

CASE STUDY: SOUTH AFRICA: **THE RISE OF AFRICAN** **NATIONALISM**

Grade: 11

Term: 3

Topic: 4 – NATIONALISMS – SOUTH AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Sub-Topic: CHAPTER 2 – CASE STUDY: SOUTH AFRICA: THE RISE OF AFRICAN NATIONALISM

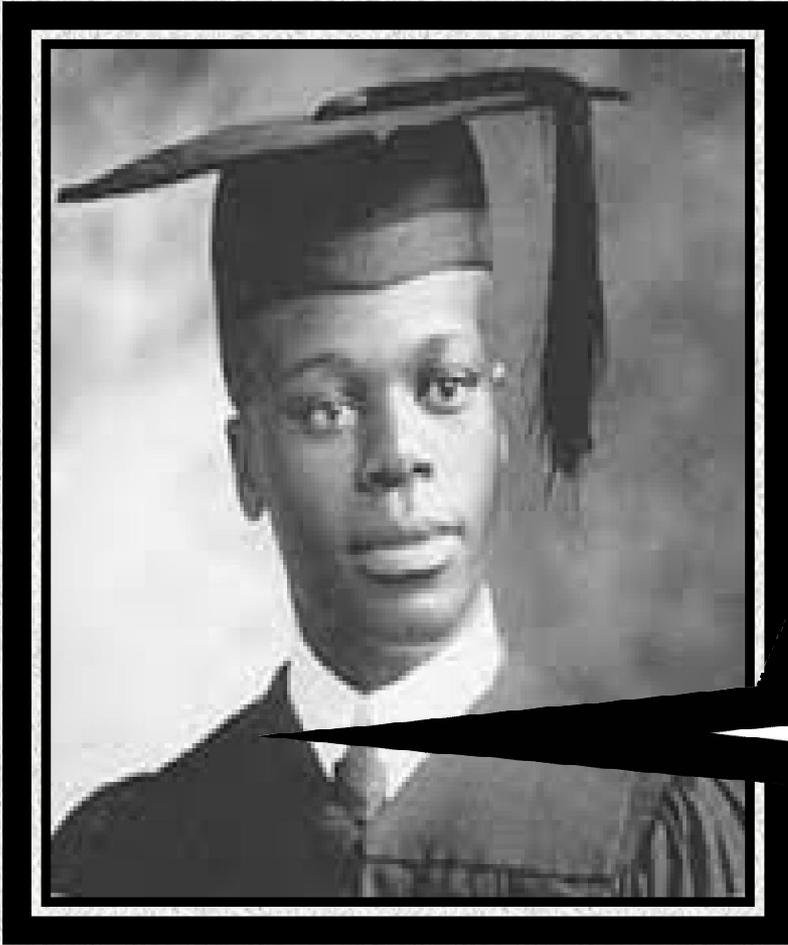
1. African People's Organisation (APO)

- Formed at the end of the South African War (1899-1902).
- Consisted of educated coloureds.
- It aimed to defend the social, political, and economic rights of coloureds and to oppose any laws on racial discrimination.
- Its methods were non-confrontational.
- Its main focus was to ensure that the voting rights for coloureds and blacks in the Cape remained and would be extended to Natal and the two former Boer republics, the Transvaal and Orange Free State.

- When the draft constitution of the South African Union was being debated in 1909, the APO realised that all black people would be denied the right to vote in the new South African Union.
- In response, the APO sent a delegation of its members to London to appeal to Britain to reject the draft Act of Union and guarantee equal voting rights to all 'civilised' men.

- Despite the APO's efforts, the draft Act was passed, because the British government believed that reconciling white English and Afrikaner South Africans was more important than votes for black South Africans.
- Nonetheless, the APO continued to play a prominent resistance role in shaping black political thought and action during the first half of the 20th century.

2. THE SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL NATIVES CONGRESS (SANNC)



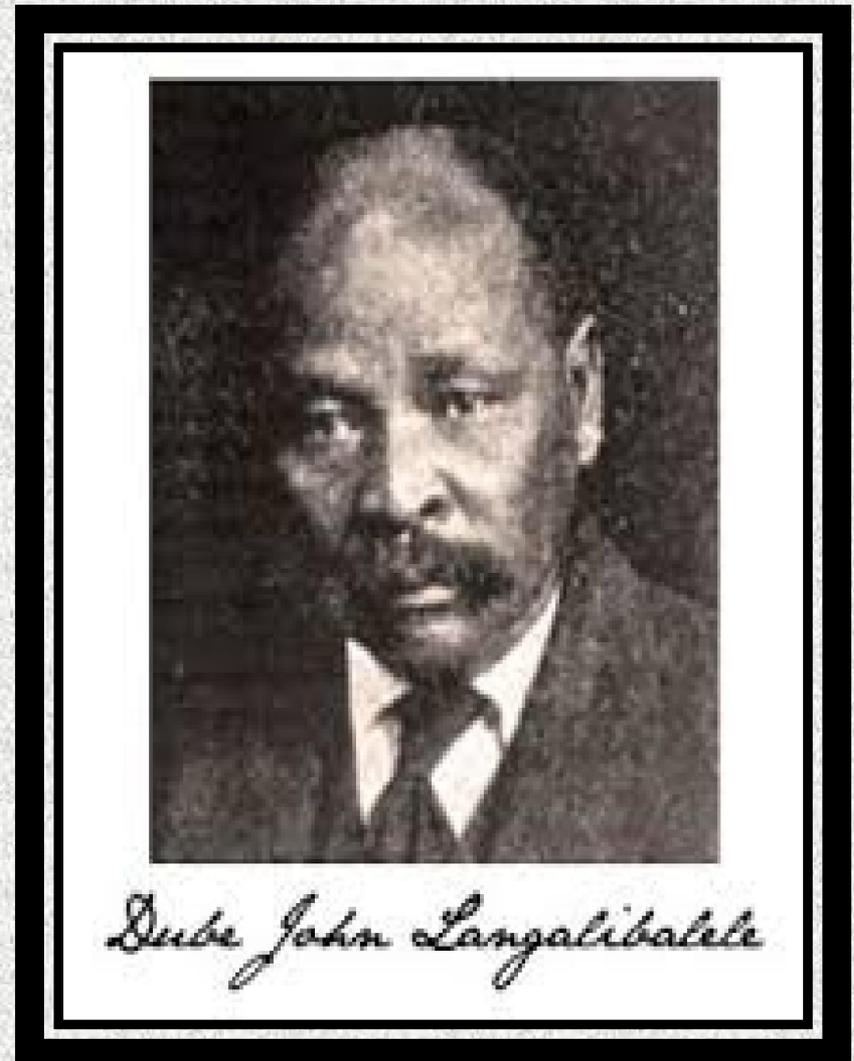
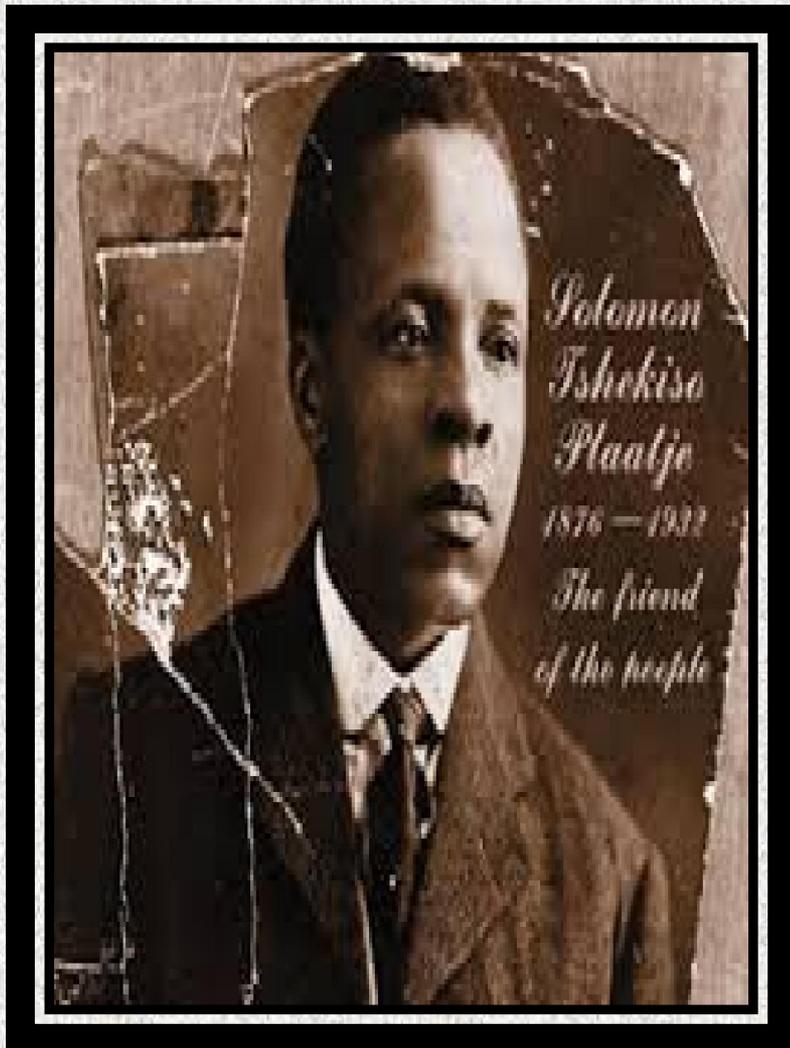
One of the founding members,
Pixley Seme

**“WE ARE ONE
PEOPLE.
THESE DIVISIONS,
THESE JEALOUSIES,
ARE THE CAUSE OF ALL
OUR WOES TODAY....
DOWN WITH
TRIBALISM!
BLACK PEOPLE
UNITE!”**

- African nationalists believed that to form a black South African 'nation', it was necessary for ideas of attachment to a particular language group to be replaced, at least in part, by the idea of all black African people belonging together.
- In reaction to the formation of the Union of South Africa (1910), African nationalists formed a new organisation to fight for their rights. In Bloemfontein on 8 January 1912, the South African Native National Congress (SANNC) came into existence. It was renamed the African National Congress (ANC) in 1923.

- The SANNC drew traditional leaders and the educated elite together.
- Among the educated elite were its first president, John Dube, and Sol Plaatjie, the SANNC first general secretary.
- The ANC worked hard to bring all Africans together to defend their freedoms and rights.

SOL PLAATJIE AND JOHN DUBE



3. The rise of African nationalism and the Union of South Africa

African nationalism in South Africa

- In South Africa, two main forms of nationalism developed, one among black Africans and one among a section of those of European descent, the Afrikaners.
- In each case, the nation was not something that had existed for a long time, but was created in the 20th century.

- The Union of South Africa was established as a self-governing state in 1910.
- Its new government consisted of white men.
- Between 1902 and 1910 when Britain was preparing South Africa for independence, it focused on building relationships within the white population, which had been fractured during the South African War.

- Most Afrikaners lived in the old Boer Republics of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal, while most English-speaking whites lived in the Cape and Natal.
- The British encouraged white South Africans to work together in the interest of economic efficiency.
- The Union of South Africa was formed in 1910.
- The two Boer states of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State were consolidated with the two British colonies of the Cape and Natal.



TRANSVAAL

**ORANGE
FREE
STATE**

NATAL

**CAPE OF
GOOD HOPE**

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA



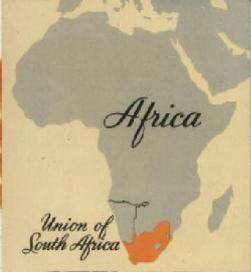
Mandate of the Union of South Africa

Bechuanaland Protectorate

Mozambique

Atlantic Ocean

Indian Ocean



HER NATURAL AND INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES

South Africa is to-day an arsenal and repair base for the Armies of the United Nations. Known originally as an agricultural and pastoral country and as a producer of gold and diamonds, the Union has so accelerated her industrial production that in four years of war it has reached a figure which could not have been attained in peacetime in less than 25 years. The industries which have developed under the stress of war will form the basis of peacetime manufacture when hostilities have ceased.



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THE VOTE

- In the Union of South Africa, only white men had the vote and could be members of parliament.
- However, a small number of coloured and black men in the Cape with a certain amount of property or level of education were allowed to vote for white members of parliament.

4. The 1913 Land Act

- The discovery of diamonds and gold in the 19th century led to a rapidly changing society in the 20th century.
- The mining companies needed a large cheap work force and so laws were designed to restrict employment opportunities for Africans and force them into working on the mines.

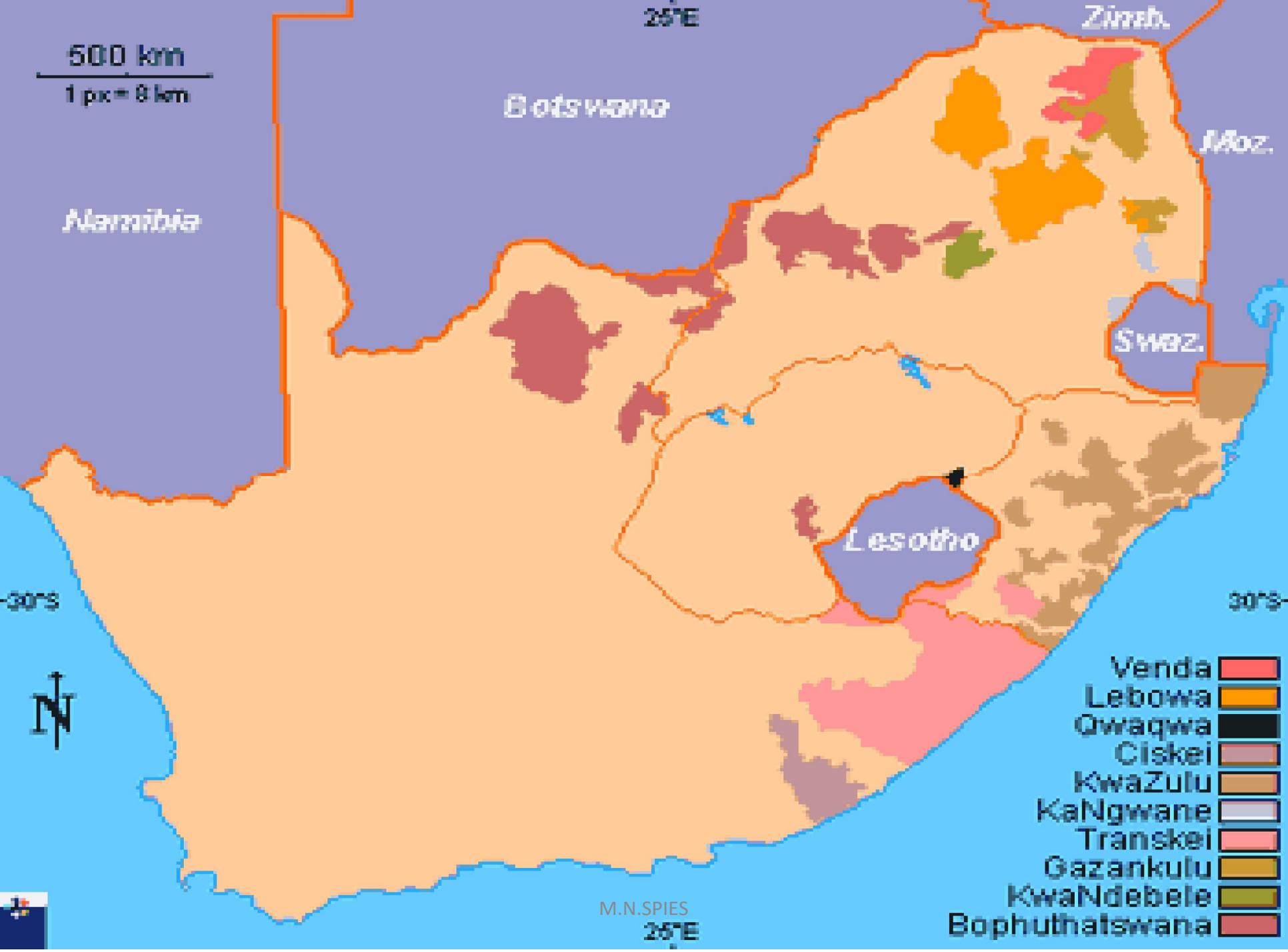
ACT

To make further provision as to the purchase and leasing of land by Natives and other Persons in the several parts of the Union and for other purposes in connection with the ownership and occupation of Land by Natives and other Persons.

(Assented to 16th June, 1913).
(Signed by the Governor-General in English).

BE IT ENACTED by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Senate and the House of Assembly of the Union of South Africa, as follows :—

* The Act was first published in *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 980 of the 19th June, 1913.



Homelands

Formell unabhängige Staaten (nach südafrikanischer Auffassung)

- Transkei
- Bophuthatswana
- Venda
- Ciskei
- Provinzgrenzen
- Staatsgrenzen

SIMBABWE

Botswana

Mozambique

Namibia

REPUBLIK

Kapprovinz

SÜDAFRIKA

Kapstadt

INDISCHER OZEAN

ATLANTISCHER OZEAN

Transvaal

Pretoria

Johannesburg

Oranje-
freistaat

Bloemfontein

Lesotho

Natal

Durban

Homelands

Autonome Nationalstaaten (nach südafrikanischer Auffassung)

- Gazankulu
- Ka Ngwane
- Lebowa
- Kwa Ndebele
- Qwaqwa
- Kwa Zulu

M. N. SPIES

The affects of the 1913 Land Act on black South Africans

- In 1913 the Native Land Act was passed.
- This severely restricted African rights to buy, rent, or use land except in the specified reserves.
- The law created reserves for the black majority that were approximately 7 percent (later increased to 13 percent) of the total land in South Africa.
- People lost their land and were forced to live in overcrowded areas, causing poverty and starvation.

5. The influence of World War Two on African nationalism

- World War Two broke out in Europe in 1939.
- South African troops joined the war on the side of the British against Nazi Germany.

DR. ALFRED ZUMA

- In 1940 the ANC entered a new chapter in its history under the leadership of Dr Alfred Xuma.
- Xuma improved the efficiency of the ANC by making it more centralised.
- This built increased confidence in the organisation and membership grew.
- More significantly in 1944, Xuma was responsible for bringing the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) members into the executive.
- People like Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki, and Anton Lembede introduced a more militant approach to resistance.

Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, Govan Mbeki, and Anton Lembede

- Inspired by African nationalism, these young leaders believed that Africans would only be set free through their own efforts and that the masses needed to be engaged in the struggle.
- Their ideas gained popular support among the young black urban population.

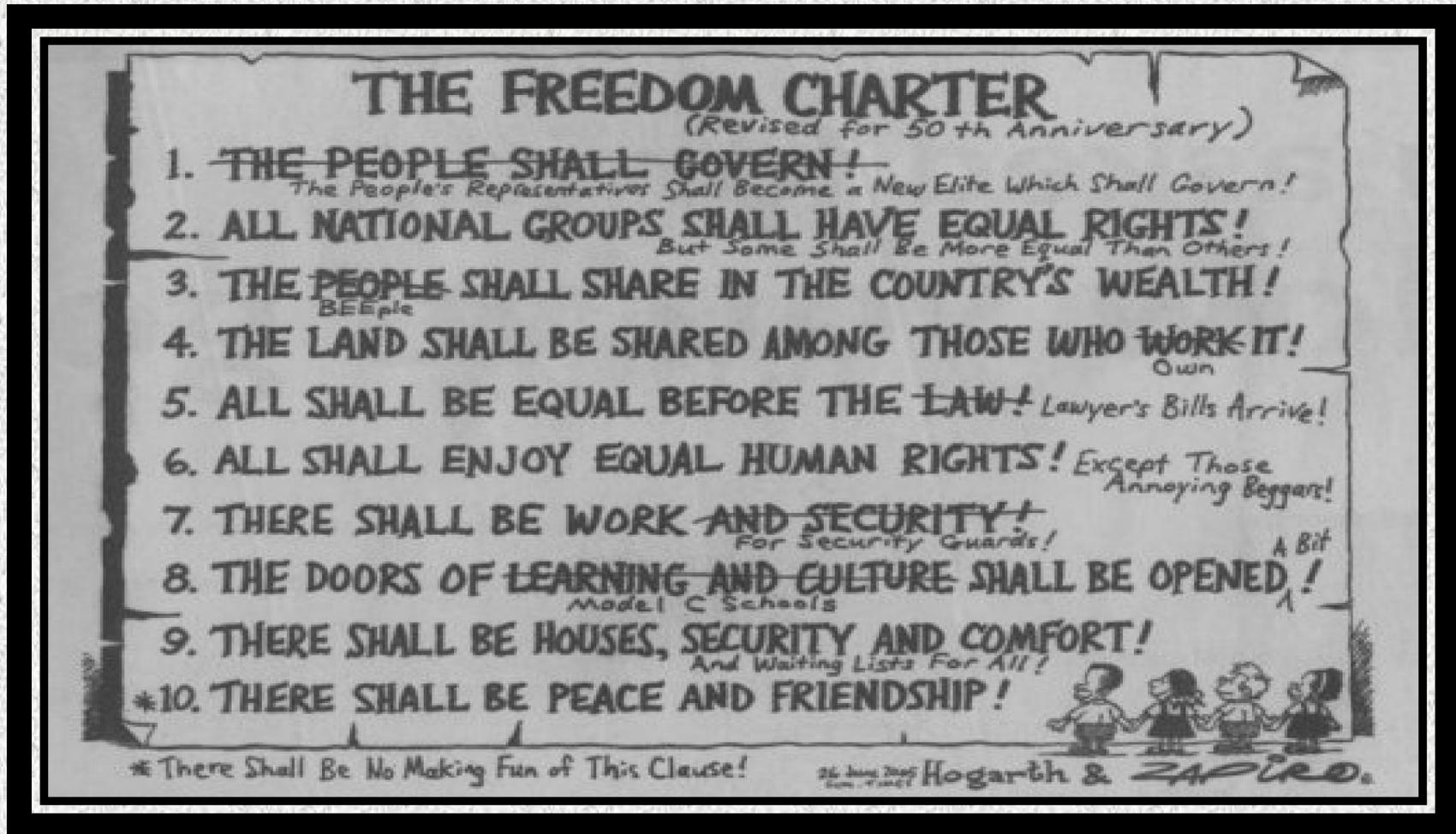
The Atlantic Charter and its influence on African nationalism

- The fight for human rights in South Africa received a boost during the war with the Atlantic Charter (1941).
- In the Charter, the British and American leaders, Churchill and Roosevelt, promised to respect the rights of all people and to support those pursuing self-government.

A.B. Xuma's African claims

- Inspired by the Charter, the ANC met in Bloemfontein in 1943 and formed an Atlantic Charter Committee.
- Together they produced a politically significant document called 'African Claims in South Africa', which mapped out the way to an equal and racially integrated society in South Africa.

(ALSO KNOWN AS.....)



Returning soldiers

- During World War Two only white soldiers were allowed to fight the enemy, but many black, coloured, and Indian men also volunteered.
- Some were allowed to carry weapons for self-protection and during guard duty.
- Most were used as porters, drivers, and labourers.
- When these soldiers returned home to South Africa, they found that they were still considered inferior, although they had expected that their dedication to the South African war effort would be recognised and they would be rewarded.
- This was not to be.
- The ideas of the African national Congress, the APO, and the Indian Congress gained more popular support among the young black, coloured, and Indian urban population after the war.

6. Different kinds of African nationalism after World War Two

1. The policy of racial segregation after World War Two and the ANCYL Programme of Action

- In 1948 the National Party came to power in South Africa. Under its policy of Apartheid, racial segregation was tightened up.
- The ANCYL responded with a Programme of Action in 1949 calling for boycotts, strikes, and general defiance. The youth leaders realised that in order to challenge Apartheid, they would need to be more inclusive and work with other anti-Apartheid groups.
- The Defiance Campaign of 1952 targeted Apartheid laws like the Population Registration Act, Group Areas Act, and Bantu Education Act. Although the campaign was eventually crushed by the government, the ANC had made huge gains by mobilising the masses and this resulted in a significant increase in membership.

2. Africanism of the ANC Youth League

- Initially, the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) had an exclusive view of Africanism.
- They believed that black Africans should struggle against Apartheid on their own, not in alliance with others, and that they should aim to create a black African state.
- Anton Muziwake Lembede, one of the leaders of the ANCYL, had strong views that the ANC was for black Africans only.
- However, other leaders like Sisulu, Mandela, Tambo, and Mda gradually moved away from Africanism to a more inclusive acceptance of all South Africans that did not support Apartheid.
- To them, the term 'African' could embrace anyone with a commitment to Africa.

3. The Freedom Charter widened the definition of the 'nation'

- In the early 1950's, a multi-racial Congress Alliance was established.
- Out of the Congress Alliance came the Freedom Charter, which was approved by a Congress of the People in June 1955.
- The Charter stated that South Africa belonged to all who lived in it, black and white, and set out a vision of a future democratic, non-racial state.

THERE SHALL BE **WORK AND SECURITY**
ALL SHALL ENJOY **EQUAL HUMAN RIGHTS**
AFRICA MAYIBUYE



THE PEOPLE SHALL GOVERN!

18 JUNE - SOUTH AFRICA FREEDOM DAY

M.N.SPIES

4. The PAC split

- Some members of the ANC did not accept the non-racial vision of the Freedom Charter.
- These Africanists broke away from the ANC in 1958 and formed the rival Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) in 1959.
- Robert Sobukwe was the first president of the PAC.
- In its early years, the PAC worked both to win power for Africans alone in South Africa and, as the very name of their organisation suggested, to unite all the African people of the continent.

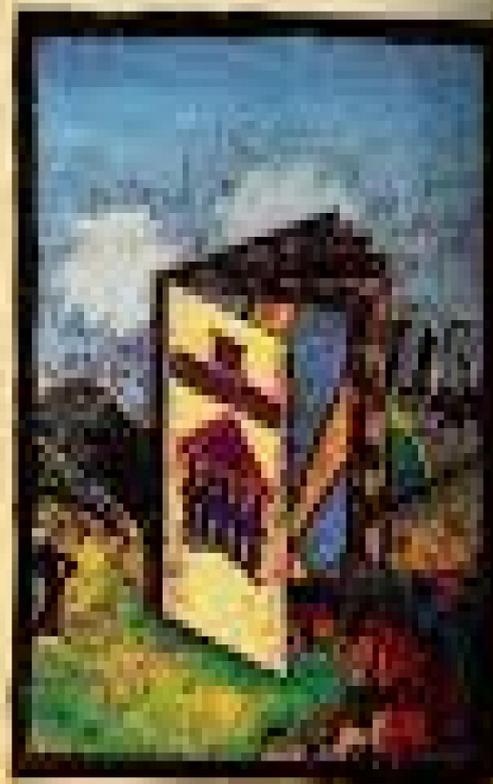
6. The role of 'national reconciliation' and 'nation-building' after Nelson Mandela's release from prison

- During Apartheid, South Africa was a fragmented and fractured society.
- The Freedom Charter formed the basis of the ANC's inclusive nationalism and of its vision of national reconciliation and nation-building after Nelson Mandela's release in the 1990's.
- The Freedom Charter proclaims that 'South Africa belongs to all whom live in it' and that 'all shall be equal before the law'.

- The construction of a new sense of belonging and identity as South Africans can be seen as the positive face of nationalism.
- After the 1994 democratic election in South Africa, a new non-racial constitution was drawn up. .

The Constitution

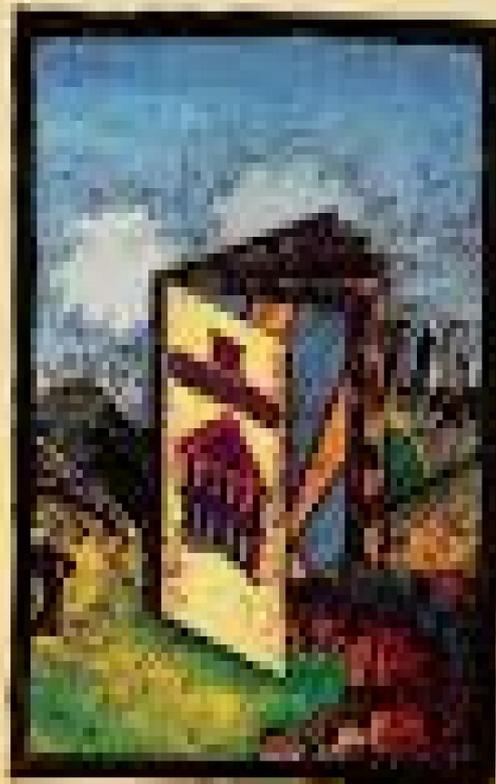
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Act 108 of 1996

The Constitution

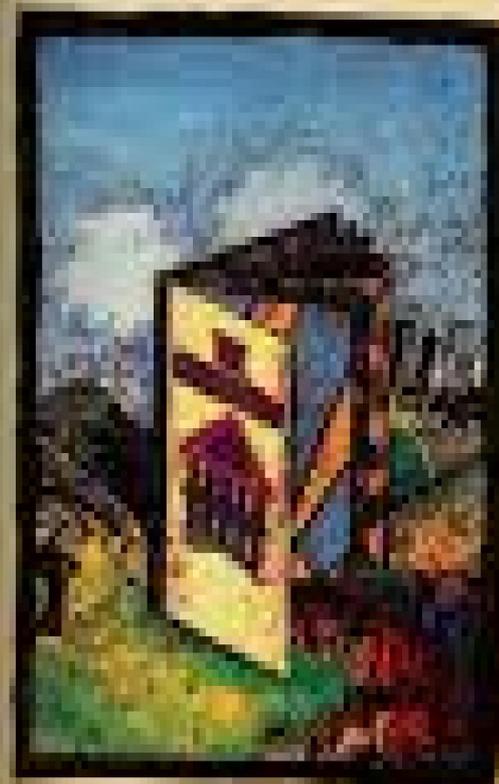
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