



## HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

The Dutch founded a colony in South Africa in 1652 as a base to supply their ships travelling to the Far East. They began importing slaves into South Africa in 1658.

In 1688 French Huguenots (Protestants) arrived fleeing religious persecution.

Slowly the native people were driven from their land.

In 1795 the British captured South Africa and ruled until 1961 when South Africa left the commonwealth and became a republic.

In 1948, the Afrikaner Nationalist party came into power and instituted Apartheid.

From the start black people were very much second-class citizens in South Africa. Most lived in tribal reserves, and laws of 1913 and 1936 prevented them owning land outside certain areas. Most blacks were not allowed to vote.

In 1912 black South Africans founded the South African National Congress (later known as the ANC) but at first they achieved little. In 1990 Nelson Mandela was

released from prison and the ANC and other opposition parties were legalized. In 1994 South Africa held its first universal elections, Nelson Mandela became the first black president and apartheid was abolished.

Read more about Nelson Mandela in his autobiography “Long Walk To Freedom”.

