

APARTHEID

SOUTH

AFRICA

vs.

DEMOCRATIC

ISRAEL

Founding Principles:

Apartheid South Africa

1948

South Africa enacts apartheid, a legal system of discrimination, segregation, and domination based on race.



A campaign poster for the National Party pushes its racist agenda.

The National Party wins elections and begins institutionalizing apartheid.

Founding Principles:

Democratic Israel

1948

Israel declares statehood and a legal system based on equal political and civil rights for all.



David Ben-Gurion reads the Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel, May 1948.

Israel “will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture.”

–Declaration of Establishment of State of Israel

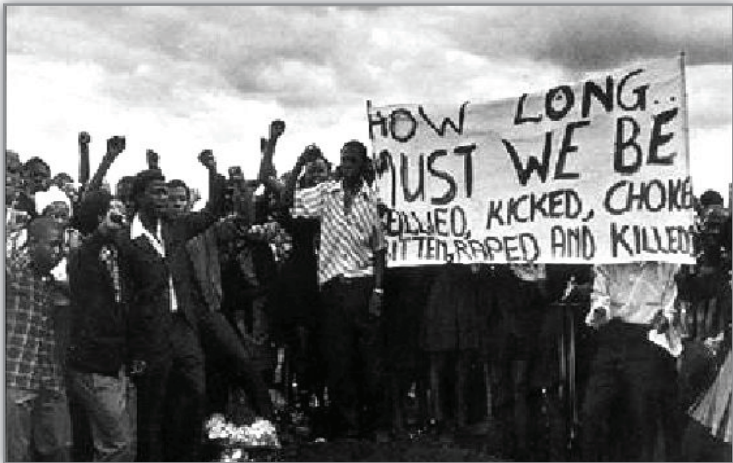
Israel urged Arab residents to fully participate in building the new country.

Political Rights: South African Oppression

South Africa's 80-percent non-white majority fought brutal oppression to regain citizenship and voting rights.

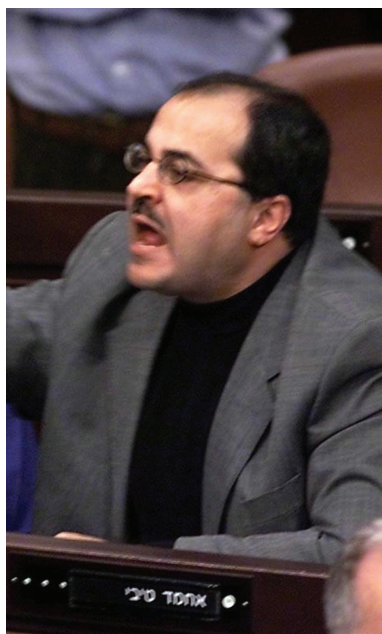


Black South Africans demonstrate for political rights.



Political Rights: Israeli Democracy

Israel's 20-percent non-Jewish minority has always had equal voting and other political rights. Arab Israelis were elected to the first Knesset in 1949 and have won as many as 12 Knesset seats in a single election. Some hold important positions in the government, court system, ministry of foreign affairs, and the military.



Israeli Arab parliament member Ahmad Tibi during a Knesset session.



Arab women vote in Israeli elections.

"Israel has proved that for fifty years its real power is in its democracy, guarding the rights of its citizens, applying laws [equally] to the rich and poor, the big and small."—Columnist Dr. Talal Al-Shareef, Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds*, May 27, 1999

Civil Rights:

South Africa's Enforced Segregation

By apartheid law, South Africans of color were segregated in every aspect of daily life—train stations, beaches, restrooms, schools, and restaurants—except for churches.



Signs demonstrate racial boundaries in apartheid South Africa.



Civil Rights:

Israeli Pluralism

Israel is an open society of people from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas, and the Middle East, representing multiple religious groups. Their equality, freedoms, and religious institutions are protected by law.



Israelis of all ethnic backgrounds compose the cultural mosaic of Israeli society.



Ideology:

Apartheid South African Racism

People were legally segregated by race in every aspect of daily life.



Segregated stands of sports arena. 1969

Ideology:

Israeli Inclusiveness

Israel rescued tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews and welcomed them into Israel. Israel also rescued the boat people from Vietnam and has been saving the lives of thousands of Sudanese refugees, including Darfuris, who escaped from Sudan through Egypt.



Shimon Peres welcoming new Ethiopian immigrants.



Rana Raslan, an Arab Israeli, was crowned Miss Israel in 1999.



Arab Israeli Asala Shahada wins a gold medal in Israel's Maccabiah sports tournament. "The Maccabiah belongs not only to all the Jews, but also to all the Israelis, and I am a proud Israeli."

Democratic Israel

And The West Bank And Gaza

Israel's Respect For A Separate National Palestinian Movement

South Africa's separation policies were motivated solely by racism and designed to deny citizenship rights to the black majority.



South African

The Fulfillment of Palestinian National Aspirations

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza have never been Israeli citizens and do not wish to be. They have their own national movement for self-determination and are a separate national group, just as Mexicans, Americans, and Canadians are separate national groups.



Palestinian honor guard escorts Mahmoud Abbas, president of the Palestinian Authority.



The Palestinian police force

Palestinians formed their own government, the Palestinian Authority, after the Oslo Accords were signed. The PA runs Palestinian civic society, from schools to police forces, law courts, and a legislative council.

Israel's Counterterrorism Measures:

Motivating Factors: Apartheid's Racism vs. Israeli Security



South African apartheid policies were solely motivated by racism in an environment of peace and security.



Israeli policies are motivated by the need to protect the lives of its citizens in an environment of constant siege and indiscriminate murder.

When Palestinians from the Territories launched a terrorist campaign of suicide bombing against Israeli civilians in September 2000, Israel had to protect its citizens. Checkpoints, bypass roads, and the security barrier were all temporary measures to stem terrorists' access to Israeli civilian centers. They were designed to separate terrorists from their Israeli victims.



Apartheid South Africa had virtually no physical barriers. Black South Africans were "checked for passes" whenever they were in white neighborhoods.



Israel had to construct a physical barrier in order to protect its citizens from terrorism emanating from the Palestinian territories. The fence has nothing to do with race or apartheid, as it divides two national groups, not racial groups. There are Jews and Arabs on both sides of the barrier.

Apartheid

**Learn more about the gender, sexual and religious
apartheid that exists today in far too many
Middle Eastern countries.
Go to www.freedomhouse.org.**

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