

Prologue

The phrase "political joy" may strike many readers as close to oxymoronic. Yet to millions of South Africans, this was their experience of the election of April 27 and 28, 1994. They believe, as I do, that South Africa really has turned a corner. However, exploitation, inhumanity, and arrogance have not been banished as if by a magic wand from the beloved country. Far from striding out confidently upon the broad sunlit uplands of democratic liberation, South Africa will for many years be limping toward whatever better future it may envision as its goal, hobbled (though less securely than before) by the ball-and-chain of apartheid. South Africans have only just begun to create their new "rainbow nation". The particular portion of this their collective endeavor at which it is my business to look here is the country's changing urban geography. Why is it that I suspect South Africa's urban areas are in fact confronting a less than millennial future? Why is it that the "awful legacy of apartheid"¹ will long remain?

These questions may be addressed in the first instance by investigating how this awful legacy came to be. Such is the topic of *Outcast Cape Town*. The reader will come to appreciate that the roots of apartheid may be traced back to Cape Town's establishment in the mid-seventeenth century, founded as part of that same great Dutch maritime trading enterprise that had founded New Amsterdam just a score of years earlier. Yet apartheid was not inevitable. Processes seen all over the world—European commercial expansion, conquest of native peoples, European appropriation of their lands, trans-oceanic slavery, miscegenation, nineteenth-century competitive imperialisms, colonial settlers' demands for political independence from the mother