

# Quick Outline of South African History

## COLONIAL PERIOD (1652-1914)

- Arrival of the Dutch settlers in 1652 at the Cape of Good Hope.
- Land otherwise mostly empty.
- Later, the Bantu tribal peoples moved down into the northeast of the region.
- Dutch settlers moving eastward gradually took control of the east too.
- Lastly, Britain conquered the whole thing.

## WORLD WARS (1914-45)

- Now a British colony, South Africa participated in both wars, and thus won its independence.

## APARTHEID (1948-1994)

- European (mostly Dutch “Afrikaners”) created the Apartheid system
  - “Apartheid” means *segregation* — *based on race*.
  - The black population was treated unjustly and even brutally.
- Nelson Mandela was the famous champion of the “liberation” of the black people.
- Under pressure from the rest of the world, the Afrikaners created a full democracy in 1994, in which Mandela became the first black president.

## STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY (1994- )

- The white Afrikaners population is wealthy and the black population is much larger and much poorer.
  - > *redistribution?*
  - > *reconciliation?*