

### **Tapescript on apartheid (read on 30,31/3/17)**

Apartheid was the policy of almost complete segregation of people along racial lines that was practised in South Africa between 1948 and 1994. It means 'separateness' in Afrikaans, which was the language of the white minority government during this period. It placed controls on African peoples, Asian peoples, mixed race peoples in this country. It defined limits on where people could live, what jobs they could take and even how they could move around the country. It was most rigidly applied to black Africans and allowed the white minority government to build an excellent standard of living, while relegating the rest of the population of the country into undesirable agricultural areas or urban slums. It was a violation of international standards of human rights, and it brought international criticism and domestic revolt on the government. These twin pressures led to its collapse in 1994.

The origins of the policy went back into the colonial period, after the Dutch first colonized the country with Afrikaner groups – they were the descendants of the Dutch – and the British empire. It came from a desire for economic expansion. The discovery of gold and diamonds in the late 1800s pushed Europeans to look at native peoples as a source of cheap labour. Ideas of racial and civilizational superiority led the British government and later the Afrikaner government to establish increasingly strict regulations on African travel and work in order to make sure there was an affordable labour force to work in the mines.

The Afrikaner government in 1948, under the National Party, kind of formalised and standardised these earlier piecemeal segregation practices that differed from region to region, and it gathered together these local laws, these different laws, and created one unified national system. The government divided the state into what they called separate racial nations, forcing Africans into reserves and townships. The government banned intermarriage and created a wholly separate and extremely unequal education system and public spaces.

### **Sample summary on apartheid**

In this lecture, Prof Parkinson discusses apartheid in South Africa, a policy **known to have segregated** people by race from 1948 to 1994. He begins by stating that the term 'apartheid' actually means 'separateness' in Afrikaans, **the language adopted by the white minority government**, and under this policy blacks, Asians and people of mixed race faced severe restrictions in terms of employment, movement within the country and residence. Apartheid was harshly criticized internationally and resulted in domestic conflict, **ultimately collapsing in 1994**.

Parkinson then goes on to mention some of the origins behind apartheid, **focusing for the most part on the colonial period at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century**, when the Dutch and British began to exploit South Africa's lucrative resources, i.e. gold and diamonds. Black South Africans were a cheap source of labour, and even at this time, restrictions were placed on travel and work.

The professor concludes her discussion by noting that in 1948, the National Party standardized segregation laws, **creating a unified system**. **Not only were black Africans forced to live segregated in townships with an inferior education system, but they were also not allowed to intermarry.**