A CHRONOLOGICAL OUTLINE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S HISTORY

Millennia BC. Hunter-gatherers, ancestors of the Khoisan living in South Africa

AD 300 - 1000 African tribes moved into Southern Africa

1487 Bartolomeus Dias sailed around the Cape

1498 Vasco da Gama discovered sea route to India

16th Century Portugal monopolised sea route to India

1595 Dutch fleet sailed to Java

1602 Establishment of the Dutch East India Company (Verenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC) in Amsterdam

1652 Dutch East India Company established a provisión station at Cape Town

1652 - 1662 Jan van Riebeeck first commander at the Cape. Started with the importation of slaves

1657 First independent farmers (“free burgers”) at the Cape

1659 First war between the VOC and the KhoiKhoi

1679 - 1699 Governorship of Simon van der Stel. He conducted several wars against the KhoiKhoi

1699 - 1707 Governorship of Willem Adriaan van der Stel.

1701 - 1705 WA van der Stel started to give free grazing permits and loan farms to free burgers and Trekboers moved into the interior.

18th Century

1713 Trekboers colonised a large part of the Western and Southern Cape in co-operation with the “tame” KhoiKhoi

1717 Small-pox epidemic - 9 out of every 10 Khoikoi died in Western Cape

1717 Council of Policy in Cape Town decided to give preference to the importation of slaves above Knechts from Europe

1720 - 1809 Khoisan children abducted and turned into “inboekelinge” (serfs or indentures labourers)

1730's From 1730's Commando became purely civilian and services in Commando became compulsory for Trekboers and Khoi in 1739

1795 - 1803 First British occupation of the Cape

1799 - 1803 KhoiKhoi rebellion in Eastern Cape

1803 - 1806 Cape given back to the Dutch - The Batavian period

1806 British establishment permanent control over Cape Colony - until 1910.

1809 Caledon's “Hottentot" proclamation - thousands of Khoisan became indenture labourers or serfs.

1920 British settlers arrived in Eastern Cape

1820's Aggressive expansion of Zulu kingdom under Shaka - i.e. the mfeqane or the “chasing”

1828 Ordinance 49 imposed pass control on African (Xhosa) workers in Cape Colony: Ordinance 50 ended indenture-(inboekelingskap) of Khoisan

1834 - 1834 Slavery finally abolished
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1834 - 1838</td>
<td>Great Trek to the Transoranga by 10 000 Afrikaners (or Voortrekkers)</td>
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<td>1838/9</td>
<td>Voortrekkers defeated Zulu's in Natal and established the Republic of Natalia</td>
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<td>1838</td>
<td>Voortrekkers defeated Ndebele and drove them north of Limpopo</td>
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<td>1843</td>
<td>The British annexed Natal and many Voortrekkers moved to Orange Free State and Transvaal</td>
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<td>1846 - 1847</td>
<td>Seventh frontier war in Eastern Cape</td>
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<td>1852</td>
<td>The British recognised the independence of the Boer (Afrikaner Republic) in Transvaal</td>
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<td>1850 - 1853</td>
<td>Eighth frontier war</td>
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<td>1854</td>
<td>The British government recognised the independence of the Boer (Afrikaner republic) in the Orange Free State (OFS)</td>
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<td>1856/7</td>
<td>The Xhosa Cattle-Killing episode</td>
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<td>1860</td>
<td>Introduction of Indian indenture labourers to Natal (ended in 1911)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Discovery of diamond near Kimberley</td>
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<td>1877 - 1881</td>
<td>British annexed Transvaal</td>
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<tr>
<td>1886</td>
<td>Gold discovered on Witwatersrand (Johannesburg); gold boom started</td>
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<td>1894</td>
<td>Glen Grey Act forced African into wage labour</td>
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<td>1899 - 1902</td>
<td>Anglo Boer War - British conquest of Transvaal and the OFS</td>
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<td>1903/5</td>
<td>South Africa Native Affairs Commission (SANAC) recommended blueprint for segregation and labour repression</td>
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<td>1904 - 1907</td>
<td>More than 60 000 Chinese indentured labour used on the gold mines</td>
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<td>1907</td>
<td>Transvaal and the OFS granted Parliamentary government by Britain</td>
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<td>1910</td>
<td>Union of South Africa was founded on strength of the Act of Westminster (1909). Segregation became official policy</td>
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<td>1910 - 1919</td>
<td>Genl Louis Botha primeministership</td>
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<td>1911</td>
<td>Mines and Works Act imposed a colour bar (racial discrimination) in mines</td>
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<td>1912</td>
<td>Foundation of SANNAC (later ANC)</td>
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<td>1913</td>
<td>Land Act - only 8% of South Africa territory set apart as native reserves; share-cropping and squatter farming prohibited; labour repression intensified</td>
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<td>1913 - 1914</td>
<td>White workers in mines and on railways organised general strikes</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>National Party founded by Afrikaners</td>
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<td>1914</td>
<td>SA entered first Wold War and some Afrikaners took part in a Rebellion against the government</td>
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<td>1917</td>
<td>Anglo American corporation of South Africa founded</td>
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<td>1919 - 1924</td>
<td>Genl Jan Smuts primeministership</td>
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<td>1922</td>
<td>General strike of white wineworkers - a little war on the Bar</td>
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1961  South Africa became a republic outside the Common Wealth and Umkonto we Sizwe and Pogo founded as guerilla movements

1963  General Laws Amendment Act permits detention without trial - beginning of the "Police State"

1964  Mandela and other ANC leaders sentence to life imprison-ment on Robben island

1966  Dr HF Verwoerd murdered in Parliament

1966-1978  BJ Vorster’s primeministership

1969  Foundation of South African Student’s Organisation (SASO) under Steve Biko

1971  Establishment of Black People’s Convention (BPC) by Black Consciousness Movement

1973/75  Widespread African strikes in Natal and Eastern Cape

1974  General Spinola succeeded with a coup d’etat in Lissabon

1975  Foundation of Inkatha under Buthelezi

1975  Mozambique and Angola became independent

1975/76  South African troops invaded Angola - driven back

1976  Revolt in Soweto and other townships; the Liberation Struggle intensified

1977  Detention and murder of Biko; banning of Black Consciousness organization


1978-1984  PW Botha’s primeministership

1978  PW Botha introduces “total strategy” policy against the (alleged) Total onslaught; Foundation of Azanian People’s Organisation (AZAPO)

1979+1981  Carlton + Good Hope Conference meetings of government and business leaders

1982  Formation of Conservative Party under Treurnicht

1982  Black Local Authorities Act extends Community Council powers in townships

1983  United Democratic Front (UDF) founded

1984  Elections under new trilateral constitution widely boycotted by Indian and Coloured voters. PW Botha became Executive President until 1989

1984-86  Widespread resistance; State of Emergency and troops moved into townships

1985  Foundation of Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU); Botha’s rubicon speech in Durban. International bank loans called in and sanctions intensified; Uitenhage shootings; national Education Crisis Committee (NECC) calls for “People’s Education”; Conflict in Inanda (Natal)

1986  Repeal of influx control measures; Commonwealth delegation visit aborted by South African raids on neighbouring countries

1986/89  Widespread conflict between Inkatha and UDF in Natal

1923 Native Urban Areas Act provided for urban segregation and African influx control (Stadism)

1924 Industrial Reconciliation Act excluded African's from trade union representation

1924 the Coalition (or Pact) between National Party and Labour party won election

1924 - 1933 Genl J B M Hertzog's primeministership of Pact - government. (Several discriminatory legislation put on the law book)

1932 Carnegie Rapport on Poor White problem published; SA left the gold-standard belatedly during the Great Depression; price of gold increased by 46%

1933 South African Party (under Smuts) and National Party (under Hertzog) formed coalition government and entered into a "fusion" in 1934. They founded the United Party

1933 - 1939 Hertzog's primeministership of Fusion government

1934 Dr DF Malan and a group of Afrikaners break away from Hertzog and established the Purified National Party in 1934

1936 Africans removed from Cape common franchise

1938 Centenary celebration of Great Trek (1939) mobilised Afrikaner nationalism

1939 SA entered Second World War against the wish of Genl Hertzog - Hertzog resigned as prime minister

1939 - 1948 Genl Jan Smuts's primeministership of United Party government

1943 Foundation of ANC Youth Movement

1946 80 000 African mineworkers strike - troops drove them back to the mines

1948 National Party won the Election and started to implement apartheid

1948 - 1954 Dr DF Malan primeministership of NP government

1950 Apartheid legislation: Population Registration Act, Immorality Act, Group Area Act, Suppression of Communist Act, etc.

1952 Important legislation concerning pass laws (also for African women) and influx control laws

1953 Bantu (Africán) Education law and Defiance Campaign (or passive resistance) against pass laws


1955 National Congress of the People adopted the freedom charter

1956 Coloureds removed from Cape common franchise in a morally doubtful manner; Mass demonstration of women against pass laws

1956 - 1961 Treason trial of 156 members of the Congress Alliance - nobody convicted

1958 - 1966 Dr HF Verwoerd primeministership

1969 Verwoerd announced the Bantustan or grand Apartheid or Separate Development Policy.

1960 Sharpeville shootings (69 killed). The banning of Liberation Organisations and the Referendum on the Republic
1989  
Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) launched civil disobedience campaign

1990  
De Klerk unbanned ANC, PAC and Communist Party; Nelson Mandela released from jail; Namibia obtained independence

1991  
Repeal of Group Areas, Land and Population Registration Acts; Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) formed to negotiate democratic constitution; Government backing of Inkatha vigilantes against ANC

1992  
White referendum supported CODESA negotiations but they broke down and Inkatha-ANC conflict intensified. NP accepted the "sun-set" clauses and with it agreed to end white supremacy

1993  
Multi-party negotiations resumed to form interim government

1994  
Democratic elections

1994 - 1999  
Presidency of Nelson Mandela

1996  
The ANC replaces its Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) with its Growth Employment and Distribution (GEAR) policy

1999  
Second democratic election

1999  
Presidency of Thabo Mbeki