

CULTURAL AND INTELLECTUAL POTENTIAL FOR HUMANITY IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
RACISM AND APARTHEID.

South Africa today remains one country where racism exists not out of personal or individual bias, but because the laws that govern the country have institutional and legalised apartheid. The oppression of the black people did not begin with the coming into power of the Nationalist Party :- 1948, but dates back to 1652 when the first, dutch colonialists set foot into our country. The suppression and exploitation of the black people by the Dutch East Indian Company covers what we can term the first phase. This phase extends to 1806. The colonialist imposed their laws and demands, they imposed their racial superior attitudes towards the indigenous people, and vicious struggles for the possession of the cattle and land which were the two major resources for both black and white pastoralists ensued and since then the history of the black people have never been free of wars.

The second phase covered the period from 1806 to 1884 when gold was discovered :- the Witwatersrand. This period was marked by insatiable quest for markets and raw materials for British capitalism, with the concomitant dispossession of Africans of their most fertile lands. The Africans were then subdued and subsequently incorporated as labourers for British settlers.

The third phase was reached with other Western Colonial nations caught up with Britain in the last quarter of the 19th Century, the counter resulted in the 1884 - 1885 division of colonial world among the European powers. This ushered in an era of modern Imperialism. To maintain its hold and consolidate its rule, Britain launched a series of wars of conquests resulting in South Africa attaining dominion status in 1910.

The fourth phase 1910 - 1948 the new dominion tried to find its identity. This period also marked the consolidation of white supremacy and the emergence of Afrikaner political and economic power, full scale exploitation of the country's wealth and the development and secondary industries. In 1913 the British rulers agreed to the AFRIKAANER DEVISED Native Land Act which by law set aside 87% of land, including all most fertile and mineral riches for the white minority, the remaining 13% was designated for the black majority. This reality

meant that impoverished black South Africans would be unable to eke out a living on limited marginal lands. They, therefore, were compelled to seek work as cheap labour in the white owned mines, farms and urban areas. This imposed conditions interfered greatly with the cultural well being of the black people. Their whole lives were transformed and a new culture of poverty began to emerge.

In 1961, Britain ceded control of South Africa to the white minority and colonial thereby condemned the black majority to exclusion from political power. They installed an illegitimate regime and created the basis for a succession of such regimes.

In 1914, the Nationalist Party was founded and it defined its position towards the black as : "the dominance of the European population in a spirit of Christian trusteeship, with the strictest avoidance of any attempt at race mixture".

The outlook of racial separation was developed over the next three decades in the colonial politics of South Africa. By 1924 the Nationalist Party had become the majority Party in the colonial Government and held that position until 1938. In that time it pushed through legislative acts to cancel out all limited rights for blacks, including the colour bar job reservation in the mines, railways and other fields of employment. The racial party made sure that the position of blacks in South Africa suited their selfish ends. In 1918 the Broederbond (Association of Brothers) was formed and from this group of more than 13,000 members Heads of State like Malan, Strijdom Verwoerd, Voster and Botha emerged.

The coming into power of the National Party in 1948 began the fifth phase. The minority white regime openly proclaimed the Apartheid system as policy of their exclusive government. Since then, the majority of the people in South Africa have been governed by the outrageous principles of "separateness" which practically means separate existence . The National Party pledged to intensify racial discrimination against blacks and also to reinforce white control. The greater influx of black workers into war time expanded industry was used to arouse racist feeling among white voters. A Nationalist Party pamphlet read :

" The policy of our country should encourage total apartheid as the ultimate goal of a natural

process of separate development. It is the primary task of the state to seek the welfare of South Africa and to promote the happiness and well being of its citizens, non-white as well as white. Realizing that such a task can best be accomplished by preserving and safeguarding the white race, the Nationalist Party professes this as the fundamental guiding principles of its policy".

Racism is at the centre of apartheid rule. Legislative laws and regulations instituted by mere 4.5 million whites were meant to govern the lives of 21.5 million blacks. Boers like other colonial forces, created sophisticated administration structures, ran the economy and business. All this was managed through military force, a police backed system and the purchased loyalty of Bantustan puppet leaders. This is precisely the way in which the apartheid system has survived in the past forty years. It is a vast structure of oppressive laws that are entered into statute books whenever the tide of revolution moments. These laws are there to maintain oppression and suppression and privileges of the white minority. It is an internal colonial system of the most ruthless kind.

Racism, which is a product of pre-judgements and prejudice is backed in South Africa. By statutory laws, it is kept alive through racial stereotypes and attitudes, its build into the societal structures until the society takes so many things for granted. It has been assumed by the colonial masters that their so-called "civilisation" must challenge and confront African Culture which was termed savagery.

The oppressed majority, the black people, have fought against colonialism for more than three centuries. They have applied both peaceful and revolutionary means of violence to correct the anomaly. All avenues of life have been utilised to fully engage the enemy in battle as a way of ridding ourselves and the rest of humanity of the scourge of apartheid colonialism.

Apartheid laws are based on undermining, debasing and dehumanising the black people, but one of the most outrageous of such laws was the Bantu education, acts of 1953 and the University Act of 1963. These Acts

provide for separate inferior education for black South Africans. The intellechial potential of the Africans was threatened as early as 1869 when a special report by the then superintendent-General of education stated that the "Natives" were to be trained to provide a fair supply of ordinary artisans and domestic servants. The coloured (mixed race) must fulfil the humble tasks of agricultural laboures and shepherds. Whites on the other hand must be given "the best and the most advanced education" so that they can have "directive intelligence" which will enable the white race "to hold its supremacy as future employers of labour... as masters in trade, agriculture and industry".

Throughout the years the African people have resisted all racist positions on education, the struggles against inferior education were fought in the 1990's and in 1976 they were revived. To date the racist regime is engaged on this forum. Plans are drawn and withdrawn because the minority are not ready to accept the democratic non-racial positions put forward by the forces of