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**The Persistence of Inequality in Post-apartheid  
South Africa 1994 – 2023**

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Degree in Literature and Interdisciplinary Approaches Studies

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## **Dedication**

Gratefully, I praise Allah Almighty from the bottom of my heart for giving me the strength in my studies to accomplish this work

I dedicate this dissertation

To my beloved parents to whom I am grateful for the love and support

To my dearest Siblings who are always by my side

To my relatives, specially auntie Houria

To my university friends and professors

## **Acknowledgments**

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## **Abstract**

South Africa is a worldwide nation known for its legacy with colonialism and the historical period of racial segregation enforced by the government of South Africa from 1948 to 1994 – the Apartheid. This was officially abolished, but the lives of South Africans went on nearly in the same way. This dissertation, thus, aims to reveal the unequal environment that most South Africans have experienced despite the establishment of the new democracy in 1994. This will be achieved by shedding the light on the disparities in the context of politics, economy, education, health care, and other basic services that are linked to the nation's long time history. Therefore, this historical work, both descriptive and analytical, provides a comprehensive background about the history of South Africa, revisiting colonialism, and slavery under the Dutch and the British Empire. Moreover, it addresses the apartheid system and the inequalities underpinned by its policies, highlighting how the nation had overthrown and condemned this unfair system to long for a new democratic state. Ironically, the post-Apartheid agents are maintaining those disparities among South Africans, instead of bridging the divides created by the Apartheid and deeply rooted among them.

### **Keywords:**

South Africa, Apartheid, Post-Apartheid, Inequality, Racial Segregation, Democracy.

## **List of Abbreviations**

SA: South Africa

NP: The National Party

VOC: The Dutch East India Company

ANC: The African National Congress

PAC: The Pan Africanist Congress

TRC: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission

B-BBE: The Broad-black Economic Empowerment

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## **General Introduction**

From the High cliff of “The Drakensberg Amphitheatre” in KwaZulu-Natal to the waterfalls of “Lisbon Falls” in Mpumalanga, South Africa is a marvellous nation with a stunning natural beauty landscape and diverse wildlife besides its rich culture. It is located at the southern tip of the African continent, bordered by Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and Eswatini, with a diverse population of whites, Indians, coloureds, and blacks. The latter form the majority of the nation, yet they experienced many injustices in different aspects of their lives in both colonial and post-colonial stages of the nation. South Africa, however, is a democratic country that achieved its democracy through a historical path filled with struggles and conflicts over rights and freedom.

The Dutch arrival in 1652 was the shifting point in shaping South Africa’s present, from the establishment of the Cape Colony and the oppressive policies against South Africans to controlling slave trade business and adopting slavery as the nation’s labour system. The life of South Africans had changed entirely under their presence. Later on, the British also stepped in the colony and brought their own rules and dominance, raising the conflicts from the Dutch and South Africans side to the Dutch and British Settlers altogether.

Moreover, the climax of South Africa’s history was in 1948, when the National Party first presented the apartheid policies as a new institutionalised racial segregation and inequality system that faced a large oppositions from South Africans for its inhumane policies against them leading to one of the most memorable journeys of oppositions and fights for freedom, and presenting South Africa’s former president and Nobel Peace Prize winner Nelson Mandela to the world as a global symbol of peace and justice, for leading his people against the dominance of a white minority and their policies.

Additionally, 1994 marked the end of the apartheid regime in South Africa, and the African National Congress winning the elections becoming the nation’s ruling government till this day. The ANC made promises and claims that within the new democratic system the government will address the deep rooted cruelty and arbitrariness of the apartheid system, by building a united, equal society and eliminating any forms of discrimination. However, despite the ANC’s remarkable progress reducing the racial tension in the country, South Africa and till this day still

considered one of the most unequal countries in the world, and the population still struggling with disparities from different aspects (politic, economic, ... etc) Many people claim that although the apartheid had ended, it is still haunting South Africa's present, and that the ANC had lost its credibility in front of the people with its slow progress. Therefore, two research questions had been developed for this study:

- How did the apartheid come to an end despite its dominance at the time?
- How has inequality continued to exist in various aspects of post-apartheid South African society?

This research paper is meant to identify the various factors that are contributing to the ongoing inequality in post-apartheid South Africa, and allowing us to explore them from different aspects, including politics, economy, and education, etc. Moreover, it is for understanding the history of South Africa and their first contact with the outer world, and providing an idea about the apartheid system and its policies, and how it did come to an end.

This work is divided into three chapters. The first chapter will give a historical background starting when the Dutch first set sails to the southern tip of Africa, followed by the British Empire that was a great power at the time, and discussing the establishment of the Cape Colony and the role of slave trade and slavery in the region. The second chapter provides an overview about the apartheid system and how it was introduced to South Africa's community, and exploring their journey with oppositions and resistance to overcome these oppressive policies. The third and last chapter will explore the transition to the democracy under the ANC rule, and tackle the different issues that maintain the disparities among South Africans in the different walks of their life.

## **Introduction**

South Africa is a nation that has been inhabited by humans for thousands of years; it is located in the far southern end of the old world. South Africa has a large history with the racial segregation and colonialism that is still affecting the nation's citizens white minority and black majority. The first contact of the outside world with the region was by the Dutch in 1652, leading to the unintentionally creation of a new ethnic group with its own society, ideology, language and from a modern perspective its unique sins. After decades of the Dutch growing their settlements and expanding their dominance in The Cape Colony, The British Empire set sail crossing the Atlantic ocean in the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, reaching the southern tip of Africa and claiming The Cape Colony officially as a British colony, creating a lot of changes by bringing a new governing system, and enhancing the tension, diversity and conflicts in the region.

### **1. The Dutch Settlers in South Africa**

Modern humans have lived at the southern tip of Africa for more than 2000 years, most of them lived by hunting animals and gathering plants to survive. In the 16th century, the first European settlement in southern Africa was established by the Dutch East India Company in Table Bay known now as Cape Town, which converted South Africa into a colony and changed its inhabitant's lives entirely.

Throughout the age of Discovery era, like Portugal, the Netherlands was considered a small country whose agriculture was mainly dependent on sea trade. At that period of time Power and wealth concentrated in the hand of those who have a part in the spice trade business, and controlled spice routes and transportations. The Dutch wanted to be a part of the lucrative spice trade so they decided to send fleets to India and the Far East. The Dutch government decided that a chartered business company would be beneficial to profitably govern the future uprising spice trades in India and Indonesia. In 1602 Dutch East India Company or (VOC) which stands for "Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie" was established and claimed full economic and political authority on the Dutch possessions in the East. It was considered a strong company at the time and the outgoing and ingoing Dutch ships were sailing on behalf of its policy and protocols. In 1651 the VOC council decided to send a fleet with a couple of citizens to the cape under the command of Jan Van

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Riebeeck<sup>1</sup> who was a competent member of the company. The purpose of this trip was to establish a refreshment station to supply the crew of the Company's passing trading ships with life supplies to continue their journey such as fresh water, vegetables, fruit, meat and medical assistance. The arrival of Jan Van Riebeeck marked the beginning of permanent European settlement in the region. (Dutch East India Company)

### 1.1. The Settlements Developments

The first priorities were to find food sources, try to adapt and learn about the climate change, approach the native's population and make contact and begin construction of the fort. All these efforts progressed simultaneously. The settlers were divided into two groups, the first were put to work experimenting with growing various kinds of European crops, while others were sent to explore the coast and further inland for meat and fish or other supplies. Before the expedition's arrival, the region had been sparsely populated by the Khoikhoi<sup>2</sup> and San<sup>3</sup> tribes. The Dutch made initial contact with the Khoi and began trading European goods for local cattle. This relationship benefitted both communities and continued for several decades. There were periods of conflict between the Khoi and the Boers which is the term the natives used to refer to the new settlers and it means farmers, but the Dutch tried to stay on good terms with them when possible. However, the San group were not interested in dealing with the Dutch. (South Africa Timeline) With food sources availability and the fort under construction, Cape Town, the first settlement, was established. Throughout the time more supplies have been brought by arriving ships, the climate studies proved that the growth of European crops, trees and even plants from India and the Far East is perfectly suitable, also a sufficient number of cattle was purchased from the KhoiKhoi people, that eventually there were enough for the Dutch farmers to raise their own cattle. Additionally, the settlers invested in planting grapes and extracting wine, which began the long tradition of the South African wine. Fighting crimes and criminals was essential, so establishing the law and order was a priority as well. To punish such acts like criminal sellers or slaves who attempted running away, or stealing attempts which usually happened by KhoiKhoi and San people from the Dutch farmers, they will be sent to Robben island in Table Bay to live in isolation from

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<sup>1</sup> A Dutch navigator and colonial administrator under the Dutch East India Company.

<sup>2</sup> They are the first native people in South Africa that to make contact with the Dutch settlers at the time.

<sup>3</sup> They also known as 'Bushmen', they are the oldest inhabitants of Southern Africa, and they were hunter-gatherers.

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the main land as prisoners, and this was the same prison where The President Nelson Mandela spend his 18 years. (The Dutch Settlement)

At the first arrival the struggle to survive was extremely harsh, many settlers had died, mostly due to obscure diseases and climate changes. Since their arrival, the first winter was extremely hard because Jan Van Riebeeck and his crew didn't have an appropriate settlement yet, they were only living in wooden huts, and the continually heavy rain caused all of their farms to be washed away which led to dwindling in the amount of food and approximately 19 men died.

### 1.2. The Cape Colony

The Dutch East India Company claims that there were strict instructions for Jan Van Riebeeck not to colonize the region. The aim was only to build a station for the company's ships and fleets as a resting spot and to escort them into the bay, and provide them with supplies etc. However, despite the claims that VOC originally wasn't intending to establish a colony in 1657, declarations were announced that nine company employees would be given farming lands as much as they can grow and work in three years in order to deal with wheat shortage problem that the colony had, but on one condition, they were forbidden from trading with the native or anyone else but the company, these officials became known as the <sup>4</sup>Free Burghers who stood for farmers, and formed the nucleus of the white South African population that came to be known as Boers. Now the private farms rate is increasing, and the station was able to stock enough supplies to the passing ships. South Africa at that time was so different from the Europe, they were considered as traditional community that stood mostly on tribes (KhoiKhoi and San), these societies were living in their land as farmers and gatherers for the sake of their survival, they had no sophisticated culture, constitutional laws and most importantly bureaucratic framework, seeing that they had no written culture affected the land trade business with the new settlers. The possession of the land was based on inheritance of their previous ancestors and there weren't any documents or title deeds of the ownership which gave the Dutch the upper hand. Hence, Van Riebeeck claiming to be a bureaucratic culture man coming from a bureaucratic system of governance, he declared to cooperate the land ownership by the Dutch/European way. Since the Khoisan has no title deeds or written evidence he denied their rights of possession of lands or gazing pastures and hunting, and

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<sup>4</sup> The Dutch who are no longer in service to the VOC.

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they claimed that there was not enough grass for both groups' cattle. The KhoiKhoi didn't accept Jan Van Riebeeck policy and his imperial act against them, so they declared the first uprising against the Dutch invasion in 1659 which lasted for a couple of years of armed resistance from both sides, in consequence to this the Khoikhoi lost the war which resulted in the establishment of the Dutch Cape Colony, and expanded into a fort and formed the foundation of receiving more European immigrants at the cape. (The Dutch and Khoisan)

### 1.3. Enslavement in the Cape Colony

Since the arrival of the Dutch and their settlements, they struggled with the lack of labour because most of the settlers were ignorant about farming and surviving - which affected the settlement development and slowed the progress of the colony but that didn't stop them from managing the station business. The more expansion of lands and allowing of free burghers was so necessary and beneficial for the VOC station, but it also created a cramped business environment with a tight number of men power to run it down. The settlers tried to reach to the local Khoi people for employment through negotiation, but they were unwilling to perform the labour for the meagre reward the Dutch tried to offer them in return, which brought Jan Van Riebeeck to see no escape other than enslavement. The settlement commander Riebeeck reached to the VOC shareholders the Heeren XVII<sup>5</sup> who were the ones that run the company and were in charge of all its business, he demanded their assistance to bring slaves to the cape so they improve the settlement progression and evolve the farming rate by bringing more workers. The VOC and after many declines approved the request, and 1658 marked the first time slaves were imported to South Africa for agricultural purposes. The slaves were brought by the VOC ship Amersfoort in the 28<sup>th</sup> of March and contained 250 slaves and only 170 made it to the cape. These slaves were captured from a Portuguese slave trader ship that was sailing to Brazil. After two months another slaves' cargo with 228 slaves set sail in the cape from Ghana, around the 17<sup>th</sup> century the slaves' rate marked a high increased rate from 2 500 to 14 500 - the triples of the colony's population. (Slavery and Colonisation in SA)

The main source of slaves in the late 17 century to the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the Indian subcontinent<sup>6</sup>, Indonesia and Madagascar with approximately 80%, South Africa reached its peak

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<sup>5</sup> It means Gentlemen Seventeen, they were the directors that rule the Dutch East India Company.

<sup>6</sup> It was a region in Southern Asia that was considered a crossroads between Africa and Australia.

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and became the main route to slave trade when it was under the governance of the Dutch East India Company. In the 1800s century some European nations had abolished slavery such as Britain and the Netherland, so most cargo ships after trading in the Indian subcontinent or Asia sailed to the cape and traded their slaves to the colony since it is forbidden for them to go back with slaves. In 1807 and under the rule of the British Empire, the British government officially declared the abolishment of slave trade between colonies which marked the end of slave trade in South Africa, and 60 000 slaves were imported to The Cape colony. (Slavery and Colonisation in SA)

Now the slave route business is closed, the colony's economic interest has changed, and since the importation of slaves to the cape has stopped, the society became a full-fledged slave society. As the expansion of agriculture and economic field and the incapability of managing the land without the slaves, slavery was essential for the progress of the colony and its survival, therefore, slave ownership was widespread in South Africa, slaves were put to farms mostly under the white community, approximately all of the white population had at least one slave.

The VOC did not institute a form of law to the racial classification, the VOC classified slaves in South Africa mainly by Black and White races. But there was a minority which were not enslaved out of the land and were considered as natives but got captured and sold as regular due to their skin colour. Thus these minority mostly when they got freed they were called "free blacks" these people had acquired lands and managed to buy slaves for their own and be farm masters as well , yet as I mentioned before, they were just a small percentage of the society.

### **2. The British Settlement in South Africa**

By the end of the 1700th century, South Africa earned its place in the worldwide economy as a colonized nation, due to its geographical and strategic location on the southern part of Africa, and being the gate to the trading route to the Indian subcontinent and Asia. The British occupation of the Cape Colony was like a big jump in the history of South Africa. Their arrival affected the country and the people's lives in different ways, and Britain's primary goal to control the trade route essentially changed into personal benefits.



### 2.1. The British Occupation of South Africa

In the late 17th century Britain was in a war with France. The French were considered a strong power with large dominance among the Europeans at that time, and it was a matter of time until it claims and control the Cape Colony in South Africa. Since the uprising of the Napoleonic wars<sup>7</sup> in Europe and the Netherlands slowly complying with the French, Britain saw an opportunity and claimed the Cape colony to control the trade route in South Africa and defend it from the French role in the area, of course, the VOC didn't stand and watch, ought to the arrival of the British a war has been emerged between the British and the Boers to defend the land. The Dutch hold was so weak due to the vast difference in the military resources between both sides. Britain had the upper hand by the empowered weapons and naval force while the Dutch didn't have much to counter with, and what made it even harder is the falling of the Netherlands under the French control which made the Dutch East India Company helpless against the British occupation. After several conflicts, the Dutch garrison of Cape Castle surrendered to the British under Sir David Baird and received a compensation of 6 million pounds for the full control of the colony. The Cape became a vital base for Britain in trading and linking with its colonies such as India. (Cape Colony)

Throughout the years, significant changes have been adopted in order to express the British identity in South Africa. They had rules, laws, and customs that would take a side against the other people. The British rule started to recreate the infrastructure of the colony according to Britain's ruling system and laws; English became the main language in paperwork, exchanges, and administrations taking over the Dutch language, eliminating the Dutch currency rix-dollar and adopting the pounds sterling as the nation's main currency for goods exchange. (Cape Colony) A virtual freehold system of landownership gradually replaced the existing Dutch tenant system, under which European colonists had paid a small annual fee to the government but had not acquired land ownership.

In 1820, the Cape Colony witnessed the first arrival of the British settlers in their new land, approximately 4000 Settlers made it to South Africa, by 60 different parties, to work in farms and defend the frontier from the Xhosa<sup>8</sup> people. After the resolution of the Napoleonic wars, Britain found itself in a social predicament struggling with the high rate of joblessness in the nation;

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<sup>7</sup> A series of conflicts created by France, and led by Napoleon Bonaparte to maintain the French power at the time.

<sup>8</sup> They are the second largest ethnic groups in Southern Africa.

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therefore, the government made a decision to encourage immigration to the Cape Colony by expressing the opportunity for labour and acquiring lands. (Lowe)

### **2.2. Slavery Under the British Rule**

In order to improve the economic sector in the colony, the VOC brought enslavement to South Africa as an option for cheap labour, which later on evolved into a large slave trade business around the Indian Ocean and took a part in the Atlantic slave trade. Initially, all the slaves were under the VOC control, but later the farmers could also own slaves for their own. Slaves were hired into different functions in the colony including farms, stores, warehouses...etc. Slavery was fully supported by the Roman-Dutch legal system that the VOC brought to the Cape, which means slaves are considered property to their owners. This form of slavery stands on the fact that one human being is the legal belonging of another human being, which determines to the master the possibility to buy, sell or use slaves, and the latter are obliged to obey the law or they could be severely punished for opposition such as running away.

Slaves' lives were extremely harsh, they had no freedom entirely, and they lived in horrible dirty conditions filled with pain and torture, as they worked very long hour. They barely get enough healthy food or sleep. Since they were regarded as a possession they were forbidden to make a family or a property and had little chance of education. After the abolishment of the slave trade, slaves' lives became slightly better. Since there was no more slave trade business, slaves are no longer easily available, and if they are they would be extremely expensive, as of that owners started treating their slaves a bit better because it would be tough and unaffordable if slaves run away or die from the abuse.

Under the British rule, the empire managed to improve slaves' lives and their welfare. A restricted law had been declared in slaves' favour to create a secure protective environment. The British government presented the Amelioration laws<sup>9</sup> which improved slave's life so much better than before. They got rights, they became able to possess a house to get legally married and have children, they were allowed to live with their families, and their children were forbidden to be sold until a certain age. Slaves were allowed to save what they earned, which allowed a lot of them to

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<sup>9</sup> A series of laws that allowed slave trade among the white community, but with better living condition to the slaves.

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buy their freedom from their owners, and the government was on top of the laws and made sure to be restricted and obeyed under any circumstances. In 1834, the British Empire declared the end of slavery in all its colonies including South Africa, and the slaves would be freed immediately and no longer work for their masters unless they wanted to and no longer be owned or abused. The first time in decades more than 75% of South African citizens had got their freedom to be a citizen. (Britain take cape control)

### **2.3. The Dutch under the British Rule**

Slaves affected the economy of the Cape, as well as the lives of almost everyone living there. It was the productive factor of the economic growth in the colony. But the end of the slave trade participation by the British Parliament has threatened the basis of the Cape's labour supply for Boers in the eastern areas and the west as well. The Boers didn't realize that the change of the government means the change in the system as well. Slaves' demands smashed the market and everyone wanted to purchase more slaves. Slave exchange has been limited and it became by auctions, and that when the tension between them and the British has emerged. After a couple of years of the British settlements in the colony, they sent a group of missionaries to the cape to raise the religious awareness and actively assist the community with their faith and judgments, and by time they were given the permission to proselytize in place of Dutch missionaries. These missionaries, and after witnessing the brutality against the slaves, as it was mentioned earlier the slaves wellbeing was so bad due to the mistreatment and the abuse they received from their owners since they were considered as a possession; They condemned the cruel labour practices often attempted by the Boers against their slaves and Khoikhoi workers to the British officials in London. The complaint was taken in consideration, and as a result they did not banish such abusive acts, although, there was the establishing of the circuit court to keep up with the slaves conditions, and also the force of the colonial police. In other words owners were allowed to beat their slaves or punish them as long as not extremely or in some cases till death. Boers as a Dutch descent are attached to their faith in Christianity and the belief of the superiority upon other races. This decision has offended them by giving the approximate equality of "servant" and "master", black and white alike. An incident in 1815 when a Dutch speaking farmer who refused to attend a court case against him for mistreating a KhoiKhoi worker was killed during his resistance to be arrested,

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which caused the rise of Slachter's Nek Rebellion <sup>10</sup> that ended with the hang of five of the protestors.

The Cape Frontier is part of the Cape colony that dealt with series of intermittent conflicts between European colonists and the Xhosa people of southern Africa in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century to the 1800s. There had been a trading connection between Both the Dutch colonists in southern Africa and the Xhosa since they were both farmers, but the dispute has grown over the grazing ground and the terms of cattle trade; therefore, the Boers' governor adopted the idea of setting boundaries between the two groups in order to make them in good terms again, so the Great Fish River was assigned as a boundary that separated the Boers from the Xhosa community. Though the solution succeeded for a period of time, the Xhosa people crossing the river from time to time bothered the Boers whom they claimed they were stealing their cattle or killing them which led to a war between both groups, and then several wars after. (Lotha and Tikanen) By the time the British rule came to South Africa the conflict was still rising. The British planned to secure the eastern frontier by building a string of forts along the Great Fish River. In 1819, a war has emerged between the British and the Xhosa over the frontier which was known as the Grahamstown war since it was located in Grahamstown, although, the Xhosa outnumbered the British army they got defeated. The British Governor attempted to possess this eastern frontier by creating a model farming settlement that used settlers as workers, which bring us to the reason that made the colony governor adopt the Xhosa, which was clearly against their belief. A few years after, the abolishing of slavery in 1834 came out, and it was the match in the powder barrel for the Boers in the colony. (Britain take Cape control) All slaves were now free citizens, and the owners had no longer possession on any person, and the government provided refunds to all the slave owners as a compensation. When the British first arrived they assured that there would be no interference in the Boers way of life, but looking to the decision that led to this point it is obvious that the promise had been broken. The Boers survival in the Cape was based on the slaves who Carries their farms and businesses. The Boers saw this as a direct attack on their way of life and a threat to their livelihood income, and the compensation that was offered was inadequate to make up their losses and it was specified to be only collected from London though most of the Boers were unable to make the trip. This meant that many Dutch farmers at the cape lost a great deal of their wealth, so they complained

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<sup>10</sup> It was an uprising in 1815 by the Boers on the eastern borders of the Cape Colony, and it is translated as Slaughter's Neck Rebellion.

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against the British and made an uprising because of the mistreatment led by Piet Retief<sup>11</sup>. The leader handed a manifesto to the Graham's Town Journal in the second of February 1837 that read:

"We complain of the severe losses which we have been forced to sustain by the emancipation of our slaves... We complain of the unjustifiable odium which has been cast on us by interested and dishonest persons, under the cloak of religion, whose testimony is believed in England..." (Cape Colony)

He mediated between the Boers and the British governors to sort things in better ways. Since the talks failed, the Boers and he managed to organize the great migration of Dutch farmers to the north of the country as a rejection to comply with British rule in the Cape, which was known as the Great Trek.

### 2.4. The Great Trek

Since the first arrival of the Dutch to South Africa, the settlement has been established and developed into what is known the Cape Colony. Over the course of a century the colony was ruled by the Dutch-Boers under their standard laws. The British conquest of the land affected the Boers negatively. Their attempt to Britainize<sup>12</sup> the colony by applying their laws and language attracted the Boers rage over the British which led to the group immigration "The Great Trek" in 1835-46. The Great Trek which came from the Dutch language as "De Grote Trek" which means wondering, it was considered as a movement of the Voortrekkers (who are the Afrikaners, a modern name that was adopted by the Boers to build their identity) who draw their ways into the interior of SA to find a new homeland and be independent from the British. It was landmark in the era of expansion, and it took a big part in shaping the future of the republic. Piet Retief stated in his manifesto four complains against the administration, and the abolition of slavery was listed second while first, he clarified that the colony was lost and ruled by evils who equalized them as Christians with that he described them vagrants. (Grupta et al)

After the abolition of slavery Piet Retief and other Dutch-speaking colonists gathered on the decision to seek a new land to live in and establish their own territory hoping to restore their economic and political independence from the British government which was approved by the

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<sup>11</sup> He was a Voortrekker leader

<sup>12</sup> A term refers to when the British Empire force its laws and culture to its colonies and make them a British nation.

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majority of the Boers. In 1834 an expedition that was sent to explore the interior had arrived and stated that there was land located in the east by the coast that was suitable and fruitful for the Boers lifestyle, and barely populated, due to the Zulu's<sup>13</sup> power and dominance over the other tribes and the conflicts that cost most of them their lives. The Voortrekkers started packing their equipment, then the departure had started from the Cape to far east across The Orange River. The travel was divided into two different parties led by five different leaders and Retief was one of them. The trek was set on trial of wagons; these carriages were ingeniously designed and surprisingly light, so as not to strain the oxen, and to make it easier to negotiate the veld, narrow ravines and strong to carry their agriculture implements, weapons and other household goods. The interior was a horror mystery; they must expect anything from diseases to other spread tribes, the barren Kalahari Desert to the west of Highveld, and the Tsetse fly belt which stretched from the Limpopo River south-eastwards, could not have been a very inviting prospect, too. And the struggle with the constant death of cattle and even humans because of the fatal malarial mosquitos. Yet, the Voortrekkers ploughed on through treacherous terrain, eliminating all obstacles in their path, and intent on gaining access to ports beyond the sphere of British control, such as Delagoa Bay, Inhambane and Sofala., in order for their new settlement to be viable. (Great Trek)

In 1837 Piet Retief and his party made it across the Drakensberg mountain range hoping to settle in the Zululand. The latter was known for its strength and the brutality of its people and their leader King Shaka<sup>14</sup> to invaders. Retief was hoping to settle specifically in Natal, ruled by Dingane ka Senzangakhona, King Shaka's half-brother; so, he sent a letter expressing his will to live in peace, mentioning the defeat of King Mazilikazi of Matabele Kingdom as a strategy to prevent him attacking the Voortrekkers, but it was clearly a threat. Dingane approved Retief's letter and accepted his request to have a place on his land but on one condition, the Voortrekkers were asked to bring back his stolen cattle from Chief Sekonyela. The trekkers saw no option to make his wish so they did it and signed a contract with them about giving them part of the land. Claims stated that Dingane feared the Voortrekkers strength, so he killed them all. It's possible that he was planning this since the beginning. Later, he targeted other Voortrekkers who had encroached into the Zulu territory and slaughtered them also shockingly women and children, too. Commandants Dirk Uys and Andries Potgieter led a march with a force of Voortrekkers as a response to their

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<sup>13</sup> They are the largest ethnic group in South Africa as a whole.

<sup>14</sup> He was the king of Zulu Kingdom from 1816 to 1828, he was known as Shaka Zulu

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massacre against their fellows Trekkers to the Zulu, conflicts and attacks emerged between the two forces leaving many deaths of the Voortrekkers and their defeat, the second matchup they were able to hold their own against the Zulu, and defeated them on August 12, 1838, which gave the Voortrekkers a push forward. Andries Pretorius took the leadership of his community and made a decision to move forward; knowing the strength of the Zulu's forces and their large number, he abandoned the idea of a direct attack on the capital. By the time they were moving, every night they made a vow to their Christian God that if they won that coming battle, they would build a church and celebrate the day as a holiday. The Voortrekkers settled and took position by the Nome River as it was strategically advantageous for them since it was protected by a ravine from the south. After a scout report about the Zulus approaching, the trekker commandant Pretorius gave the order to form a "Laager" a ring of covered wagons with the trekkers and cattle inside, around 20,000 Zulu warriors attacked the commandant defense for several hours, but the Voortrekkers held them back and killed a large scale of them, that the color of the river turned red from their blood, the battle to this day is known as the "Bloedrivier" which means The Battle of Blood River, referred to how the river became red by all the corpses, and it became an important event for the Afrikaners nationalism and the Afrikaner identity. After The Battle of Blood River, the Zulu Kingdom erupted in a civil war and Dingane was overthrown by Mpande who became the new paramount chief of the Zulu, the Voortrekker now felt safe, and Andries Pretorius proclaimed Natal a Voortrekkers republic on 14 February 1840 and named The Natalia Republic. The republic only lasted 5 years after the governor of the Cape demanded to annex Natal, The British sent reinforcement to the area and the Boers were forced to retreat. Natal became a British colony, the Voortrekker's reaction was the same as it had been before. The vast majority of Natalia's Boers packed up and tracked inland to found a new republic between the Orange and the Vaal rivers. After the hardship of the road they reached their goal, and the survivors of The Great Trek founded the Boers republic of the Orange Free State in South Africa. (Great Trek) (Grupta er al)

### **Conclusion**

The history of South Africa is very complex, due to the racial segregation, the institution of slavery, and most importantly the tension between the white minority and black majority. The first arrival of the Dutch in the 17<sup>th</sup> century marked as the first step of the European conquer in the region, by establishing the Cape Colony and initiating the settlements. The journey to a new place

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was not easy, especially with different climate, food resources and tensions with the natives. However, when the Dutch introduced slavery, the settlements overcame the challenges and start to grow and expand by importing slaves and contribute in the slave trade business. But it didn't stop there, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the British occupation of the Cape Colony brought significant changes to SA. Aiming to defend the trade route from the French, it implemented special governance policies and laws like promoting the English language and encouraging the British immigration to the colony that escalated the tensions and the diversity in the colony.

Within this period, slavery was introduced by the Dutch and expanded under the British rule which made it a significant problem in South Africa. Slaves were the main mean of labour they were employed in most of the hard works like faming and warehouses etc., slaves endured harsh conditions under their masters; they were considered a property with limited freedom and inhumane treatments. Though the slavery was abolished its legacy in South Africa still shaping the future of today's society.



### **Introduction**

South Africa's legacy is entirely about colonialism and struggling for freedom. In the latest 18<sup>th</sup> century the nation was divided into several independent states, such as The Natal Colony, Transvaal Colony, and Orange Free State under the British rule. The South African Act 1909 founded The Union of South Africa, and was approved by the British parliament and signed into law by King Edward VII. This Act has united all the colonies into one country under a government with a federal system. The government was controlled by the Afrikaners who are the white minority and descent of the Dutch and British settlers during the time of the Union's formation, and they dominated the political and economic services of the region. The Union's constitution granted the white community significant powers and rights on behalf of the black majority and coloured population, who had limited services and rights. The dominance of the white minority in the government unions has been much for the nation history, with the winning of the National Party of the elections and coming to power in 1948, the apartheid marked its first appearance as a policy of discrimination and racial segregation that became a series of governmental social programs and laws applied in the country legally.

### **1. Apartheid in South Africa**

Apartheid was a governing system established by the white elites in South Africa from 1948 until early 1990s. It was a system of racial segregation and discrimination of the white community against the black South Africans. The term apartheid is originated from the Afrikaans language meaning as "separateness" or "apartness". The Apartheid system considered as the first step of the National Party after it came into power in 1948, they implemented this system to maintain the white dominance over the black majority.

Under the Apartheid system, South Africans were classified into different racial groups by the government according to the colour of their skin and ancestry. They were divided into four groups; "White" for the Dutch and British descent, "black" for the native South Africans and imported from the same continent, "coloured" as for the mix-race people, and "Indian" for the ones who got imported from the Indian subcontinent. Each group were obliged to obey the laws of the classification which determined where they could live, work and receive access to social services such as education and medical care. These policies were extremely based on the white

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community who made up only 20% of the community, but had the most privileges and opportunities. (Byerns 54)

The system of apartheid in SA was based on two distinct forms “petty Apartheid” and “grand Apartheid”; the petty apartheid was a form of racial separation through a series of laws, but only in the daily routine mainly in public places for example restrooms, buses, parks, and other facilities. The grand apartheid revolves around discriminatory laws that restrict black South African’s rights of freedom, denying them any political participation in the government that controlled their lives. (History of Apartheid)

Violence and intimidation of the government against the black community during the apartheid period was strongly active, considering it as a way to express their dominance and maintain their power over the rest of the population. The security services such as the police and the military were authorized to detain and torture peoples particularly suspects of apartheid oppositions. They also used censorship to limit the flow of the information and control the media services to maintain their power.

### **2. Apartheid Policies**

As the new governing system had been emerged in SA, a set of institutionalized laws and practices has been adopted to legalize and enforce the racial segregation in the region. They were aiming to maintain the rule of the white minority and their superiority over the other races, by suppressing the rights and freedom of none-white South Africans. Apartheid system was supposedly formed to facilitate self-development among ethnic groups in SA by dividing the community into four separate racial groups: white, black, coloured and Indians, but it ultimately led to the marginalization of the Black South Africans and other none-white groups entirely leaving them with poverty and helpless against the unfairness.

The obligation of Pass Laws restricted the black individuals to carry a special passbook that determines where they were allowed to live and work. It was considered illegal for a black person to not carry a passbook, and if they were found without it, they could be arrested or fined. The prohibition of interracial relations among South Africans prevented black people from marrying white people and accessing the same facilities and opportunities as white people,

including hospitals, beaches etc. (History of Apartheid)The Bantu Education<sup>15</sup>Act that stated the separation in the education between black and white aimed at limiting their access to high-level jobs and opportunities. The Group Areas Act<sup>16</sup>enforced the racial segregation in housing and other public facilities, causing the dislocation of millions of black South Africans, making them restricted and confined within tribal homelands according to their ethnicity, while whites remained and occupied towns and cities.(Byerns 55) The social structure was reinforced by making Afrikaans the official language for work, communication, and education, which marginalized black South Africans who were not allowed to vote or participate in the nation's politics, and were reduced to serve as labourers for white South Africans. Nevertheless, resistance and opposition from these groups gradually increased. (History of Apartheid)

During the Apartheid era in South Africa, the country was ruled by the National Party, which was a white supremacist political party that sought to maintain the racial segregation of the country until it was replaced by the African National Congress (ANC).

### **3. Inequality During Apartheid System**

During the Apartheid period, the black population were subjected to numerous forms of discrimination and inequality, particularly in terms of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities, which created a large gap between the white community and the black community, privileging the white minority and neglecting the black South Africans and other racial groups, forming a significant struggles to survive in their nation.

#### **3.1. Economic Opportunities**

The apartheid system had affected deeply South Africa's economy; the economic gap between the black majority and white minority became an issue and a struggle in the nation, especially for non-white people. The majority of black South Africans were only allowed to work in unskilled, low-paying jobs, mostly without financial security, and were forbidden to participate in any form in the nation's economic businesses or investments, resulting in the expansion of the income gap between both racial groups and boosting poverty among the black populations.

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<sup>15</sup>It was a segregation law emerged in 1953 that reinforced racial separation in educational facilities.

<sup>16</sup> It's a series of policies that restrict land ownership for black community, and classify different racial groups to different residential.

Land ownership was one of the main problems in South Africa during Apartheid; under the government's restricted policies, black people were prevented from acquiring any piece of land or property in areas that were reserved for white people. With limited opportunities to labour and collect wealth, they were often forced to live in overcrowded and under-resourced areas suggested by their rulers. The white community, on the other hand, had the ultimate freedom to access high-paying jobs, be a part of any sort of business investment opportunities that are reserved for skilled white people, and be permitted to acquire and own the lands of black South Africans under the government's law. Overall, apartheid policies not only reinforced racial segregation but also expanded economic disparities along racial lines.

### **3.2. Inequality in The Healthcare Field**

The medical system in South Africa was affected by the government's discriminatory policies during apartheid. The racial segregation policies forbade blacks from accessing any areas or organizations that were considered for whites only. Therefore, the government created a healthcare sector divided into two facilities: one for whites and another for black South Africans. The black community's healthcare facilities are often inadequately funded and understaffed, resulting in disparity between both groups in terms of healthcare privileges such as insufficient services and poor health outcomes. On the other hand, the government granted the white community better privileges by providing unlimited access to well-equipped hospitals and high-quality medical services that prioritized them over black people. This unequal distribution left the black community struggling with decreased life expectancy and higher rates of infant mortality; they were exposed to a wide range of diseases, including cholera, HIV/AIDS, etc.

### **3.3. Inequality in The Education Field**

The education system in South Africa during apartheid gave privileges mostly to the white minority. It was designed to maintain segregation and promote racial inequality between blacks and whites. They were assigned to separate schools from the white children with a substandard education. The government provided black children with basic to low-quality education without any preparation for higher education programs. While white children were receiving higher-quality education that granted them a better learning experience and better labour opportunities. (Byerns 56)

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The unequal and insufficient educational system had deeply affected black South Africans, with their lack of knowledge and skills. The black community's participation in the labour market was almost impossible; they were unable to compete against the highly skilled white community, which created a situation where the whites dominated the workforce and left black people in low-paying jobs with limited opportunities.

The inequality in the distribution of education in South Africa boosted the poverty issue among the black community; so basically, with the lack of access to quality education and the inability to acquire the necessary skills for higher-paying jobs made it difficult to overcome poverty.

### **4. Political Parties within Apartheid Period**

During the apartheid regime, there were several active political parties in South Africa mostly against the white rule in the region. With the foundation of the apartheid policies by the National Party under the Whites' rule, these political parties were struggling to effectively challenge and negotiate the National Party's power and its policies of segregation until after some resistance.

#### **4.1. The National Party**

In 1914, J. B. M. Hertzog<sup>17</sup> founded the National Party of South Africa. This political group came into power after the 1948 election and dominated the political field of the nation for years, prioritizing the white community. The ideology of the NP was to walk the nation under the concept of separate development, so they adopted the apartheid policy as a system to reinforce racial segregation and discrimination. They sought to create different and unequal societies according to their racial groups within South Africa. The application of this ideology created numerous discriminatory policies that came in the way of the racial group's self-development, including the Group Areas Act, which implemented residential segregation, and the Bantu Education Act, which provided a basic and unequal education for black South Africans. (Byerns284)

After the unfairness of the National Party's policies against the non-white population, it received a lot of backlash for its abusive laws. So the NP created strict controls on the political

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<sup>17</sup> He was a Boer South African politician and Soldier.

opposition by banning any type of anti-apartheid organization or movement and suppressing anyone who spoke against the policy. This created widespread international condemnation and boycotts of South African goods and services. Under pressure from increasing domestic and international opposition to the system's policies, the NP got defeated by the ANC in 1994, making it the first time in almost a decade that the party lost the elections.

### **4.2. The African National Congress**

The National African Congress was first formed in 1912. It aimed to retrieve and fight for the rights and freedoms of those who had been struggling and oppressed by the discriminatory system of the white minority. The ANC's role in the struggle for resistance against apartheid was so remarkable and important for the subsequent transition to democracy in South Africa.

The formation of the ANC was basically a response to the Land Act of 1913, which forced many black South Africans into reserves and limited their capability to acquire and own land. The founders believed that to achieve political and economic equality for black South Africans, they should unite in the struggle against the injustice of racial discrimination. The ANC became the leading group of the apartheid opposition and the resistance against its policies; it kept fighting for non-white rights and freedoms with the attempt to provide equality, and it became the beacon of hope for many black South Africans. With the NP's restricted laws against the apartheid opposition and the growth of the ANC party and its movements, the NP initially banned the ANC and imprisoned its leaders to suppress any glimpse of hope among black South Africans. (Byerns 276)

The 1990s negotiations to end the apartheid system were mainly achieved by the ANC contribution as the black South African's voice. In 1994, the first equal elections were held, and Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader who had spent 27 years in prison for his activism, became South Africa's 'first black president. Since that day, the ANC still the head of South Africa's government as the main political group, and still addressing the historical injustice of apartheid policies, attempting to improve the lives of all South Africans, particularly the disadvantaged ones, and encouraging economic development in the nation. Though some of the goals have been accomplished, it started receiving criticism and difficulties over the years. Many claims argue that the corruption took place in the party system, making it lose its credibility and fail to fulfil its promises of social justice and economic transformation.

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Desmond Tutu saw the ANC as a representative of people's aspiration for freedom, with its dedication for equality and democracy in South Africa "The African National Congress was more than just a political organization. It was a symbol of hope and a beacon of resistance against the tyranny of apartheid." (Tutu 45) The party has persevered in upholding its primary beliefs of social justice, freedom, and democracy despite encountering its fair share of difficulties and criticism. The ANC's legacy will continue to shape the country's future.

### **4.3. The Pan Africanist Congress**

The PAC is another South African political party that was founded in 1959 by a group of Black Nationalist leaders who broke off the African National Congress due to different points of view and was one of the opposition parties for the apartheid system. Their main goal was to unite South Africa under a socialist government and retrieve the lands that were taken from black people by force. The party was so vocal about the nation's struggle with economic inequality, criticizing the ANC's land reform and its policies, and expressing the true need for democracy in South Africa.

## **5. Apartheid and the Struggle with Resistance**

Over the years, opposition to apartheid in South Africa manifested in various ways, ranging from peaceful demonstrations, protests, and strikes to political measures and eventually to the use of armed force.

### **5.1. The Defiance Campaign**

In the 1950s, the country's oldest political party the ANC initiated a mass mobilization to oppose the discriminatory laws of the Apartheid system in the region mainly by acts against petty-apartheid. Almost 1,968 people in South Africa had been arrested for violating apartheid laws intentionally. The protesters, consisting of a group of Africans and sometimes with Indian leaders, would approach areas like railway stations or post offices marked for "Europeans Only" with the intention of passing through. The protesters wore the African National Congress's green, black, and gold-coloured arm bands, indicating their purpose. European policemen, often armed with revolvers, would wait for them, and upon stopping them, would arrest them. In addition to this method, groups of Africans would also march through the streets without passes after few hours,

intentionally forewarning the authorities of their actions to be arrested. Their goal was to create a large opposition movement against the Apartheid laws by breaking them and getting as many protestors as possible to get arrested and flood the country prisons, hoping it would draw the public attention. Unfortunately, the movement lost its momentum in the beginning of 1953. The public response was so strong that it escalated to violent fury among some protesters. In October 1952, riots erupted in the Eastern Cape and rapidly spread, causing the ANC to lose control of the protesters. Due to the rioting, the government could take aggressive action without significant opposition. The Criminal Law Amendment Act was introduced, permitting lengthier sentences and whipping for "offences committed by way of protest". As a result the ANC chose to terminate the campaign. (Blakemore)

### **5.2. The Road to Arm Struggle**

On 21 March 1960, the Pan Africanist Congress organized a protest against the pass laws. Still using the methods of non-violent protest, they planned to march to the local police station, hand in their passes and give themselves up for arrest. A large crowd gathered outside the police station at Sharpeville. The police fired on the crowd, killing 69 people and wounding 180 people including children, which became known as The Sharpeville Massacre. The police claimed that they were already on high alert due to the violent nature of previous demonstrations, and the demonstrators possess weapons including firearms. (Apartheid Museum 64) At the start, an armed protester caused trouble, and many protesters began throwing rocks, escalating the tension. With the fear that the station would be overrun, a police officer opened fire, triggering a chain reaction. A statement by the South African Commissioner Hendrik Frensch Verwoerd in London 1960 was published:

“According to the factual information now available, the disturbances at Sharpeville on Monday resulted from a planned demonstration of about 20 000 natives in which demonstrators attacked the police with assorted weapons including firearms. The demonstrators shot first, and the police were forced to fire in self-defence and avoid even more tragic results.” (“Sieborger et al, 19)



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Alternative wording by non-police claimed that the protest was openly declared as a peaceful one and the demonstrators were singing happily as they advanced towards the station. No stones were hurled, a fact that was corroborated by eyewitnesses who were not affiliated with the police. The majority of the victims were discovered facing away from the station, indicating that they were shot from behind while fleeing. Here many South Africans realized that peaceful ways will not achieve justice. (Apartheid Museum 65) The brutal actions of the police there provoked a strong response both nationally and internationally, leading to the government's declaration of a state of emergency and the banning of the ANC and the PAC, and imprisoning their leaders. This prompted both organizations to re-evaluate their tactics, ultimately resulting in their decision to adopt a policy of armed resistance. To this end, the ANC formed a military branch known as uMkhonto we Sizwe or "the Spear of the Nation". This armed wing of the ANC carried out a campaign of sabotage and guerrilla warfare against the apartheid government, including bombings of government buildings and infrastructure. The former leader of the ANC Nelson Mandela stated the urge for the armed movement in his interview by Brian Widlake:

"All the time that the African National Congress was using peaceful means to try to bring change in South Africa, the reaction from the regime was violent. People were shot at peaceful meetings. Thousands of protestors have died because of the police. There's also the violence of conditions of living in South Africa... We decided that if the gun is what the South African regime has used to rule us, it will have to be the gun that breaks that rule."  
(Apartheid Museum 67)

For them, they can't overthrow the government peacefully, so they were willing to violently engage their protest. These resistances included Steve Biko, leader who was promoting the black self-reliance and the founder of the Black Consciousness Movement<sup>18</sup>, and the Nobel Prize winner Archbishop Desmond Tutu who was a prominent voice against apartheid. Eventually the resistance against apartheid succeeded by pressuring the government both domestically and internationally leading to the release of Mandela and the negotiation of democratic constitution in early 1990s.

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<sup>18</sup>I was an anti-apartheid movement emerged in mid 1960s. it sought to raise self-awareness and unite black community.

### **6. The Transition to Democracy**

South Africa was struggling with the escalation of high pressure on the world stage as other countries imposed economic sanctions in response to the country's apartheid policies. The growth of resistance and international pressure led the government to lift the ban on the ANC and other opposition groups that were imprisoned under the apartheid policies, and releasing their leaders including Mandela, and acquiescing to a peaceful negotiation between them and the anti-apartheid groups to find a compromise and put an end to the apartheid system.

The first step towards negotiation began in 1990 between Mandela, de Klerk<sup>19</sup>, and their groups, leading to the 1994 elections and the establishment of South Africa's new constitution and laws, reflecting the principles of democracy and human rights and being inclusive of all South Africans, regardless of race. The transition did not go smoothly, and the government had some challenges along the way. (Hinshaw 76)

The white minority felt defeated and were extremely resistant to the change, fearing the loss of their superiority and heritage, while others were full of guilt and shame about their actions in shaping South Africa. Nevertheless, the elections were outstanding, with over 20 million people of all races participating, and Nelson Mandela became South Africa's first black president, displacing the National Party and establishing a constitutional assembly that abolished racial discrimination. Mandela and de Klerk are globally known for dedicating their life for justice, and in 1993 they were rewarded by a Nobel Peace Prize for each.

### **Conclusion**

The history of apartheid made a deep scar that will continue in shaping South Africa's future. Its legacy affected many black South Africans whether they were children or adults, from the unbearable poverty, to the discrimination and violence that was felt by many, and still haunting them like a dark cloud above their heads. The apartheid policies formed for the purpose of racial segregation privileging the white community, but many South Africans were bare souls, and refused to be beaten down by this oppressive system, so they chose to be part of change and fight for their rights. A journey towards freedom has started, by standing against their rulers and

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<sup>19</sup>Frederik Willem de Klerk, was South Africa's president from 1989 to 1994.

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participate in resistance movements under the leadership of oppositions political groups, including the ANC.

The struggle against apartheid regime was not easy; the black South Africans received a violent response from the government authorities, leaving no choice but to seek freedom by force. Despite the challenges along the way, the government was pressured nationally and internationally, making it accept the negotiation with the other political groups, leading to the end of the apartheid system, and establish a new democracy under the name of the Republic of South Africa.

### **Introduction**

The transition to democracy was a big step in the history of South Africa, and it was the beginning of a new era towards political and social freedom after decades of segregation and mistreatments under the white minority. After the ANC winning the first election, the government was in positions where it had to grapple to consolidate democracy and improve the lives of the people with the ongoing difficulties in the nations, specifically poverty, social and economic inequalities, and educational. The government gave the community promises to address the brutality of the apartheid policies in the nation and create equal society under human rights. However, the post-apartheid progress has been really slow, and people were criticizing the ANC reflection on the ongoing disparities in life on the daily basis. Though the apartheid had come to an end, its policies are still running the nation and the people are struggling to survive under the marginalization of the elites of the nations.

### **1. The Democracy of Post-Apartheid South Africa**

When the ANC was assigned as the formal new government of the nation, a significant progress has been made to surpass the previous system policies that were running the country under the NC party. In 1996 a new constitution had been created by the South African Parliament, it was the result of years of struggles and a series of negotiations and compromise between the ANC and the previous government the (National Party). The new constitution was revised by the Parliament and reviewed by the Constitutional Court. It was signed into official law of the nation in the same year by the head of the government Nelson Mandela, replacing the previous Constitution that was based on apartheid by the NP. This Constitution aimed to bring a new democracy established upon human rights and equality among the public regardless of race or gender to heal the wounds of the apartheid policies by creating restricted laws. (C. Lowe) In the Constitution of South Africa (Chapter 02 Section 9), the equality was listed under key provisions:

- Everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- Equality includes the full and equal enjoyment of all rights and freedoms. To promote the achievement of equality, legislative and other measures designed to protect or advance persons, or categories of persons, disadvantaged by unfair discrimination may be taken.

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- The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.
- No person may unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds in terms of subsection (3). National legislation must be enacted to prevent or prohibit unfair discrimination.
- Discrimination on one or more of the grounds listed in subsection (3) is unfair unless it is established that the discrimination is fair. (S.A. Constitution)

Though the Constitution document was approved in 1997, it was till February of the following year that came into effect.

The 1995 Labour Relations Act was one of the first laws passed by the post-apartheid democratic system. It was a document of legislation that regulated the relationship among employees and provided fair labour practices by legalizing strikes and promoting negotiations between business, labour and government (C. Lowe). This act was a shift towards a better work environment, and made a significant role in encouraging social justice in business.

The government planned to make positive progress in promoting social justice and economic changes by adopting a comprehensive program to provide a legislative framework for the transformation of South Africa's ruling system. After the apartheid ended, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created. It aimed to investigate the violation and mistreatment such as torture, abductions and even killing of the Black society by the state or the liberation movement during the apartheid period. The TRC actions focused on holding public hearing sessions broadcast on the national television or the radio of the victims who got violated and abused, as well as the perpetrators that mistreated their servants based on their racial identity. The commission covered the structural and historical background by individual cases and social environment of the apartheid regime. The TRC recommended reparations program to distribute governmental reparations to the victims, according to Amnesty International the TRC suggested a number based on the number of the victims which was estimated 22,000 victims. The reparations number was 2,864,400,000R (588.837.490\$) over 6 years after calculating the total cost of this policy (Truth Commission); yet , the government agreed in 2001 for final reparations for 1.300.000.000R. Controversially, the TRC was authorized to grant amnesty to those who

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committed human rights' violation during the apartheid period, mostly the white community. They were asked to prove that their actions were politically motivated, and to be completely truthful about their crimes to the commission. So, eventually only few people were granted amnesty while the rest were denied. The system considered the TRC as a step to the reconciliation among the society. However, it got backlash for the unfairness of the Amnesty program for the rest of the perpetrators and for the neglection of the ongoing post-apartheid economic and social inequalities. (Truth Commission)

The Broad-black Economic Empowerment Act was first introduced in 1994 following the end of apartheid, but it was till 2003 that it became officially law. The B-BBE Act's main policy objectives were to improve economic status of the black, coloured and Indians by reinforcing the economic participation of non-whites in the South African economy. This policy included multiple measures such as skill development, Administrative transformation, ownership and socio-economic development initiatives. The B-BBE was and is still a case of discussion. For many, it has not achieved its objectives and left most big companies under white control and was criticized for making only a small group of wealthy black South Africans connected to political positions. (C. Lowe)

After the end of the apartheid system, South Africa succeeded in the transition to the democratic system, but that was not without tension. Due to the dominance of the African National Congress as the government, a dilemma has emerged between building a liberal democracy and the urge for greater government control to provide essential services to the disadvantaged black society. Some political analysts expressed concerns of a dominant party system and pointed at former President Mbeki's desire to expand the executive power of the presidency. In 2000, the local government reform received hard resistance from politicians and interest groups for its desire to enhance accountability. (Building Democracy 1)

South Africa has developed a democracy with good opposition parties with a more pluralistic state and a vibrant society including an independent press, and attempts to fight corruption and fraud.

### 2. Post-Apartheid Inequality

Despite the government actions to build a new equal democratic system, it failed to overcome the unequal conditions that were brought by the apartheid regime, according to Statista South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, with a Gini<sup>20</sup> score of 63 in 2021, and till this day the people still struggle with the disparity on a daily basis. (Statista 2022)

#### 2.1. Political Inequality

The transition to democracy undeniably made a significant progress addressing the inequality during apartheid regime which ultimately led to the establishment of a new constitution that pledged to the South African community with human rights, equality and opportunities. However, only particular parties are holding the power than others. The political competition in South Africa's parliament was extremely limited since the day the democratic government has emerged, and that's due to the ANC's continuously success holding their position and preserving the political power in their hand as a ruling party, and limiting opposition's parties to challenge the ANC's dominance. The financial resources had a very impactful factor in limited political competition: most of the wealthy members and corporations with money access often gave them the upper hand as it was beneficial to influence political outcomes. The electoral system in South Africa is mainly based on a proportional representation system which made the small emerging parties' chance to compete in the parliament and gain representation pretty difficult. This system favours larger parties, such as the ANC, which guaranteed them more seats and controlled the political field. The African National Congress's role in oppositions against apartheid is undeniable, but with the ongoing inequality challenges and their failing to pursue their promises, it has faced criticism and backlash enhancing the frustration among many South Africans, especially the youth, who felt their voices are not being heard in the political process. As Mandela said "The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free" (Mandela and Langa 4)

The Cadre Deployment practice by the ANC enhanced the criticism against the party. According to "The Conversation", it is a policy that goes back to the anti-apartheid struggle, and which permits hiring party loyalists and supporters in key positions in the government, state-owned enterprises or any other institutions. The public argued that appointing unqualified and unskilled

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<sup>20</sup> The Gini coefficient is a measure of inequality in certain nations in form of statistics.

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members into high positions is promoting the corruption that is already in the party and neglecting the other qualified people. (Kotze) The African National Congress popularity was diminishing through the years; for instance, South Africa's elections in 2014 was estimated by 62.15% participants, which decreased since the previous election in 2019 that was estimated of 57.50%, (Wikipedia Contributors 2023) giving a clear image of the public opinion about their government.

State corruption was and is still a pillar that back up the persistence of inequality. According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2022, SA is ranked 72<sup>nd</sup> out of 179 countries with a CPI<sup>21</sup> score of 43/100 (0 highly corrupted, 100 very clean). (Corruption Index) Based on these statistics the corruption in the nation is considered as a significant problem. The corruption in the parliament was highly expected in a democratic state, and the ANC as the dominant group is at the top of this criminal offense. (Corruption Index) As a democratic system, the nation has funds that are embarked particularly to public's social programs such as education, health care and housing. Since the end of the apartheid system, the people are struggling against poverty, and very much depending on these services, but with corruption the misallocation of public resources emerged and money embezzlement mostly by politicians for self-profit left the helpless community without access to basic necessities and opportunities. A good example is the 2013/2014 scandal when the former president and leader of the South Africa's party ANC Nielson Mandela had passed away. Allegations of financial opportunities about the company in charge of Mandela's memorial service "The Mandela Trust" were made. According to the Guardian, South Africa's anti-corruption watchdog claimed that they found evidences that millions of dollars have disappeared in the preparation of Mandela's memorial. Allegations claimed that officials had stolen over £16m, which was also intended for the memorial (Burke). Mandela's eldest grandson in statement said.

“We find it incredulous that while we, as a family, a nation – and indeed the world – were mourning the loss of our elder, icon, leader and statesman, some people were allegedly conniving to profit financially by shamelessly siphoning off funds,” (Burke)

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<sup>21</sup> Consumer Price Index is an international measure of the changes over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.



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Bribery, nepotism and other corrupt actions granted imbalance advantages to wealthy people and companies to profit in investments, contracts or licenses etc. This created uneven field that provides to certain groups with financial access economic opportunity and accumulation.

The corruption has affected the nation and the society extremely. It weakened the public trust in the rule of law and in government institutions entrenching inequality. The people see that the institutions' concerns are mostly self-profits, and their actions towards the public are unfair. Now they are less likely to live in civic life and hold their leaders accountable.

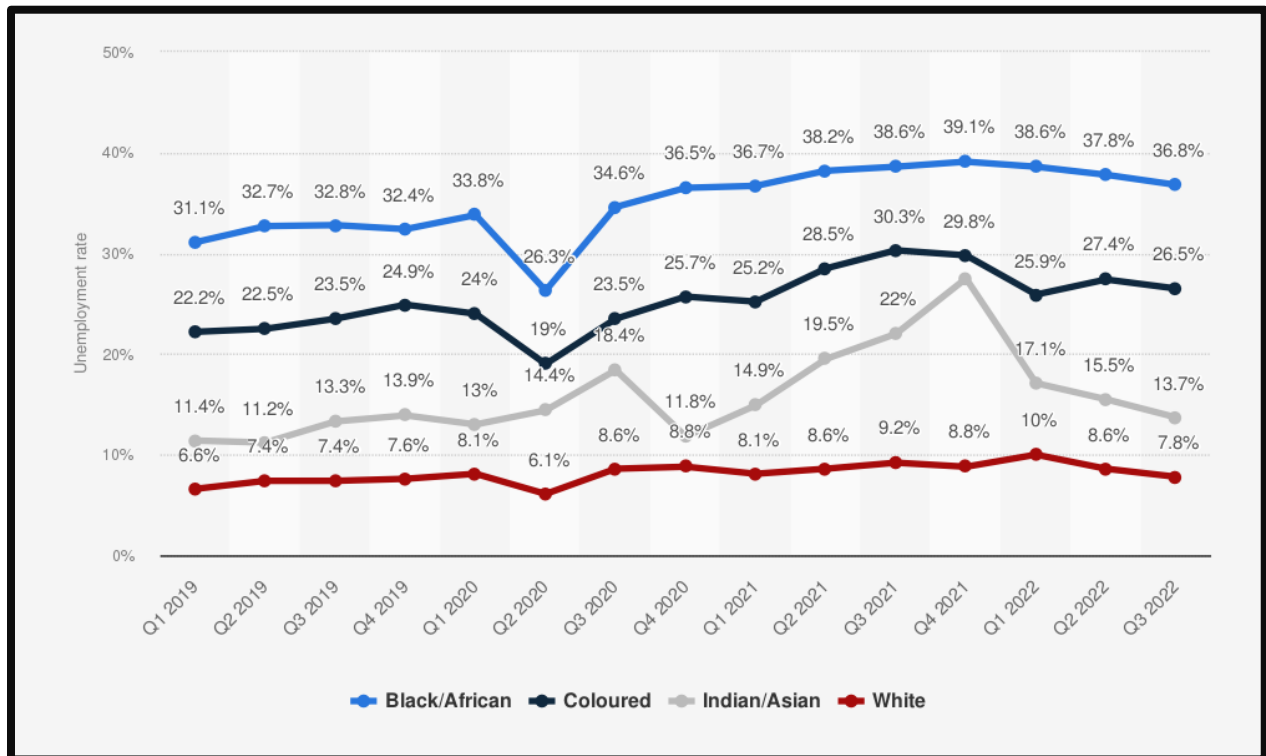
### **2.2. Economic Inequality**

Over the years and since the Legacy of the apartheid system, the new democracy has failed to contain the imbalance of the wealth gap in the nation. South Africa's population estimated 58 millions in 2019; and by race, Black South Africans at 80.7%, White South Africans at 7.9%, Coloured South Africans at 8.8%, and Indian South Africans at 2.6%, yet the number of whites' earnings is 20 times higher than Black South Africans by 60.000 a year. The national income of the country has barely changed from the previous years, in most countries the top 20% of the population holds average of 47% of the income, whereas for SA the top 10% of the country population holds around 80% of the national wealth while the poorest 60% hold less than 7% of the wealth (Time 2021) with the whites outnumbering the Black South Africans in the wealthy 10% for almost 7 years. The numbers disparity put SA on the Top as the most unequal country based on its national income.

Despite the promises of promoting the economic development and investments, South Africa's economy was struggling to evolve as the other developed countries, between 2011 and 2015 approximately 55.5% of the population are living in poverty based on the national upper poverty that means half of the country is struggling with living, which is the same case as they were before the transition. One of the main reasons for poverty is undeniably Joblessness, the end of the apartheid has left many Black South Africans unskilled and without education to participate in modern economy. Now the poor society's survival is relying on the social grants and welfare programs that most of the time are not enough to support a whole family; also, as mentioned before, these programs are corrupted by elites that possess power.

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The unemployment rate of the black South Africans was estimated 36% in comparison to white South Africans which was 7% (Statistics SA 2023). These figures show the ongoing disparities between ethnic groups in the labour market. These disparities are linked to apartheid policies that created unequal society and limited opportunities for non-white citizens; though it supposedly ended, most of it still exists. The government declared that it will fight ethnicity and racial inequalities in employment. However, black citizens continue to struggle achieving economic stability and accessing employment, due to how slow the progress has been. The map below illustrates the figures:



*Unemployment rate in South Africa from quarter1 2019 to quarter3 2022, by population group.*

(Statista 2022)

With the new democratic system, the Government stated that the issue of land reform will be a priority case for the ANC to work it out. The ANC addressed the inequalities of the land distribution and embarked on a land reform program to heal the imbalances. However, the progress has been relatively slow and uneven, and most of the lands remained in the hands of the white

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minority. The ANC leaders pursued policies to attract international investment due to the economic recession of the investments from western powers in the apartheid era. They were also avoiding any sort of policy that could be considered radical by the investors.

In the aftermath of the apartheid, the ANC housing program had funded about 2 million new houses for black South Africans. (Fogel) However, these houses were founded within the existing townships they are living in and reinforcing the geographic segregation created by apartheid system. These settlements have the minimum living conditions. People do not legally own the land they live in, and have limited access to public utilities; besides, they are isolated and people endure high costs and long time to reach the city for employments that pay less than 15\$ a day (Fogel) while the white minority lives off the benefits remained by the unequal apartheid policies with the wealth of their relatives providing better living conditions apart from the government failed economy. Wendy Gqirana, a 36 old jobless chef who struggles to support her family, complains that the democracy hasn't brought anything: "They told us in '94 that the blacks would be in control and things would be better. All we see now is corruption among the black leaders, and whites are still in control of the economy."(Baker)

By the end of the apartheid, there were 300 townships and informal slums in the country, and now 29 years later there are nearly 2.700 townships. The inequality rate remain so high in cities; for instance, Cape Town is considered the sixth most segregated city in SA where 60% of its population are black South Africans. These people live in informal settlements away from the city centre with limited services, joblessness and insecurity whereas, high and middle class whites situated in city centre or its suburbs with high opportunities and better conditions.

### **2.3. Education Inequality**

With the new democratic system, policies have changed within education system to address the educational inequalities. The Bantu education policy was officially abandoned, yet there is still segregation in schools. The whites converted into private schools, but suburban schools contain the majority of coloured students. As for township and rural schools, they are overcrowded with blacks. 20% of the government budget has been allocated to education under the responsibility of the elected school governance bodies in managing how to spend their share of the budget. A new

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program by the government was proposed to address inequality by dividing schools into stratum based on the income of their community and providing higher funding to the lower income community. (Ocampo) Despite the efforts to equalize education between races, there are still many policies that are racially neutral to funding that may negatively affect blacks and coloureds. The government funds aren't enough for its large educational system, and parents are required to pay fees for school based on; facilities, class size, the quality of teaching ... etc. For instance, fees in former white schools in suburbs are \$1.500, and the other schools charge \$25 a year, the disparity between these figures depends on the quality of the school; private schools tend to put one teacher for every 15 students while higher the maximum fee facilities can be thirteen with sophisticated educational system and qualified teachers, and the low quality schools mostly for the poor community can hold as many as fifty students per teacher. While acknowledging this study, the average income of the black community, and the fact that most of the black population are in extreme poverty; they will have less economic means to go for a higher quality of education. With that, we can say that the black are officially at the bottom. (Ocampo)

### **2.4. Healthcare Inequality**

As the previous sectors, the promise of equal access to healthcare facilities in post-apartheid by the government was a struggle. Most public healthcare facilities in rural areas continuously struggle with the lack of the healthcare resources; this shortage of medical personnel, equipment, and medicines weakened the quality healthcare services for the people of these areas and perpetuated the disparity among healthcare facilities. The uneven distribution of medical professionals between public and private hospitals indicates the gross of inequality. According to Arabo K. Ewinyu, the high skilled healthcare professionals serve the minority who often has medical insurance, knowing that over 80% of the population is uninsured. (K. Ewinyu and Mampane) Uninsured patients mostly rely on understaffed facilities that often take long waiting periods.

Among other things, the income inequality reflects extremely the lack of access to healthcare; as was stated before, most of the population struggle from poverty. The ones that are employed have a limited low income that prevents them from affording any private medical insurance. Labour market indicates that many people work in the informal sector which restricts access to basic employer protection and benefits such as medical insurance.

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During the COVID-19 <sup>22</sup>pandemic, 350410 tests were undertaken in SA, 53.4% of them were concluded in public sector laboratories while the rest of it went to the privates. Based on the population rate, 80% of them depends on the public facilities for their health care, giving the urgent need to get tested; some of them, resorted to private laboratories. However, the tests cost \$20 at the time, approximately 10% of the average South African income; most people who couldn't afford it avoided testing or just kept waiting for the public facilities. (K. Ewinyu and Mampane)

### **2.5. Access to Basic Services Inequality**

Since 1996, the country made a significant progress in expanding clean water services among the community without regard for their race. However, the access to basic services is still an ongoing challenge in the country. The process of delivering safe water and sanitation services has been really slow particularly in rural areas and informal settlements; these areas struggle with inadequate infrastructure challenges, water pollution and water scarcity. Most of the citizens of these societies are poor and can't afford other investments such as water tanks, boreholes... etc, which cost over \$500, which makes them only rely on communal taps or unprotected water sources, hence increasing their health risks. (C. Fatti and Khanyile) The same scenario applies to the access to power sources, with the disparity of the electricity distribution between rural places and urban places making it hard to live in such conditions. Poverty prevents people from affording any alternative sources such as diesel generators. Also, the municipalities support and funds are gradually receding, prioritizing the wealthy consumers to not lose their revenue. The issue of access to water and electricity services in SA is complex, and the progress to address was outstanding in some areas while the disparities persist in others.

### **3. Addressing the Post-Apartheid Inequality**

Without any doubt, South Africa's transition from the suppressive era of the apartheid regime into the new democratic state was a historical achievement for many South Africans. However, despite the government attempts to address the legacy of the apartheid policies, the nation still struggles with persistent inequality among the community. The government needs to expand its ideologies to tackle the unequal and prevalent conditions in the society. The nation

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<sup>22</sup> Also known as Coronavirus, it was a disease that created a global pandemic lasted over 3 years starting from late 2019.

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should start promoting the political competition and representation by encouraging the youth participation in the political process, and their involvement in decision-making to provide more opportunities to the smaller parties to participate in the political process. Also, strengthening the political condemnation to track and prosecute corruption cases, and enhancing the transparency in the use of public resources are indispensable.

Producing comprehensive programs aimed to provide job opportunities and vocational training, prioritizing the historically disadvantaged groups to give them the necessary capabilities to be part of the modern economy, and promoting entrepreneurship to support small businesses and enterprises should be on top of the drastic measure to bring change. Providing access to credit and financial services and making them affordable for the community is advisable, too. The government should set employment for digital jobs by targeting unemployed youth with low chances for acquiring a job and prepare them.

The nation requires effective policies that have been developed, so they can boost the routes towards equality. Anja Smith et al, mentioned that the best recommendation should be the investment in human capital development, to make sure that the creation of sustainable jobs is capable to evolve with technological change.

South Africa's huge wealth gap is one of the main factors of inequality in South Africa. The nation should adopt a steeply progressive income tax system. The nation's tax system raise large amount of revenue at low cost, also the recommendation of raising taxation on the 10% wealthy class.

With the low income and high rate of poverty South Africa should contribute more in the Education sector. Investing in high quality education especially in early childhood must be a priority. South Africa's financial contribution rate to the education spaces is not enough, and it must reconsider the funding models, and focus on high impact investments particularly in the quality of learning to provide equal education among the community.

The Land ownership was and still a big issue in South Africa, property rights should be registered and recognised especially for farmworkers and rural places, promote the agricultural practices by supporting low-scale farmers. Address the disparities in land distribution by transfer commercial farms that take a large scale in the country and provide it for farmers and

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disadvantaged people. Provide more funding for the rural areas and make them less neglected by establishing more educational and medical facilities, expand water and electricity lines out of the cities, and reasonable prices taking into account the poor community.

### **Conclusion**

The Republic of South Africa liberated itself from the dark period of the apartheid regime, by establishing a new democratic system and a new constitution based on equality and union among South Africans regardless of race. The ANC attempts to address the disparities left by the apartheid policies was so slow, many black South Africans were still struggling with the living conditions. Despite the end of the oppressive system of apartheid, South Africa's inequality rate remained high in many forms; the wealth gap between and the income distribution affected the economic status of the nation deeply, the black community has been disproportionately affected by high rates of poverty, joblessness due to the economics' fails in providing access to employment and lands. The education and health care sectors were available but unaffordable for the most of the people, and were classified from high quality to low, where the later are less efficient. South Africa's struggle with inequality should be addressed in order to achieve socio-economic stability; the government must take in consideration some changes, and fill the gaps to provide more equal environment.

## **General Conclusion**

South Africa is one of the remarkable nations around the globe, and it has been considered as symbol of justice for its combat against unfairness. The present of this African nation stands upon a historical legacy of racial divisions, disparities and long struggle for freedom against the brutal policies of the white minority in the region, presenting a historical path towards freedom that was achieved with the bravery of the South Africans and their self-reliance, besides their fight for justice and equality under the global human rights.

To sum up, South Africa was inhabited for more than 2000 years, but everything had changed when the VOC; a Dutch company sent a fleet to the nation, making the first ever European contact with South Africa, which established a settlement that was developed and expanded leading to the foundation of the Cape Colony under the VOC rule, and the participation in the transatlantic slave trade business and slavery. Moreover, in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Cape colony was threatened to be occupied by the French, making the British Empire step up and reach it first. As a large empire it struggled against the Dutch community, but eventually gained full control over the region, making South Africa officially the British Empire's colony.

South Africa's history took a dark turn when the National Party took power in 1948. The new government presented a new system of oppressive segregated policies that affected all black South Africans; that was called the apartheid. These policies aimed to separate the whites from the blacks and reinforce racial segregation and inequality; from labour to education ... etc, among black South Africans, giving the upper hand to the white minority. This system received a national opposition from the black community and other political groups including the ANC, leading to a journey of resistance towards freedom that was achieved in 1994 by the ANC.

However, despite the ANC's attempts to achieve equal environment among South Africa's community, the struggle was slow and inequality rate was highly increasing – proving with the new democratic system that many disparities were and are still affecting the black South Africans lives, from joblessness and unequal economic opportunities, to lack of education and wealth gap. That was unveiling the reality of post-apartheid South Africa, and what should be done to address it.



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