

Resistance to Apartheid

Resistance (opposition) to Apartheid started soon after these policies were put into effect. However, it would take 46 years of struggles and great pain to create equality in Africa.

Two Important Incidents

1. Sharpeville (1960)

The group Pan-Africanist Congress tried to change the “pass laws.” They planned a non-violent march of thousands of people in Sharpeville. They planned to be arrested for not carrying their passbooks. Instead of arresting them, the South African government fired into the crowd, killing 69 and injuring 180.



2. Soweto (1976)

The Department of Bantu Education decided that all black schools had to teach courses in Afrikaans (*Afrikaans is the language spoken by the white Dutch*) instead of English. Ten thousand students led an uprising in Soweto protesting the new educational law. They marched in protest. Their posters said “To Hell with Afrikaans. We Want Equal Education, Not Slave Education.” The government responded by killing more than 500 students and then banned all meetings of black political groups.

Describe the incidents and Sharpeville and Soweto

	Methods used by protestors	Results of the protest
1. Sharpeville		
2. Soweto		

The Resistance movement

The movement to create equality began in 1912 with the creation of the African National Congress (ANC). Below are two important individuals from this movement:



Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela, a native South African was the most important figure in the anti-apartheid movement. He mostly used the methods of Mahatma Gandhi and civil resistance in his struggle against apartheid. However, after the massacre at Sharpeville in 1960, he started using more violent methods. Even though Mandela never killed anyone personally, he gave orders to his organization to attack government offices and other public targets. In 1963, Nelson Mandela and eight others were arrested and charged with starting a terrorist organization.

Desmond Tutu

Tutu was a South African Bishop who travelled and spoke out against apartheid. He even compared apartheid to Nazism and as a result, the government took away his passport and even jailed him. He became famous around the world as someone who spoke for peace and human rights. He was not punished for his actions by the South African government because of his non-violent strategies and his position as a religious leader.

A) How are the strategies of these two leaders above different?

B) Which strategy do you think would be more effective? Explain.

International Pressure

The actions of Mandela and Tutu brought a lot of attention to the injustice of apartheid and caused other countries to take steps to end this unfair policy:

1. CULTURAL BOYCOTT

(boycott- refusing to deal with, or buy anything from a particular person, organization, or country as a means of protest)

British and American musicians and actors refused to perform in South Africa in protest of apartheid.

2. 1964: SOUTH AFRICA BANNED FROM OLYMPICS

South Africa was banned from taking part in the 18th Olympic Games in Tokyo over its refusal to end apartheid.

3. UNITED STATES: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA (1986)

(sanctions-action by one or more states toward another state used to force them to cooperate)

In 1986, American government banned the importation of South African goods and forced American businesses to stop investing in South Africa.

A) Briefly explain the three examples above in your own words.

B) Why would the three examples above put “pressure” on the government of South Africa?

The Fall of Apartheid

Since he was imprisoned in 1962, Nelson Mandela patiently sat in a tiny prison cell. During this time, he became a symbol of freedom and equality around the world.

In 1989, President F.W. de Klerk secretly began talks with the jailed Nelson Mandela.

On February 11, 1990 Mandela was freed. In 1994, the system of apartheid was officially over.

Black South Africans participated in their first election, and Nelson Mandela was elected President.

Since then, Mandela had received over a hundred awards over the last forty years. Mandela is still politically active today.

What is the meaning of the cartoon to the right? ⇒



Our World- Mandela: 20 Years of Freedom - BBC Documentary

A) Describe Mandela's prison cell.

A) Describe the treatment of blacks by police.

B) Why did President Der Klerk release Mandela from prison?
