**Timeline – South Africa (note on terminology: Afrikaner = Boer = Voortrekker)**

**1652 - Dutch East India Company establishes the first permanent European settlement at Cape Town**

**1815 - Congress of Vienna recognizes Great Britain’s sovereignty over Cape Colony; influx of British settlers follows**

**1834 - Britain bans slavery in Cape Colony, following passage of Slavery Abolition Act in London; Afrikaner “Voortrekkers” begin Great Trek out of Cape Colony**

**1839 - Voortrekkers establish the Republic of Natalia**

**1843 - Britain annexes the Boer Republic of Natalia, establishing the Colony of Natal; influx of British settlers follows; Second Trek ensues as most Boers depart for the interior by year’s end**

**1852 - Afrikaners establish South Africa Republic (aka Transvaal Republic) as an internationally-recognized sovereign state; Orange Free State follows as another independent Boer republic two years later**

**1899-1902 - Boer War: Britain defeats the Afrikaners, ending Boer republics**

**1910 - Union of South Africa, combining Natal and Cape colonies with Orange Free State and Transvaal, is established as British Dominion in Commonwealth**

**1912 - African National Congress (ANC) is founded to protest disenfranchised status**

**1913 - Government enacts the Natives’ Land Act prohibiting Africans from owning, renting, or share-cropping on 93% of the country’s land**

**1918 - Mandela is born in Transkei, Eastern Cape**

**1923 - Government enacts the Natives (Urban Areas) Consolidation Act restricting blacks to “locations” in white cities and prohibiting blacks from remaining in a city for more than 72 hours without a permit**

**1941 - Churchill and Roosevelt proclaim the Atlantic Charter; language on “self-determination” implies support for de-colonization and equal political rights**

**1948 - National elections bring the Afrikaner National Party to power espousing “apartheid”; ANC moves from petitions to direct action in protest to apartheid**

**1960 - African protests result in “Sharpeville massacre,” prompting Mandela and the ANC to adopt armed struggle; Soviet Union and East bloc are willing to support**

**1961 - Union of South Africa leaves the Commonwealth and becomes a Republic**

**1964 - Nelson Mandela and other ANC leaders are sentenced to life in prison**

**1969 - Nixon/Kissinger study finds “whites (in southern Africa) are here to stay; change must come through them”**

**1975 - Mozambique and Angola achieve independence; Zimbabwe follows in 1980**

**- Mangosuthu ‘Gatsha’ Buthelezi, Chief Minister of the Zulu homeland, launches an ethnic Zulu movement, initially with ANC blessing**

**1976 - Soweto riots spread across South Africa; many blacks are killed or jailed; many go into exile, joining the armed struggle**

**1978 - Defense Minister PW Botha becomes Prime Minister, replacing John Vorster; with constitutional changes, this position later becomes President**

**1983/4 - Government introduces a tri-cameral Parliament for whites, coloreds, and Asians but leaves out Africans; waves of protest escalate over the next few years, led by the United Democratic Front (UDF), a coalition of civic, labor, church, and other citizen associations**

**- Violent conflict between Mandela and Buthelezi supporters intensifies; thousands killed in Natal and the Johannesburg area over the next decade**

**1984 - Nkomati Accord with South Africa requires Mozambique to expel ANC fighters (Swaziland had already made a similar commitment)**

**1985 - Government begins sporadic talks with Nelson Mandela in prison, led by Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee**

**- Mikhail Gorbachev comes to power in the Soviet Union; advocates peaceful settlement of regional disputes**

**1986 - U.S. Congress passes comprehensive sanctions against South Africa over President Reagan’s veto**

**1987 - Secretary of State George Shultz meets ANC President Oliver Tambo in Washington, a recognition that the ANC is essential to a political settlement**

**1988 - President Botha secretly authorizes his intelligence chief Neil Barnard to form a government committee to meet regularly with Mandela in prison**

**- Mandela is moved to a private cottage on prison grounds where he can phone and meet compatriots**

**- U.S.-led negotiations with South Africa, Cuba, and Angola agree on Namibian independence, removal of Cuban troops (and ANC camps) from Angola**

**1989 - President Botha meets openly with Mandela in the President’s office, revealing publicly for the first time that there are ongoing discussions**

**- Long-standing Cabinet Minister and leader of the National Party FW de Klerk becomes President, replacing PW Botha who has suffered a second stroke**

**- Berlin Wall falls; Soviet Union is in turmoil and collapses two years later**

**1990 - New President FW de Klerk stuns the world by releasing Mandela and other political prisoners, unbanning political organizations, calling for negotiations**

**- Namibia achieves independence**

**1991 - UDF disbands, throwing support to ANC**

**- All-party negotiations for a political settlement begin**

**1993 - Popular ANC leader Chris Hani is assassinated; South Africa teeters on the brink of civil war**

**- ANC, Government negotiators accelerate negotiations; agreement is reached on the terms of the settlement; the election date is set for April 1994**

**- Mandela and De Klerk share the Nobel Peace Prize**

**1994 - Nelson Mandela is elected President, FW de Klerk and Thabo Mbeki (ANC) are Deputy Presidents in a 5-year Government of National Unity (GNU) under an interim constitution; Buthelezi gets Minister of Law and Order (Police)**

**1995 - U.S.-South Africa Bi-national Commission is established, chaired by Vice President Gore and Deputy President Mbeki**

**1996 - Truth and Reconciliation Commission is launched with Bishop Tutu as co-chair**

**- Newly-elected Parliament adopts final Constitution**

**1999 - Elections under the new Constitution are held, as scheduled; Mandela declines to run again; Thabo Mbeki is elected, ending GNU**

**2004 - Mbeki is re-elected President**

**2008 - President Mbeki steps down under pressure from the party**

**2009 - Jacob Zuma (ANC) is elected President**

**2014 - Jacob Zuma is re-elected President**

**2019 - Presidential elections will be held**