

Since 1994, peace has returned to Rwanda. This recent photo shows Rwandan boys running home after school.

WITNESS HISTORY AUDIO

Recovering From Genocide

Although other African nations suffered brutal ethnic conflicts and civil wars, Rwanda's 1994 genocide was one of the most deadly. However, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan points out, Rwanda's recovery in the years since offers hope that the continent's conflicts can be resolved.

“Rwanda has much to show the world about confronting the legacy of the past and is demonstrating that it is possible to reach beyond tragedy and rekindle hope.”

—Tribute by Kofi Annan on the tenth anniversary of genocide in Rwanda

This section explores the problems that have led to conflicts in Rwanda and in other African countries.

Focus Question Why have conflicts plagued some African countries?

Struggles in Africa

Objectives

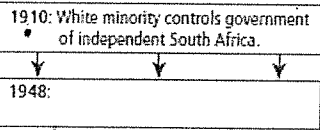
- Understand South Africa's struggle for freedom.
- Describe how struggles for independence and Cold War rivalries brought decades of conflict to South Africa's neighbors.
- Analyze how ethnic conflicts killed millions in Rwanda and Sudan.

Terms, People, and Places

apartheid	Desmond Tutu
African National Congress (ANC)	F.W. de Klerk
Sharpeville	Hutus
Nelson Mandela	Tutsis
	Darfur

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence Keep track of the sequence of events in the conflicts in South Africa and its neighbors. Add boxes as needed.



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In the 1950s and 1960s, many new nations won independence in Africa. National unity, however, was hard to achieve. Most African nations were home to diverse ethnic groups. Often, people did not even share a common language. They spoke dozens of local languages. Religious differences and longstanding rivalries further divided people within a nation.

After independence, a single ethnic group often dominated a nation's government and economy at the expense of other groups. The Cold War further complicated matters, as you have read. As a result, several African nations suffered internal conflicts and civil war.

South Africa Struggles for Freedom

In South Africa, the struggle for freedom was different from that elsewhere in Africa. In 1910, South Africa achieved self-rule from Britain. Freedom, however, was limited to white settlers. The black majority was denied the right to vote. Whites made up less than 20 percent of the population but controlled the government and the economy. The white-minority government passed racial laws that severely restricted the black majority.

Apartheid Divides South Africa After 1948, the government expanded the existing system of racial segregation, creating what was known as apartheid, or the separation of the races. Under apartheid, all South Africans were registered by race: Black,

White, Colored (people of mixed ancestry), and Asian. Apartheid's supporters claimed that it would allow each race to develop its own culture. In fact, it was designed to protect white control over South Africa.

Under apartheid, nonwhites faced many restrictions. Blacks were treated like foreigners in their own land. Under the pass laws, they had to get permission to travel. Other laws banned marriages between the races and stipulated segregated restaurants, beaches, and schools. Black workers were paid less than whites for the same job. Blacks could not own land in most areas. Low wages and inferior schooling condemned most blacks to poverty.

Vocabulary Builder

stipulated—(STIP yoo layt ed)
v. required, specified

WITNESS HISTORY VIDEO

Watch *Nelson Mandela and the End of Apartheid* on the Witness History Discovery School™ video program to learn about the struggle against apartheid.

DISCOVERY
SCHOOL

Fighting for Majority Rule The African National Congress (ANC) was the main organization that opposed apartheid and led the struggle for majority rule. In the 1950s, as the government established apartheid, the ANC organized marches, boycotts, and strikes. In 1960, police gunned down 69 men, women, and children during a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, a black township. The government then outlawed the ANC and cracked down on groups that opposed apartheid.

The Sharpeville massacre and crackdown pushed the ANC to shift from nonviolent protest to armed struggle. Some, like Nelson Mandela, went underground. As an ANC leader, Mandela had first mobilized young South Africans to peacefully resist apartheid laws. As government violence grew, Mandela joined ANC militants who called for armed struggle against the white-minority government. In the early 1960s, Mandela was arrested, tried, and condemned to life in prison for treason against apartheid. Even while Mandela was in prison, he remained a popular leader and powerful symbol of the struggle for freedom.

In the 1980s, demands for an end to apartheid and for Mandela's release increased. Many countries, including the United States, imposed economic sanctions on South Africa. In 1984, black South African bishop Desmond Tutu won the Nobel Peace Prize for his nonviolent opposition to apartheid.

Overcoming Apartheid Outside pressure and protests at home finally convinced South African president F. W. de Klerk to end apartheid. In 1990, he lifted the ban on the ANC and freed Mandela. In 1994, South Africans of every race were allowed to vote for the first time.

The Sharpeville Massacre

When South African police opened fire on peaceful demonstrators at Sharpeville in 1960, many demonstrators ran for their lives. How might this police action lead anti-apartheid activists to give up on peaceful methods?

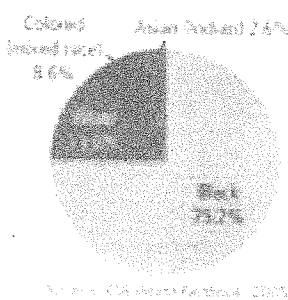


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Apartheid's Impact

For more than 40 years, apartheid shaped the lives of the black majority and of whites and other minorities in South Africa. Whites made up less than one fifth of South Africa's population, as you can see in the graph at the right. However, apartheid gave whites not only political power, but also control of South Africa's best lands and economic resources. This hurt blacks, Asians, and people of mixed backgrounds economically and socially. *Based on the information in the graph and elsewhere in this section, about what percentage of South Africa's population suffered from apartheid?*

South Africa's Population by Race

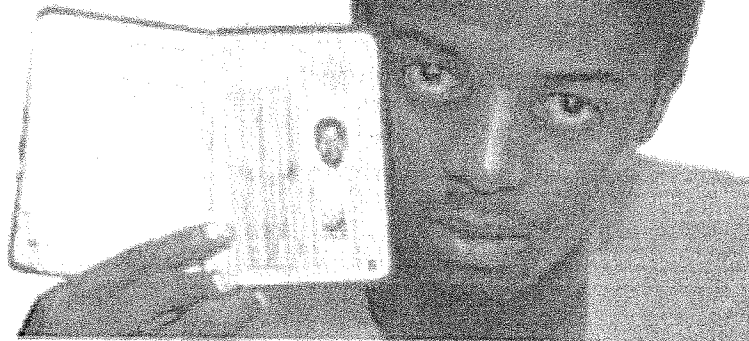


Graph Skills This graph shows South Africa's population by race. The percentages have changed little since the years of apartheid. Which racial group is the majority in South Africa?



▲ Apartheid gave many white South Africans a life of privilege.

Apartheid required all non-whites to get legal permits to travel within their own country and to carry these in a passbook like the one shown here. ▼



Deprived of opportunities, many black South Africans lived in poverty.

They elected Nelson Mandela the first president of a truly democratic South Africa. Mandela helped to heal the country's wounds when he welcomed old political foes into his government, including whites who had supported apartheid. "Let us build together," he declared.

After 1994, South Africa faced huge challenges. With majority rule, black South Africans expected a better life. Although South Africa was a rich, industrial country, it could afford only a limited amount of spending for housing, education, and other programs. The gap between blacks and whites remained large. Whites owned more than three fourths of the land. Black poverty and unemployment remained high. The crime rate soared in the cities and nearby shantytowns. South Africa's government struggled to address these problems.

✓ **Checkpoint** What factors finally brought an end to apartheid in South Africa?

South Africa's Neighbors Face Long Conflicts

Most African nations achieved independence through peaceful means during the 1950s and 1960s. In southern Africa, however, the road to freedom was longer and more violent. For many years, the apartheid government of South Africa supported white minority rule in neighboring Namibia and Zimbabwe.

Meanwhile, as Britain and France gave up their African possessions, Portugal clung fiercely to its colonies in Angola and Mozambique. In response, nationalist movements turned to guerrilla warfare. Fighting dragged on for 15 years, until Portugal agreed to withdraw from Africa. In 1975, Angola and Mozambique celebrated independence.

Independence did not end the fighting, however. Bitter civil wars, fueled by Cold War rivalries, raged for years. South Africa and the United States saw the new nations as threats because some liberation leaders had ties to the Soviet Union or the ANC. The United States and South Africa aided a rebel group fighting the new government of Angola. South Africa aided a rebel group in Mozambique.

The fighting did not stop until 1992 in Mozambique and 2002 in Angola, where tensions remained even after a ceasefire. Decades of war had ravaged both countries. Slowly, however, they have begun to rebuild.

✓ **Checkpoint** Why did fighting continue after Angola and Mozambique achieved independence?



Ethnic Conflicts Kill Millions

After independence, ethnic conflicts plagued several African nations. The causes were complex. Historic resentments divided ethnically diverse nations. Unjust governments and regional rivalries fed ethnic violence.

Rwanda and Burundi Face Deadly Divisions The small nation of Rwanda, in Central Africa, faced one of Africa's deadliest civil wars. The Rwandan people included two main groups. Hutus were the majority group, but the minority Tutsis had long dominated Rwanda. Both groups spoke the same language, but they had different traditions. After independence, tensions between these two groups simmered.

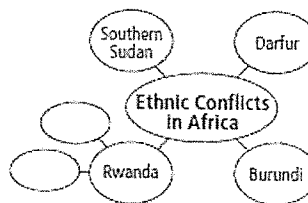
Tensions worsened in the early 1990s. In 1994, extremist Hutu officials urged civilians to kill their Tutsi and moderate Hutu neighbors. Around 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered. Another 3 million of Rwanda's 8 million people lost their homes to destructive mobs. As the death toll rose, the international community failed to act. After several months, France sent in troops to stop the killing.

With UN assistance, Rwanda set about rebuilding and recovering from the horrors of genocide. Those accused of genocide faced trials in an international court. Hutus and Tutsis had to find ways to live peacefully. World leaders pledged to stop any future genocide wherever it might occur. Their readiness to do this, however, was limited.

The neighboring nation of Burundi has a similar population and history. As in Rwanda, tensions between Tutsis and Hutus led to civil war during the 1990s. While the fighting did not lead to a genocide like that in Rwanda, guerrilla groups fought for much longer in Burundi. Although several guerrilla groups signed a peace treaty in 2000, fighting continued in the years that followed.

Note Taking

Reading Skill: Identify Causes and Effects Fill in a concept web like the one below to keep track of the causes and effects of the conflicts in Rwanda and Sudan.



Sudan's Ethnic Strife After independence, Sudan's Arab Muslim north dominated the non-Muslim, non-Arab south. Arab-led governments enacted laws and policies that discriminated against non-Muslims and against other ethnic groups. For example, the government tried to impose Islamic law even in non-Muslim areas. For decades, rebel groups in the south battled northern domination. War, drought, and famine caused millions of deaths and forced many more to flee their homes.

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Arab Militia in Darfur

Arab militias in Sudan's Darfur region, such as the one shown here, are known as *janjaweed* or "bandits." During 2004 and 2005, these militias carried out murder and ethnic cleansing against the non-Arab villagers of Darfur. *How might an attack by this militia affect unarmed villagers?*

In 2004, the Sudanese government and rebels in the south agreed to a ceasefire. However, elsewhere in Sudan, fighting worsened, especially in the western region of Darfur. With government backing, Arab militias unleashed terror on non-Arab Muslim villagers. They burned villages and drove hundreds of thousands of farmers off the land that fed them and into refugee camps, where they faced the threat of starvation. The fighting also spilled into neighboring Chad.

The UN, the United States, and other nations sent huge amounts of aid to the refugees but were unable to stop the conflict. Evidence mounted of war crimes and genocide. As the death toll topped 200,000, pressure mounted on Sudan to accept UN peacekeepers.

- ✓ **Checkpoint** How did the conflict in Darfur differ from the conflict in southern Sudan?

Progress Monitoring Online

For: Self-quiz with vocabulary practice
Web Code: naa-3221

Terms, People, and Places

1. For each term, person, or place listed at the beginning of the section, write a sentence explaining its significance.

Note Taking

2. **Reading Skill: Recognize Sequence** Use your completed flowchart to answer the Focus Question: Why have conflicts plagued some African countries?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

3. **Analyze Information** Was apartheid a product of a democratic system of government? Explain.

4. **Summarize** What was South Africa's role in the conflicts that plagued its neighbors from the 1960s to the 1990s?
5. **Make Comparisons** How was the ethnic conflict in Burundi similar to or different from the conflict in Rwanda?
6. **Synthesize Information** A newspaper headline read, "Looking at Darfur, Seeing Rwanda." Explain what that headline meant. How did the world community respond to genocide after the events in Rwanda?

Writing About History

Quick Write: Gather Information To write a research report, you need to gather information about your topic. Choose one of the conflicts in this section and gather facts about the topic from the library or reliable sources online. Make a list of facts about your topic.