

History Coursework: South Africa

1. Describe the impact of apartheid on the lives of Black South Africans between 1948 and 1965.

There were many laws of Apartheid which had political, social and economical impacts on the lives of the black South Africans between 1948 and 1965.

These are examples of some social impacts of Apartheid. The 1950 "Population Registration Act" aimed to divide each race, and affected blacks because they were now officially lower class and thought of as inferior by whites. The 1949 "Prohibition of Mixed Marriage Act" banned marriages between whites and non-whites, and aimed to make sure no more mixed race children would be born and ensure total separation between the races. This resulted in detachment between families because some parents were classified as a different race to their children or each other. The 1950 "Groups Areas Act" aim was to divide the races into different areas--some blacks had to shift out of their homes because most of the land was reserved for whites. The 1952 "Native Laws Amendment Act" aim was to restrict black movement in white areas, which resultantly restricted their freedom of movement. The pass laws meant that people could only live in their own racial area. If found without a pass or in the wrong area, they were put in prison and lost their job.

There were also additional profound social and political effects of apartheid on blacks, which affected people differently. The 1953 "Bantu Education Act" separated the races in schools. Education was very limited for black people, to keep them their status lower, and to ensure that they didn't become powerful and conquest whites; this impact is consequently associated with political effects. The blacks followed a different syllabus, they were taught how to be good servants and do housework to prepare them for an inferior position in society rather than history and mathematics. Therefore, this impact is connected to the social impacts as uneducated people would gain a low status in society due to lack of knowledge/understanding.

Terrorists such as Nelson Mandela were also affected greatly by apartheid because they lost their jobs and were imprisoned or killed.

It is probable that economic impacts of Apartheid were the most severe. From 1951, the government decided that all blacks should live in their own "Bantustans". This applied especially to the very old and very young who were unable to work and earn money and therefore affected greatly by apartheid as they were useless to themselves and others. Mothers worked as servants so were forced to leave children with family/friends. They were treated "worse than dogs" as they were "poor", "black" and "women".

The land that was put aside for the Black population was not nearly enough to house and employ, there wasn't nearly enough land to support all of the Blacks. The government refused to spend reasonably on farming or employment which drove them into poverty and resulted in black families struggling for existence. The workers survived okay but unemployed could not afford to raise their families so were affected more severely. This reason inevitably resulted in the blacks' impotency, because no money and no jobs meant they had an inferior position in society and could not gain power, which links in with the social and political impacts of apartheid.

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