

# APARTHEID

## How to End It, Then and Now

Racism has infested the human race forever. In America, Africa and Australia, in particular, ethnic cleansing has altered the population in huge areas. After the second world-war, however, only two states have practiced aggressive ethnic cleansing through their laws, and only in one state does this disgrace remain, after the other – also by important actions from abroad – was cancelled toward the end of last century. The locals in the remaining racist country can hardly liberate themselves without foreign assistance. In order to achieve the best result, let us study the successful fight against the other.

### Apartheid in South Africa

**Apartheid** (*separateness*) was a system of legal racial segregation in South Africa between 1948 and 1994 [This Wikipedia article is the basis for the first part of the current analysis <sup>1</sup>]. The "apartheid laws" were enacted following the 1948 South African election and subsequent declaration of "grand apartheid". Legislation classified inhabitants into racial groups ("white", "coloured", "Indian" and "black" in decreasing evaluation). From 1958, Blacks were deprived of their citizenship, legally becoming citizens of one of 10 tribally based homelands called *Bantustans*, of which 4 became nominally independent states. The government segregated education, medical care, and other public services, and provided black people with services inferior to those of whites.

In the 1960s South Africa had considerable economic growth: trade with Western countries grew, and investment from the United States, France and Britain poured in. Resistance among blacks had been crushed. It appeared that South Africa's security forces could handle any resistance to apartheid.

In 1974, resistance to apartheid was encouraged by Portugal's withdrawal from Mozambique and Angola. South African troops withdrew from Angola in early 1976, failing to prevent the liberation forces from gaining power there, and black students in South Africa celebrated a victory of black liberation over white resistance.

In 1978; Pieter Willem Botha became Prime Minister. The economy had turned sluggish. The new government noted that it was spending too much money trying to maintain the segregated homelands that had been created for blacks and the homelands were proving to be uneconomic.

The anti-apartheid movements in the United States and Europe were gaining support for boycotts against South Africa, for the withdrawal of U.S. firms from South Africa and for the release of Mandela. South Africa was becoming an outlaw in the world community of nations. Investing in South Africa by Americans and others was coming to an end and an active policy of *disinvestment* ensued. The then Shell BP used to circumvent the oil embargo on the apartheid regime by buying crude oil from Nigeria and transferring the crude oil from their ship to oil tankers headed for apartheid South Africa. This was done outside Nigeria's territorial waters. When Nigeria found out, Shell BP was nationalized. In retaliation, Margaret Thatcher's government introduced visa requirements for Nigerians visiting United Kingdom. This was in retaliation for Nigeria refusing to pay any compensation for the nationalization. Also many South Africans attended schools in Nigeria.

In the early 1980s, Botha's National Party [**NP**] government started to recognise the inevitability of the need to reform apartheid. Early reforms were driven by a combination of internal violence, international condemnation, changes within the National

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<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_African\\_apartheid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_African_apartheid)

Party's constituency, and changing demographics—whites constituted now only 16% of the total population (down from 20%).

In 1983, a new constitution was passed implementing a so-called *Tricameral Parliament*, giving coloureds and Indians voting rights and parliamentary representation in separate houses - the House of Assembly (178 members) for whites, the House of Representatives (85 members) for coloureds and the House of Delegates (45 members) for Indians. Each House handled laws pertaining to its racial group's "own affairs", including health, education and other community issues. All laws relating to "general affairs" (matters such as defence, industry, taxation and Black affairs) were handled by a cabinet made up of representatives from all three houses, where the ruling party in the white House of Assembly had an unassailable numerical advantage. Blacks, although making up the majority of the population, were excluded from representation; they remained nominal citizens of their homelands. The first Tricameral elections were largely boycotted by Coloured and Indian voters, amid widespread rioting

By 1987, the growth of South Africa's economy had dropped to among the lowest rate in the world, and the ban on South African participation in international sporting events was frustrating many whites in South Africa.

In 1990, the new President Frederik Willem de Klerk began negotiations to end apartheid. He announced that he would repeal discriminatory laws and lift the 30-year ban on leading anti-apartheid groups. The Land Act was brought to an end. De Klerk also made his first public commitment to release jailed African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela, to return to press freedom and to suspend the death penalty. Elections in 1994, the first in South Africa with universal suffrage, were won by ANC with absolute majority. From 1990 to 1996 the legal apparatus of apartheid was abolished. It was demanded that before negotiations between the NP and the ANC commenced, political prisoners would be freed and all exiles allowed to return.

There were fears that the change of power in South Africa would be violent. To avoid this, it was essential that a peaceful resolution between all parties be reached. In December 1991, the Convention for a Democratic South Africa [CODESA] began negotiations on the formation of a multiracial transitional government and a new constitution extending political rights to all groups. CODESA adopted a Declaration of Intent and committed itself to an "undivided South Africa".

Persistent violence added to the tension during the negotiations. This was due mostly to the intense rivalry between the Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] and the ANC and the eruption of some traditional tribal and local rivalries between the historical tribal affinities. Mandela argued that de Klerk, as head of state, was responsible for bringing an end to the bloodshed. He also accused the South African police of inciting the ANC-IFP violence. This formed the basis for ANC's withdrawal from the negotiations, and the CODESA forum broke down completely at this stage.

Right-wing violence also added to the hostilities of this period. In addition to the continuing "black-on-black" violence, there were a number of attacks on white civilians by the "Azanian People's Liberation Army."

In 1993, de Klerk and Mandela were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize "for their work for the peaceful termination of the apartheid regime, and for laying the foundations for a new democratic South Africa".



It is reasonable to end this presentation by De Klerk's statement: "I apologise in my capacity as leader of the NP to the millions who suffered wrenching disruption of forced removals; who suffered the shame of being arrested for pass law offences; who over the decades suffered the indignities and humiliation of racial discrimination" [2]. May it serve as model for others who owe an apology?



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<sup>2</sup> De Klerk apologises again for apartheid. South African Press Association. May 14, 1997.

## The Only Apartheid State in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Millennium (so far)

Of course, you have already guessed, which state I am referring to. We are just about to forget, which unjustfulness we are about to commit in our search for pragmatic solutions to the 'Palestine Problem' which in legislation goes back to the same year as the South African Apartheid. Both have deeper roots of ethnic cleansing.

It has been said that no Israeli premier can survive the sudden removal of 500,000 Israeli from the West Bank and East Jerusalem. But then, let us find another solution, bearing in mind that we are talking of almost half a million thieves, living on stolen land (and if they bought it from the Israeli government, it is still land which has been stolen from their Palestinian proprietors). Let it here be admitted that a few – very few indeed – have obtained their living room directly from their original owners. If it were more, it would facilitate a solution. Worse, some (most?) of the settlers act as virtual criminals toward the suppressed race and is supported by some (most?) Israeli officials and politicians when doing so.

We have been talking about a Palestinian State on the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the land, Israel conquered in 1967. If the Israeli settlements should be tolerated there, possibly within their apartheid walls and Jews-only means of transportation, it would be a non-viable state, quite similar to the *Bantustans* of the first apartheid regime. The Palestinians (possibly even those presently with an Israeli passport) would be assigned to these homelands, while the refugees and the forcefully abducted remain in their camps abroad.



Possibly, some of the homeland politicians, intoxicated by their own political power, will even disturb negotiations for a final solution, as it happened in South Africa, and there will definitely be further terror from the present master race. No, let us better stop talking about the amputated Palestinian State. A two-state solution is a support of the Israeli ethnic cleansing.

What the decline of the first apartheid further learn us is, that boycott and divestment can be effective. Certainly, Israeli academics and sportier will feel it unjustified to be excluded from International gatherings, but it is necessary to isolate the whole nation, as it was necessary then in South Africa. To this comes the persecution of the Israeli war criminals. Let us not forget that the Ghetto of Gaza remains in blockade after the genocidal action in 2008-9, with the ruins left to restore. The money for it was granted after Israel's war, but the area remains closed for reconstruction.

There are important differences between present Israel and South Africa of the past. The Racist State of today enjoys – strangely enough – enormous support in North America, Europe and Australia. This must be encountered simultaneously, and it will certainly be no easy task. That, however, is no reason not to fulfil our moral obligations.

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