Apartheid

The British granted South Africa independence in 1910, but gave power only to white people. In 1948, the National Party gained office in an election where only white people were allowed to vote. The party began a policy of racial segregation known as apartheid, which means “apartness.”

The Population Registration Act classified the people as Bantu (black Africans), coloured (people of mixed race), white (the descendants of the Boers and the British), and Asian (Indian and Pakistani immigrants).

The Group Areas Act established separate sections for each race. Members of other races were forbidden to live, work, or own land in areas belonging to other races. Pass Laws required non-whites to carry a “pass” to prove they had permission to travel in white areas.

The Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act created several small “nations” within South Africa for black South Africans. All black South Africans, regardless of where they lived, were made citizens of the homelands and thus were excluded from participating in the governing of South Africa.

Other South African laws forbade most social contacts between races, authorized segregated public facilities, established separate school systems with lower standards for non-whites, and restricted each race to certain jobs.

More than eighty percent of South Africa’s land was set aside for its white residents, despite the fact that they comprised less than ten percent of the population. South Africa’s black majority had resisted apartheid for many years. They began rioting in 1976, when the South African government tried to force black children in the Soweto township to learn Afrikaans, one of the languages of the white minority. The rioting continued for the next fourteen years until the apartheid laws were repealed.

The world community made South Africa a pariah because of its racial policies. The nation was forced to leave the Commonwealth, an alliance of former British colonies, in 1961. In 1985, both the United Kingdom and the United States imposed restrictions on trade.

White South Africans yielded to world pressure and domestic violence in 1990 by repealing most of the apartheid laws. Three years later, a new constitution gave people of all races the right to vote. The following year South Africans elected Nelson Mandela, a black man who had been imprisoned for twenty-seven years as president.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*1. Why do you think the British did not grant the same rights to all races when they granted independence to South Africa in 1910?

*2. What was apartheid?

*3. How the South African government use the Bantu Homelands Citizenship Act to deny voting rights to the Bantus?
Fill in the Blanks

The British granted i______________________ to the *B________ of S________ A__________ in 19____, but life remained unchanged for the indigenous *B________ people of the new nation. Thirty-eight years after the B__________ left S________ A__________, the white *m__n__r__t__ government began a r__________ policy of s________________ known as a__________________.

The people of S________ A__________ were classified into four racial groups during the a_____________ era. The largest group were the B__________s. Next came the mixed race c__________________ people. The smallest group controlled South Africa’s government. They were the w__________ descendants of the *E__r__s. A fourth group, A____________, was later added in order to codify discrimination against I____________ and P__________________ immigrants in South Africa.

Apartheid forced South Africans into separate racial sections and forbade people of different races from l__________ together, or o__________ land in areas belonging to other races. Non-whites were not allowed in w__________ areas without a pass. Eventually, South Africa created several small “n____________” within South Africa. All b__________ South Africans were assigned to a h__________ regardless of where they l___________. Since the black people were r______________ of the newly created homelands, they were not *c________________ of South Africa, so the w__________ leaders of South Africa argued they did not have the right to *v_______ in S________ A__________ elections. A______________ laws in South Africa forbade most s__________ contacts between the r__________, segregated p____________ facilities, established separate s____________ systems, and r______________ each r_______ to certain j______.

Black South Africans began to rise up against a________________ in 1976, when the government attempted to force c______________ in the village of S__________ to learn A________________. Black r_________ condemnation forced S__________ A_______________ to r__________ most of the a______________ laws beginning in 1990. Four years later, all of the citizens of S__________ A__________ selected a former political prisoner named Nelson M____________ as their president.

Answer in Complete Sentences

4. Why did the Bantus of South Africa riot in 1976?

______________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________

5. What two factors led to the repeal of apartheid laws in South Africa?

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*This is a higher order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be graded as correct. ©2015, Mike Dowling. All Rights Reserved.