

The shifting balance of power

African kingdoms lost power after military defeats.

British colonial power increased as they took over land and minerals.

Randlords (mine owners) became wealthy and powerful.

The Chamber of Mines helped mine owners control labour and wages.

Power moved from African societies → to British government → to mine owners.

From African-Controlled Land to White-Controlled Land

Before minerals were discovered:

- African kingdoms (such as the Zulu, Pedi, and Sotho) controlled large areas of land.
- They were economically independent, relying on cattle, farming, and trade.

After minerals were discovered:

- White settlers, mining companies, and the government wanted land and labour for mines.
- New laws (like the Glen Grey Act of 1894) forced Africans into wage labour.
- African landholdings were reduced through taxation, confiscation, and conflict.

Defeat of the Boer Republics in 1902

The Boer Republics fought the British in the South African War (1899–1902).

Britain wanted control of gold and political power.

The British defeated the Boers using scorched earth tactics and concentration camps.

Boer commandos fought on using guerrilla tactics but were eventually worn down.

The war ended with the Treaty of Vereeniging (1902).

The Boer Republics became part of the British Empire.

This set the stage for the Union of South Africa in 1910.

African Political Organisation (APO) in 1902

- After 1902, Africans had no political rights and faced growing discrimination.
- African leaders formed political groups to protect their land and rights.
- Early organisations used petitions, newspapers, and meetings.
- The most active region was the Eastern Cape.
- This period laid the foundation for the SANNC (African National Congress) in 1912.

Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) in 1903

- The Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) was formed in 1903.
- It was created to fight unfair anti-Indian laws in the Transvaal.
- Led by Indian merchants and supported by Mahatma Gandhi.
- The TIC organised petitions, meetings, and peaceful protests.
- It played a major role in resisting the Asiatic Registration Act (1907).
- The TIC helped unite Indian people and became important in South Africa's early political struggles.

Bambatha Rebellion in 1906

- The Bambatha Rebellion happened in 1906 in Natal.
- It was caused mainly by the poll tax, land loss, and harsh British policies.
- Led by Chief Bambatha kaMancinza.
- Major fighting happened at Mome Gorge, where the rebellion was defeated.
- The rebellion showed African resistance and inspired later political movements.

The Union of South Africa (1910)

- The Union of South Africa was created on 31 May 1910.
- Four colonies joined to form one country:
- Cape, Natal, Transvaal, Orange River.
- White leaders controlled the government.
- Africans, Indians, and Coloureds were excluded from political rights.
- This led to future discriminatory laws like the 1913 Land Act.
- Africans responded by forming the SANNC (later ANC) in 1912.

Formation of South African Native National Congress (SANNC) in 1912

- SANNC was formed on 8 January 1912 in Bloemfontein.
- It brought African people together to fight for their rights.
- Leaders included John Dube, Pixley ka Seme, and Sol Plaatje.
- It opposed unfair laws, loss of land, and political exclusion.
- It later became the ANC, which led the fight against apartheid

The Satyagraha Campaign (1913–1914)

The Satyagraha Campaign was a major non-violent resistance movement led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian community in South Africa.

It took place between 1913 and 1914 and was organised to protest against unfair laws that discriminated against Indian people, especially in the Transvaal and Natal.

“Satyagraha” means “truth force” or “soul force”—a method of resisting injustice using peaceful, non-violent protest.

The Satyagraha Campaign happened in 1913–1914.

Led by Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian community.

Causes:

£3 tax, marriage laws, pass laws.

Actions:

strikes, marches, burning of passes, peaceful protests.

Outcome:

end of £3 tax, recognition of Indian marriages, release of prisoners.

Importance:

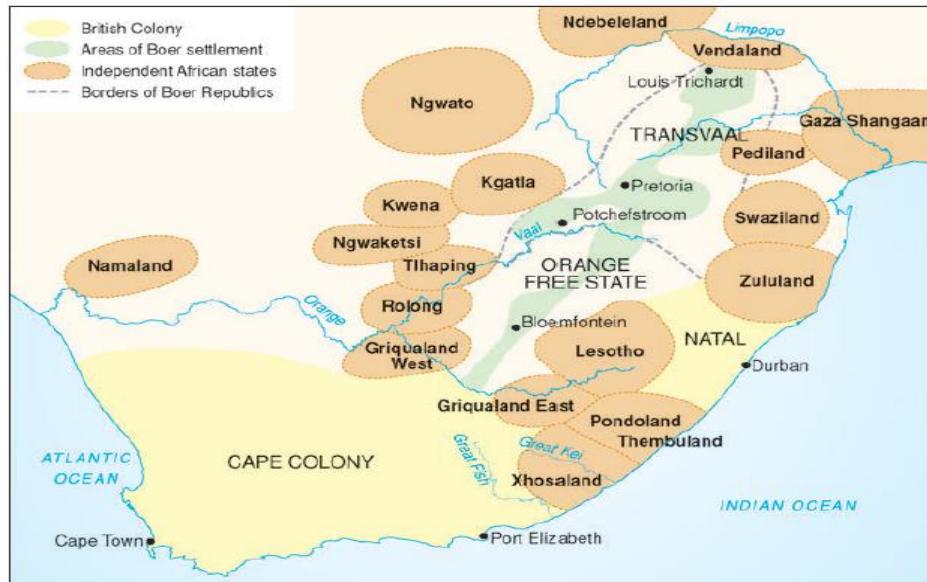
early example of non-violent resistance in South Africa.

The Natives Land Act of 1913

Passed in 1913.

- Africans could own land in only 7% of South Africa (the reserves).
- Whites controlled 93% of the land.
- Africans could not buy land outside the reserves.
- Forced African people into poverty and migrant labour.
- Caused overcrowding, hunger, and loss of independence.
- Led to stronger African political resistance (SANNC/ANC)

Map of southern Africa in 1913 compared to 1860



This map shows southern Africa in 1860.



South Africa in 1860 was NOT one country.
It had several rulers:
British Empire – ruling the Cape Colony and Natal
Boer leaders – ruling the Transvaal and Orange Free State
African kings – ruling kingdoms like the Zulu Kingdom (King Mpande) and Basotho Kingdom (Moshoeshe I)

In 1913, South Africa was ruled by:
Prime Minister: Louis Botha
Governor-General: Lord Gladstone
British Monarch: King George V
African, Indian, and Coloured people had no political power,
and the government passed laws like the 1913 Natives Land Act, which took land away from African communities.