

Intersections Intersected: The Photography of David Goldblatt

JULY 15 - OCTOBER 11, 2009

THIRD AND FOURTH FLOORS



IMAGE: With a landmass of 471,359 square miles (1,220,813 kilometers), South Africa is the twenty-fifth largest country in the world. Its size is roughly equivalent to California, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada combined.

Glossary

The ruling White minority of South Africa often used language as a tool and weapon in its administration of a racially segregated nation. In his titles and captions, David Goldblatt often uses and highlights the specificity of this language. As some of this vocabulary has meanings rooted in the history of the South African people—before, during, and after apartheid—the following glossary is provided as a guide.

Though not standard American or British English, the capitalization of the terms White, Black, and Coloured is deliberate and intended to emphasize the manner in which apartheid accentuated racial and ethnic divisions. Under apartheid laws, White was not merely an adjective in South Africa but an ethnic group with a legal definition that gave them more rights than all other peoples. Conversely, the status of those deemed Black or Coloured under this set of laws was always less. While the laws have changed, the heightened awareness of these categories is still operative in the “new” South Africa.

This glossary is adapted from a document assembled by David Goldblatt, who used *A Dictionary of South African English on Historical Principles* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996) in its compilation.

Afrikaans: A much-altered form of Dutch that developed from the need of White officials and farmers of the early settlement at the Cape, whose language was Dutch, to communicate with Asian and African slaves and with the indigenous Khoikhoi. It has many words of Malay and Khoi origin and became the language of the Coloureds and of the Afrikaners. Particularly through attempts by Britain to suppress the use of Dutch and Afrikaans and to anglicize the Boers, Afrikaans became vital to Afrikaner group consciousness and eventually to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism.

Afrikaners: Afrikaans-speaking Whites descended principally but not exclusively from Dutch, German, and Huguenot settlers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the lighter-skinned descendants of their unions with their slaves and servants of Colour.

Africans: Dark-skinned people indigenous to Africa.

ANC: Founded in 1912 as the South African Native Congress, the African National Congress (ANC) was renamed in 1923. It went underground and took to armed resistance against apartheid after being banned in 1960. The ANC became the majority party in the first post-apartheid government.

Anglo-Boer War: Fought from October 11, 1899 until May 31, 1902 between the eventually victorious British colonial forces and the two independent Boer republics, the Anglo-Boer War resulted from tensions between the British Empire and the independent republics over increasing British control and increased rights for native and other non-White populations. While the British assumed that the war would quickly end with the annexation of both republics, Boer guerrilla tactics proved very effective, and it dragged on for three years. In the later stages of the war, the British pursued a scorched-earth policy, burning farms and civilian infrastructure, and moved many Boer civilians to concentration camps where tens of thousands died.

apartheid: An Afrikaans word meaning “separateness” and the policy of rigid racial segregation applied by means of drastic social engineering and a multiplicity of laws by the National Party government. Claimed by its proponents to be in conformity with Christian ethics, apartheid proposed that each ethnic group would enjoy full rights of citizenship within its own designated geographical area. Blacks, who constituted more than two-thirds of the population, were to be given 13 percent of South Africa’s land in the form of fragmented and economically unviable “homelands.” Whites would have the rest.

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baasskap: The Afrikaans word for domination, mastership. In the South African context it means domination of Black and Coloured people by Whites.

Black spots: Farms or pieces of land owned and occupied by Black people surrounded by White-owned farmland and therefore in violation of apartheid. Many such farms were expropriated by the state, sold to Whites, and their Black owners and occupants forcibly removed, mostly to resettlement camps.

Blacks: Collective term for dark-skinned people that, in the apartheid years, included all those discriminated against because they were not White, namely African, Coloured, Indian, Malay, and Chinese.

Boers: Rural Afrikaner farmers. The term is now sometimes considered derogatory.

Coloureds: The apartheid-era legal term for people of Colour and of mixed descent. During the apartheid era, in order to keep divisions and maintain a race-focused society, the government used the term Coloured to describe one of four main racial groups identified by law, the others being Black, White, and Indian.

Dutch Reformed Church: (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk*), the largest of the Afrikaner Protestant Churches and the “mother” body from which the others split. After 1857, when some White members of the Dutch Reformed Church objected to sharing the communion cup with Coloureds, admission to services in most parishes was largely restricted to Whites and theologians who propounded the ideological basis of apartheid. These churches had close links with and exerted powerful influence on the National Party.

Group Areas Act: One of the principal statutes of the apartheid system. It provided for separate residential and business areas for defined ethnic groups.

homelands: Any of the racially and ethnically based regions created in South Africa by the South African government during apartheid as nominally independent tribal mini-states to which Blacks, many of whom were forcibly moved, were assigned.

Indians: People indigenous to India and their descendants who settled in South Africa in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Khoi, Khoikhoi: A nomadic and pastoral African people, and the first indigenous inhabitants of the Cape encountered by the early European settlers. Popularly and sometimes offensively known as “Hottentots.”

Malays: Descendants of people who were indigenous to the Dutch and Portuguese East Indies, most of whom were brought to the Cape as slaves in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Most Malays are Muslims.

National Party: The Afrikaner political party that grew out of the Purified National Party formed in 1933; it governed the country from 1948 until 1994, and was responsible for the introduction of apartheid.

Robben Island: An island about six miles (10 kilometers) off Cape Town long used for the banishment of political prisoners. From 1961 until 1990, Blacks convicted of political offenses against the apartheid regime were imprisoned there, including leaders of the ANC, most famously Nelson Mandela.

Walter Sisulu (May 18, 1912–May 5, 2003): South African anti-apartheid activist and member of the African National Congress (ANC) who served senior roles in the ANC beginning in the 1940s. He began protesting apartheid laws in the early 1950s through the Defiance Campaign and was repeatedly arrested by the South African government and finally imprisoned for a twenty-five year term, from 1964 to 1989. After his release, Sisulu was elected ANC deputy president, and stayed in this role through South Africa’s first free election in 1994.

Soweto: An urban area in the City of Johannesburg in Gauteng, South Africa, where African residents of Johannesburg were required to live in terms of segregation laws regulating African access to urban areas. Its name is an English syllabic abbreviation, short for South Western Townships.

Steenkampsberg: South African mountain plateau consisting largely of high-altitude grassland between 5,577 and 7,460 feet (1,700 and 2,274 meters) above sea level that contains large tracts of unspoiled nature, and is home to upwards of 150 species of birds, including the Egyptian Goose and Jackal Buzzard.

SWAPO: A political party and former liberation movement in Namibia that emerged in the early 1960s as the dominant nationalist organization opposed to the apartheid-era South African military occupation of Namibia. In 1966, SWAPO began to launch military attacks against South African occupation forces, and continued guerilla warfare until Namibia finally achieved independence in 1990. It has been the governing party of Namibia since.

townships: Segregated settlements with inferior facilities and services, for people classified as Black or of mixed ethnic origin, located outside segregated White cities and suburbs. The townships were built close enough to White suburbs and towns so that the residents of the former could be brought into the latter each day to serve as a cheap labor force.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: A body set up in 1995 to hear complaints from those who had suffered abuse under apartheid and to grant or withhold amnesty for crimes against humanity committed under apartheid. In exchange for a full public accounting of any crimes committed, those responsible for the crimes were granted full civil and criminal amnesty.

Whites: A collective term for light-skinned people predominantly of European descent who are a numerical minority in South Africa, but who controlled all political and economic power during the apartheid years.



David Goldblatt, *Monuments celebrating the Republic of South Africa (left) and JG Strijdom, former prime minister (right), with the head-quarters of Volkskas Bank, Pretoria, April 25, 1982.* Black-and-white photograph on matte paper. Courtesy the artist and Goodman Gallery, Johannesburg

Public Programs

David Goldblatt and Richard Flood in Conversation

Artist David Goldblatt will discuss his forty-year body of work documenting South Africa with New Museum Chief Curator Richard Flood.

New Museum Theater

Thursday, July 16, 7 p.m.

\$6 MEMBERS, \$8 GENERAL PUBLIC

For information on exhibition-related programs at the New Museum, please visit newmuseum.org/events.

“Intersections Intersected: The Photography of David Goldblatt” is organized by Fundação de Serralves, Museu de Arte Contemporânea, Porto, Portugal and presented by the New Museum, New York.

The exhibition is curated by Ulrich Loock, Curator, Fundação de Serralves, Museu de Arte Contemporânea. Its presentation at the New Museum is organized by Richard Flood, Chief Curator, New Museum.

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Free iPod audio tours with an introduction to “David Goldblatt: Intersections Intersected” by Richard Flood, New Museum Chief Curator, and featuring David Goldblatt speaking on the exhibition, are available at the Visitor Services Desk in the lobby.

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