

## Chronology of Key Events in South Africa

**1480s** - Portuguese navigator Bartholomeu Dias is the first European to travel round the southern tip of Africa.

**1497** - Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama lands on Natal coast.

**1652** - Jan van Riebeeck, representing the Dutch East India Company, founds the Cape Colony at Table Bay.

**1795** - British forces seize Cape Colony from the Netherlands. Territory is returned to the Dutch in 1803; ceded to the British in 1806.

**1816-1826** - Shaka Zulu founds and expands the Zulu empire, creates a formidable fighting force.

**1835-1840** - Boers leave Cape Colony in the 'Great Trek' and found the Orange Free State and the Transvaal.

**1852** - British grant limited self-government to the Transvaal.

**1856** - Natal separates from the Cape Colony.

**Late 1850s** - Boers proclaim the Transvaal a republic.

**1867** - Diamonds discovered at Kimberley.

**1877** - Britain annexes the Transvaal.

**1879** - British defeat the Zulus in Natal.

**1880-81** - Boers rebel against the British, sparking the first Anglo-Boer War. Conflict ends with a negotiated peace. Transvaal is restored as a republic.

**Mid 1880s** - Gold is discovered in the Transvaal, triggering the gold rush.

**1899** - British troops gather on the Transvaal border and ignore an ultimatum to disperse. The second Anglo-Boer War begins.

**1902** - Treaty of Vereeniging ends the second Anglo-Boer War. The Transvaal and Orange Free State are made self-governing colonies of the British Empire.

**1910** - Formation of Union of South Africa by former British colonies of the Cape and Natal, and the Boer republics of Transvaal, and Orange Free State.

**1912** - Native National Congress founded, later renamed the African National Congress (ANC).

**1913** - Land Act introduced to prevent blacks, except those living in Cape Province, from buying land outside reserves.

## **Chronology of Key Events in South Africa**

**1914** - National Party founded.

**1918** - Secret Broederbond (brotherhood) established to advance the Afrikaner cause.

**1919** - South West Africa (Namibia) comes under South African administration.

### **Apartheid set in law**

**1948** - Policy of apartheid (separateness) adopted when National Party (NP) takes power.

**1950** - Population classified by race. Group Areas Act passed to segregate blacks and whites. Communist Party banned. ANC responds with campaign of civil disobedience, led by Nelson Mandela.

**1960** - Seventy black demonstrators killed at Sharpeville. ANC banned.

**1961** - South Africa declared a republic, leaves the Commonwealth. Mandela heads ANC's new military wing, which launches sabotage campaign.

**1960s** - International pressure against government begins, South Africa excluded from Olympic Games.

**1964** - ANC leader Nelson Mandela sentenced to life imprisonment.

**1966** September - Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd assassinated.

**1970s** - More than 3 million people forcibly resettled in black 'homelands'.

**1976** - More than 600 killed in clashes between black protesters and security forces during uprising which starts in Soweto.

**1984-89** - Township revolt, state of emergency.

**1989** - FW de Klerk replaces PW Botha as president, meets Mandela. Public facilities desegregated. Many ANC activists freed.

**1990** - ANC unbanned, Mandela released after 27 years in prison. Namibia becomes independent.

**1991** - Start of multi-party talks. De Klerk repeals remaining apartheid laws, international sanctions lifted. Major fighting between ANC and Zulu Inkatha movement.

**1993** - Agreement on interim constitution.

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**1994** April - ANC wins first non-racial elections. Mandela become president, Government of National Unity formed, Commonwealth membership restored, remaining sanctions lifted. South Africa takes seat in UN General Assembly after 20-year absence.

### **Seeking truth**

**1996** - Truth and Reconciliation Commission chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu begins hearings on human rights crimes committed by former government and liberation movements during apartheid era.

**1996** - Parliament adopts new constitution. National Party withdraws from coalition, saying it is being ignored.

**1998** - Truth and Reconciliation Commission report brands apartheid a crime against humanity and finds the ANC accountable for human rights abuses.

**1999** - ANC wins general elections, Thabo Mbeki takes over as president.

**2000** December - ANC prevails in local elections. Recently-formed Democratic Alliance captures nearly a quarter of the votes. The Inkatha Freedom Party wins 9%.

**2001** April - 39 multi-national pharmaceutical companies halt a legal battle to stop South Africa importing generic Aids drugs. The decision is hailed as a victory for the world's poorest countries in their efforts to import cheaper drugs to combat the virus