

South Africa Chronology: Apartheid's Terminal Years / I

- 1983** UDF launched in Mitchell's Plain (20 August); immediate goal is opposition to Tricameral Parliament
new SA constitution (September), including Tricameral Parliament
- 1985** Mandela and other political prisoners offered release if they renounce violence; they refuse
Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) launched
SADF Gaborone and Maseru raids
State of Emergency, 21 July 1985 (until March 1986)
- 1986** SADF air force raids on Harare, Lusaka, Gaborone (19 May)
State of Emergency reimposed on 12 June (until 11 June 1987) . . . reimposed annually until 1990
US: Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act, including sanctions
- 1988** SADF forced by joint Angolan-Cuban force to retreat at Cuito Cuanavale, Angola
- 1989** UNTAG in Namibia to oversee elections
ANC, UDF, COSATU adopt Harare Declaration, outlining conditions for negotiations
[new] Defiance Campaign launched by Mass Democratic Movement
initial meeting between PW Botha and Nelson Mandela (July), following secret preparatory meetings between representatives of government and ANC
FW de Klerk succeeds PW Botha, 20 September

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- 1990** FW de Klerk's speech unbanning opposition groups (2 February)
- Mandela's release (11 February)
- Namibia's independence (March)
- Negotiations begin, including agreement in the Grooten Schuur Minute, which provides for release of political prisoners, return of exiles, and amendment of security legislation (May)
- ANC suspends armed struggle (August)
- 1991** ANC suspends constitutional talks (May)
- Group Areas Act and Land Acts of 1913 and 1936 repealed (June)
- National Peace Accord: government, ANC, IFP, 24 other organizations (14 September)
- Goldstone Commission established
- government and 18 other parties (excluding CP and PAC) that constitute the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA) sign declaration of intent (December)
- 1992** whites-only referendum supports government, de Klerk (68.6%)
- ANC withdraws from CODESA in response to Boipatong (and other) killings
- state and ANC sign Record of Understanding (September)

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1993 Chris Hani assassinated (April)

27 April 1994 announced as election date . . . Inkatha and CP walk out of talks, later joined by Ciskei and Bophuthatswana (who later set up the Freedom Alliance)

Afrikaner Volksfront launched (may)

Afrikaner Volksfront and AWB invade negotiations venue

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Nelson Mandela and F.W. de Klerk

Interim Constitution finalized; Transitional Executive Council installed

1994 less than a week before the election, IFP calls on supporters to vote

SA's first majority rule election (27 April)

Nelson Mandela inaugurated as President of South Africa (10 May)