

Sources about the Armed Struggle in South Africa

Source A from the Manifesto of Umkhonto We Sizwe, 1961. Umkhonto We Sizwe ("Spear of the Nation") was founded partly in response to the Sharpeville Massacre of March 1960. Its leader, Nelson Mandela, was to be arrested shortly after this manifesto was published

On 16th December, 1961, Umkhonto We Sizwe, military wing of the ANC, made it known that we, the oppressed people of South Africa, would fight for our rights. We made this known not only with words. Dynamite blasts announced it.

Source B from the Manifesto of Umkhonto We Sizwe, 1961

The white oppressors have stolen our land. They have destroyed our families... We have the backbreaking toil and the poverty... In the factories, on the farms, on the railways, wherever you go, the hard, dirty, dangerous, badly paid jobs are ours.

Source C from the Manifesto of Umkhonto We Sizwe, 1961

Only by meeting force with force can we win back our motherland... We have tried every way to reason with the white supremacists. For many years our leaders and organizations sent petitions... We organized mass demonstrations, pass-burnings, peaceful stay-at-homes.

What answer was given by the government?

Strikers and demonstrators were shot in cold blood... Our leaders and spokesmen were banned, gagged, jailed, banished--even murdered. Our organization, the African National Congress, was outlawed.

Source D Joe Mkhwanzi, the exiled PAC's Administrative Secretary, speaking in 1985

In 1961, the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania took up the thread of armed struggle left behind by our great forebears. We took the decision to challenge the regime militarily. Necessity dictated that we should start with what we could afford. Thus emerged a weapon known as the panga (machete).

Source E A leaflet published by POQO (the armed wing of the PAC) in 1961

"We are starting again Africans... we die once. Africa will be free on January 1st. The white people shall suffer, the black people will rule. Freedom comes after bloodshed. Poqo has started. It needs a real man. The Youth has weapons you need not be afraid. The PAC says this".

Source F The slogan of the ANC

AMANDLA NGAWETHU! MAATLA KE ARONA! POWER TO THE PEOPLE!



Questions about the Armed Struggle in South Africa

Key theme: The coursework question asks about the reasons why opposition to Apartheid GREW in the 1950s and 1960s. Therefore it is very important that you understand the desperation of the black South Africans. They turned to the armed struggle because all other peaceful means of changing Apartheid had failed.

- 1) What does Umkhonto We Sizwe mean?
- 2) Read Source A. The ideas behind the manifesto are similar to the Suffragette slogan 'Deeds not Words'. Give an example to demonstrate this.
- 3) Read Sources B and C. Using information from BOTH sources give at least 5 reasons why Umkhonto We Sizwe was set up
- 4) Read sources D and E. Give two examples to show what POQO was fighting for
- 5) Read source F Write an alternative slogan for the ANC



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