

# Nelson Mandela



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## WHO WAS NELSON MANDELA?

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Nelson Mandela was a **South African politician** who fought oppression and racial segregation, and played a **fundamental role in the abolition of Apartheid**.

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## APARTHEID

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South Africa was first colonized by the Dutch and then by the British, who decided to work with the first ones creating a white elite in the country.

There were **laws** regulating the life of black and white people: people of different races were kept separated, and white people had more political and educational rights. This system was called "**Apartheid**".

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## HIS LIFE

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Nelson Mandela was born in South Africa in 1918. He was the son of the king of a South African tribe. He was the first in his family to go to school and he got name "Nelson" from one of his teachers.

After he graduated, he became **lawyer** in Johannesburg where he **joined anti-colonial and African Nationalist movements**.

In 1944, he joined the **ANC (African National Congress)**, a protest movement that wanted black South Africans to have the same rights of white people. In 1950, Mandela was appointed as the national president of the ANCYL (African National Congress Youth League). He was **arrested** many times for his activism and his movement was banned by the government in 1960.

In 1962, he was sent to Robben Island Prison where he spent nearly eighteen years. When

Mandela was in prison, they told him that if he stopped his acts of violence they would set him free, but he refused. He was moved to other two prisons before his release.

In the 1960s, other countries began to **oppose the Apartheid system**: they organized public demonstrations, boycotted South African products and sport teams refused to play there.

In the 1980s, the South African Government began to make changes.

State president F.W. De Klerk lifted the ban on the ANC and announced the **release** of Nelson Mandela from prison on February 2nd, 1990.

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## PRESIDENCY AND NOBEL PRIZE

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In 1994, South Africa had the **first democratic** elections. Mandela was the **first elected President of South Africa**. He was also the first black President of the country.

His main aim was to end racism and he **ended the Apartheid rule** and established a new Constitution. He reunited the country after years of division and racial discrimination.

In 1993, he shared the **Nobel Prize** with De Klerk, who served as South Africa's President before him.

Mandela is a symbol of the struggle for justice, equality, and dignity in South Africa and around the world.