

GRADE 10 | 2024

History: Civil Rights and Decolonisation

History

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1. Decolonisation in Africa

After World War II, African countries began demanding independence from European colonial powers. The process accelerated in the 1950s and 60s.

- "Africa Must Be Free By 1963" - Kwame Nkrumah's slogan
- Ghana became first sub-Saharan African country to gain independence (1957)
- "Year of Africa": 1960 - 17 countries became independent
- Many independence movements were led by educated Africans who had studied abroad

2. African National Congress (ANC) and the Struggle Against Apartheid

The ANC was founded in 1912 to fight for the rights of Black South Africans. After the apartheid system was formalised (1948), resistance intensified.

- Defiance Campaign (1952): non-violent protests against unjust laws
- Freedom Charter (1955): "South Africa belongs to all who live in it"
- Sharpeville Massacre (1960): 69 protesters killed; ANC banned
- Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK): armed wing formed in 1961

3. The American Civil Rights Movement

African Americans fought against racial segregation and discrimination in the United States in the 1950s and 1960s.

- Rosa Parks (1955): refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus
- Martin Luther King Jr.: led non-violent protests; "I Have a Dream" speech (1963)
- March on Washington (1963): 250,000 people marched for equality
- Civil Rights Act (1964): outlawed discrimination based on race, religion, or sex