

South Africa

History Timeline: from the late 15th century to 1948



Late 15th century: Portuguese navigators are the first to reach and explore South Africa.

1652: The Dutch set up a colony at Table Bay, the site of modern-day Cape Town. War starts between the indigenous people and the Dutch. Many native people are killed. Others are forced to leave their land or incorporated into the colonial economy as servants.

1658-: The Dutch bring slaves to South Africa, primarily from Madagascar and Indonesia, to work on the farms. The Dutch settlers become known as Boers, which means farmers, and later they are called Afrikaners.

Early 19th century: British influence starts in South Africa. The Cape of Good Hope becomes a British colony and a naval base. New towns are created, including Port Elizabeth.

1830s: To escape British rule, Boers migrate north of the Orange River where they found three colonies: the Natalia Republic, which is conquered by Britain in 1843, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

1880s: Britain defeats and annexes the Zulu Kingdom, situated between British Natal and the Boer Transvaal Republic.

1899-1902: Anglo-Boer War. The armed conflict ends with the British victory and the annexation of both Boer republics by the British Empire.

1910-1912: The Union of South Africa is established. It includes the colonies of Cape, Natal, Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The Union of South Africa becomes a self-governing dominion within the British Empire, and is governed under a form of constitutional monarchy, with the British monarch represented by

a Governor-General. In 1912 Black South Africans form a national democratic organisation – the African National Congress – to represent blacks and fight for their rights.

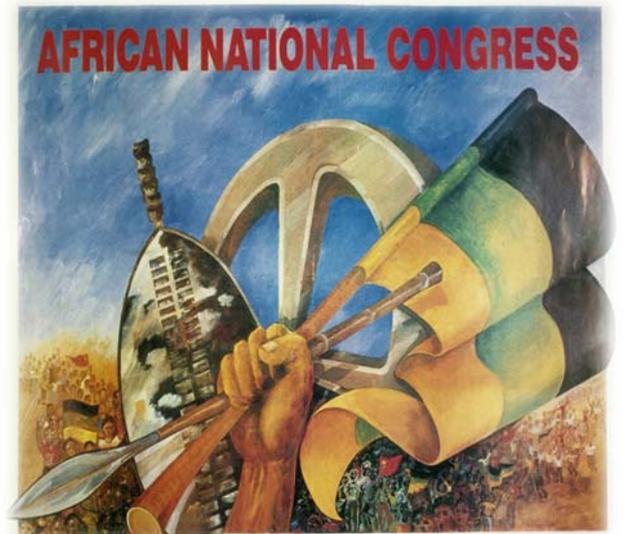
1910-1948: The Government and Parliament of South Africa is controlled by whites. Black people constitute two-thirds of the population and are not represented in Parliament. Racial segregation becomes a distinctive feature of South African political, economic and social life. 92% of the country's territory is reserved for whites and only 8% for blacks. Blacks live in reserves (townships), which have no real residential construction, no roads, electricity or running water.

Choose the correct option.

- 1) The first Europeans to establish a colony in South Africa are the
 - A) British.
 - B) Dutch.
 - C) French.
- 2) The Dutch bring slaves to South Africa because they
 - A) want to expand their settlement.
 - B) need people to work on farms.
 - C) they need people for their army.
- 3) British influence in South Africa begins
 - A) in the late 19th century.
 - B) at the start of the 19th century.
 - C) in the 18th century.
- 4) Boers migrate north of the Orange River because they
 - A) want to annex the Zulu kingdom.
 - B) want to escape British rule.
 - C) want to explore and colonise new areas.
- 5) The British annex the Zulu kingdom
 - A) by the 1880s.
 - B) in the late 1870s.
 - C) in 1880.
- 6) The British annex the two Boer republics in
 - A) 1902.
 - B) 1899.
 - C) 1910.
- 7) The Union of South Africa is established in 1910 as a
 - A) Republic.
 - B) self-governing dominion within the British Empire, and governed under a form of constitutional monarchy.
 - C) Totalitarian regime.
- 8) After the establishment of the Union of South Africa
 - A) 8% of the territory is reserved for whites.
 - B) 92% of the country's territory is reserved for blacks.
 - C) racial segregation legislation is passed.



- 9) The African National Congress is a national democratic party, which represents
- A) blacks and fights for their rights.
 - B) whites and fights racial discrimination.
 - C) blacks and whites.



South Africa

History Timeline: from apartheid to the first all-race democratic elections



1948 onwards: Whites continue to have all political and economic power. The National Party wins the general election and starts to extend the policy of racial discrimination to every aspect of social life. They give it the name of *apartheid*¹.

1961: South Africa becomes a Republic on 31st May, 1961 and leaves the Commonwealth of Nations, which it had joined in 1931.

1950s-1980s: Opposition to apartheid develops both within South Africa and outside the country. Black African parties, including the African National Congress, supported by some white groups, organise non-violent marches, strikes, and acts of public disobedience. The government declares these organisations to be illegal, uses the army to crush resistance, kills many black activists and arrests important leaders of the anti-apartheid movement, such as Nelson Mandela. Some countries are angry about apartheid, force South Africa to withdraw from international organisations and impose trade sanctions.

1990-1991: F. W. de Klerk, the new leader of the National Party and the new President of South Africa, abolishes most of apartheid legislation, lifts media

restrictions, legalises opposition groups, including the African National Congress, and releases political prisoners such as Nelson Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison.

1993: N. Mandela and F. W. de Klerk are jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize

April 1994: The first all-race democratic elections are held in South Africa. It produces a coalition government with a black majority. Nelson Mandela becomes President of South Africa and de Klerk vice president. South Africa rejoins the Commonwealth of Nations.

May 1996: South Africa adopts a new Constitution, which bans discrimination based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, or marital status.

1998: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission denounces apartheid as a crime against humanity and finds the ANC accountable for human rights abuses.

Vocabulary

- 1 The term means “separateness” or “apartness”. It comes from the Dutch “apart” (separate) and “heid” (hood = the state or quality of).

Your Turn



Answer the following questions

- 1) What does the National Party do in 1948?
- 2) What does the term “*apartheid*” mean?
- 3) Does opposition to apartheid develop both within South Africa and outside the country?
- 4) When does apartheid end?

Read the clues carefully and fill in the blanks

- 1) The _____
clue: It is held in South Africa in April 1994.
- 2) _____
clue: He was the first black President of South Africa.
- 3) _____ and _____
clue: They were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 .
- 4) The _____ adopted in _____
clue: It puts a stop to unfair treatment of a person or group because of their race, nationality, language, age, sex, looks, handicap, etc.

Guess what and who quiz

- It is the most efficient method of gps field data collection. You can use it on a smart phone to record any type of observation. This technology is used to track animals, birds, insects and other creatures. It was developed by Louis Liebenberg and Lindsay Steventon in 1996. Name Cyber
- He is a multiple Olympic gold medallist in the Paralympics. In February 2013, he was arrested for the murder of his girlfriend. Name
- He was born in South Africa before moving to England, where he wrote the “*Lord of the Rings*” trilogy. Name