

## SOUTH AFRICAN HISTORY

### Timeline of South African History

- **1400s:** Zulu and Xhosa tribes establish large kingdoms in the South Africa region.
- **1652:** The Dutch establish the port of Cape Town. They are the first Europeans to settle in South Africa.
- **1852:** The British take control of Cape Town.
- **1886:** Gold is discovered in Johannesburg, making the city rich.
- **1899-1902:** Dutch settlers fight the British in the Boer War. Britain eventually gains control of South Africa.
- **1910:** South Africa becomes an independent nation.
- **1918:** Rolihlahla Dalibhunga Mandela is born on July 18 in a small village in South Africa. A teacher later gives him the English name Nelson.
- **1948:** Apartheid is introduced. Laws legally and physically separate different racial groups.
- **1952:** The African National Congress, a black civil rights group, begins a Campaign for Defiance of Unjust Laws as a protest against apartheid. Nelson Mandela is one of its leaders.
- **1960:** In the town of Sharpeville, 67 Africans are killed while protesting Apartheid.
- **1962:** Mandela is arrested for plotting against the government. Though he stays active politically, he will spend 27 years in prison.
- **1976:** Hundreds of black protesters are killed in an uprising in Soweto.
- **1990:** President F.W. de Klerk announces the end of apartheid. Mandela is freed from prison after serving 27 years.
- **1993:** De Klerk and Mandela are jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The San people were the first settlers; the Khoikhoi and Bantu-speaking tribes followed. The Dutch East India Company landed the first European settlers on the Cape of Good Hope in **1652**, launching a colony that by the end of the 18th century numbered only about 15,000. Known as Boers or Afrikaners, and speaking a Dutch dialect known as Afrikaans, the settlers as early as 1795 tried to establish an independent republic.

After occupying the Cape Colony in that year, Britain took permanent possession in 1815 at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, bringing in 5,000 settlers. Because of the large number

of British in the government and the freeing of slaves in **1833** drove about 12,000 Afrikaners to make the “great trek” north and east into African tribal territory, where they established the republics of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State.

The discovery of diamonds in **1867** and gold nine years later brought an influx of “outlanders” into the republics and spurred Cape Colony prime minister Cecil Rhodes to plot annexation. Rhodes's scheme of sparking an “outlander” rebellion, to which an armed party under Leander Starr Jameson would ride to the rescue, misfired in 1895, forcing Rhodes to resign. What British expansionists called the “inevitable” war with the Boers ( Boer War) broke out on **Oct. 11, 1899**. The defeat of the Boers in **1902** led in **1910** to the Union of South Africa, composed of four provinces, the two former republics, and the old Cape and Natal colonies. Louis Botha, a Boer, became the first

While South Africans demanded a change from within, international pressure grew. From its founding, the Organization of African Union (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 1980's, 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.

Apartheid's grip on South Africa began to give way when F. W. de Klerk replaced P. W. Botha as president in **1989**. In **1990**, De Klerk removed the ban on the ANC and released its leader, Nelson Mandela, after 27 years of imprisonment. The Inkatha Freedom Party, a black opposition group led by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, which was seen as collaborating with the apartheid system, frequently clashed with the ANC during this period.

In 1991, a multiracial forum led by de Klerk and Mandela, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), began working on a new constitution. In 1993, an interim constitution was passed, which dismantled apartheid and provided for a multiracial democracy with majority rule. The peaceful transition of South Africa from one of the world's most repressive societies into a democracy is one of the 20th century's most remarkable success stories. Mandela and de Klerk were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in **1993**.

The **1994** election, the country's first multiracial one, resulted in a massive victory for Mandela and his ANC. The new government included six ministers from the National Party and three from the Inkatha Freedom Party. A new national constitution was approved and adopted in May 1996. Mandela hoped to "heal old wounds of the past" He backed the work of a government commission that was established to gather data about crimes committed under apartheid. Uncovering the truth mean to free South Africa from its oppressive past. Mandela called for a new order based on "justice for all". He wanted to bring service such as electricity, housing and decent schools to millions of black South Africans. The goal posed a huge challenge, especially because