

APARTHEID stats

The Afrikaans word apartheid means, literally, separateness, separateness between white and black people. The founders of apartheid, the South African National Party have held power in South Africa since 1948. Their policy has been ruthlessly imposed to ensure that the skin colour of every child born in South Africa dictates the life they may lead: where they may live, what sort of education, housing, health and social services will be available: whether they will be permitted to participate in the government of the country.

The people of South Africa are classified into four groups under apartheid:

African	21,197,235	72.0% of the population
Coloured	2,853,964	9.7% of the population
Indian	801,758	2.7% of the population
White	4,590,639	15.6% of the population

(1985 figures, SA IRR Race Relations Survey)

This official categorising of people in terms of skin colour was made law in 1950 through the Population Registration Act, one of the first pieces of legislation passed by the Nationalist Government. 'Coloured' is an apartheid term which is used to refer to people who are considered to be of mixed descent according to apartheid classifications.

The majority 'African' population cannot vote for the South African government. Political power is in the hands of the white minority.

This system has created and institutionalised enormous inequalities in wealth and facilities for the different groups, as the statistics on this chart make clear.

Statistic : R = Rand, the South African name for their money

	Black	White
Infant mortality rate per 1000 (1985)	80	13
Life expectancy (1983)	59	72
No. of people per doctor (1983)	12000	330
Amount spent on each pupil's education	R 227	R1702
Pupil-Teacher ratio in schools (1985)	1:41	1:19
Average monthly household income (1985)	R 352	R1958

The 1950 Group Areas Act set out different areas where each population group had to live. Under apartheid laws 87% of South Africa has been allocated to the minority white population. Since 1960 over three million people have been forcibly moved from their homes in order to implement this policy.