

3.Faces of South Africa

There are nearly 43 million South Africans, most of them belonging to one of four major ethnic groups. The largest ethnic group is black (75.2 percent of the population); followed by whites (13.6 percent). Coloureds, as South Africans call people of mixed race, make up 8.6 percent of the population. Indians, mostly the descendants of South Asian immigrants, comprise about 2.6 percent of the population. [...]



South Africa's white community consists primarily of Afrikaners (descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers¹ and "English speakers" (mostly the descendants of immigrants from the United Kingdom).

10 For more than 300 years, the white minority ruled² through Apartheid³, a system of government that entrenched⁴ political power for whites.

The system was abandoned peacefully in 1994 – after a long, sometimes bitter struggle⁵ by black political and labor movements. Whites and blacks negotiated a constitution based on individual rights, and all South Africans participated in the election of a democratic government. Nelson Mandela was elected the first president of a democratic South Africa. [...]

South Africa is divided into nine provinces, each with its own legislature [...]. The provinces are the Western Cape, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, the Northern Cape, Free State, North West, Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo.



20 Within these provinces are a number of "traditional rulers⁶," including the current Zulu king, Goodwill Zwelethini, who is a direct descendant of King Shaka, founder of the Zulu kingdom. South Africa's Indian community is largely descended from indentured⁷ laborers brought to South Africa by the British to work on sugar plantations. South African Indians today are found in all walks of life, including the president's cabinet, the law courts, and corporate executive suites. [...]

25 The Coloureds are South Africa's people of mixed racial ancestry. Made up of descendants of former slaves⁸, blacks, and whites, many Coloureds proudly assert⁹ that they are living proof that South Africa's different races can get along.

1. colons
2. a dirigé
3. \ə'pɑ:rθaɪt\
4. établissait fermement
5. combat âpre
6. dirigeants
7. liés par contrat
8. esclaves
9. affirmement