Name

Institution

Course

Date

**History of South Africa**

**Introduction to Apartheid**

The concept of apartheid simply people African and whites living apart, without or with limited interaction. Apartheid was a segregation system along racial lines supported by administrative and legislative authorities (Global News). The system was meant to serve the best interest of the White minority while degrading the black majority.

The white minority regime created schools for blacks and whites to keep people of different races separated. The segregation policy was also enforced at recreational places such as beaches and parks, public transport, hotels, shops, hospitals, and banks. It was illegal for black to be found in areas designated as white only (Global News). Moreover, the law enforcement authorities were used to ensure that blacks and whites did not interact by arresting and charging the non-whites who were found to violate segregation policies. Without government authority, the apartheid system would not have been enforced (Global News). Police were all over, looking for the troublemakers, mainly blacks. Out of fear of retribution, the blacks, who were mostly affected by segregation, chose to observe the apartheid system.

Apartheid denied African quality education because the black people would not access quality schools. The apartheid system ensured that the blacks remained behind in education, which contributed to their lack of competitiveness for white-collar jobs. Also, apartheid bred revolt of the blacks as the white regime enforced segregation through brutal force. Mass action and the formation of the armed resistance movement led to deaths of blacks and injuries.

The apartheid system also impoverished Africans by maintaining them in unproductive reserves. The soils in these areas were poor, forcing blacks to provide cheap labor to white farms and mines. The apartheid system was designed to control the blacks and ensure that they are exploited maximally to benefit the white minority (Global News). The black people were not allowed to buy land in fertile areas set aside for the whites, which contributed to the perpetuation of poverty among the blacks.

The four racial groups included whites, blacks, Boars, and Asians. Each was forced to live a separate life from the rest.

**Passbooks**

The passbook was a mandatory identification document for all blacks aged 16 and above, whose role was largely to manage the black population. The passport has information on permissions a holder has, such as living in a particular area (OpenLearn from The Open University). The passbook identified various aspects of the holder, including employment, education-for students, and the freedom one could enjoy. In a nutshell, the passbook was a critical document that every adult needed to ease his or her movement within permitted areas.

The use of the passbook system in colonial South Africa affected Africans' lives in various ways that included economic, social, and political, among others. The passbook restricted black people's movement; one had to have the document anytime the authorities asked for it (OpenLearn from The Open University). In the passbook were permissions on where one could freely move, which implies that it governed the black people's movement, limiting them to authorized places only. One could not enter restricted areas without a passbook that indicated permission.

Moreover, the passbook determined whether a black person can look for a job, have a house, and work in a particular company or area. The passbook also imposed a poll tax on the holder, forcing them to work for the whites to raise the poll tax (OpenLearn from The Open University). The burden of the tax affected the economic status of the blacks. The black people would have realized much development without the poll tax and other restrictions that were imposed through the passbook. In this respect, the passbook affected the development of blacks because of the many restrictions it imposed.

**Natives Land Act**

The South Africa Native Land Act of 1913 was a law passed by the colonial regime in South Africa imposing restrictions on Africans access to and use of land. The law gave the blacks only 13% of the land, leaving the rest to the white majority. The 13% was overwhelmingly poor soil and unproductive (Pillay). The law simply made many blacks squatters in their own country because all of them could not fit in the 13 percent. Some blacks were forced to live on the farms owned by Whites at a high cost.

The Act created cheap labor by forcing Africans of their land; Africans were pushed to live in infertile and dry reserves, from where life was hard. The population of African could not survive on the small and poor soils of reserves. They had to look for alternative sources of income, which simply meant working for the whites. Restricted movement and other stringent measures put in place by the colonial government forced the blacks to seek employment in whites' farms and mines near their residential areas (Pillay). In essence, the Act placed Africans in a vulnerable position for full exploitation by the whites.

African accounted for 80% of the population, but this was not reflected in how the land resource was distributed. The distribution of land was done through discriminative law that perpetuated apartheid and the exploitation of the blacks. The blacks were not allowed to buy land from the whites and vice versa. The system was to ensure that the black majority remained subjugated and forced to work for the whites to survive (Pillay). In essence, the blacks were only allowed to own a small piece of South Africa for subsistence purposes.

Works Cited

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