The period after WWII marked the final collapse of European imperialism.

In Africa, independence was achieved both through peaceful efforts & through bloody conflicts.

In South Africa, years of racial segregation ended & black South Africans gained a voice in government.

A movement called Pan-Africanism-the unity of Africans & people of African descent all over the world had been nourishing nationalist movements in Africa since the 1920s.

**A few African nations achieved independence before 1945, most gained independence after WWII.**

**-many Africans fought in WWII🡪resented returning home to second-class citizenship**

For nearly 350 years Europeans ruled South Africa

**-although South Africa won independence from Britain in 1910 only its white citizens held political power**

**-in 1948 a system of** apartheid**-separation of the races was made official**

 **🡪white South Africans control the nation’s government & economy**

 **-black South Africans and other nonwhites**

 **\*lived in certain zones-kicked off their own land🡪forced to live on crowded reserves**

 **\*used segregated public facilities & transportation**

 **\*forbid interracial marriage \*had to carry ID cards**

 **\*forced off the best land \*restrictions on travel**

 **\*not allowed to grow most profitable crops**

 **🡪forced to grow cash crops 🡪not producing enough food 🡪famine**

 **\*better paying jobs in mines went to whites only🡪left blacks with low-pay, less-skilled work**

 **\*not allowed to vote**

**1912-educated Africans organize a political party-**African National CongresANC

 **-to oppose apartheid the ANC used**

 **\*legal means to protest unjust laws that restrict the freedom of black S. Africans**

 **\*violence \*non-violent civil disobedience \*boycotts**

**1960-demonstration in Sharpeville-police killed 69 people & wounded 180**

**🡪South African government reacted by outlawing the ANC**

**1964-**Nelson Mandela**-important ANC leader sentenced to life in prison**

 **🡪became a powerful symbol of the struggle for freedom**

**1976-in Soweto township thousands of students peacefully protest**

**🡪the South African police respond with force**

**🡪** **the accounts of how many people died vary from 200 to 600**

 **-the original government figure claimed only 23 students were killed**

**-the number of wounded was estimated to be over a thousand men, women, and children**

**The Soweto Uprising was a turning point in the liberation struggle in South Africa**

 **-many white South African citizens were outraged at the government's actions in Soweto**

 **🡪about 300 white students from the University of the Witwatersrand marched through**

 **Johannesburg's city centre in protest of the killing of children**

 **🡪black workers went on strike as well and joined them as the campaign progressed**

 **🡪riots also broke out in the black townships of other cities in South Africa**

June 16th is now a public holiday called Youth Day in South Africa

in remembrance of the events in 1976

Desmond Tutu**-black Anglican bishop & civil rights leader along with other activists convinced foreign nations & businesses to limit trade & investment in segregated S. Africa**

 **🡪over time these nonviolent means of protest had a strong effect**

**1989-**F.W. de Klerk **became president of South Africa**

 **-he knew reform was necessary**

 **🡪he legalized the ANC**

 **🡪repealed segregation laws**

 **🡪released Mandela from jail in 1990**

**1994-South Africa held an election in which people of all races could vote**

 **🡪Mandela was elected president**

**The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission TRC was set up by**

 **the new South African government**

 **-help deal with the violence & human rights abuses which occurred under apartheid**

 **-discover & reveal past wrongdoing by the government in the hope of resolving conflict**

 **left over from the period of apartheid**