



education

Department:
Education
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT

GRADE 12

HISTORY P1

JUNE 2024

ADDENDUM

This addendum consists of 10 pages.

QUESTION 1: WHAT ROLE DID FOREIGN POWERS PLAY IN THE BATTLE OF CUITO CUANAVALÉ?**SOURCE 1A**

The source below focuses on the reasons for South Africa's involvement in the Cold War in Angola.

John Vorster (South Africa's Prime Minister) placed the blame for South Africa's intervention in Angola squarely on the shoulders of Russia and Cuba: 'Our involvement was the effect of Russian and Cuban intervention. If they did not enter Angola, if they did not take part in this affair, if they did not try to subvert (undermine) the whole of Angola and to suppress (contain) its people, South Africa would never have entered Angola at all ... We went in to chase Cuba and the MPLA away from the dams (Ruacana and Calueque)'.

It can hardly be doubted that the support which the Russians and the Cubans gave to the MPLA in the form of arms and training contributed in some measure to motivating South Africa's intervention, but it is unlikely that it was as crucial a reason as Vorster implied. It was SWAPO, not the Cubans and the MPLA, who threatened the two dams between Ruacana and Calueque. The main reasons for South Africa's intervention in Angola was not the presence of Russians and Cubans, but the desire (longing) to prevent the MPLA government from taking control and preventing the spread of communism.

There is also evidence that President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, neither of whom favoured the MPLA, welcomed South Africa's support for the FNLA and UNITA.

... South Africa's actions drew her progressively (more and more) deeper into the Angolan war ... General Hendrik van den Bergh was sent to France to purchase weapons to the value of R20 million for the FNLA and UNITA ... South African instructors began to train FNLA and UNITA soldiers in southern Angola.

[From *South Africa in the 20th Century* by BJ Liebenberg and SB Spies]

SOURCE 1B

The source below is an extract that focuses on the involvement of Angola, Cuba, South Africa and Russia in the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

In August 1987 Angolan and Cuban brigades (units of soldiers) under a Russian commander began a large-scale attack on UNITA. The South African troops who were rushed to the rescue made use of tanks for the first time since World War II. The fighting that raged in Cuito Cuanavale has been called the greatest battle to date in Africa south of the Sahara. The South Africans, supported by UNITA, halted the Angolans' advance on the Lomba River and then drove them back towards Cuito Cuanavale, where the Angolan soldiers dug in and resisted obstinately (stubbornly). They also began to get increasing support from their air force while the South African air force began to lose air control. The Chief of the South African Defence Force (SADF) thought that Cuito Cuanavale could be taken, but that it would cost the lives of about 300 white soldiers as well as a great number of black soldiers from the South West African Territorial Force and UNITA. Such a price was regarded as too high and it was decided to leave Cuito Cuanavale in Angolan possession ...

... Cuito Cuanavale was a turning point in the history of Southern Africa. The stalemate there led all parties to think again. It was clear to all that victory was not in sight and that to continue the war would lead to continually greater losses. South Africa found it ever more difficult to justify the enormous (huge) cost of the war in Angola, amounting to over R1 million a day. Above all, the lengthening list of young men dying in Angola and the increasing militarisation of South Africa was arousing opposition. At the same time Angola yearned (desired) for peace so that her war-damaged economy, infrastructure and human relations might be repaired.

[From http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51193.
Accessed on 21 February 2024.]

SOURCE 1C

The photograph below shows a convoy of South African Defence Force military vehicles leaving Angola and entering Namibia in 1988.



[From <https://www.historytoday.com/gary-baines/replaying-cuito-cuanavale>.
Accessed on 21 February 2024.]

SOURCE 1D

The source below is an extract that was taken from a speech that was delivered by Rodolfo Benítez Verson, the Cuban ambassador in South Africa, on 23 March 1988. He outlines how Cuba won the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale.

On 23 March 1988, the South Africans and the puppet armed group, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), supported by the United States of America, launched their last major assault on Cuito Cuanavale.

But they were definitely stopped by the communist forces of Angola, Cuba and the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO), with support from members of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa.

Fidel Castro emphasised the importance of the battle and stated: 'In Cuito Cuanavale the Cuban Revolution played everything, played its own existence, risked a large-scale battle against one of the strongest powers of those located in the Third World, against one of the richest powers with an important industrial and technological development, armed to the teeth, at that distance from our small country and with our resources, with our weapons.'

The apartheid regime tried to present its defeat in Cuito Cuanavale as a tactical retreat. Throughout these years, some dubious authors have also tried to rewrite history, minimising and even ignoring the relevance of the fight in Cuito Cuanavale. But the African revolutionaries never had doubts about who won the battle and its relevance.

Nelson Mandela said the following about Cuba's participation in Angola, 'Your presence and the reinforcements sent to the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale have a truly historic importance. The crushing defeat of the racist army in Cuito Cuanavale was a victory for all of Africa!'

[From <https://www.iol.co.za/capetimes/opinion/cuito-cuanavale-the-turning-point-14003886>.
Accessed on 20 February 2024.]

QUESTION 2: HOW DID THE PROTEST CAMPAIGNS IN BIRMINGHAM HIGHLIGHT THE INJUSTICE AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN 1963?

SOURCE 2A

The source below outlines the Birmingham Campaign in the United States of America in 1963.

Laws carried over from the Jim Crow era barred Black people from serving as police officers or firefighters, driving city buses, working as cashiers in department stores, or as tellers in banks. Segregation in the form of “Colored Only” signs at public water fountains and restrooms, was strictly enforced, and downtown lunch counters were off-limits to Black people. Due to poll taxes and rigged literacy tests, fewer than 10% of Birmingham’s Black population was registered to vote.

Though the city’s apartheid-like all-White city government had long turned a deaf ear to the mere mention of racial integration, Birmingham’s Black community began to organize. Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth formed the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights (ACMHR) in 1956 after Alabama Governor George Wallace banned all activities of the NAACP in the state.

Shuttlesworth invited Martin Luther King Jr. and his SCLC to join him in the Birmingham Campaign. “If you come to Birmingham, you will not only gain prestige but really shake the country,” he wrote in a letter to King, “If you win in Birmingham, as Birmingham goes, so goes the nation.”

[From: <https://www.thoughtco.com/birmingham-campaign-history-legacy-5082061>.
Accessed on 20 February 2024]

SOURCE 2B

The source below focuses on the strategies adopted by protestors, the reaction by state authorities and the impact of media coverage of the Birmingham campaign in 1963.

Birmingham campaign began quietly with sit-ins on 3 April 1963 at several downtown “whites-only” lunch counters. From the outset, the campaign confronted an apathetic (uninterested) black community, an openly hostile black leadership, and Bull Connor’s “nonviolent resistance” in the form of police arrests of the offenders of the city’s segregation ordinances. With no sensational news, the national media found nothing to report, and the campaign floundered (declined). But when Connor ordered out police dogs to disperse a crowd of black bystanders, journalists recorded the attack of a German shepherd on a nonviolent protester, thereby revealing the brutality that undermined segregation.

In a desperate bid to generate media coverage and to keep the campaign alive...the Children’s campaign was launched on May 2, 1963, in which black youth from area schools served as demonstrators. Trying to avoid the use of force, Bull Connor arrested hundreds of school children and hauled them off to jail on school buses. When the jails were filled, he called out fire hoses and dogs to contain large protests ... African American spectators responded with outrage, pelting police with bricks and bottles as firemen opened up the hoses.

Despite the police attacks, the children continued their tactics of non-violent demonstration. Television footage and photographs of the mistreatment of children quickly spread, triggering an outcry across the nation. Feeling the pressure of public opinion, city leaders agreed to negotiate on May 10. Birmingham, however, remained far from being desegregated or peaceful.

[From: <http://www.encyclopaediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1358>.
Accessed on 20 February 2024]

SOURCE 2C

The photograph below shows the response of the Birmingham, Alabama police to disperse marching African Americans in May 1963.



[From: <http://www.aarp.org/politics/society/history/info-2018/civil-rights-events-fd.html>.
Accessed on 21 February 2024]

SOURCE 2D

The source below explains President Kennedy's response to the Birmingham protest after it gained international coverage through the media.

Kennedy was conflicted (unsure) about whether to deploy federal troops and embarrassed after the violence in Birmingham became covered as international news. Front-page photographs in the nation's newspapers convinced Kennedy to send Assistant Attorney-General for Civil Rights Burke Marshall to Birmingham to secure negotiations that would end the violent demonstration. Previous federal policy regarding civil rights issues had left enforcement to local law and order officials without direct intervention by the national government.

Over TV and radio, Kennedy announced that the "government will do whatever must be done to preserve order, to protect the lives of its citizens and to uphold the law of the land." He raised the alert for troops on nearby military bases and suggested that the Alabama National Guard might be federalized (united). The national media attention helped to spread the fervour (intensity) of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights – Southern Christian Leadership Conference (ACMHR – SCLC). Birmingham Campaign well beyond the city's borders, and national demonstrations, international pressure, and inner-city riots followed in the wake of the agreement. These actions convinced a reluctant Kennedy administration to propose sweeping reforms that Congress ultimately passed as the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

With this legislation, the civil rights movement achieved its goal of gaining access to public accommodations and equal employment opportunities, thereby ending white supremacy and discrimination for African Americans and other minorities.

[From: <http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/civil-rights-movement-birmingham-campaign/>.
Accessed on 21 February 2024]

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Visual sources and other historical evidence were taken from the following:

<http://www.encyclopaediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-1358>.

<http://www.aarp.org/politics/society/history/info-2018/civil-rights-events-fd.html>.

http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51193.

<http://www.pbs.org/black-culture/explore/civil-rights-movement-birmingham-campaign/>.

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