

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

# UNDERSTANDING APARTHEID

Quaestio: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nunc Agenda:** Read pages 1048 to 1051 as a group and answer the questions that follow.

1. What was Apartheid and how did it start?
2. Who were the ANC and how did they stand up to Apartheid?
3. What was the Sharpeville Massacre and how did it change the approach of the ANC?
4. How did Nelson Mandela and Bishop Desmond Tutu each contribute to ending Apartheid?

## 2. Apartheid DBQ

**Directions:** Examine the documents on Apartheid in your separate packet and answer the questions.

## 2. The Economic Roots of Apartheid

**Directions:** Read the selection below and answer the following questions.

Apartheid was introduced by the National Party in 1948 following their election success; the system was designed to withhold citizens' rights from all non-White members of South Africa (Clark & Worger, 2004). It is important to note that apartheid was not the start of racial segregation in South Africa. Since the formation of the Union of South Africa the government had employed racial segregating policies, such as the formation of the 'homelands' in 1936 which limited where Africans could live (Deegan, 2001, p.25). Instead apartheid can be seen as the crystallisation of segregation. The system divided the population by alleged racial groups: Africans, Coloureds, Whites and Asians (Clark & Worger, 2004). All political, social, and economic aspects of people's lives were governed by these categories. For example, the Reservation of Separate Amenities Act enforced racial segregation in all public areas such as transport and leisure

activities (Deegan, 2001). South Africa essentially acted as a police state during the period of apartheid, any opposition was quickly suppressed (Clark & Worger, 2004).

Many argue that apartheid was simply segregation under a new name, based on the ideological belief that races should not mix; however, Wolpe (1972) argues that it was motivated by economic reasons. For Wolpe, apartheid developed as a response to the challenges faced by the system of cheap labour in South Africa. Before apartheid, South African capitalists had benefitted from a cheap low skilled workforce made up of migrant African workers. These workers lived with their families in the 'homelands' and migrated for work. Their families worked the land to provide a level of subsistence whilst the workers migrated. As workers had additional support, employers could pay the migrant workers a wage below that needed for subsistence, hence, the employers could maximise profit whilst maintaining a workforce. Wolpe argues that this cheap labour system started to erode due to the deterioration of the soil standards in the homelands. As the land was overpopulated and had little investment, the soil became unable to produce the food needed for subsistence. Families no longer had enough income to survive which resulted in protests, strikes, and mass urban migration. Apartheid, Wolpe argues, responded to this breakdown and managed to maintain the cheap labour supply. Instead of using subsistence, apartheid used repression to remove workers' rights, control workers' geographical mobility, and stop upwards pressure on wages. This economic importance of apartheid for the White minority should not be overlooked. Relying on the low wages maintained by apartheid, South African firms had an average annual profit of 25% by the early eighties compared to 6.5% in Britain at the same time (Clark & Worger, 2004, p.63). The economic improvements were only experienced by the Whites, whereas for Africans the situation became worse. In 1971, the real African mine wage was lower than it had been in 1911, and African factory workers were paid 18% of their White counterparts' wages (Clark & Worger, 2004, p.63).

**(Source:** "Despite the 1994 political victory against apartheid, its economic legacy persists," Haydn Cornish-Jenkins, *South African History Online*)

1. How were homelands similar to reservations given to Native Americans?
2. How were white South Africans able to exploit blacks living in the homelands as a source of cheap labor?
3. Why did this system begin to fall apart?
4. How was apartheid in some ways an attempt to maintain this collapsing system?

### **3. Nelson Mandela: Glory and Hope**

**Directions:** Read the excerpt from Nelson Mandela's speech on page 1053 in the textbook and answer the following questions.

1. When Apartheid ended, there was a danger of backlash by blacks against whites who supported apartheid. How does Mandela's speech respond to that danger?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In addition to political freedom, what further freedoms does Mandela call for in his speech?

### **4. Final Conclusions**

**Directions:** Use the knowledge and understanding you have gained to discuss and answer these summary questions as a group.

1. How was Apartheid driven by both racial and economic motivation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What problems would you predict would still persist after the end of the Apartheid regime?