

Lesson 4
Historical Development and Consequences of Apartheid



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Introduction: Events in South Africa today are a reaction to those years of apartheid (1948-1994) that allowed a minority (White) to control and exclude the majority (all other races) from participating in their society.

This lesson can be used in several ways:

- ◆ Exclusive focus on South African history (two 50-minute class periods)
- ◆ Comparison with United States history (add one more 50-minute class period)
- ◆ With references to the 200 excerpted United Nations laws on apartheid that are included as a teacher resource at the end of the lessons—see Teacher Resources (add one to two more 50-minute periods).

Objectives: At the completion of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Explain how events in a country's history can lead to suppression of freedom and individual rights for its citizens.
2. Identify and describe South Africa's present political and economic challenges resulting from years of legislated oppression.

Suggested Grade Level: 9-12

Time: One to five 50-minute class periods

Suggested Subjects: World History, U.S. History

Materials:

- ◆ History of South Africa Timeline
- ◆ Wall Map of Africa (classroom set)

Instructional Procedures:

[Note to Teacher: The History of South Africa Timeline is divided into five parts to allow students to focus on how apartheid developed and its consequences on South African society today. In many ways, South African and United States history are similar (i.e. immigrant groups, slavery, the Great Trek/Westward Movement, internal wars, acts of exclusion, etc.). For homework, have students research and then depict in charts parallels between South African and United States history.]

1. Begin by identifying South Africa on a large map. Next, distribute a History of South Africa Timeline to each student. Using the timeline and supplemental resources (point out that spacing on the timeline allows for note taking), explain to students how the following groups came to South Africa:

- A. The Dutch (Boers= farmers) migrated to the Western Cape area for freedom of religion and good grasslands for their cattle.
- B. Black Natives (Zulu) had already moved south thousands of years earlier into the eastern part of present day South Africa for grasslands for their cattle.
- C. The English arrived in the Western Cape area and wanted lands held by the Boers for ports & cities for their trade (later became part of the British Empire.)
- D. Indians/Colored settled in South Africa to work as servants and low cost wage earners.

2. Next, discuss the following questions with students:

- How is the Boers' arrival similar/different to the Pilgrims coming to America?
- How are Black Natives similar/different to the American Indians?
- How are European colonists coming to America similar/different from English settlers coming to South Africa?
- How are Indians/Asians similar/different to Blacks that came to America as slaves or workers (or even Mexican immigrants today)?
- What events in this period allowed Whites to get total control of South Africa?

3. Ask the class to read the 1910-45 portion of the timeline and explain how what is happening in the United States is similar/different during this period of time.

4. Select a group of students in class (i.e. Irish, Black, etc.) to represent the White minority in South Africa. Have them sit apart from the rest of the class. Ask the rest of to move closer together and explain that they are the Black/Colored population. Continue reviewing the dates/events.

5. Briefly discuss events (stay focused on personal freedoms/rights). Also, ask why apartheid didn't occur in the United States or did it? (Consider Indian reservations, ghettos, etc.)

6. Instruct students to read the last "post Apartheid" section of the timeline. Conclude by discussing the following questions:

- ◆ Can democracy succeed in South Africa?
- ◆ What are the reasons for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)? [Note to Teacher: Mandela says S.A. can not move ahead until it confronts its past]
- ◆ Is amnesty a good idea for those who perpetrated apartheid? Why or why not?
- ◆ What one thing must South Africa do today to successfully bury its troubled past?

Extension: Have students create a parallel timeline that also depicts what was taking place in the United States at the same time.

History of South Africa

1652 A.D To 2001 A.D

I Peoples of South Africa

- A. Blacks: Bantu Nation (Belong to Zulu Tribe)
- B. Dutch (white) arrive 1652 A.D. and were called Boers (meaning farmers)
- C. Colored/ mixed/Asian- anyone not pure blooded
- D. British (white) merchants/ traders/ navy

All above later born in South Africa will be called Afrikaners

II Collision of Interest

- 1652 - 1814 •Dutch colonization of cape
- 1658 - 1838 •Slavery and origins of colored population
- 1795 - 1814 •British colonialism of the cape
- 1814 •British establish a colony at the cape
- 1830's •(Dutch) Afrikaners want independence from British who now have control the cape
- 1833 •English abolish slavery
- 1835- 45 •(Dutch) Afrikaners want no part of British rule so migrate inland on the “GreatTrek”to N.E and confront Zulus
- 1860's •Wars- Dutch Afrikaners form into groups called commandos to fight British
- 1869 - 86 •Diamonds/ Gold discovered in Transvaal - Cecil Rhodes
- 1899- 1902 •Anglo-Boer war (England -v- Afrikaners)
•English put Afrikaner families into concentration camps (40,000 women and children die) world opinion against English, British win war

III Roots of Apartheid

- 1910 •South Africa becomes an independent country (with dominion status) – British do not want blacks ruling – (white) Afrikaners control
- 1912 - on •Blacks see segregation coming and form their own political party the A.N.C (African National Congress)
•Labor - all better jobs belong to whites, the laws exclude blacks
•Urbanization - Whites control cities and industry
•Dutch reform church dominates politics (Bible says: whites superior)
- 1931 •South Africa becomes independent member of British commonwealth
- 1939 - 45 •World War II – white Afrikaners in Germany studying Nazi race laws to control blacks

IV Apartheid means, “separate living:”

A. Apartheid starts after all white elections

- 1948
 - Whites get over 2/3 vote and can change constitution and set up apartheid policies
 - 23 million blacks forced to live apart from 4 million whites
 - Townships for non- whites created
- 1950
 - Population Registration Act- all people in South Africa now classified by race
- 1959
 - Tribal homelands (Bantustans) established to move “troublemakers” into rural areas
 - Blacks must carry passbooks, abide by curfew
 - Blacks receive no governments rights and are not citizens of South Africa
- 1960
 - Sharpeville massacre – 69 blacks killed by police
- 1961
 - South Africa cuts all ties to British empire and becomes the Republic of South Africa
 - African National Congress now banned

B. Racial separation in four areas:

1. Neighborhoods and schools
2. Interracial marriages
3. Elections (blacks cannot vote)
4. Police power and laws

- 1964
 - Nelson Mandela convicted of treason and sentenced to life in prison
- 1966
 - Whites bulldoze 200 year old colored area in Capetown (called district VI) because its location is too close to whites

C. Decade of prosperity

- 1964-1974
 - Gold goes from \$35/oz to \$800/oz

D. Economy crumbles in 1974

- 1971
 - First white unemployment
 - Black poet Steve Biko launches “ Black Consciousness Movement”
- 1976
 - First riots in Soweto & 10,000 blacks leave for Mozambique to train as guerrillas
 - Blacks form labor unions
 - Some Whites now come out against apartheid
 - Black Anglican church led by Bishop Desmond Tutu- demands justice
- 1983
 - New constitution allows for a “colored” parliament, but no parliament for the 24 million Blacks
- 1984
 - Bishop Tutu wins Nobel Peace Prize
- 1985
 - Start of economic sanctions against South Africa by nations around the world
- 1986
 - (Summer) Use of passbooks stopped
 - (December) Blacks can ride busses in some cities

- 1988 •South Africa agrees to independence (Meaning black rule)
- 1989 •New president, de Klerk allows changes
- 1990 •Mandela released from Robben Island after 27 years (24 years on Robben Island)
- 1991 •Blacks can now live anywhere & A.N.C becomes legal
- 1994 •End of apartheid

V Post- apartheid years

- 1994 •First democratic elections- Nelson Mandela becomes president
•A.N.C now political party in power
- 1995 •Labor relations act (job inequalities)- government imposes 4% tax on all employers to pay for job training
•(DEC) Government sets up courts in each province to hear cases of apartheid
•Forms Truth and Reconciliation Commission, (A committee of 17 – Bishop Tutu the leader)
3 committees on Human Rights violations:
 - Human Rights violations
 - Amnesty
 - Reparation and Rehabilitation
- 1996 •Racial Classifications reinstalled-Tracks progress in eliminating racism and sexism
•Land Reform Act- land and security issues with White farmers
•(DEC) President Mandela signs constitution into law
- 1997 •(FEB) Amnesty period ends for TRC
- 1999 •Thabo Mbeki (A.N.C) wins presidency (65%), but 2/3 majority needed to change the constitution