

SOUTH AFRICA



1) HISTORY

a. General History

Between 200000 and 100000 years ago , modern humans began to evolve throughout Africa including South Africa . They became known as the **San** who later met up with **South bound Khoi pastoralists** from the North and became known collectively as the **Khoisan** . At the end of the 15th century the Portuguese sailed past the Cape of Good Hope . However , it was not until 1652 that the Europeans founded a colony in South Africa. In 1652 the Dutch led by **Jan Van Riebeeck** founded a base where ships travelling to the far East could be supplied . The Dutch colony in South Africa expanded and from 1688 , French Huguenots arrived fleeing religious persecutions . The native people were driven from their land hence being called the **Great Trek** and in 1713 many died due to a smallpox epidemic . In 1795 the British captured Cape colony and in 1867 diamonds were found in Northern Cape , diamonds at Kimberley in 1871 and gold at Gauteng in 1886 . In 1914 , South Africa joined the First World War against Germany .

In 1918 Afrikaners who were descendants of the Dutch founded a secret organisation the **Broederbond** and in 1939 , South Africa joined the second World War against German. In 1948 , the National Party came to power and introduced strict policy of apartheid . However in 1955 , organisations representing black people , white people , coloured and Indians formed the

Congress Alliance and adopted the **Freedom Charter** in 1955. Black South Africans led by **Robert Sobukwe** then broke away from **ANC** and formed the **Pan Africanist Congress (PAC)** . Meanwhile in 1961 , South Africa left the Commonwealth and became a Republic.

b. Last 50 years

On 21st March Sobukwe led a demonstration that caused the death of 69 people . The government then banned the ANC and PAC and in 1963 , Nelson Mandela was sentenced to 27 years in prison. In 1978 , P. W Botha became Prime Minister and in 1983 he introduced a new constitution with the determination to continue apartheid .But in 1989 , Botha was forced down from office and was replaced by **Willem de Klerk** who ended apartheid in 1990 introducing a new constitution with equal rights for all. The 1st Democratic elections were carried out in April 1994 and Nelson Mandela was elected president in May 1994 and later retired in 1999.

c. Recent History

In 2008 , Mr. Kgalema Motlanthe became the President following the recalling of President Thabo Mbeki. Jacob Zuma was then inaugurated as President on 9 May 2009. The following year , a significant milestone for South Africa was the hosting of the 2010 FIFA World Cup . In December 2012, President Zuma was elected again and on 25th May 2019, Mr. Ramaphosa was inaugurated as the President for the sixth Democratic administration .

2)DEFENSE

a. Military Structure

Founded in 1912 and has its headquarters at Pretoria , Gauteng , South Africa. The South African Army is the army of South Africa, first formed after the union of South Africa was created in 1910. The engagements of the army include the World War I and II , Border War , Lesotho Intervention , Central African Republic conflict and Force Intervention Brigade . The Minister of Defense and Veteran Affairs is Nosiviwe Mapisa – Nqakula working with Lt. Gen Lawrence Mbatha as the Chief Of The Army , Major Gen Manneljies de Goede as Deputy CARMY and Senior Chief Warrant Officer Ncebakele Mtshatsheni as the Sergeant Major of the Army . The rank/stage structure of the army , which deteriorated desperately during the 1990s , is greatly improving through the Military Skills Development (MSDS) voluntary national service system .

After the Defence Act of the 1913 , the South African Army has been structured into three major groupings ; standing army also known as the Permanent Force , Military Reserve Force and the Defence Rifle Associations .

b. Membership of Alliances

South Africa is part of an economic bloc shared with Russia , India , Brazil and China (BRICS) . With no express enemies , South Africa does not need military allies . South Africa is part of the Non- Aligned Movement , which is a conscientious decision to have no military allegiance with any nuclear armed power . It is a member of the South African Development Community, the African Union and BRICS.

3) CULTURAL FACTORS

a. Ethnic groups

Until 1991, South Africa law divided the population into four major racial categories ; the Black Africans of which the Nguni and Sotho groups account for 90% of the Black population . Black population accounts 75% of the South African entire population, the Whites who account for about 13% of the population , the Indians who account for 3% and the Coloreds who are mixed White and Black descent and account for 9% of the population . The black population consists of several groups : Khoisan , Xhosa, Zulu , Ndebele , Sotho , Shangaan and Venda . The biggest groups being the Zulus , Xhosas and the Sotho . Despite the many ethnic groups , South Africa is still far from the ideal of a multi-cultural society .

b. Religions

Almost 80% of the South African population adheres to the Christian faith. Other major religious groups are Hindus , Muslims and Jews . A minority of the South African population does not belong to any of the major religious groups, but rather regard themselves as Traditionalists or of no specific religious affiliation , hence their faith being known as the African Traditional Religion.

c. Cultural History

The cultures , languages and heritages of South Africa are multiple , diverse and dynamic . The policies of the Apartheid government sought to distinguish and segregate the country according to rigid definitions of race between 1948 – 1991. South Africa has been famously known and referred to as **the rainbow nation** because it is made up of so many diverse cultures and religion.

4) POLITICAL STRUCTURE

a. Origin of political structure

South Africa was formally a British colony until its accession to independence , as a self governing dominion within the British Commonwealth in 1910 . The blacks were excluded from political participation fuelling discontent and racial conflict that would define a country's post colonial and 20th century History. In 1948 , the pro- Afrikaner National Party came to power with

the ideology of apartheid ; But in 1943, a more determined political grouping came to the fore with the launch of the ANC youth league .

In 1949 , the ANC adopted its programme of action expressing the renewal militancy of the 1940s.The Defiance Campaign of the early 1950s carried mass mobilisation to new height and in 1955 , the Freedom Charter was drawn up at the Congress of the People in Soweto. Soon mass based organisations were banned like the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress . Shaken by the scale of opposition and protest , the constitution was reformed in 1983 and pass laws were scrapped in 1986. South Africa after a long struggle and acquisition of the long awaited independence , held its first democratic election in April 1994 under an interim constitution having Nelson Mandela elected as President in May 1994.

b. Constitution and Government

The constitution of South Africa is the supreme law of the Republic of South Africa. It was promulgated by the late Nelson Mandela on 18th December 1996 and came into effect on 4th February 1997 , replacing the interim constitution of 1993. Since 1996 , the constitution has been amended by 17 amendment act . The South African government is divided into three parts ; the Executive (cabinet) , the legislature (parliament) and Judiciary (the courts). The government consists of five Democratic structures , that is to say , the National government , Provincial government , local government , traditional authorities and political parties .

c. Stability and Policy of present government

The Republic of South Africa is a Parliamentary Republic . South Africa is a country with a relatively stable democracy dominated by one political party . The President serves both as **Head of State** and **Head of Government** and is elected by the National Assembly . South Africans also elect provincial legislatures which govern each of the country's nine provinces . Since the end of apartheid in 1994 , the African National Congress ,ANC has dominated South Africa's politics . General elections take place every five years . The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and the South African Communist Party (SACP) are in a formal alliance with the ruling ANC and thus do not stand separately for election.

5) NATURAL RESOURCES

a. Basic commodities produced

Major exports of South Africa include minerals , metals , gold , diamonds and coal. Agricultural foodstuffs and ground and air military hardware are exported as well. But the biggest export of South Africa is platinum (unwrought) . South Africa is the world's biggest producer of gold and platinum and one of the leading producers of base metals and coal .

b. Trade Agreements

South Africa signed an important FTA with the European Union back in 1999. South Africa is a member of the Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) which has been negotiating an FTA with the United States . At present it is considering further bilateral deals with Kenya , Nigeria , China , Japan , Singapore , South Korea and India . South Africa is also part of IBSA , the Indian Brazil – South Africa triangle. South Africa has consistently championed the development Integration agenda in Southern Africa Customs Union (SACU) , the Southern African Development Community (SADC) , the Tripartite Free Trade Area (T-FTA) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) .

c. Degree of self sufficiency

South Africa has the capacity to be self – sufficient in most agricultural products . In most years , South Africa produces a surplus over the domestic consumption of the main staple crop , maize . Currently South Africa is the only country in Africa to boast food self – sufficiency , as a recent informative report by KPMG revealed .

6) ECONOMY

a. Monetary System

The **Rand** is the official currency of South Africa . The code is ZAR from **Zuid – Afrikaanse rand** (South African Rand) . Banknotes include (10 , 20 , 50 , 100 , 200R) and coins comprise of ; 5 , 10 , 20 , 50c , R1 , R2 , R5 , Krugerrand). The Central Bank , South Africa Reserve Bank is in charge of the issuance . The Reserve Bank implements South Africa's monetary policy and regulates the supply (availability) of money by influencing its cost . The primary objective of the monetary policy is to achieve and maintain price stability in the interest of sustainable and balanced economic development and growth . South Africa's monetary policy is conducted within an inflation targeting framework and the refinancing system is the mechanism used by the Bank for the implementation of monetary policy.

b. Dependency and Debt

South Africa's public finances are in a perilous state due to the economic growth being low , tax revenue collection being repeatedly below forecasts and debt levels rising rapidly and reaching highest levels in the post – apartheid era . Government Debt in South Africa increased to 77987 USD million in the fourth quarter of 2019 from 70836 USD million in the third quarter of 2019.

c. Membership of economic and trade organisations

Principal International trading partners of South Africa besides other African countries include Germany , the United States , China , Japan , the United Kingdom and Spain. South Africa is a member of the World Trade Organisation , South Africa's Trade relations and development cooperation with the European Union are currently governed by the Trade Development and Cooperation Agreement (TDCA) .In June 2016 , South Africa signed EU – SADC EPA together with

five other South African countries ; Botswana , Lesotho , Mozambique , Namibia and Swaziland . South Africa is the EU's largest trading partner in Africa. A member of the African Caribbean Pacific group of countries, South Africa is by far the strongest of sub-saharan Africa's economies .

7) VIEWS ON WORLD PROBLEMS

a. Role and Influence in the World

In the space of just two decades , South Africa has gone from being an international pariah , shunned because of its apartheid policies , to being an influential player in the world affairs and a powerful advocate for global political and economic reform . The country has served on the United Nations Security Council for a two year non permanent term. To promote the interests of developing countries , South Africa has pushed for a rules bound international political and economic order and sought to transform North South relations . It has helped Madagascar , Zimbabwe and South Sudan resolve their problems and assisted with peace keeping between Ethiopia and Eritrea and D . R Congo with Burundi as well. The country has hosted numerous major international conferences and events since 1994 , for example , UN world conference against Racism in 2001 , Non- Aligned Movement Summit in 1998 among others.

b. Membership of blocs and geo political groupings

South Africa is a member of Organization of African Unity , United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa , Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference , Southern African Development Community and South African Customs Union Common Monetary Area.

8) GEOGRAPHY

a. Bordering Countries

Six countries border South Africa , one of which is an enclave . These bordering countries are , Zimbabwe , Mozambique found in the North East of South Africa, Namibia and Kingdom of Swaziland also found in the North East of South Africa and Lesotho being an enclave surrounded entirely by South Africa. The Botswana – South Africa border is the longest of South Africa's international borders while the country's border with Zimbabwe is the shortest.



b. Topography

South Africa occupies the southern tip of Africa , its coastline stretching more than 2850 kilometers from the desert border with Namibia on the Atlantic coast Southwards around the tip of African and North East to the border with Mozambique on the Indian Ocean.

The physiography of Southern Africa comprises a narrow coastal plain, separated from an inland plateau by a horseshoe – shaped escarpment . The interior of the inland plateau is a sedimentary basin. Most of South Africa’s landscape is made up of high , flat areas called plateaus . These lands are covered with rolling grasslands , called high veld and tree-dotted plains called bushveld.

The central plateau contains only two major rivers , the Limpopo and Orange rivers . South Africa is a largely dry country with most of its western regions being semi desert . The rainfall increases in the East and falls primarily in summer . The southern coast , past known as Garden Route is temperate and green. Mountain ranges in South Africa include Amatola Mountains , Bamboesberg , Drakensberg , Gatsrand , Hawekwa Berge , Kouga Mountains and so forth.