

Grade 9 History Term 3 notes

Turning points in Modern South African History since 1948

Introduction

- **National Party** came to power in **1948**
- Laws that governed the country were called apartheid laws
- Apartheid means “**apartness**”
- Apartheid was based on racism and built on the idea that white people were superior to everyone else

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- In 1948 UNO wrote the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)
- UDHR sets universal standard for how human beings should behave towards one another
- Everyone’s human dignity is respected
- Human rights start with all human beings being born equal
- **Dignity** – being worthy of respect

What are human rights?

- UDHR sets out basic rights that should make it possible for everyone to live free and equal lives, and be treated with dignity and respect
- Human rights are universal – applies to all people

Human Rights in SA

- Apartheid laws ignored every one of the rights recognized in the UDHR
- SA apartheid government did not sign the UDHR
- United nations declared apartheid a **crime against humanity**

Definition of racism

Apartheid and the myth of race

- Apartheid ideology used skin colour and other physical characteristics of South Africans to classify people in 'race groups'
- Apartheid system was built on racism
- **Racism** is a false idea or myth that certain groups of people are better than others
- This ideology was used to justify the oppression of black South Africans
- Afrikaans word 'apartheid' means 'apartness'
- Policy used to keep white South Africans separate from black South Africans
- Non-whites were divided into categories called, Native, Bantu, Coloured, Indian
- **Ideology** – set of beliefs, values and ideas
- **Myth** – a story, idea that is not true or cannot be proven

1948, The National Party and apartheid

Racial segregation before apartheid

- Apartheid was a continuation of a system of racial segregation

- In SA's cities and on farms, racism and racial segregation had been practiced by whites for decades – **linked to colonization**
- **Segregation** – practice or policy of creating separate facilities within same society for the use of a particular group

Land Act 1913

- Natives Land Act was passed in 1913
- Unequal access to land was one of the main ways African people were kept separate
- Land issue later became one of the pillars of apartheid

Other racial segregation laws

- Black South Africans not allowed to vote
- People had to live in separate suburbs and townships according to skin colour
- Pass laws controlled movements of Africans. African men outside reserves had to carry 'passes' which allowed them to work and live in the cities
- Job colour bar gave white people jobs rather than black people

Main apartheid laws

Aims:

- Increase power and living standards of whites
- Increase separation of races
- Control movement of black people

Separate Amenities Act	All public amenities segregated
Suppression of Communism Act and Terrorism Act	Banned political organisations NP thought were communist or terrorist. People arrested, detained, tortured.
Bantu Education Act	Black children received inferior education
Bantu Self-government Act	System of homelands or Bantustans
Population Registration Act	Classified people in different race groups
Passes Act	African men had to carry pass books. Used to control movement of African male workers
Group Areas Act	Areas set aside for specific races. Many people forced to move.
Prohibition of Mixed Marriages and Immorality Act	Marriages between blacks and whites were not allowed. Illegal for black and white people to have sexual relations with each other.

Group Areas Act – Sophiatown

- Racially mixed suburb
- **Slum** – a poor area where people live in inferior conditions
- Suburb of contradictions
- Filthy and overcrowded, but also vibrant and full of activity and excitement
- People were forced to move out of their homes under the **Group Areas Act**
- Some residents tried to resist the removals
- Sophiatown was rebuilt into a white suburb called **Triomf**

Bantustans

- HF Verwoerd separated races even further

- **Homelands or Bantustans**
- Ten homelands created
- Every African would belong to one homeland based on language they spoke – **ethnic groups**
- Government claimed these were **separate ‘countries’**
- Africans could have full political rights
- They could vote for own rulers
- Develop separately and independently from whites
- Government wanted to show rest of world it was a democratic country
- Were not internationally recognized as separate countries

Impact of Bantustans on people

- Black people who were living in white areas were forced to move to the Bantustans
- Forced removals caused enormous hardship for Africans
- Lost land and unable to make a living
- Bantustans were poverty stricken
- No facilities like clinics, schools etc.
- Men had to work in cities
- Mothers stayed in reserves to look after children
- Mothers relied on money sent to them by their husbands to support themselves and the children
- Conditions were poor
- An example of a forced removal was the people of **Mogopa** who were forced to move to **Bophutswana**