

# Models of periodisation in South African history

## Years, structures, and events

See also Stolten's databases SAyears and Solidarity Chronology



# **Southern Africa in world history**

- **Until - 1470: Pre-colonial period**
- **1470 - 1800: Trade and plundering colonialism**
- **1800 - 1870: Settler societies, tribal restructurings and migrations**
- **1870 - 1920: Western imperialism divides Africa**
- **1920 - 1960: Colonial supremacy**
- **1960 - 1980: Decolonisation. Dependence of Western world market**



# The South African Economy

- **1886 - 1924: English mining capitalism, small enterprises**
- **1924 - 1939: Build-up of a national capital**
- **1939 - 1948: Breakthrough for SA manufacturing industry**
- **1948 - 1960: State monopoly construction of corporative Afrikaner capital**
- **1960 - 1980: Growing internationalisation and merger of boer and English capital**
- **1973 - 1990: Growing crisis and fatigue in the economy due to small domestic market, workers protest and sanctions**



# Political history as reflection of economic base

- 1910 - 1924: English alliance with Afrikaner bourgeoisie; early segregation period
  - 1924 - 1933: Pact co-opt white workers and boer farmers; segregation
  - 1933 - 1939: Party merger (Fusion); limited liberal influence; late segregation period
  - 1939 - 1948: Allied war participation stimulates liberal tendencies and polarisation
  - 1948 - 1960: National Party implements apartheid
  - 1960 - 1973: Boer police state with fascist features; separate development
  - 1973 - 1987: Slow, reluctant late apartheid reforms; continued grand apartheid
  - 1990 - 1994: Real breakdown of apartheid, negotiations
  - 1994 -  
influences
- Models of periodisation



# History of Black freedom struggle

- **1652 - 1910: Armed resistance against colonisation**
- **1910 - 1942: Civil disobedience and sporadic class struggles**
- **1942 - 1960: Working class actions and political mass movement build-up**
- **1960 - 1973: Movements in exile and sabotage**
- **1973 - 1990: Trade unions and political mass movements make SA ungovernable**
- **1990 - 1994: Build-up of normal political opposition and negotiations**
- **1994 - : ANC-lead government after power sharing and free elections**

**Only after 1976, was the ANC in a position to take the offensive**

# Models of periodisation

Years, structures, and events