volunteers walked through a Whites-only entrance of a railway station in Port Elizabeth.

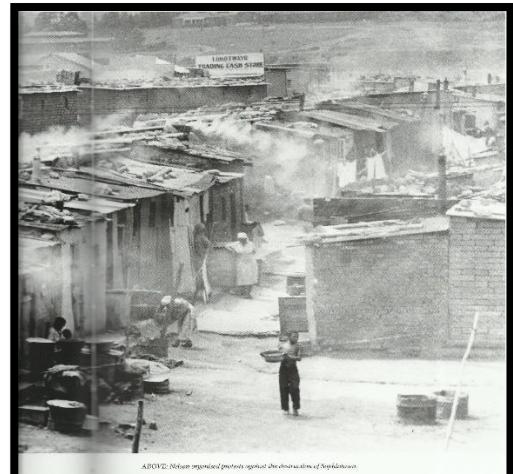
They were arrested.

The Defiance Campaign lasted 6 months, spreading throughout urban areas and into the countryside.

Some **8000** volunteers were arrested, without having committed a single act of violence.

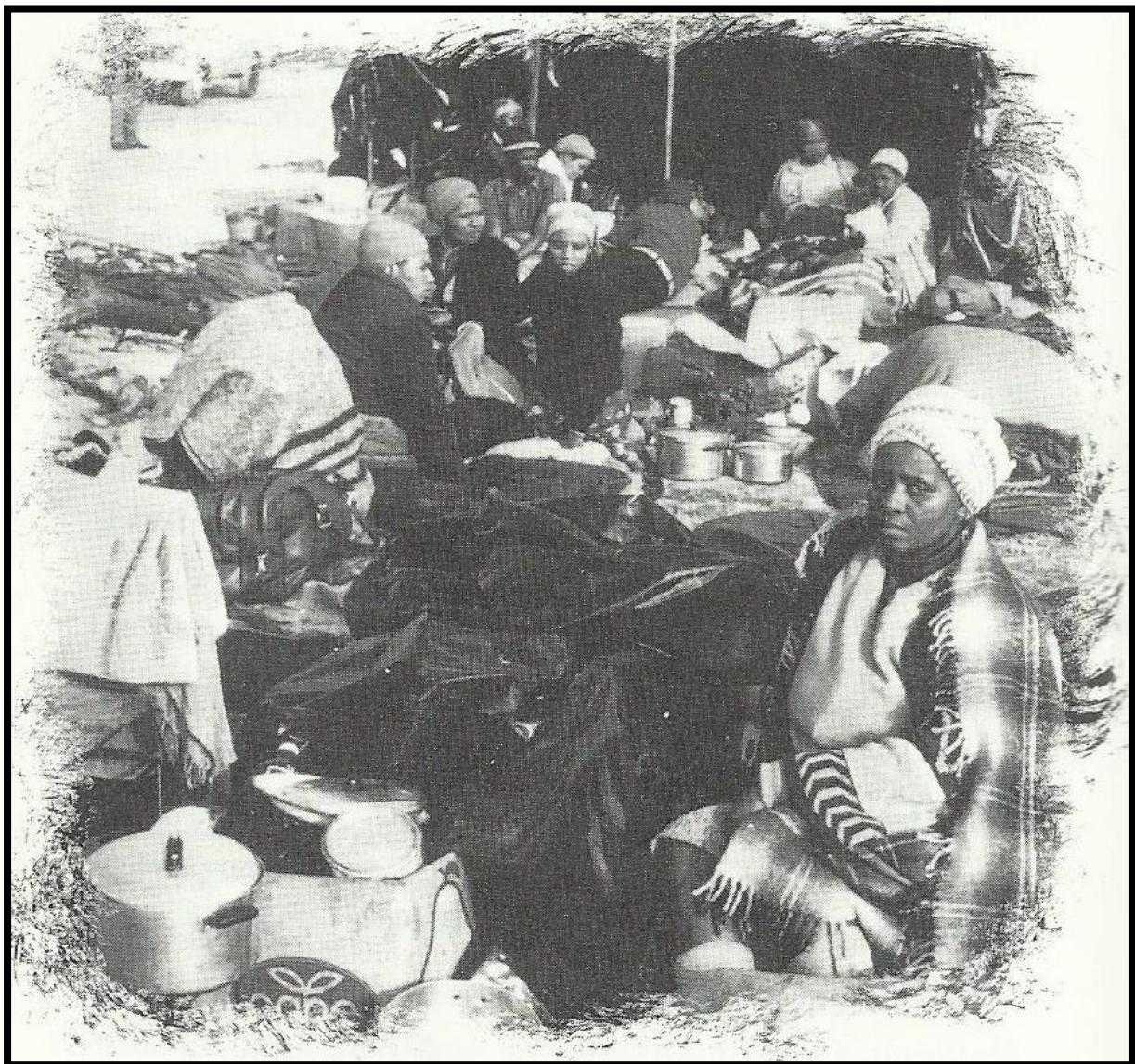
Going to prison became a **badge of honour** among Africans.

SOPHIATOWN



In 1953 the government announced its intention to forcibly remove more than **60 000** Africans from Sophiatown, a freehold township in Johannesburg, to a track of land known as **Meadowlands**.

The ANC was determined to resist the removals.



MANDELA AND TAMBO

Mandela passed his law degree.

In 1952 **Oliver Tambo** and **Mandela** went into partnership.

Their firm was the first black law firm in South Africa.

It provided a much-needed service for ordinary Africans.

Every morning Africans crowded into their offices having fallen foul of the apartheid system with its confusing **pass**, **curfew**, **residence** and **employment laws**.

8.

FREEDOM CHARTER

In **1955** the **Congress of the People** met at **Kliptown**, near Johannesburg.

The **Congress Alliance** consisted of the **ANC, SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN CONGRESS, CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS AND THE COLOURED PEOPLE'S CONGRESS.**

More than 3 000 delegates braved police intimidation to draw up a **Freedom Charter**.

The Freedom Charter, adopted at the Congress of the People, Kliptown, South Africa on 26 June 1955:

WE, THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA, DECLARE FOR ALL OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD TO KNOW:

That South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and white, and that no government can justly claim authority unless it is based on the will of the people;
That our people have been robbed of their birthright to land, liberty and peace by a form of government founded on injustice and inequality;
That our country will never be prosperous or free until all our people live in brotherhood, enjoying equal rights and opportunities;
That only a democratic state, based on the will of all the people, can secure to all their birthright without distinction of colour, race, sex or belief;
And therefore, we, the people of South Africa, black and white together – equals, countrymen and brothers – adopt this Freedom Charter. And we pledge ourselves to strive together, sparing nothing of our strength and courage, until the democratic changes here set out have been won.

THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

Every man and woman shall have the right to vote for and to stand as a candidate for all bodies which make laws;

All people shall be entitled to take part in the administration of the country;

The rights of the people shall be the same, regardless of race, colour or sex;

All bodies of minority rule, advisory boards, councils and authorities shall be replaced by democratic organs of self-government.

ALL NATIONAL GROUPS SHALL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS!

There shall be equal status in the bodies of state, in the courts and in the schools for all national groups and races;

All people shall have equal rights to use their own languages and to develop their own folk culture and customs;

All national groups shall be protected by law against insults to their race and national pride; The preaching and practice of national, race or colour discrimination and contempt shall be a punishable crime;

All Apartheid laws and practices shall be set aside.

PEOPLE SHALL SHARE IN THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH!

The national wealth of our country, the heritage of all South Africans, shall be restored to the people;

The mineral wealth beneath the soil, the banks and monopoly industry shall be transferred to the ownership of the people as a whole;

All other industry and trade shall be controlled to assist the well-being of the people;

All people shall have equal rights to trade where they choose, to manufacture and to enter all trades, crafts and professions.

THE LAND SHALL BE SHARED AMONG THOSE WHO WORK IT!

Restrictions of land ownership on a racial basis shall be ended, and the land redivided amongst those who work it, to banish famine and land hunger;

The state shall help the peasants with implements, seed, tractors and dams to save the soil and assist the tillers;

Freedom of movement shall be guaranteed to all who work on the land;

All shall have the right to occupy land wherever they choose;

People shall not be robbed of their cattle, and forced labour and farm prisons shall be abolished.

ALL SHALL BE EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW!

No one shall be imprisoned, deported or restricted without a fair trial;

No one shall be condemned by the order of any government official;

The courts shall be representative of all the people;

Imprisonment shall only be for serious crimes against the people and shall aim at re-education, not vengeance;

The police force and army shall be open to all on an equal basis and shall be the helpers and protectors of the people;

All laws which discriminate on grounds of race, colour or belief shall be repealed.

ALL SHALL ENJOY EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS!

The law shall guarantee to all their right to speak, to organise, to meet together, to publish, to preach, to worship and to educate their children;

The privacy of the house from police raids shall be protected by law;

All shall be free to travel without restriction from countryside to town, from province to province and from South Africa abroad;

Pass laws, permits and all other laws restricting these freedoms shall be abolished.

THERE SHALL BE WORK AND SECURITY!

All who work shall be free to form trade unions, to elect their officers and to make wage agreements with their employers;

9.

GOVERNMENT BACKLASH

The government saw the Freedom Charter as a **revolutionary document**.

The government reacted harshly.

Police arrested most of the leaders of the non-white political parties who took part in drafting the Freedom Charter.

Police arrested **156** people in all, including most of the ANC leaders.

TREASON TRIAL

All 156 prisoners were charged with **high treason** and **conspiracy to overthrow the government** in order to set up a **communist state**.

The prosecution cited the **Freedom Charter**, the **Defiance Campaign** and other events as proof.

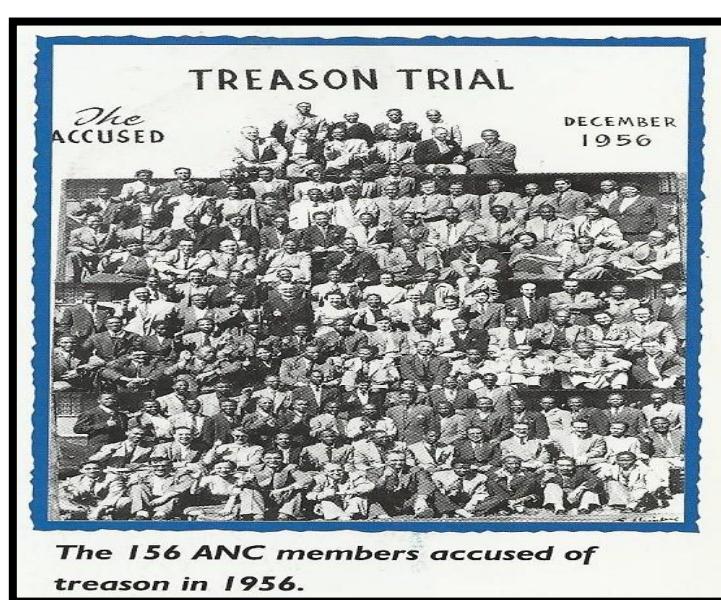
The trial opened on **19 December 1956**.

The trial dragged on for **four years**.

In 1961 the trial collapsed.

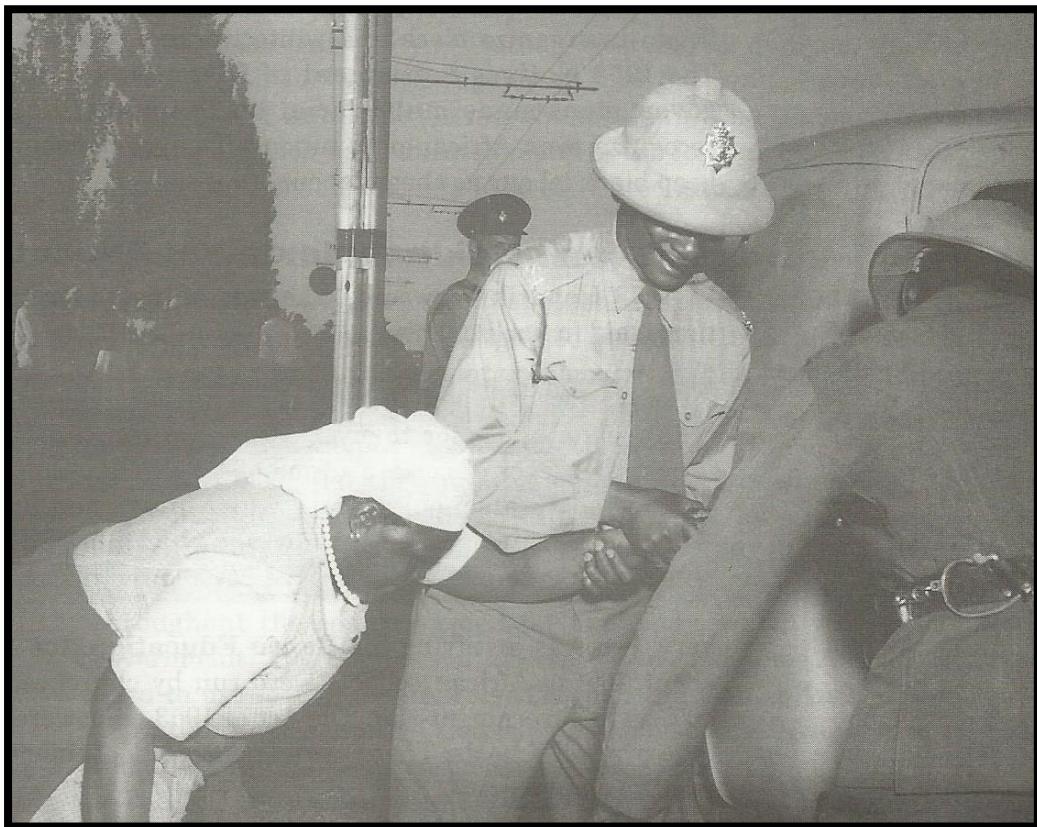
The judge said there was no evidence to prove the ANC or its Freedom Charter advocated violent communist revolution.

All the accused were found **not guilty** and discharged.



10.

PROTEST AGAINST THE PASS LAWS



On **9 August 1956**, more than **20 000** South African women of all races staged a march on the Union Buildings in protest against the **PASS LAWS**.

Black South Africans had to carry a pass whenever they travelled from the homelands to white South Africa.

The pass laws were introduced by the white government to control the influx of blacks into white areas and manage migrant labour during the apartheid era.

The march was led by **LILIAN NGOYI**, **HELEN JOSEPH**, **RAHIMA MOOSA** and **SOPHIA WILLIAMS**.

The women left **14 000** petitions at the office door of prime minister **J. G. Strijdom**.

11.



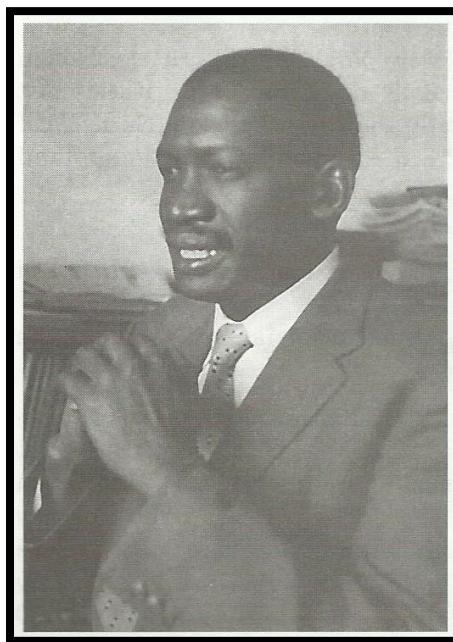
12.

SHARPEVILLE MASSACRE

Opposition to apartheid grew, and many Africans were inspired by liberation movements happening elsewhere on the continent.

In 1959 a new group, **the Pan African Congress (PAC)** broke away from the ANC.

The PAC was headed by **Robert Sobukwe**.



The PAC called for a mass protest against the **pass laws**.

On **21 March 1960**, answering a call by the PAC, 5000 Africans gathered at Sharpeville.

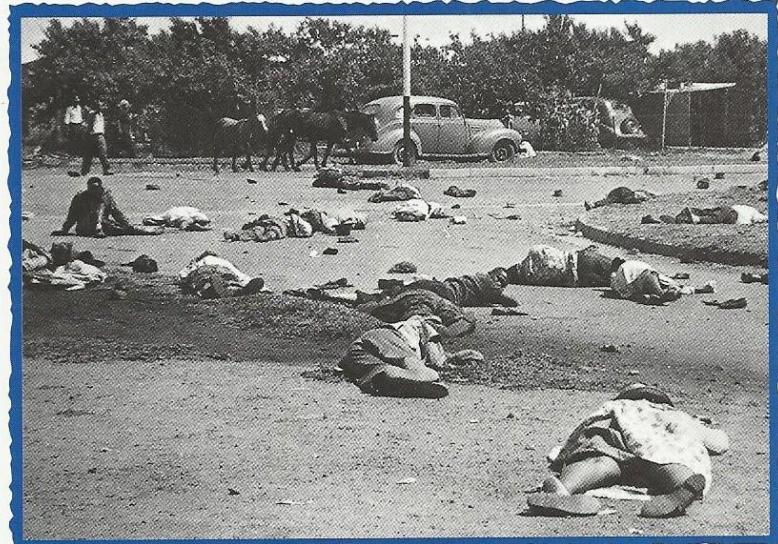
They protested against the pass laws by going out without passes.

The police fired teargas and the crowd responded by throwing stones.

The police opened fire on the protesters.

69 of them died.

Close to **180** were wounded.



Dead and wounded Africans lie in the streets, after the Sharpeville massacre.

The world reacted with horror to the news of the massacre.

Political leaders began to pressure the South African government to abolish apartheid.

On March 1960, the president of the ANC, **Albert Luthuli**, publically burned his pass.

Two days later, as part of the day of mourning led by the ANC, Mandela and Duma Nokwe burned their passes attended by hundreds of people.

UMKHONTO WE SIZWE

Some African leaders in South Africa decided that the **non-violence** approach was not working.

It seemed that peaceful protests would not bring an end to apartheid.

So they founded a new underground organisation called **Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation)**.

Its goal was to sabotage government works.

14.

The high command of Umkhonto we Sizwe consisted of Mandela as **commander**, Joe Slovo as **chief of staff** and Walter Sisulu.

Mandela organised a **guerrilla army** of volunteers.

On 16 December 1961, Umkhonto we Sizwe members bombed **power plants** and **government buildings**.

RIVONIA TRIAL

Mandela was banned and could not engage in political activities.

He moved to Lilliesleaf farm, in the Rivonia area, near Johannesburg.

Mandela pretended to be a houseboy or caretaker.

Mandela attended a meeting in Durban.

On **5 August 1962** Cecil Williams and Mandela drove back to Johannesburg.

A Ford car filled with White men drove past them.

Looking around, Mandela saw another two cars, also full of White men.

He knew "***my life on the run was over; my 17 months of freedom was about to end.***"

Ten defendants were brought to trial in **October 1963**, charged with recruiting guerrillas with the intention of violently overthrowing the government, furthering the objectives of communism, and seeking foreign funds for these purposes.

All of the accused pleaded not guilty, claiming that the government should be on trial as it was the government, not the ANC, which was responsible for the situation in South Africa.

However, documents handed in at the trial detailed a plot by four groups of 3000 armed men to arrive by sea and to be joined by 7 000 local guerrillas to embark on a "***massive onslaught of selected targets***", while a political body was set up in the neighbouring state eventually to become the provisional government of the country.

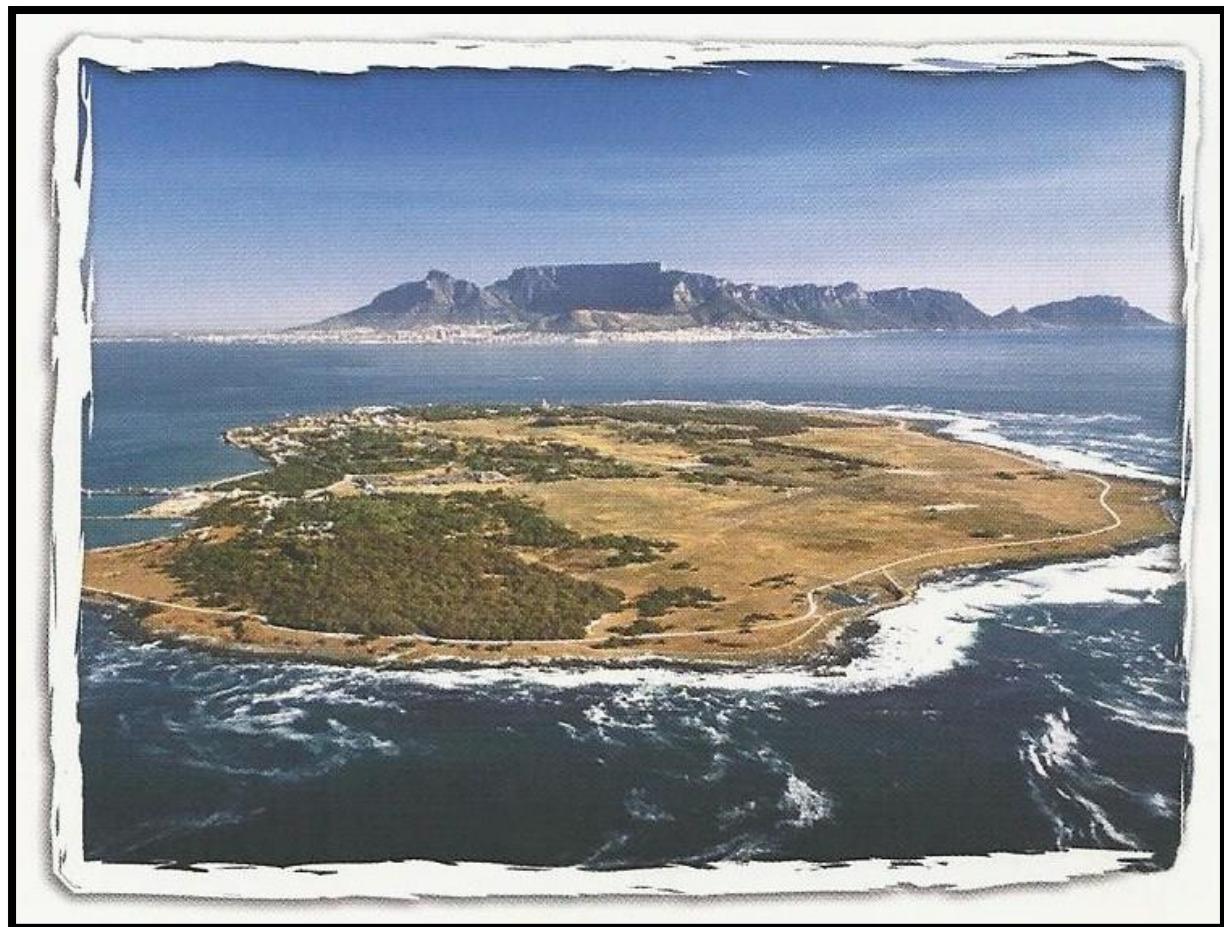
15.

The final part of Mandela's closing speech at the Rivonia Trial :

“During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against White domination, and I have fought against Black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die”.

On **12 June 1964**, two days after the United Nations Security Council called on the South African government to end the trial and release the defendants, the judge sentenced Mandela and eight of the others to life imprisonment. Most of them were flown immediately to **Robben Island** to begin their sentences.

They were : Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Raymond Mhlaba, Andrew Mlangeni and Elias Motsoaledi.



16.

Mandela described Robben Island as the “harshest, most iron-fisted outpost in the Southern African penal system”.

Mandela was 46 ; he would not be free again for 27 years.



Dennis Goldberg was imprisoned at Pretoria.

Arthur Goldreich and **Harold Wolpe** escaped from the Fort prison in Johannesburg while on remand.

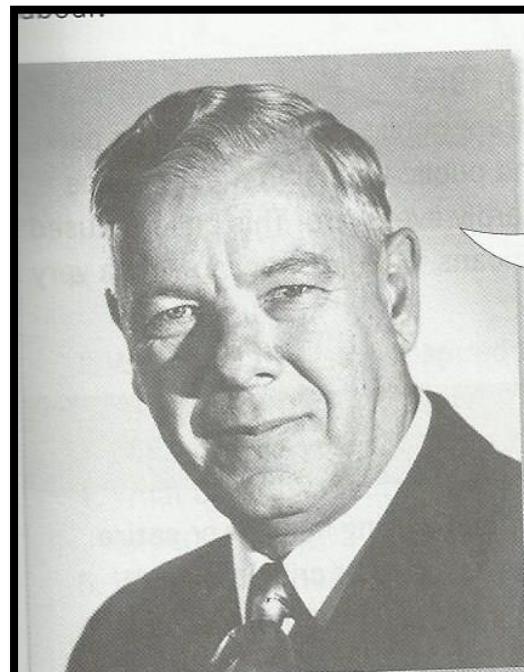
They bribed the prison guard (2000 pounds) and were taken out of South Africa disguised as priests.

The escape route took them to Swaziland, Bechuanaland and Dar-es-Salaam.

17.

SOWETO UPRISING

The following extract highlights the policy of the National Party.



The image shows a black and white portrait of Dr. H.F. Verwoerd, a man with grey hair, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a faint smile. To the right of the portrait is a speech bubble containing a quote.

The Natives will be taught from childhood to realize that equality with Europeans is not for them. There is no place for the **Bantu** child above the level of certain forms of labour.

◀ In 1953, Dr H.F. Verwoerd, who was the Minister of Native Affairs at the time, declared that African education should be inferior to that of other races and that Africans should be educated only far enough for them to be useful labourers.

In **1974** the apartheid government passed the **AFRIKAANS MEDIUM DECREE**.

On **1 January 1975** the following subjects had to be taught in Afrikaans : **MATHS, ARITHMETIC and SOCIAL SCIENCE**.

African students preferred **English** since this was the language of the business sector.

Desmond Tutu, at that time Bishop of Lesotho, described Afrikaans as the **“Language of the oppressor”**.

On **30 April 1976** the children of Orlando West Junior School went on strike. They refused to go to school.

The rebellion spread to other schools. They believed they deserved to be treated and taught equally to White children.

At that time the educational expenditure for each White child was **R644** and for each Black child **R42**.

In **1967** the teacher-pupil ratio was **58 : 1**.

18.

TEBOHO “TSIETSI” MASHININI, a student at **Morris Isaacson High School** proposed a meeting be held on **13 June 1976**.

At this meeting the students formed an **action committee**—the **SOWETO SRC**.

The students decided to have a mass rally on **16 June 1976**.

The mass rally had to remain a secret. They did not inform their teachers, parents and the police.

The Soweto SRC Action Committee emphasised good discipline and peaceful action.

Tsietsi Mashinini led the students from **Morris Isaacson High**. They met the students from **Naledi High** and marched to Orlando Stadium.

As they marched they were joined by children from other schools.



19.

The students encountered a police barricade. They changed their route and ended up at Orlando High School.

3000 to 10000 made their way towards Orlando High.

The students sang and waved placards with slogans such as :

Down with Afrikaans

Viva Azania

To hell with Afrikaans

If we must do Afrikaans, Vorster must do Zulu.

Colonel Kleingeld fired the first shot. In his testimony he claimed that the students threw stones. He opened fire using a handgun. There was panic and chaos with students screaming and running.

The police released dogs on the protesters. The students stoned the dogs to death.

The police began to shoot directly at the children.

Thirteen year old HECTOR PIETERSEN was shot at Orlando High School. He was carried by **MBUYISA MAKHUBU** for medical treatment. This became the symbol of the Soweto Uprising.



20.

Twenty three students died on 16 June 1976.

The violence escalated. The students burned beer halls and bottle stores. These represented the outposts of the apartheid government.

Police vans and armoured vehicles patrolled the township. The South African army was on standby.



Slowly the Black townships became ungovernable. There was rolling mass action characterised by frequent strike action and protests.

The apartheid government decided to release Mandela. Only Nelson Mandela could have a calming influence on the Black masses.

21.

RELEASE OF NELSON MANDELA

Nelson Mandela spent the following time periods as a prisoner :

Robben Island.....1964 to 1982

Pollsmaar.....1982 to 1988

Victor Verster.....1988 to 1990

Nelson Mandela was released from prison on **11 February 1990**.



22.

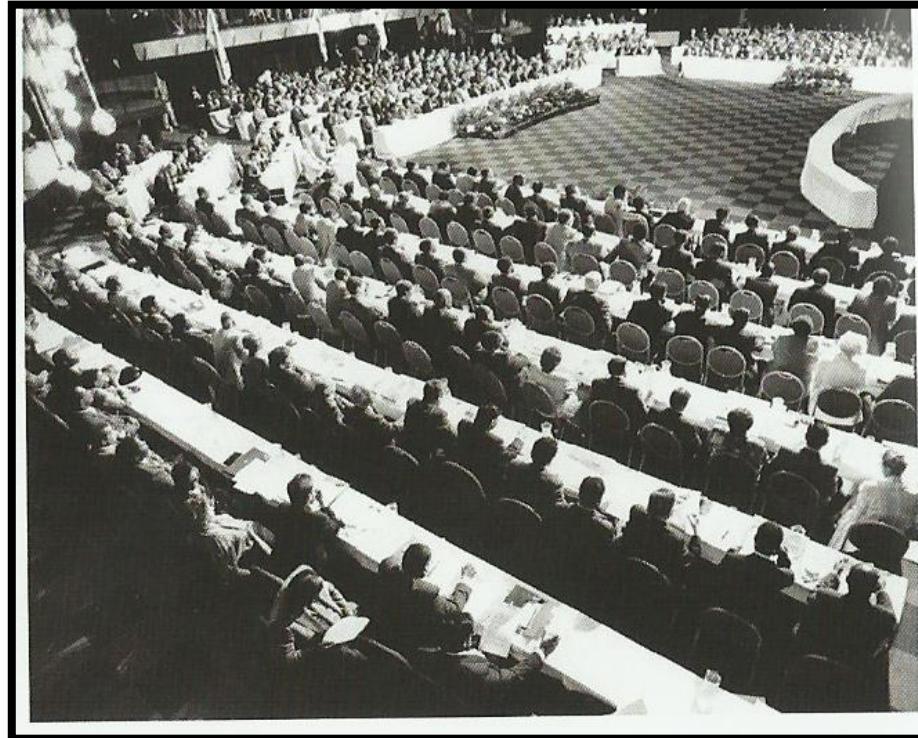
From the time of the release of Nelson Mandela and the first democratic elections, the country experienced a very turbulent and violent period.

There was a great deal of conflict between the various political parties, more specifically between the **Inkatha Freedom Party** and a **Third Force** on one side against the **ANC**.



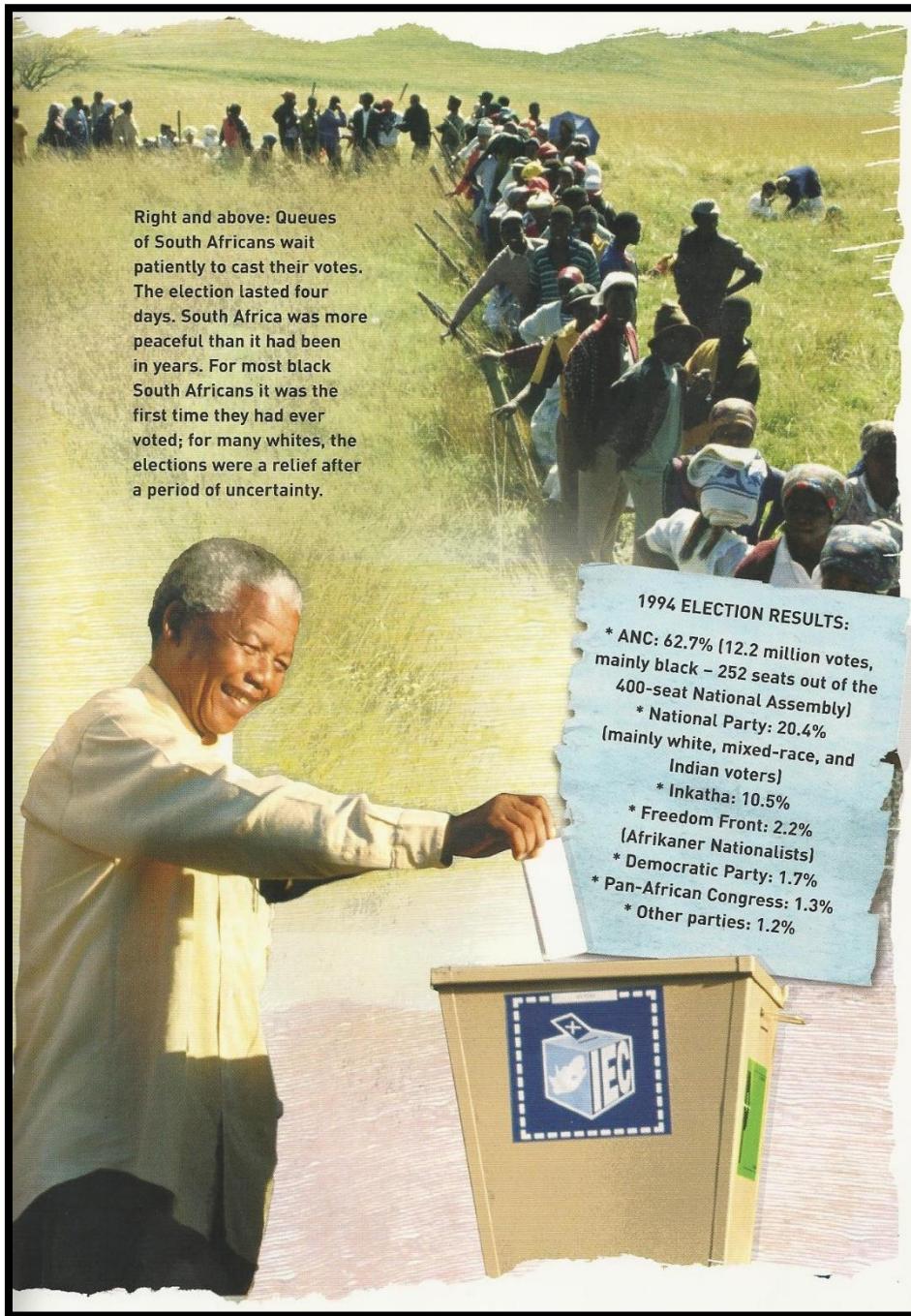
23.

The various political parties met at **CODESA**.....CONVENTION FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOUTH AFRICA



24.

The political parties agreed to have the first democratic election on the **27 April 1994**.



Apartheid was abolished.

South Africa became a democratic country.

25.

Nelson Mandela and F. W. de Klerk were awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace.



The first constitutional court.

