Inequalities in South Africa during the Apartheid

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Apartheid

- Nationalist Party came into power in 1948
  - Official implementation of Apartheid government
- Lasted until 1994 (46 years)
- System of segregation of non-white South Africans

- Example of a segregated entrance to a building

Apartheid Philosophy

- Separate development of the four racial groups
  - Africans (or Bantu) - 78% of population - divided into 9 nations (Zulu, Xhosa, Swazi, Venda, Tsonga, Pedi, Tswana, Ndebele, Sotho)
  - “Coloreds” (mixed) and Asians (mostly Indian) - 10%
  - Whites - 12%

- White control of government and society
- White interests overruling black interests
- Whites are a single nation
Apartheid Laws

- **Prohibition of mixed marriages Act (1949)**
  - Made interracial marriage illegal

- **Immortality Act (1950)**
  - Made interracial sex illegal

- **Population registration Act (1950)**
  - Had to be registered in 1 of the 4 official race groups

- **Group Areas Act (1950)**
  - Implemented racial zoning in urban areas

- **Suppression of communism Act (1950)**
  - Anyone who opposed the government was considered a communist

- **Bantu Education Act (1953)**
  - Denied government support to private/church run schools
Group Areas Act example: shows the White town of Graaff-Reinet (middle) and colored townships outside (Upper left and right)

Apartheid Laws

• “Petty Apartheid”
  • Segregation of facilities and amenities
    • Ex: transportation, benches, bathrooms, restaurants, etc.

• Native Lands Act: (1936)
  • Africans had to relocate to their “homeland" of the specific group they belonged to
  • Land available for blacks to live on was about 14% of entire country
  • Had to carry pass books
  • 3.5 million forced to relocate
Native Lands Act Example

- Example of the “homelands”

- Colored regions represent segregated homelands - 14% of land
Inequality of Labor

- Job reservation: specific reservation of occupations for ethnic groups (whites got the best jobs)
  - Protected poor whites (Afrikaans speaking)
  - Civilized Labor Policy: industries had to practice job reservation by law
  - Blacks could not have unions

- National Party got better education for poor whites and worse education for blacks
  - Ensured blacks would never get skilled labor jobs
  - Whites with skilled jobs increased from 16.7% (1969) to 25.5% (1985)
  - Whites got 86.3% of open semi-skilled jobs in 1969
As white school enrollment increases, more semi-skilled jobs become available for blacks, however the jobs are “reclassified” and given lower status/pay.

Migrant Labor/Mining

- Blacks had to leave their land to work in gold mining
  - Usually contracted for 13 months of work but got called back- often spent their lives on the mine
  - Sent money back to family
  - Could not get urban residence

- Conditions of the mines led thousands to contract silicosis, respiratory disease, Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS
  - One disease usually led to the next

- Industry took no responsibility for the welfare of workers

- Blacks were the deepest in the mine, more dust

- Continued working anyway

South African miner-

1978 Statistics

- Statistics in 1978

Sources


