

South Africa in the 1940s

There were a number of developments in the 1940s that gave Black South Africans hope that their situation could improve: the British, American and South African governments signed the Atlantic Charter in 1941 and the African National Congress (which argued for better rights for Africans) published a document called Africans' Claims.

Read the following sources.

Source A from Africans' Claims, written by the ANC

In South Africa, Africans have no freedom of movement, no freedom of choice of employment, no right of choice of where to live and no right of freedom to buy land. They face serious educational, political and economic disabilities and discriminations which are the chief causes of their apparent slow progress.

The soldiers of all races Europeans, Americans, Asians and Africans have won their claim to freedom based on fair play and equality for opportunity for all races, colours and classes.

Source B from the Atlantic Charter

The governments of Britain, America and South Africa respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live.

Source C from the Bill of Rights suggested by the ANC

We, the African people in the Union of South Africa, urgently demand the granting of full citizenship rights such as are enjoyed by all Europeans in South Africa. We demand:-

- ? Abolition of political discrimination based on race, and the extension to all adults, regardless of race, of the right to vote and be elected to parliament.
- ? The right to equal justice in courts of law, including nomination to juries and appointment as judges, magistrates, and other court officials.
- ? Freedom of where to live and the end of laws such as the Natives (Urban Areas) Act, and Natives Land Act.
- ? Freedom of movement, and the repeal of the pass laws, Natives (Urban areas) Act.
- ? We demand the right to an equal share in all the resources of the country, and we demand that the present allocation of 12½% of the land to 7 million Africans as against 87¼% to about 2 million Whites is unfair and therefore demand a fair redistribution of the land.

Questions

Read source A

- 1) What were Africans NOT able to do?
- 2) What did the soldiers fighting in WW2 hope to get after the war?

Read source B

- 3) What does source B mean?

Read source C

- 4) Give three examples of the demands that the ANC wanted for Africans. For each demand explain how the situation in South Africa was unfair in the 1940s.

Synthesis (bringing everything together)



I am Nelson Mandela and I joined the ANC Youth League in 1944. I am giving a speech arguing that the lives of Africans are terrible and need to be improved. I need a speech writer to help me.

? You need to explain how difficult the lives of Africans were (land, jobs, housing, no vote, no freedom)

? You need to explain how the lives of Africans can be improved (Africans' Claims, Atlantic Charter and the bill of Rights)

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There were a number of developments in the 1940s that gave Black South Africans hope that their situation could improve: the British, American and South African governments signed the Atlantic Charter in 1941 and the African National Congress (which argued for better rights for Africans) published a document called Africans' Claims.

Read the following sources.

Source A from Africans' Claims, written by the ANC

In South Africa, Africans have no freedom of movement, no choice about the job they have, no choice of where to live and no right to buy land. They face serious disadvantages in education, politics and the money that they have.

The European, American, Asian and African soldiers have won better rights based on fair play and equality treatment for all races.

Source B from the Atlantic Charter

The governments of Britain, America and South Africa respect the right of all peoples to choose the government under which they will live (by giving everyone the right to vote).

Source C from the Bill of Rights suggested by the ANC

The African people in South Africa, urgently demand the same rights that are enjoyed by Whites in South Africa. We demand:

- ? The right to vote and be elected to parliament.
- ? The right to be treated equally by the courts of law
- ? Freedom of where to live and the end of laws such as the Natives (Urban Areas) Act, and Natives Land Act.
- ? Being able to travel wherever they want, and the repeal of the pass laws, Natives (Urban areas) Act.
- ? We demand the right to an equal share in all the resources of the country, and we demand that the present situation of 12½% of the land for 7 million Africans as against 87¼% for about 2 million Whites is unfair and therefore demand a lot more land for Africans

Questions

Read source A

- 1) What were Africans NOT able to do?
- 2) What did the soldiers fighting in WW2 win after the war?

Read source B and write out the following sentences, filling in the gaps

The _____ Charter said the governments in Britain, America and _____ agreed that everyone should have the right to _____ and choose the _____ of their country.

Read source C

4) Give three examples of the demands that the ANC wanted for Africans.

5)



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- ? You need to explain how difficult the lives of Africans were (land, jobs, housing, no vote, no freedom)
- ? You need to explain how the lives of Africans can be improved (Africans' Claims, Atlantic Charter and the bill of Rights)