

South Africa Chronology: Apartheid's Terminal Years / I

- 1983** UDF launched in Mitchell's Plain (20 August); immediate goal is opposition to Tricameral Parliament
- new SA constitution (September), including Tricameral Parliament
- 1985** Mandela and other political prisoners offered release if they renounce violence; they refuse
- Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) launched
- SADF Gaborone and Maseru raids
- State of Emergency, 21 July 1985 (until March 1986)
- 1986** SADF air force raids on Harare, Lusaka, Gaborone (19 May)
- State of Emergency reimposed on 12 June (until 11 June 1987) . . . reimposed annually until 1990
- US: Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, including sanctions
- 1988** SADF forced by joint Angolan-Cuban force to retreat at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola
- 1989** UNTAG in Namibia to oversee elections
- ANC, UDF, COSATU adopt Harare Declaration, outlining conditions for negotiations
- [new] Defiance Campaign launched by Mass Democratic Movement
- initial meeting between PW Botha and Nelson Mandela (July), following secret preparatory meetings between representatives of government and ANC
- FW de Klerk succeeds PW Botha, 20 September

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1990 FW de Klerk's speech unbanning opposition groups (2 February)

Mandela's release (11 February)

Namibia's independence (March)

Negotiations begin, including agreement in the Groote Schuur Minute, which provides for release of political prisoners, return of exiles, and amendment of security legislation (May)

ANC suspends armed struggle (August)

1991 ANC suspends constitutional talks (May)

Group Areas Act and Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 repealed (June)

National Peace Accord: government, ANC, IFP, 24 other organizations (14 September)

Goldstone Commission established

government and 18 other parties (excluding CP and PAC) that constitute the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) sign declaration of intent (December)

1992 whites-only referendum supports government, de Klerk (68.6%)

ANC withdraws from CODESA in response to Boipatong (and other) killings

state and ANC sign Record of Understanding (September)

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1993 Chris Hani assassinated (April)

27 April 1994 announced as election date . . . Inkatha and CP walk out of talks, later joined by Ciskei and Bophuthatswana (who later set up the Freedom Alliance)

Afrikaner Volksfront launched (may)

Afrikaner Volksfront and AWB invade negotiations venue

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk

Interim Constitution finalized; Transitional Executive Council installed

1994 less than a week before the election, IFP calls on supporters to vote

SA's first majority rule election (27 April)

Nelson Mandela inaugurated as President of South Africa (10 May)