

A Summary of Apartheid Laws

Below are some of the main laws passed in South Africa during the times of apartheid. Black Africans were the majority of the population but were also the most discriminated against.

All of the acts shown below were repealed in 1991 after the political and social system of apartheid ended.

South Africa Act, 1909	The nation of South Africa was established with the political power led by an all-white parliament.
Mines and Work Act, 1911 & 1926	Imposed a color ban on certain jobs. White people must have higher salaries than Blacks at all times
Natives Land Acts, 1913 and 1936	Reserved almost 90% of the lands within South Africa for the white minority population
Natives (Urban Areas) Act, 1923	Established segregation in the cities. It forced Blacks to carry special identification papers at all times in order to stay in cities. They had to obtain pre-authorization before entering restricted white areas.
Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, 1949	Banned marriages between races
Population Registration Act, 1950	Forced ALL South Africans to register based on their color:- White, Black, Asian, or Colored (mixed)
Group Areas Act, 1950	Members of different racial groups were prohibited from living, operating a business, or owning land anywhere but in areas specifically designated for each race. The act gave the government authority to forcibly remove people found in any prohibited area.
Bantu Education Act, 1953	Enforced racial segregation of schools. It stated that blacks should be provided with separate educational facilities. They could only be trained to work in the jobs that were legally made available to them.
The Land Acts, 1954 and 1955	Restricted nonwhite residents to specific areas.
Bantu Black Citizenship Act, 1970	Made every black South African a citizen of their "homelands" and the act took away their South African citizenship. It also excluded blacks from South African politics.
Constitutional Act, 1983	Established a tricameral (three-house) parliament with separate chambers for White, Colored, and Asians, which denied representation for Blacks.