

SSWH20: DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GLOBAL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL IMPACT OF THE COLD WAR & DECOLONIZATION FROM 1945-1989



ELEMENT D: ANALYZE OPPOSITION MOVEMENTS TO EXISTING POLITICAL SYSTEMS, INCLUDE: ANTI-APARTHEID, TIANANMEN SQUARE, AND THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Civil Disobedience in South Africa

- ❑ In response to apartheid laws instituted in 1948 by the white Afrikaner National Party, the African National Congress organized acts of peaceful civil disobedience.



- The government responded to one such march by shooting and killing more than 60 peaceful demonstrators in Sharpeville.
 - After this, the ANC and Nelson Mandela embarked on a more violent course of action. The government banned the ANC in 1960 and arrested Mandela in 1964, but he remained a popular symbol of protest.
 - Archbishop Desmond Tutu and others continued the fight from within and outside of South Africa. Many South African whites also joined the movement.
- In 1976, police shot black school children who were protesting, leading to riots across the country.
- In the 1980s, the government made small concessions, but Black Africans were still excluded from politics and segregated in civil life.
- In 1989, President F. W. de Klerk instituted reforms that legalized the ANC, ended apartheid, and freed Mandela from prison.
 - This, however, was not enough to end the violence in the nation.
- Finally, in 1994, the first multi-racial election was held. South Africans elected antiapartheid leader Mandela as president.



Democratic Protests in China



- ❑ During the 1980s, when moderates controlled the government following Mao's death, many Chinese argued for more political freedom and economic reforms. This movement culminated in Tiananmen Square in Beijing.
 - Hundreds of thousands of protesters filled the square for weeks calling for democracy.
 - Students staged a hunger strike, and others built barricades.
 - The government sent in troops and tanks, which finally broke through the barricades and began to fire on the protesters killing or wounding thousands. More were arrested.
 - Through this show of force, the government maintained tight control and demonstrated the limits of the reforms it was willing to make.



Collapse of Communism



- ❑ In 1961, Communists built a wall of concrete and barbed wire in East Berlin along its border with West Berlin. They built and patrolled the wall to keep East Germans from escaping to the West, shooting anyone caught trying to cross over.
 - The wall became a symbol of a divided Europe and, in fact, a divided world.
 - As the Soviet system began to fall apart in the late 1980s, protests in East Germany convinced the government, which no longer had Soviet backing, to open the borders.
 - In 1989, Germans on both sides of the wall, tore down the wall, which has since become a symbol of the collapse of communism.

