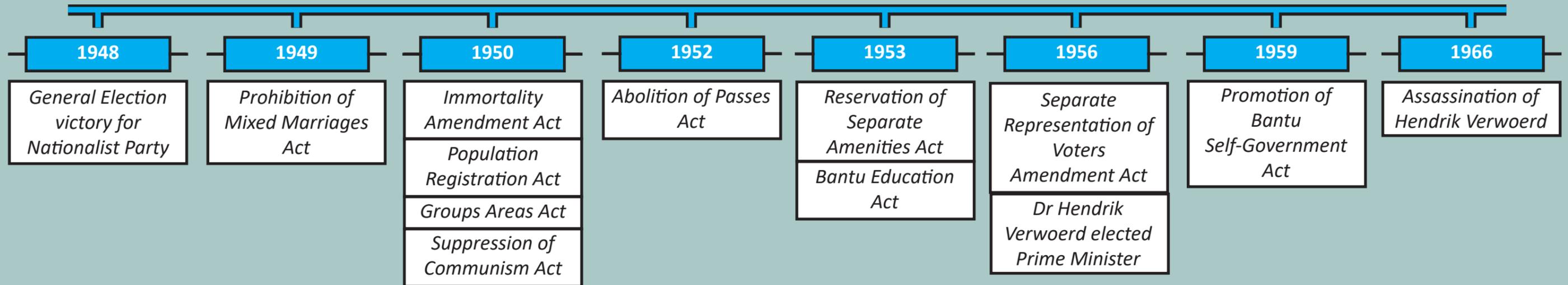


Knowledge Organiser: Changes in South Africa (Unit 2)

Key Question 1: *Why was the apartheid system established?*

Timeline of events:



Important concept

1948 was a turning point in South Africa's history following the National Party's victory in the General Election. The Nationalists supported the introduction of 'apartheid' policies that promised to limit the rights of black South Africans and keep them apart from white people.

Key words

Apartheid – A word meaning 'separateness' in Afrikaans.

Afrikaners – White people of Dutch descent.

Nationalist Party – Political party supported by white South Africans who supported apartheid.

Afrikaans – The language of Arifkaner/Boer.

Bantustan – Land designated to black South Africans based on their ethnic and language grouping by the white government.

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Key Question 1: *Why was the apartheid system established?*

South Africa in 1948

- ◇ The General Election held in 1948 presented South Africans with the choice between the United Party, who supported greater integration in South Africa, and the **National Party**, who supported the establishment of 'apartheid' policies.
- ◇ Support for the Nationalist Party was boosted by the publication of the Sauer Report 1948. The report concluded that integration would lead to the Whites losing power in South Africa in the future. By offering policies of 'apartheid' the Nationalist Party promised to protect White dominance in South Africa, especially regarding protecting jobs and ensuring that black people did not live in the same neighborhoods as white people.
- ◇ The victory of the National Party in the General Election allowed the new Prime Minister, Dr Daniel Malan, to introduce a series of laws that would ensure the dominance of Whites in South Africa in all areas of life. The government identified three different racial groups as a basis to their policies; white people including **Afrikaners** and other whites, mixed race or coloured people and natives or black people.

Main Apartheid Laws 1949-1956

- ◇ PROHIBITION OF MIXED MARRIAGES ACT (1949): Banned marriages between whites and non-whites.
- ◇ IMMORTALITY AMENDMENT ACT (1950): Banned sexual relationships between racial groups. Punishment if found guilty was six months hard labour.
- ◇ POPULATION REGISTRATION ACT (1950): Grouped South Africans into three categories: White, Coloured and Natives/Black.
- ◇ GROUPS AREAS ACT (1950): Identified where each racial group should live and areas to be for whites only.
- ◇ SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT (1950): Banned communists and any political group that threatened change.
- ◇ ABOLITION OF PASSES ACT (1952): Forced all black people working in white areas to carry a passbook. Anyone caught without a passbook could be jailed.
- ◇ RESERVATION OF SEPARATE AMENITIES ACT (1953): Areas and amenities were signposted as 'European Only' for white people and 'Non-European' for black or coloured people.
- ◇ BANTU EDUCATION ACT (1953): Increased governmental control of the education system giving black South Africans an inferior education to whites.
- ◇ SEPARATE REPRESENTATION OF VOTERS AMENDMENT ACT (1956)

Changes under Verwoerd 1958-1966

- ◇ Dr Hendrik Verwoerd became the Prime Minister in 1958. He had previously served as minister of Native Affairs in the 1950s and was responsible for forming and contributing to the development of apartheid laws.
- ◇ In his new role as Prime Minister, Verwoerd's vision for South Africa's future was based on ensuring that apartheid separated white South Africans from all other ethnic groups in the country and ensured white supremacy. He was convinced that it was his God given duty to ensure that White and Black South African's should live apart.
- ◇ The Nationalist Party's policies towards Black South Africans and other ethnic groups became increasingly focused on the physical separation of these people from white South Africans and the deliberate attempt to take away their rights.
- ◇ The creation of the Bantustans or Black Homelands was central to Verwoerd's apartheid policies.
- ◇ In protest to his racial policies Verwoerd was assassinated as he took his seat in the parliamentary chamber in 1966.

Self-governing homelands and Bantustans

- ◇ **The Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act 1959** initially created eight areas, later extended to 10, within South Africa that were designated for Black South African ethnic groups to live i.e. the Zulu people were to live in the KwaZulu homeland and Xhosa people were designated Transkei and Ciskei as their homelands.
- ◇ The Nationalist Government justified this policy by arguing that black people could now govern for themselves in their homelands. This was promoted as being the best solution for both black and white South Africans to co-exist in South Africa.
- ◇ Only 13% of South Africa's land was allocated as Bantustans, leaving the remaining 87% under White control. Black South Africans accounted for 75% of the population. Three million black people were forced to move from their homes to their Bantustan.
- ◇ The Bantustans, commonly referred to as homelands, were rural, poor and only suitable for farming. The white people controlled all lands that contained mineral and industrial resources.
- ◇ The Bantustans were unable to sustain themselves economically and were never able to truly enjoy self-government. The Bantustans were dependent on support from the white government that meant they were still effectively under white control.
- ◇ Four Bantustans were declared independent by the South African government in the 1970s but were in reality still dependent on the white South African government.