

Apartheid in South Africa Script

Slide 2: What was apartheid? It was a system of segregation against nonwhite citizens of South Africa that lasted up until the 1990s.

Slide 3: In 1948 the **National Party** gained control, resulting in multiple discriminatory laws and policies being enforced. Daniel Malan became the first Afrikaner, or white-South African nationalist, president.

Slide 4: In 1950, the **Population Registration Act** was passed. The Population Registration Act was essentially the foundation of apartheid, as it outlined the separation of races and led to other policies that enforced racial segregation. It divided people into four racial categories. This included Bantu (Black Africans), white, mixed race, and Asians.

Slide 5: Another law that separated people was the **Group Areas Act of 1950**, which assigned different racial groups into separate residential and business sections. This act, in collaboration with two others (collectively known as the **Land Acts**), was adopted with the goal of supplying white South Africans with the majority (almost 80%) of the land. Additionally, under apartheid, non-white people were also prohibited from using the same public facilities, having any marital relationships with white people, having certain jobs, establishing labor unions, and participating in national government. People were also forced to carry pass books.

Slide 6: Pass laws in South Africa required nonwhite people to carry documentation (called pass books) around restricted areas, in order to authorize their presence. These were designed to limit the movements of nonwhite South Africans.

Slide 7: In 1959, prime minister Hendrik Verwoerd passed the **Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act**, which separated Black South Africans into 10 homelands (called **Bantustans**); therefore, the government could claim that there was no longer a Black majority. Within 1961-1964, over 3.5 million South Africans were forced to leave their homes and move into one of the ten Bantustans.

Slide 8: Opposition to apartheid in South Africa was common throughout the years. In 1952, the **African National Congress (ANC)**, concerted with the **South African Indian Congress**, held a mass gathering, where pass books were destroyed and burnt. Additionally, in the 1950s, the ANC, the South African Indian Congress, the **South African Coloured People's Congress**, the **South African Congress of Democrats**, and the **South African Congress of**

Trade Unions formed a united group called the **Congress of the People**. On June 25-26, 1955, over 3,000 people of all backgrounds gathered in Kliptown for the creation of the **Freedom Charter**, which portrayed a vision of South Africa wherein everyone was treated equally, regardless of race.

Slide 9: On March 21, 1960, in the town of Sharpeville, approximately 7,000 Africans gathered outside the police station in an act of nonviolent protest against apartheid. Despite the fact that prior to the protest, the organizer **Robert Sobukwe** (a leader of the **Pan-Africanist Congress**) wrote to the police stating that the protest would be strictly nonviolent, the police nonetheless opened fire on the unarmed Africans. 300 police officers arrived at the protest, and 69 Africans ended up dying, and 186 were wounded. This event became known as the **Sharpeville Massacre** and led to hundreds of protests against apartheid and violence towards Black South Africans.

Slide 10: On March 30, the South African government made protests illegal, lasting until August of 1960. During that period, over 25,000 people were arrested. Then, later that year, the **Unlawful Organizations Act** was passed, which banned any groups that fought against apartheid, including the Pan-Africanist Congress.

Slide 11: Born on July 18, 1918, **Nelson Mandela** played a revolutionary role in the ending of apartheid in South Africa. In 1944, he joined the ANC, the African National Congress, and helped form their Youth League. In 1952, Mandela and a fellow ANC leader, **Oliver Tambo**, established the first Black law firm (**Mandela & Tambo**). Furthermore, in 1952, Nelson Mandela led an important campaign against pass laws. Because he was banned (restricted) by the end of 1952, he could only watch the creation of the Freedom Charter in June of 1955 at Kliptown. This means that his movement around the country was limited, and he was prohibited from leaving the country.

Slide 12: Later, in 1956, Mandela was arrested again, leading to the **1956 Treason Trial**. Over 150 people were arrested and tried with treason in Johannesburg. The entire trial itself lasted until 1961, with everyone acquitted. During the trial (around the same time of the Sharpeville Massacre) Mandela worked underground. He had ventured away from his nonviolent stance and helped found **Umkhonto we Sizwe** (“Spear of the Nation”), which was a military wing of the ANC. On August 5th 1962, he was arrested again, not long after he returned from a trip in which he learned about guerilla warfare. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison. In October of 1963, in the **Rivonia Trial**, Nelson Mandela (who was still imprisoned) and others were tried for sabotage, treason, and violent conspiracy. There, Mandela gave a speech on the dock, which gained international recognition. On June 12, 1964, Nelson Mandela was sentenced to life in prison. Mandela gained international support throughout his incarceration. Finally, on February

11, 1990, due to international pressure, **President F.W. de Klerk** released Nelson Mandela from prison.

Slide 13: International recognition put pressure on South Africa's segregational policies. South Africa was forced to leave the Commonwealth of Nations in 1961 until they got rid of the discriminatory policies. In 1985, the United Kingdom and the United States both put economic sanctions on South Africa. Soon after, in 1986, the government, under **President Pieter Botha**, abolished the pass laws, and later abolished the law forbidding interracial relationships. Furthermore, the government under his successor, President de Klerk, reversed the majority of apartheid's policies, including the foundational Population Registration Act of 1950.

Slide 14: In 1994, Nelson Mandela was elected as South Africa's first Black president, creating history in South Africa.