

# South Africa

- **1912:** African National Congress (ANC) founded to unite the African people against white minority rule and to create a non-racial and democratic South Africa.
- **1948:** All white Afrikaaner government begins policy of apartheid enforcing strict racial segregation, and modeled after US system of Indian reservations and the Jim Crow laws.
- **1956-1961:** Treason trial against opponents of apartheid begins
- **1960:** Whites terminate representation of African and Colored people in Parliament. In Sharpeville, the Police kill over 65 African protesters. African political organizations banned.
- **1962:** UN passes non-binding resolution to impose economic sanctions on South Africa. US and other Western nations were unhappy with the call for sanctions and boycotted the committee.
- **1962:** CIA was responsible for capture of Nelson Mandela. **1964:** Mandela, along with other anti-apartheid leaders convicted for treason, and received life imprisonment.
- **June 16, 1976: Soweto Uprising**—Thousands of students protest mandatory use of Afrikaans as official language in black schools. Police shot into crowd, killing 23 including children. Between 200-700 killed and over 2000 injured in continuing protests.
- **1977:** The UN Security council creates a mandatory ban on the supply of arms to the country.
- **1970s to 1994: Boycott and Divestment Campaign:** Apartheid in South Africa was strengthened by US and other international investment. Boycotting tactics involved people all over the world. Sanctions and embargoes applied to military supplies, economics, culture, and sport, and were designed both to isolate South Africa and to make the lives of the white population more difficult. The anti-Apartheid disinvestment campaign on campuses began in 1977 at Stanford, and had early successes at Michigan State, Columbia, and the Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1982, Michigan legislature and governor voted for divestiture of all Michigan state colleges and universities, an action struck down by the Michigan Supreme Court.
- **1983:** United Democratic Front (UDF) formed, non-racial coalition of 400 civic, church, students', workers and other organizations (national, regional and local). It had about 3 million members and its slogan "UDF Unites, Apartheid Divides" reflects broad support.
- **1984:** A new constitution is created, giving Asians and Coloreds limited participation in the central government; Africans are still not included.
- **1986:** Laws that banned interracial sex and marriage were repealed
- **1990:** President De Klerk releases the political prisoners, including Nelson Mandela.
- **1990:** Apartheid is over.
- **1994:** The first non-racial election is won by the ANC; Nelson Mandela is elected president. Immediately, Mandela creates Government of National Unity (GNU).