

## GLOSSARY:

**African National Congress (ANC)** - Founded in 1912 as the South African Native National Congress (SANNC), the ANC initially worked within the law to eliminate racial oppression. The ANC was banned in 1960 by the Apartheid government, but continued to function in exile and underground inside South Africa. In 1961, the previously non-violent ANC adopted a policy of armed resistance and established Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) or MK. President F.W. de Klerk removed the ban on the ANC in 1990 and ANC leaders engaged in negotiations with Apartheid leaders which led to the 1994 democratic elections.

**Amnesty** - A complete and full pardon, removing all legal memory of an offence.

**ANC Women's League** - In 1943, the ANC accepted women into its membership and in 1948; the ANC Women's League was formed.

**Anti-Apartheid movement** - A general name for the international movement to oppose white minority rule in South Africa.

**Apartheid** - Literally "apartness" in Afrikaans. A policy of racial segregation further entrenched by the National Party after it won the whites-only election in 1948. It brutally enforced a highly stratified society in which whites dominated politically, economically, and socially at the expense of blacks.

**Bantu** - A term used to describe a family of languages spoken mainly in southern and eastern Africa. During Apartheid, the term "Bantu" was used as a derogatory term for black Africans.

**Bantu Education** - Educational system enforced from 1953 and designed to train black people for their role as inferiors in Apartheid society. Far less money was spent on educating black children than white children. There was large-scale resistance to Bantu Education, the most notable example being the Soweto Uprising of 1976.

**Bantustan** - Ethnically defined areas for Africans created on the basis of the "Native Reserves" (Land Act, 1913). Constituted only 13% of South African territory. Bantustans were to be given self-government and later independence in order to deny Africans citizenship rights in "white South Africa." 3.5 million Africans were forcibly removed to Bantustans. Widespread poverty in these areas helped employers secure a supply of cheap black labour. Today, all South Africans have political rights in a unified country, and Bantustans no longer exist.

**Black consciousness** - Ideology popularised by Steve Biko that aimed to liberate black people (Africans, 'coloureds', and Indians) psychologically through the realization of black self-worth and positive action.

**Black Sash** - Members were white middle class women who would stand silently in public places wearing a black sash as a symbol of mourning for the government's human

rights abuses. The Black Sash established Advice Offices in urban centres to assist with many issues, particularly the pass laws. Black Sash members also became involved in protesting forced removals, monitoring pass courts, and being a presence at political funerals in the 1980s.

**Civil Cooperation Bureau (CCB)** - A secret South African Defence Force unit created in 1986 with the purpose of disrupting anti-Apartheid activities in South Africa and abroad by assassinating resistance leaders and destroying ANC facilities.

**Civil disobedience** - Non-violent actions to refuse to obey unjust laws in an effort to change government policy or legislation without violence.

**Communism** - A political philosophy based on communal ownership of property. It argued that the workers of the world would overthrow the capitalist system. The first communist revolution occurred in Russia in 1917. People who supported the rights of the poor established communist parties in all corners of the world, including South Africa.

**Constitution** - the laws and principles by which a country is governed. A new constitution replaced the racist constitution after the 1994 election which provided the framework for a non-racial democracy.

**Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA)** - Negotiating forum established by most political organizations in 1991 to carry out the transition from Apartheid to democracy in South Africa. A second CODESA met in May of 1992. It was succeeded by the Negotiating Forum.

**Federation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)** - A national, non-racial federation of trade unions formed in 1979 that affiliated to the UDF in 1983. It was organized mainly by black workers and later evolved into COSATU.

**Federation of South African Women (FEDSAW or FSAW)** - Organized in April 1954 as an attempt to create the first inter-racial women's association. Active in the organization were a large number of teachers, nurses and other members of the small African professional class. A few trade unionists made an important contribution to the organization. The primary objective was to bring women together to mobilize for equal rights and recognition before the law. In August, 1956, it organized a march by 20,000 women on the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest pass laws.

**Groote Schuur Minute** - Resolution of May 4, 1990 in which the African National Congress (ANC) and the South African government agreed to political negotiations and an end to armed struggle.

**Liberation theology** - Belief that Christianity preaches liberation of the poor and oppressed and that Christians should work for equality and social justice.

**Lobola** - Nguni term for groom's gift of cattle (ilobolo) for a bride (i.e. "bridewealth") as part of marriage ceremonies and family exchanges. Today, lobola can also be given in cash.

**Multi-Party Negotiating Forum** - On April 2, 1993, the Multi-Party Negotiation Process (MPNP) began in Kempton Park outside Johannesburg. It laid the foundations for an interim constitution that governed the country through the 1994 elections up to the adoption of a new constitution in 1996.

**National Party (NP)** - Afrikaner nationalist party that won the 1948 elections that ushered in Apartheid. The party lost power to the ANC in 1994, returned in 1997 as the "New National Party," and was then dissolved in 2005.

**Nationalism** - Strong adherence to one's nation and national identity.

**Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC)** - Founded in 1959 in a split from the African National Congress. The PAC rejected the ANC's non-racial policies and promoted African Nationalism and more mass action. It formed a militant wing, called Poqo, after the Sharpeville massacre and worked both in exile and underground within South Africa.

**Pass** - (also known as a dompas) Identification papers for African men and women with racial classification and other personal information, including employment status and history. The government used passes to restrict movement of black people. Passes criminalized millions of ordinary South Africans.

**Pretoria Minute** - Resolution of August 6, 1990 affirming the Groote Schuur Minute and setting out terms for further negotiations.

**Record of Understanding** - In 1992, Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk signed the Record of Understanding: a promise to resume formal investigations. In addition, the document set a time table for the release of prisoners, a ban on dangerous weapons, fencing for hostels, and provided for the creation of an elected constitutional assembly to develop a new constitution for South Africa.

**South African Communist Party (SACP)** - Known as the Communist Party of South Africa (CPSA) from 1921-1953, it initially focused on the cause of white workers. By the late 1920s, it was oriented to the needs of black workers. The CPSA was declared illegal in 1950 and reformed as the South African Communist Party (SACP) in 1953. The SACP is now part of the "Tripartite Alliance" with the African National Congress and Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU).

**South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)** - Founded in 1955 as a critical response to the decision of the Trade Union Congress of South Africa to restrict its membership to non-African unions. SACTU gained vast membership as the labour wing of the Congress Alliance.

**South African Indian Congress (SAIC)** - Established in May 1923 by a coalition of political organizations aimed at promoting Indian rights in Natal and the rest of South Africa. During apartheid, the SAIC cooperated with the African National Congress, jointly launching the Defiance Campaign of 1952 and joining the Congress Alliance.

**South African Students Organization (SASO)** - A Black Consciousness organization of black university students formed in 1969, with Steve Biko as its first president. SASO helped form the Black Peoples Convention in 1972.

**Total strategy** - Policy of the Apartheid regime developed in the late 1970s under the leadership of P.W. Botha. Aimed to respond to a perceived "total onslaught" on South Africa by Communists and the international community seeking to undermine apartheid. Military campaigns destabilized neighbouring countries and armed force was used to repress dissent in South Africa. Botha also initiated some political reforms that tinkered with apartheid but maintained white supremacy.

**Township** - Black residential areas on the outskirts of South African cities created by the Apartheid government.

**Transitional Executive Council** - A council formed in 1993 to oversee the transition from Apartheid to democracy. This process included the formation of an interim government, setting the terms for the 1994 election, and changing the South African flag and national anthem.

**Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** - Government body created by the Promotion of National Unity and Reconciliation Act of 1995 for the purpose of investigating politically motivated human rights violations committed from 1960-1994. Victims and perpetrators of human rights violations testified before the commission, often in public hearings. Amnesty was granted to applicants if two criteria were met: (1) the crimes were politically motivated, and (2) the applicant was fully truthful.

**Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK)** - Armed wing of the African National Congress established in 1961 to force the Apartheid regime to the bargaining table through acts of sabotage and, if necessary, military campaigns.

**United Democratic Front (UDF)** - Founded in 1983 as an umbrella body that unified numerous unions, and youth, religious, civic, and sport organizations to oppose apartheid. It was initially founded to protest the introduction of the Tricameral Constitution. It affiliated with the ANC and led mass protests and boycotts throughout the 1980s. It disbanded in 1991.

This booklet was compiled by South African History Online (SAHO) for the Department of Basic Education. It should be used as a teaching aid by high school teachers and students taking History or Life Orientation as a subject.

The information in this booklet provides an overview of a period in modern South African history and does not include or mention all the role players and events. For more information on the role of women in our history visit [www.sahistory.org.za](http://www.sahistory.org.za)

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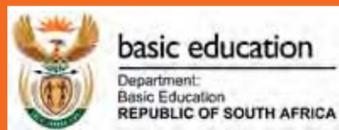
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## A BIENNIAL PUBLICATION ON HISTORY AND HERITAGE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION

The Department of Basic Education will publish a biennial booklet on history and heritage. The 'Celebrating Women in South African History' launches this series of publications. While this inaugural publication is focussed on certain women who have made a mark in South Africa's struggle for liberation, it is envisaged that future publications will examine the role contemporary women played across the different spheres of life, from arts and culture, to sports, business and academia.

This publication does not only promote the strengthening of the teaching of history but seeks to present this part of our history and heritage, which previously received little attention in the mainstream. It is fitting that this inaugural publication is launched in the month of August, as it's the month dedicated to celebrating and commemorating the role of women in the South African calendar. Future publications will be devoted to other events and people who shaped and continue to influence our history and heritage. We encourage all schools and training institutions to use this publication for various education activities.



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