

Paper 1: Rights & Protest

Apartheid South Africa (1948-1964)

Summary

Apartheid is based on the idea that various groups/races are different from one another. Apartheid was similar to social Darwinist ideas, however, unlike these ideas, Apartheid was justified through Calvinist scripture. The South African Party (SAP) was led by Louis Botha and Jan Smuts. They wanted to create laws supporting racial segregation. The NP (national party) began to implement apartheid.

Nature & characteristics of discrimination

Petty Apartheid: complete domination economically & politically + brutal subjugation of black majority. Very ‘petty’. Characterized by separation of public facilities.

Grand Apartheid: Based heavily in ideology and marked a departure from straightforward racial discrimination (petty apartheid). More about complete territorial segregation of South Africa. Wanted to also establish moral legitimacy for the apartheid system towards the global community.

“Petty apartheid” vs. “Grand Apartheid” Legislation

Urban Areas Act- Restricted Africans access to designated “white only” areas. They were forced to carry passes to enter urban areas for work.	Group Areas Act- It was the first grand apartheid act-- “essence of apartheid”. It divided Urban Areas into segregated zones. It allowed the government to forcibly remove people from zones that weren’t designated for their racial group.-- Based on NP Sauer’s report that Africans had no place in cities and should remain on reserves
Prohibition of Mixed marriages act- Interracial marriage was entirely outlawed. It was one of the first acts passed after the rise of the National Party	The Bantu Education Act- It segregated schools entirely, with each having their own education. Education in Bantustans taught African culture rather than skills like literacy. This reduced Africans to only being able to pursue jobs in unskilled labor.

<p>The Act of Union/South Africa Act: restricted all voting rights to the minority white population w/ exception of few blacks who met narrow franchise qualification. This enforced political discrimination against black people, and the SAP put this into law to perpetuate this discrimination</p>	<p>The Extension of University Act- This extended the Bantu Education act to tertiary education. This prohibited previously mixed universities from continuing to accept a mixed population—creating designated Black and White universities</p>
<p>The Mines and Works Act of 1911: reserved all semi-skilled positions in the mining industry for Whites, meaning that all blacks had no option but to do poorly paid and unskilled jobs. This enforced discrimination against black people in the workforce.</p>	<p>Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act- This act created 10 Bantustans separate from White Society. They were “self-governing” and located extremely far from city. The first part of this act was the Bantu authorities act which created new regional acts. Only Israel and Taiwan acknowledged these Bantustans as their own nations—the land was unproductive.</p>
<p>The Natives Land Act of 1913: prohibited Africans from owning or renting land anywhere outside certain parcels of territory that would be designated as native reserved. This was only 7.5% of the country even though Africans made up 2/3 of the population. This enforced discrimination against blacks in housing.</p>	<p>Population Registration act of 1950- This act required every person in South Africa to register under their race and gender for the population register. The races were: Bantu, Colored (mixed), White, and Asian.</p>
<p>The natives (urban areas) act of 1923: decreed that cities were principally for use of the white population & any Africans residing there required to carry passes and could be arrested otherwise. Again, enforced segregation and discrimination against Blacks for housing and working.</p>	
<p>Industrial Conciliation act in 1924: legal registration for whites in trade unions allowed but not blacks. They were discriminated</p>	

against in the workforce as they could not negotiate better pay and conditions.	
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The Role & Significance of key actors/groups

Nelson Mandela:

- A youth leader of ANC for a little while, created the MK, arrested for involvement against apartheid.
- Mandela was seen as an idol for his creation of MK.
- Created the MK as he did not think that peaceful protests like the Defiance Campaign did enough to achieve the goals of the ANC
- Rivonia trial: sentenced to life in prison (& other MK leaders)
- Treason trial: all acquitted because of non-violence
- dominant figure in liberation movement between 1948 and 1964
- Before his imprisonment, Mandela persuaded the govt to accept the terms of the ANC before the movement got armed. Mandela was released from prison in 1990 & became president in 1992.

Albert Luthuli:

- President-general of the ANC from 1952 till his death in 1967
- Led through his commitment to use of non-violence and by moral example to oppose the apartheid system
- Focused on value of education as means of advancement for Africans
- Christian principles -> became a figurehead for protests that highlighted the moral injustice of the apartheid system.
- 1944-Joined ANC
- Became key organizer for Defiance Campaign
- govt reacted to his involvement by insisting he either resign from ANC or surrender his chieftaincy of Grootville

- surrendered chieftaincy

- released a counter statement titled “The Road to Freedom is via the Cross” in which he argued for non-violence as the only viable strategy to oppose apartheid + the system would eventually collapse bc white ppl would believe in injustice of racial system

- 1952-Elected president-general of ANC

- began to restore dignity to the office, however stopped by the govt when the Suppression of Communism Act was enacted

- Suppression of Communism Act: two year act that was the first in a series of banning orders that were to dog the remainder of Luthuli’s political career

- prevented him from holding large meetings or speaking in public + confined him to his home in Groutville

- once ban ended in 1954, launch of ANC’s Resist Apartheid Campaign resulted in his arrest and re-banning

- despite these bans he remained an important leader:

- role in formulating strategy of movement

- leaders would visit + consult with him

- wrote speeches + attended occasional ANC conferences

- Mid 1950s-Africanists and “Charterists” emerged as two factions in the ANC in which he tried to mediate

- Charterists: left-wingers who favored non-racialism + collaboration w/ SACP

- Luthuli hesitated in committing ANC to a full alliance w/ leftist parties and was accused by Africanists of openly siding w/ Charterists

- this was a factor in the decision of Robert Sobukwe + his supporters to break away + form the PAC

- 1956-Luthuli arrested + held for over a year as one of the defendants in the **Treason Trial** before being released due to a lack of evidence

- little involvement in boycotts taking place...later on he symbolically burned his passbook following the Sharpeville massacre + was briefly prominent in ANC’s campaign of strikes, protests and “stay-at-homes”

- charged + found guilty under govts new emergency powers but escaped prison due to ill health

- > now subject to constant banning orders by the govt -> younger generation seizing control of movement

- accept of Nobel Peace Prize brought the cause of the ANC to international prominence

ANC:

First founded as a politically moderate group, believed that white rule could both benefit and harm Black South Africans. Group behind the push to end Apartheid. Most important president is Albert Luthuli. Organized the Defiance Campaign, where protestors would break petty apartheid laws to get arrested and overflow the prisons. Created the APTAC to organize the Alexandria bus boycotts. Successful in creating an avenue for Black South Africans to voice their displeasure about apartheid. A failure as they did not end apartheid in South Africa or cause any apartheid laws to be repealed.

The Freedom Charter created as a would-be constitution for a democratic post-apartheid Africa

SACP:

The South African Communist Party. Helped the Black South Africans fight against apartheid. Influenced the integration of anti-apartheid groups through the COP. They were involved in the writing of the Freedom Charter. They allied with Mandela and Sisulu to create the MK. After 1975, they remained non-violent to gain funding and support from other communist countries.

MK:

- Organization created by Mandela. Underground and violent sector of the ANC. They targeted government infrastructure. There was a disagreement between the members of the ANC, with the violent members joining the MK. The MK was overall not successful, but it inspired the Black South Africans.
- The Sharpeville Massacre contributed to the decision to adopt the armed struggle.

-Sharpeville Massacre: when white policemen opened fire on a crowd of demonstrators outside a police station despite it only being a peaceful demonstration. Brought change in global opinion.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: Tom Lodge, historian, stated that even though the regime was strengthened in the short term by the crack down on african nationalism, the sharpeville massacre marked the true beginning of the international campaign against apartheid

- ANC decided to abandon strategy of peaceful resistance --> the armed struggle was created
- Official response: Rivonia Trial
- Resistance movement safehouse was located in Rivonia & 11 Defendants were put on trial again in the **Rivonia trial (1963-1964)** & charged under the Sabotage Act of 1962
- All accused in the Rivonia trial were found guilty of all charges. They were sentenced to life in prison instead of death b/c the government did not want to risk making them martyrs.

- **Consequences of the Rivonia Trial:** marked the end of an era in the struggle against apartheid, govt. Successfully broke ANC & MK, all leaders either imprisoned or in exile
- ANC was not completely dead however, & remains somewhat organizationally intact. Seen as the legitimate face of the anti-apartheid struggle
- **Soweto uprising 1976-** Explosion of violence, violence and revolts, international isolation on South Africa, trade sanctions placed on south Africa causing NP to take steps towards ending the apartheid system