

SECTION 2 REVIEW

- 1. Identify:** (a) Nelson Mandela, (b) Albert J. Lutuli, (c) Desmond Tutu, (d) Sharpeville massacre, (e) F. W. de Klerk.
- 2. Define:** apartheid.
- 3.** (a) How did apartheid divide South African society? (b) How did it promote social inequality?
- 4.** Why did the South African government change its racial policy?
- 5. Applying Information** How has the legacy of the pass laws contributed to violence among black South Africans today?
- 6. Writing Across Cultures** Write a letter to Nelson Mandela congratulating him on his election as president. Explain why you think the victory against apartheid in South Africa is important to people in the United States.

2

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

FIND OUT

- What was the purpose of apartheid?
- How did apartheid affect the lives of South Africans?
- Why did South Africa move toward democracy?

Vocabulary apartheid

“Free at last,” proclaimed Nelson Mandela in 1994 as South Africa held its first ever all-race elections. In a landslide victory, Mandela became the first black president of South Africa.

The elderly leader had spent 27 years in prison for opposing the racial policies of the old white-dominated South African government.

“Let there be justice for all. Let there be peace for all,” declared Mandela as he took office. “The time for the healing of wounds has come.” South Africans of all races hoped that healing would take place.

A Policy of Forced Segregation

In 1910, Britain granted South Africa self-rule. Until 1994, a small white minority governed the nation. Whites make up about 16 percent of South Africa’s population. The majority of South Africans—70 percent—are black. Other groups include people of mixed racial background (11 percent) and Asians (3 percent).

Origins of apartheid. In 1948, the Nationalist party came to power in South Africa. It drew support from conservative white farmers. Many of them were descended from Dutch settlers who held strong views on white superiority. South Africa was already segregated along racial lines, and the Nationalists strengthened the divisions. They set up the strict legal system of apartheid (uh PAHRT hayt), or rigid separation of races.

Under apartheid, the government classified all South Africans as white, black, “coloured” (people of mixed race), or Asian. It then passed laws to keep the races separate. Nonwhites could not vote. They were also restricted as to where they could live and work.

The government assigned black ethnic groups, such as the Zulus and Xhosas, to live in a number of bantustans, or homelands. Supporters of apartheid claimed that separation allowed each group to develop its own culture. The homelands, however, were located in dry, infertile areas. Four fifths of South Africa, including its rich mineral resources and fertile farmlands, remained in white hands.

Strict laws. Because South Africa needed black workers, the government allowed some blacks to live outside the homelands. To control their movement, it enacted pass laws. The pass laws required all black South Africans living in a town or city to carry a passbook. The



MAP STUDY

South Africa is the largest nation in Southern Africa and the most industrialized in all of Africa. Its natural resources include gold, diamonds, iron ore, chromium, and coal.

- 1. Location** Describe the relative location of South Africa.
- 2. Location** In what areas of South Africa are the major cities located?
- 3. Making Global Connections** Why do you think economic sanctions by other nations have helped pressure South Africa to end apartheid?

passbook included a record of where they could travel or work, their tax payments, and a record of any criminal convictions. It had to be carried at all times and produced upon demand.

Pass laws divided families. A man might have a job in town, while his wife had to remain in the homeland. One South African

newspaper reported how Mathilda Chikuye was fined \$25 for letting her husband live with her. She had permission to be in town, but he did not.

Apartheid enforced a system of inequality. Blacks were forbidden to ride on “white” buses, swim at “white” beaches, or eat at “white” restaurants. Apartheid also extended to education. Black schools received much less money and other support than white schools. As a result, literacy remained low among black students, and many dropped out of school. Only a very few black African students received higher education.

Struggle Against Apartheid

From the start, blacks and some other South Africans opposed apartheid. Leaders such as Albert J. Luthuli (luh too lee) urged nonviolent resistance. Luthuli won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1960. In his acceptance speech, he stated,

“ [Apartheid] is a museum piece in our time, a hangover from the dark ages . . . a relic of an age that everywhere else is dead or dying. . . . These ideas survive in South Africa because those who sponsor them profit from them. ”

Later, another black South African leader, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, won the same prize. Like Luthuli, Tutu strongly opposed apartheid but rejected violence. (See Connections With Literature, page 804, “The Ultimate Safari.”)

The South African police and government forces used violence, however. In 1960, protesters staged a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, a township near Johannesburg. The police opened fire, killing more than 60 people. The “Sharpeville massacre” aroused anger worldwide. As protests continued, the government banned opposition groups, such as the African National Congress (ANC). Black leaders, including Nelson Mandela, went into hiding. Mandela was captured and sentenced to life in prison in 1964.

Women and students. Many South African women joined the struggle against apartheid. At one rally, more than 20,000 women marched through Pretoria to demonstrate against the pass laws. During the years of struggle, many women lost their lives or went to prison for their beliefs.

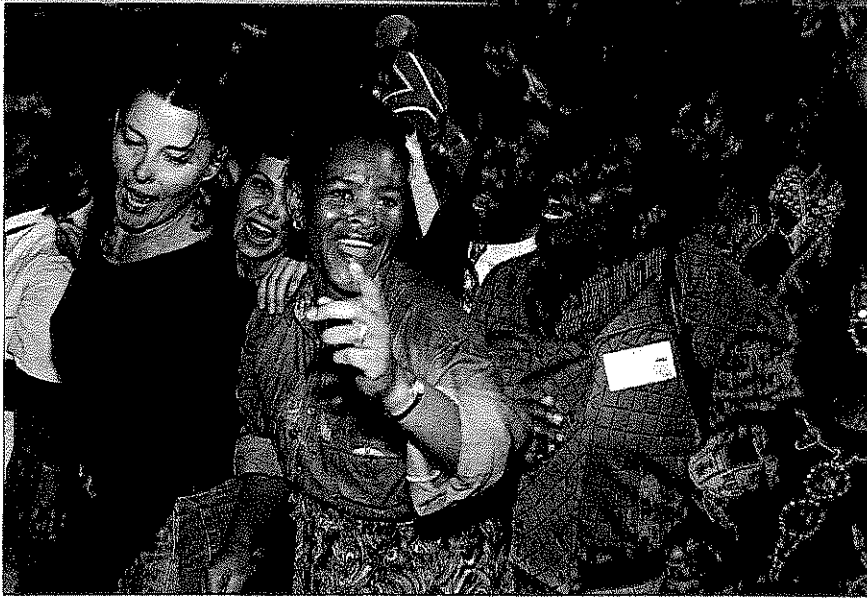
In 1976, students in Soweto (suh WEE toh), a black township located outside Johannesburg, protested a new law requiring the use of Afrikaans in all public schools. Afrikaans is the language of white South Africans who are descended from Dutch settlers. When the government responded with violence, the protests spread.

Pressure grows. While South Africans demanded change from within, international pressure grew. From its founding, the OAU had worked to end apartheid. It urged members to boycott South Africa. Other groups also pressed for change in South Africa. The United Nations placed an arms embargo on South Africa. International sports organizations such as the Olympic Committee barred South African athletes from competition.

During the 1980s, many nations, including the United States, imposed economic sanctions. This meant that they cut off trade in many items and ended financial dealings with South African businesses.

Protesting Apartheid In the long struggle against apartheid, black South Africans held demonstrations such as this to demand change and win worldwide sympathy for their cause. In white-dominated South Africa, blacks had no political rights and little hope for economic freedom. **Justice** Under what conditions can nonviolent protest be effective?





The Dawning of a New Era
Supporters of Nelson Mandela celebrate his election as South Africa's first black president. The relatively peaceful election raised hopes that South Africa could make a smooth transition to a non-segregated society. **Justice** What obstacles still stand in the way of blacks becoming equal members of South African society?

Steps Toward Change

Protests and economic sanctions had an effect. The sanctions slowed the South African economy, causing white business leaders to press the government for change. The ending of the Cold War also played a part. A growing number of white South Africans came to feel that apartheid must end.

In the mid-1980s, the South African government began to make changes. It repealed the hated pass laws and opened some segregated facilities to all South Africans. In 1989, South Africa's president, F. W. de Klerk, lifted the ban on the ANC and other groups opposed to apartheid. A year later, the government released Nelson Mandela from prison and began to hold talks with black leaders.

A new constitution. In the early 1990s, the de Klerk government slowly moved to end white-minority rule in South Africa. A new constitution was drawn up to give blacks basic rights. In 1994, elections were held to create a coalition government that would remain in office until 1999.

The historic election in which black South Africans voted for the first time swept Mandela into office. As he cast his ballot, Mandela noted:

“ We have moved from an era of pessimism, division, limited opportunity,

and turmoil. We are starting a new era of hope, of reconciliation, of nation-building.”

South Africa's future. As Mandela campaigned for office, he made many promises. He wanted to “heal the wounds of the past” by building a new order “based on justice for all.” That task meant bringing basic services such as electricity and housing along with decent schools and other improvements to millions of black South Africans.

The challenge was enormous. After years of hardship under apartheid, many blacks were eager to see rapid change. Yet Mandela also vowed to keep the economy from faltering. Even though foreign countries ended economic sanctions, the new South Africa could not afford to outspend its income.

Mandela faced other problems. A small but determined group of whites, particularly in rural areas, strongly opposed the new government of national unity. Ethnic and political tensions between Mandela's ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi (boo tuh LEE zee) had flared into violence during the election campaign.

Many South Africans admired Mandela and respected his efforts to create a nation “at peace with itself.” Yet Mandela was 75 years old, and no one knew who might be able to replace this strong leader in the future.