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AFTER MANDELA

How does the generation born after the end of apartheid view South Africa's present—and future?

Above: Two young South Africans at Mandela's memorial service. **Below:** Nelson Mandela in 1994.

“We are fighting for a society where people will cease thinking in terms of color.”

Nelson Mandela spoke those words in 1993, when his homeland of South Africa was still struggling to break free of apartheid, the government policy that had enforced white-minority rule and kept South Africans of different races separate for generations. At the time, he had been a free man for only three years—after spending 27 years in prison for his opposition to his country's racial restrictions.

In 1994, a new constitution abolished the last traces of apartheid. Mandela became South Africa's first black president after the first democratic and multiracial elections in the nation's history.

Mandela died last month at the age of 95, a hugely famous and respected world leader. Amid the mourning over his death—and celebrations of his

WORDS TO KNOW

- **domestic** (*adj*): of one's own country; not foreign
- **reconciliation** (*n*): the act of bringing together in friendship two people or groups divided by a conflict
- **corruption** (*n*): dishonest or illegal behavior, especially by people in positions of power

life—many people wondered: How far has South Africa come toward the ideals he fought for all his life?

THE “BORN FREES”

For young people like Nokuthula Magubane, 18, it has come very far indeed. Kids her age have never known the segregation that was such a hard fact of life for their parents and older generations. Magubane, who is black, lives in a suburb about 45 minutes outside Johannesburg, South Africa’s financial and industrial center. A third of her friends are white, she says.

Nokuthula and her friends belong to the generation known as the “Born Frees”—South Africans born since 1994.

“Now there are no boundaries,” Miles Mabaane, 18, tells *The New York Times*. “We young people have the potential to come up with new strategies of how to save the country, how to do things better, how to accommodate everybody in this country.”

APARTNESS

The ideal of “no boundaries” had no place in the South Africa that Mandela knew as a young man. Whites as well as blacks were bound by rigid laws that spelled out where people could live and work, how they were educated, and who they could associate with.

Apartheid became law in 1948. (*Apartheid* means “apartness” in Afrikaans, a language spoken mainly by white South Africans of Dutch descent.) It split people into four categories: whites, Coloreds (mixed-race), Asians, and blacks. Whites, though less than 20 percent of the population, dominated politically, economically, and socially.



Signs indicating restrictions by race were a common sight throughout South Africa during apartheid. The consequences of ignoring those restrictions could be severe, including arrest, beatings, and imprisonment.

Apartheid affected every aspect of South African life. Whites could own land, move about freely, and live and work where they chose. But blacks, who were not even considered citizens, had to live in separate townships or villages—rundown areas that often lacked even basic services, such as electricity and running water. Coloreds and Asians fared better than blacks, but barely so.

The life that Born Frees of all races now accept as normal would have been impossible just a generation ago. Under apartheid, Magubane would have been banned from the suburb she lives in today. Blacks were allowed in such areas only if they had jobs there—as gardeners or maids, for instance. Even then, they’d have to show ID and employment documents to enter the area, and could be there only during specified hours of the day.

Mandela fought against these and many other apartheid

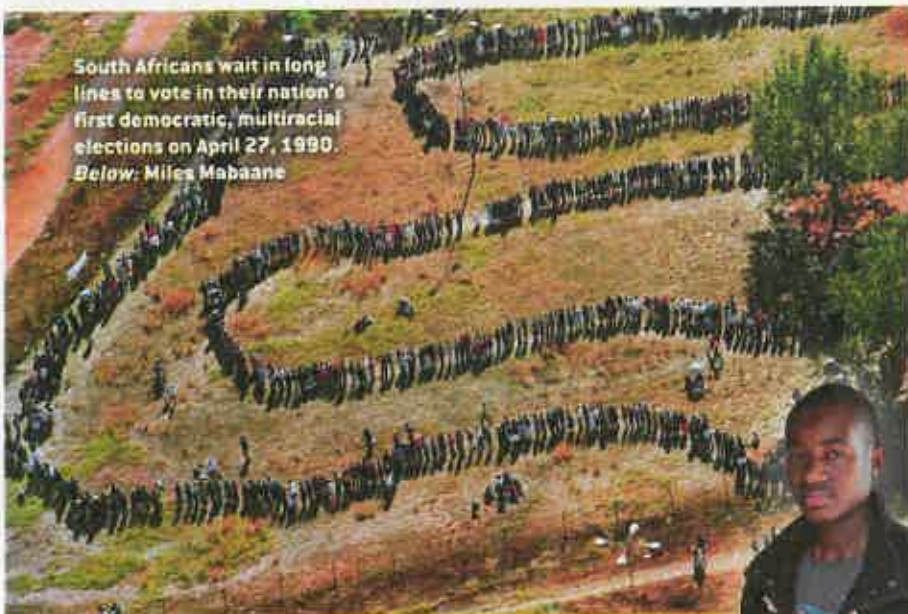
restrictions. He gave speeches and **organized antigovernment protests**. In 1960, he led a nationwide stay-at-home strike during which many nonwhites set fire to the identification passbooks they were required to carry at all times. Many whites regarded him as a dangerous revolutionary and terrorist.

In 1964, he was found guilty of crimes against the government and sentenced to life in prison. But even locked away, with his words and image banned by law, Mandela remained a powerful symbol of the anti-apartheid movement. By the late 1980s, South Africa’s white government realized that it couldn’t squelch the protest rallies, boycotts, marches, and outbreaks of violence as a growing number of South Africa’s nonwhites demanded freedom—for Mandela as well as themselves.

Finally, the government bowed to the intense pressure of protests

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South Africans wait in long lines to vote in their nation's first democratic, multiracial elections on April 27, 1990. Below: Miles Mabaane



“We young people have the potential to come up with new strategies of how to save the country, how to do things better, how to accommodate everybody.”

—Miles Mabaane

both international and **domestic**. It engaged in secret meetings with Mandela, still imprisoned, to try to resolve the problems. In February 1990, Mandela was released from prison—and was elected president just four years later.

“LET US FORGIVE”

Mandela's single five-year term as president (1994-1999) forged a new nation. His greatest achievement was to bring the country's whites and nonwhites together as one nation. His Truth and **Reconciliation** Commission (TRC) encouraged South Africans of all races to testify at public hearings. This allowed people who had suffered the brutality of apartheid to speak publicly about it and give evidence that became part of the public record. It also allowed people who had violated

the human rights of others to admit their wrongdoing and request amnesty (an official pardon).

The Born Frees' attitude toward apartheid and race can be seen as proof of the TRC's success. When parents today complain that young people don't care about apartheid's place in their history, Born Frees say that isn't so—they just have a different point of view.

“Yes, we were oppressed by white people; yes, it happened,” Magubane tells *The New York Times*. “Yes, it hurt. But let us forgive each other so that we can move on fully and contribute fully to the South Africa we want to see in the future.”

WILL THEY STEP UP?

Between South Africa's bitter past and its hoped-for future lies a troubled present. Racial

divisions may not be official policy anymore, but when it comes to unemployment, education, poverty, and health care, sharp imbalances remain—and blacks still fare much worse than whites.

The glow from Mandela's historic presidency has long since faded. Jacob Zuma, 71, is the current president. Besides having to deal with steep unemployment, high rates of HIV/AIDS, and other daunting challenges, Zuma's administration faces charges of **corruption**.

Later this year, South Africa will hold national elections. In 1994, an astounding 87 percent of eligible voters went to the polls. (By contrast, turnout for the 2012 U.S. presidential election was 58 percent.) This year will be the first opportunity for Born

Frees to participate in their nation's young democracy. Will South Africans too young to remember apartheid take charge of their future by exercising their hard-won right to vote?

Some observers worry that Born Frees will sit this one out. So far, less than 25 percent of 18- and 19-year-olds have registered to vote, compared with 55 percent of people aged 20 to 29.

Whether or not Born Frees turn out to vote this year, many of them are confident that Mandela will have a lasting influence on their generation.

“We have seen his example, and now we're going to follow it,” says Magubane. “We're going to take it one step further into the future, and we're going to build the South Africa that he would have loved to see.”

—Kathy Wilmore

CAN WE TALK?

South Africa has 11 official languages, with isiZulu, isiXhosa, and Afrikaans the most widely spoken. (Another, English, is spoken by 8.2 percent of the population.) During apartheid, Afrikaans (based on Dutch) was rejected by nonwhites, who considered it the language of their oppressors, but it's more accepted now.

★ National capital
● City
○ Village
 International border
 Provincial border
 Scale
 0 100 MI
 0 100 KM



SURROUNDED!

Other than tiny Vatican City and San Marino (both of which sit inside Italy), Lesotho is the only independent nation that is surrounded by another one. Lesotho is slightly larger than Maryland.

A CAPITAL TRIO

Like the U.S., South Africa has three branches of government—but each has its own capital. Pretoria is the administrative capital, Cape Town the legislative, and Bloemfontein the judicial.

QUESTIONS

1. South Africa is divided into how many provinces?
2. In which province is South Africa's administrative capital?
3. How many of the world's independent countries sit entirely inside another independent country?
4. Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison, is nearest to which major city shown?
5. Which city shown is closest to 29°S, 25°E?
6. Which country shown has two capitals?
7. The nation of Lesotho shares a border with how many South African provinces?
8. What geographic feature forms Namibia's southern border with South Africa?
9. Part of which South African province is surrounded by another province?
10. In which city does South Africa's Supreme Court of Appeal meet?

MAP: JIM MCMAHON/ARND BRONKHORST



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WANTED: MORE MANDELAS

What if there were more people like Nelson Mandela in the world? Study the cartoon, then answer the questions.

1. Who do you think is speaking in this cartoon?

2. What is happening to Earth?

3. What do the words and symbols around Earth indicate?

4. What is the cartoonist saying about the state of the world? Why does he think the world needs more people like Nelson Mandela? Do you agree? Why or why not?



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Words to Know

We'll introduce you to 100 key Social Studies terms this year. These five are in this issue. Fill in the letter of the closest meaning.

1. **bipartisan** (p. 6)

- (A) of two opinions
- (B) self-governing
- (C) supported by one party
- (D) supported by two parties

2. **corruption** (p. 8)

- (A) credibility
- (B) governmental reform
- (C) improper behavior by people in power
- (D) openness among officials

3. **domestic** (p. 8)

- (A) from overseas
- (B) international
- (C) made in secret
- (D) of one's own country

4. **reconciliation** (p. 8)

the act of . . .

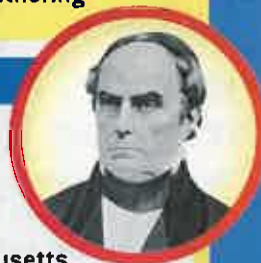
- (A) bringing people back together
- (B) exposing past crimes
- (C) fighting for a just cause
- (D) testifying at trial

5. **Whig Party** (p. 6)

- (A) annual hairdressing event
- (B) majority in today's Senate
- (C) party that opposed the Democrats in the 1800s
- (D) Senate gathering

BONUS

Name That Whig!



As a Massachusetts senator, I fought hard to prevent the Civil War. Who am I?

Send your answer to junior@scholastic.com. We'll select one entry with the correct answer to receive a \$25 iTunes gift card.