

# Inequalities in South Africa during the Apartheid

By: Anthony Ferro



# 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
- Source: Lewis, Elizabeth. "Development of an Apartheid City." *Regionalgeography.org*. N.p., n.d. Web.  
<http://www.regionalgeography.org/southafrica2011/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/apartheid-museum.png>.



# 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)

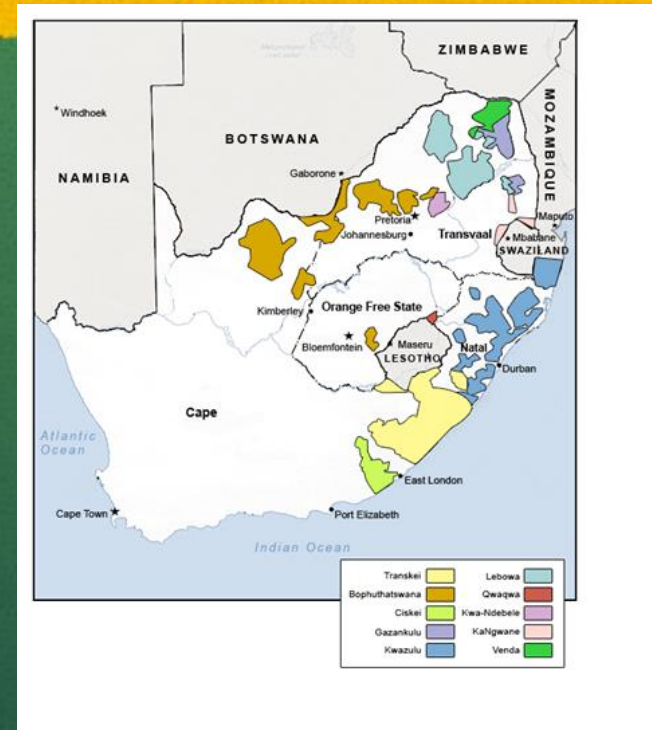
Source: "Apartheid." Berkshire Encyclopedia of World History, Second Edition. Great Barrington: Berkshire Group, 2011. Credo Reference. 9 Mar. 2011

# 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”

- Source: *Un.org*. United Nations, n.d. Web. <<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/discrim/i/homelands.jpg>>.

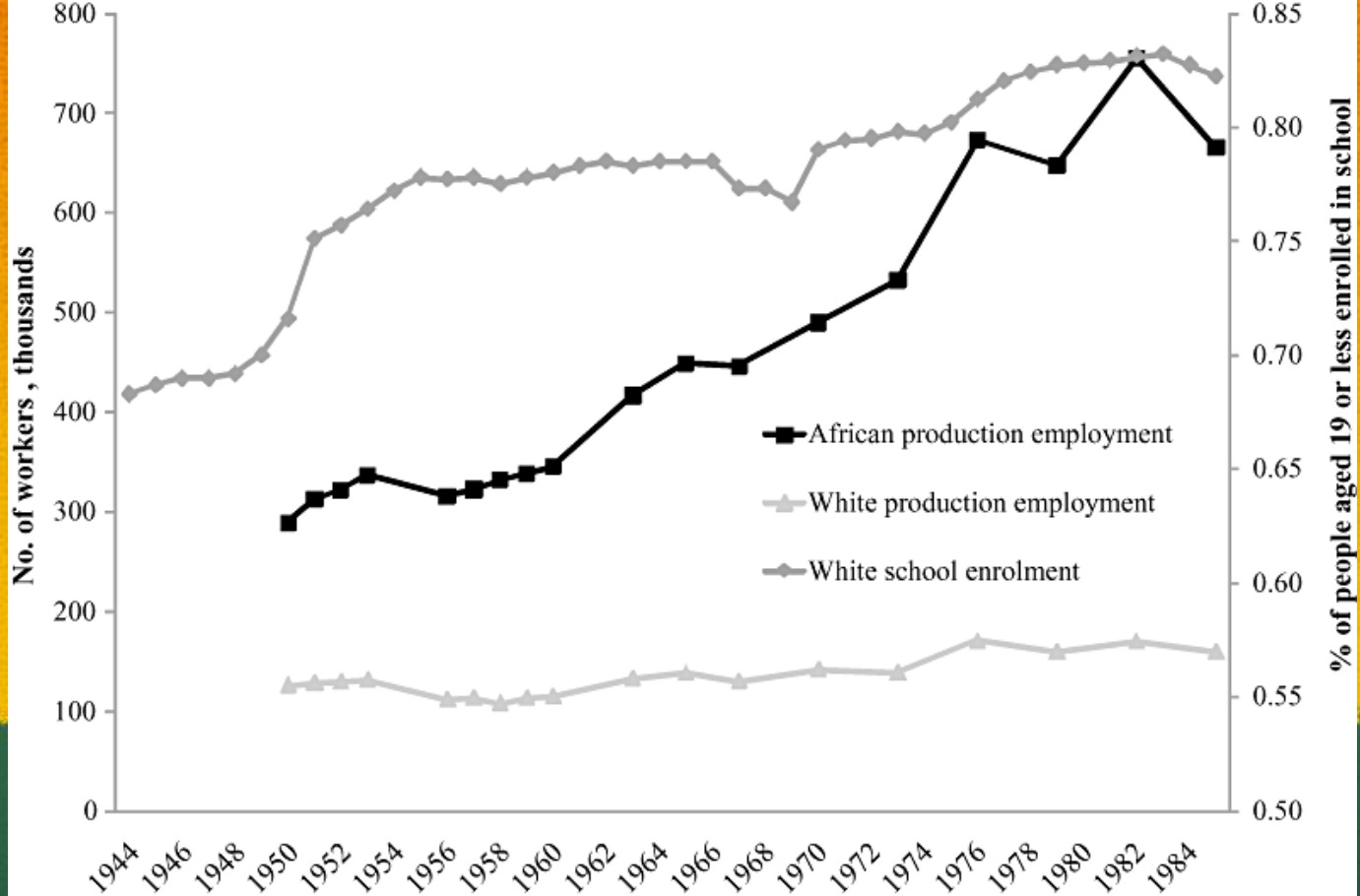
- Colored regions represent segregated homelands -14% of land

- Source: "Segregation Acts." *Southafricaproject.facinghistory.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. <<http://www.facinghistory.org/sites/facinghistory.org/files/files/safrica/Bantu.png>>

# 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

Source: Mariotti, Martine. "Labour Markets during Apartheid in South Africa." *The Economic History Review* 65.3 (n.d.): 1100-122. Blackwell Publishing Ltd, 19 Aug. 2011. Web. <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-0289.2011.00621.x/abstract>>.

# 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-

source: *Southafricaproject.facinghistory.org*. N.p., n.d. Web.

<<http://www.facinghistory.org/sites/facinghistory.org/files/files/safrica/Mining.jpg>>.



# 1978 Statistics

Apartheid and the People of South Africa		
	<i>Blacks</i>	<i>Whites</i>
Population	19 million	4.5 million
Land Allocation	13 percent	87 percent
Share of National Income	< 20 percent	75 percent
Ratio of average earnings	1	14
Minimum taxable income	360 rands	750 rands
Doctors/population	1/44,000	1/400
Infant mortality rate	20% (urban) 40% (rural)	2.7%
Annual expenditure on education per pupil	\$45	\$696
Teacher/pupil ratio	1/60	1/22

Figure 1: Disproportionate Treatment circa 1978. Source: [Leo80]

- Statistics in 1978
- Source: Hilliard, James. "South Africa Apartheid Laws and the Computer | The Discriminating Truth." *Usalawyer.org*. N.p., 17 Aug. 2012. Web. <<http://www.usalawyer.org/south-africa-apartheid-laws-and-the-computer-the-discriminating-truth/>>.

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- *Un.org*. United Nations, n.d. Web. <<http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/discrim/i/homes.jpg>>.