

4 WHAT WAS APARTHEID?

Introduction

A housemaid, Mathilda Chikuye, was fined 30 rand for having her husband in her room at 20 Talbrager Avenue, Johannesburg.

A garage mechanic, Thabane Ntshiwa, was sentenced to four months in prison for having 'Free Nelson Mandela' scratched on his tea mug.

THE NEWS ITEMS above appeared in South African newspapers in the 1980s.

What kind of system fines a woman for having her husband in her room?

What kind of system imprisons a man for having a slogan scratched on his tea mug?

Both of these events happened because the two people had broken the laws of the system of apartheid, which began in South Africa in 1948.

In this chapter the first question we must ask is: 'What was apartheid?'

But there are other questions to be asked and answered. People have made a lot of claims about apartheid. It is the job of historians to examine the things people say to see if they are historically accurate. So we will examine four questions which historians have tried to answer about apartheid.

Was there anything new about apartheid?

What was apartheid?

Apartheid is a completely new policy, created by us, the National Party.

Was apartheid all planned from the start?

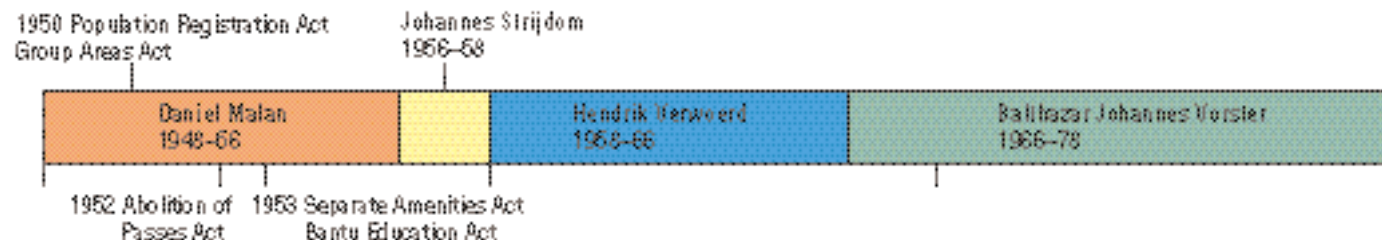
Did apartheid change under Verwoerd?

Apartheid was all planned from the start – the Nationalists were working to a master plan!

Apartheid did seem to be collapsing by the late 1980s. Was it always bound to fail?

It was obvious that apartheid could not last for ever – its collapse was inevitable.

Dr Verwoerd, who was Prime Minister from 1958 to 1966, made big changes to the apartheid system.



SOURCE 1 A timeline showing South African Prime Ministers 1948-78 and key acts of the 1950s

How did apartheid affect people's lives?

TASK

- Here are some sources showing how people were affected by apartheid. Discuss what is happening in each case. Try to reach some first thoughts about what apartheid was like.
- As you read about the laws of apartheid over the next six pages try to match each of Sources 2-8 to the law which caused it.



SOURCE 5 Military trucks moving people out of Sophiatown, Johannesburg, 1955

SOURCE 2 The story of Regina Brooks

“ Regina Brooks was a woman classified as a white, who lived with a Zulu, the father of her child, in Orlando township. The police found out and raided their house in the middle of the night. The white sergeant jumped into their bedroom through the window. Tried at Johannesburg Magistrates Court in November 1955, they were both sent to prison for four months. ”

SOURCE 6 Dr Verwoerd, Prime Minister of South Africa 1958-66, speaking in 1952

“ The white South African's duty to the native is to Christianise him and help him culturally. Native education should be based on the principles of non-equality and segregation. The native will be taught from childhood that equality is not for them. People who believe that are not suitable teachers of natives. ”



SOURCE 3 Regina Brooks with her partner, Richard Kumalo, and their baby



SOURCE 7 A policeman stopping someone to look at his pass



SOURCE 4 Signs in a park indicating areas people were allowed to enter



SOURCE 8 An anti-apartheid protester under house arrest