

SHEET 9: WHY WAS APARTHEID INTRODUCED?

The policy of separate development (apartheid in Afrikaans) was formally introduced by the National Party in 1948. These sources might reveal that it was not a completely new idea. See if you can work out from the laws the real reasons for apartheid.

Source 1

Slaves at the Cape had been forced to carry passes since 1709. This made it easier for their owners and the local authorities to control their movements. South African History Online

Source 2

[The Native (Urban Areas) Act, 1923] prohibited all people classified as 'Bantu' from remaining in any urban area for more than 72 hours unless they were born there or worked there.

Du Toit 1981: 20

Source 3

[The Pass Law of 1952 was]... a hated law which forced Black South Africans to carry a pass book, including a photograph, place of birth, employment records, tax payments and criminal records, and enabled the government to further restrict their movement. It was illegal to be without a Pass, the penalty for which was arrest and jail.

South African History Online

Source 4

The Pass Laws show no respect for marriage – men are forcibly separated from their wives because one of them cannot obtain the permit to reside in the same area. A child above the age of 16 needs a special permit to live with its parents outside the Bantustan reservation.

Mwakikagile 2008: 49

Source 6

It is unlikely that Apartheid would have happened were it not for the expansion of industry during the Second World War... This resulted in a massive influx of African work seekers who came to be seen as posing a major threat to the privileged position of largely Afrikaans-speaking unskilled and semi-skilled urban workers... [It also seemed to pose] a new challenge to white power from urban Africans.

Dubow 1992: 211



Source 6: Apartheid sign
© Maryleen Emeric, MBA

Questions

1. What racial laws had been passed before 1948?
2. How did things change after 1948?
3. Why do you think these laws were passed?

SHEET 10: HOW WAS APARTHEID DEFEATED?

As might be expected, apartheid was bitterly opposed even from the earliest days by Africans, many of whom did everything they could to destroy it. Increasingly, the international community joined in with sporting and trade boycotts. Protests became focused around Nelson Mandela, one of the jailed African leaders.

Source 1

In May 1918 Black workers across the country went on strike against low wages, poor housing and passes for men. Many of the protesters were arrested and imprisoned.

South African History Online

Source 2

On 21 March 1960, PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] supporters were to voluntarily leave their passes at home and offer themselves up for arrest at the nearest police station. The police panicked at the sight of thousands of protesters at Sharpeville and shot into the crowd. They killed 69, and injured 180 people.

South African History Online

Source 3

During the period 1916 to 1984 over 17,745,000 Africans have been arrested or prosecuted under pass laws.

Savage 1986: 181

Source 4

During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

Nelson Mandela speaking at his trial in 1964, quoted at South African History Online

Source 7

The sports boycott was the first public action to force the arrogant white regime in South Africa to bend and make adjustments in its policy of rigid racial separation, however cosmetic they were. It showed that massive international pressure can be effective in promoting the dismantling of apartheid in South Africa.

African National Congress



Source 5: Soweto, 16 June 1976
© Sam Nzima



Source 6: Free Nelson Mandela badge
British Museum

Task

Each source shows events, actions or images that led to the collapse of apartheid in 1990. Draw up a table in which you identify these events, and next to each one suggest why it was a setback for apartheid.