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The Road to the Nelson R. Mandela Presidency

★ *The 1st democratically elected President of South Africa* ★

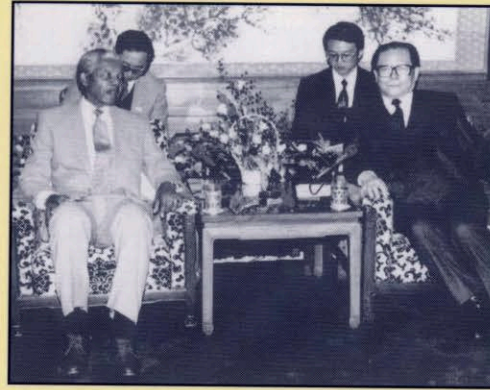
Nelson Rolihlanla Mandela: Biography



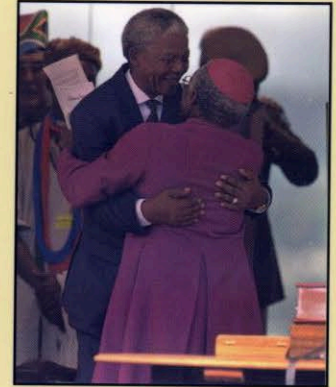
42 year old Mandela, 1961*



African National Congress leader, Mandela with wife Winnie at a day after his prison release, Cape Town, South Africa, 1990.*



ANC leader, Mandela meets with Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, Beijing, 1992*



President Mandela receives a hug from Archbishop Desmond Tutu after he was sworn in as president of South Africa, 1994*

"During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination,

The first democratically elected President of South Africa, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, was born on July 18, 1918 in Qunu, Transkei of South Africa to royal parents Fanny Nonqaphi Nosekeni and Henry Gadla Mandela. Mandela's family lived in the village of Mvezo, where his father was the chief of the Thembu Tribe¹ (tribe of the Xhosa nation). His father had four wives² each of whom had their own kraal³ with fields and livestock. Mandela, one of thirteen children, was the son of the third wife, and thus maintained a lower rank in gaining the heir to the chieftainship and was expected to become a royal advisor.⁴ Mandela spent most of his childhood days in the fields herding livestock and his evenings listening to the tales of tribal elders. He also enjoyed playing games with boys of the village. Mandela was the first in his family to obtain an education when at the age of seven he attended a local Methodist missionary school-the Qunu village school. It was here, that Mandela was introduced to the oppression of the South African culture, as all of the African children in his class were not referred by their African names, but instead were given English names-he gaining the name 'Nelson.'

A turning point came for Mandela at age ten, when his father died and he was placed in the care of a powerful relative, his uncle, Paramount Chief Jongintaba Dalindyeoba (head of the Madiba clan⁵ and acting regent of the Thembu people) to be groomed to become a chief advisor. Upon hearing the cases that came before the Chief's court, Mandela gained an interest in law and set his course to become a lawyer, which materialized 24 years later. Mandela lived with his royal family and furthered his primary education at the Clarkebury Boarding Institute, a mission school next door to the palace

of the Regent, graduating in two years, versus the standard of three in 1934. That same year, at age 16, as was customary, he underwent the Xhosa initiation process that inducted him to manhood and attended a three-month initiation school. At age 19 he attended Healdtown High School, a British Wesleyan College in Fort Beaufort that most Thembu royalty attended, during which he learned of the African National Congress (ANC) and also gained an interest in boxing and running.

After graduating, he began a Bachelor of Arts degree at Fort Hare University (South Africa's first university college for Black Africans), where he became involved in student politics and was elected onto the Student's Representative Council. As a member of the Students' Representative Council, Mandela boycotted against university policies and was expelled in 1940. Mandela then returned home to discover that his tribal chief and caretaker had arranged for him to marry. To avoid the arranged marriage Nelson fled to Soweto, the southwestern outskirts of Johannesburg, where he worked as a nightwatchman at a gold mine and later completed a BA degree by correspondence from the University of South Africa in 1941. During this time in South Africa, many segregation bills were passed and tension mounted between the white Afrikaner ruling minority and the African majority. While working in the gold mine, Mandela was introduced to the exploitation of his fellow workers. He did not work the mines long before he met Walter Sisulu, who helped him get an apprenticeship at the law firm of Witkin, Sidelsky and Eidelman. While working, Mandela completed his degree at the University of South Africa via correspondence and began a law degree, at the University of

¹ Full acting title: The principal councillor to the Acting Paramount Chief of Thembuland

² Customary for the traditional Xhosa to have more than one wife. Xhosa is a generalized term to refer to the clans of the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

³ A single hut or collection of huts within a village

⁴ Chieftaincy of tribes of the Xhosa nation was by patrilineal descent: 1st son of the major wife (known as the Great House) gaining automatic heir, 1st son of second wife creating a minor chieftain and 1st son of third wife become an advisor to the chief.

⁵ The clan name of Nelson Mandela. In the Xhosa culture a clan name (isiduko) is very important. It is the name of the ancestor from which a family is descended.



President Mandela dances at a celebration concert following his inauguration as president of South Africa, May 10, 1994*



President Mandela with Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi, Tripoli, Libya, 1997*



President Mandela married Graca Machel on his 80th birthday, July 18, 1998*



President Mandela with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Rafah City, 1999.*

and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons

Witwatersrand. As a law student Mandela took an active interest in political, social and economic rights of South Africa's black majority, and joined the African National Congress in 1942 and in 1944 cofounded the Youth League of the African National Congress (ANCYL) with Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo, and others, and became its secretary in 1947 and president in 1951. In 1944 he married Evelyn Ntoko Mase, a nursing student who was the first of three wives for Mandela. Mandela shared the birth of three children with his wife Mase, whom later divorced in 1957.

After the 1948 victory of the Afrikaner-dominated National party, Mandela became active in protesting against the government's apartheid policy of racial inequality and segregation and became active in the ANC's Defiance Campaign in 1952 and the 1955 Congress of the People-both of which protested segregation and discrimination of the apartheid. While serving as a political activist, Mandela opened the first African legal firm in partnership with Walter Sisulu and Oliver Tambo in 1952, providing free or low-cost legal counsel to blacks without completing a law degree.

Mandela was arrested for his protest activities in 1952 and charged for violating the suppression of the Communism Act and was found guilty along with other ANC members. Mandela was given a 2-year suspended 9 month prison sentence. Four years later he was arrested again on December 5, 1956, along with 150 other ANC members for protest activities and convicted for treason. The marathon Treason Trial of 1956-61 followed, and Mandela defended himself. After years of impassioned testimony, all were acquitted. During the trial, Mandela divorced Evelyn Ntoko Mase (his wife of 13 years) in

1957 and married Winnie Madikizela, a social worker from Bizana in 1958. Mandela and Winnie shared a 38 year marriage and the birth of two daughters.

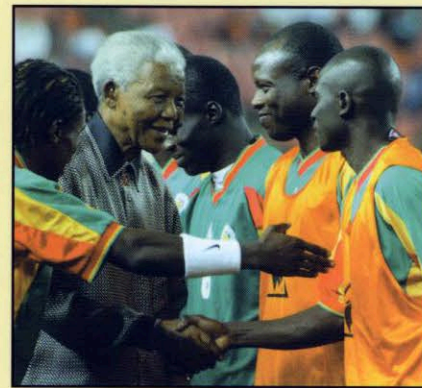
Mandela, the ANC, and other anti-apartheid groups continued to be committed to non-violent methods of protest until 1960, when the shooting of unarmed protesters at Sharpeville and the official banning of the ANC lead Mandela and his colleagues to accept armed struggle. Thus, in 1961 Mandela became the commander of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe ("Spear of the Nation", or MK), which he co-founded. That same year the South African government passed the Unlawful Organisations Act that banned both the ANC and PAC (Pan Africanist Congress). The MK and PAC coordinated a sabotage campaign against military and government targets and made plans for possible guerilla warfare if sabotage failed to end the apartheid. Mandela fundraised for MK abroad and arranged for paramilitary training, visiting Algeria to undergo guerilla training, and visiting various African governments to commence campaigns of sabotage against the apartheid. Upon his return, he was arrested and jailed for illegal travel abroad and incitement to strike. A year later, in 1963 while serving his sentence, other ANC leaders were arrested and charged, along with Mandela, with sabotage and attempt to overthrow the government. The following year, in 1964 all of the arrested ANC leaders except Rusty Bernstein were found guilty for over 200 counts of sabotage in preparing for guerilla warfare and an armed invasion of South Africa, and were sentenced to life imprisonment at Robben Island Prison. While in prison, Mandela held negotiations with the government and continued to be a leader in the anti-apartheid



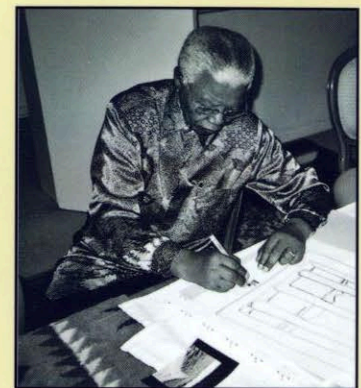
President Mandela greets Cuban President Fidel Castro, wife, Graca Machel at right, 12th Non-Aligned Movement Summit meeting, 1998*



President Mandela with President Bush, 2001*



Former South African President Mandela, Nelson Mandela Challenge, 2002.*



Former South African President Mandela sketching his artwork, Johannesburg, 2003.*

live together in harmony and with equal opportunities."- Nelson Mandela

movement from prison, sending out multiple statements to the ANC. Also during his term, his wife, Winnie was banished to Brandfort, spent over a year in jail, and faced constant police harassment and humiliation for her involvement in militant activities. In 1976 and 1986 Mandela refused offers of conditional release in return for renouncing armed struggle, choosing to stay imprisoned rather than deny his cause. Meanwhile, Oliver Tambo, still in exile, and the ANC launch the "Release Mandela" campaign.

Mandela's unconditional opportunity for release came on February 11, 1990, after international pressure and sustained campaigning from the ANC convinced State President F.W. de Klerk to lift the ban on the ANC, PAC, the South African Communist Party (SACP), all political parties, and release all political prisoners. Mandela spent 27 years in prison until his release in 1990. After his release, he continued his work with the ANC and was elected deputy president, a post which he held until 1997. As deputy president, he worked with de Klerk to dismantle apartheid policies and end violence in South Africa. For this work, Mandela and de Klerk were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993. The following year, Mandela ran a successful and uncompetitive campaign for President of South Africa, beating out de Klerk for the job. He was unanimously elected as the 1st President in the country's first all-race elections by the National Assembly (won 252 of 400 seats in the national assembly) and was inaugurated on May 10, 1994, making his inaugural presidential speech from the Union Building: "We have at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender, and other

discrimination. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another...Let freedom reign. God Bless Africa!" Shortly after his inauguration as president, his autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom, was published. In 1996 Mandela and his wife Winnie divorced, and two years later, he married Graca Machel on his 80th birthday.

After three years in office, Mandela gave up his presidency in the ANC and retired as President of South Africa after five years in office, in June of 1999. After serving as President of South Africa, he remained an advocate for a variety of human rights organizations, vowing to fight poverty, oppression, and AIDS in Africa. In particular, Mandela lent his support to the 4664 AIDS fundraising campaign, named after his prison number. Mandela has received numerous (more than 50) honorary university degrees and multiple awards and accolades, including the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian award), the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Order of Canada, and the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of thought. In June of 2004, Mandela announced his retirement from public life, with the exception of his commitment to the fight against AIDS. Mandela currently resides in Qunu, Transkei, South Africa (his birthplace) with his wife Graca Machel.

Nelson Mandela served as the 1st democratically elected President of South Africa's from May of 1994 to June of 1999.

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: While in Office

1994 First multiracial elections in South Africa • Elected president of South Africa by 100% of the National Assembly • Restitution of Land Rights Act • Provision of Land and Assistance Act **1995** Established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to deal with the after effects of apartheid • Established the National Economic Development and Labor Council **1996**³ The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, Act 108 • Land Reform (Labor tenants) Act **1997** Extension of Security of Tenure Act • Libya talks about ways to end UN sanctions **1998** Committed South African troops to defeat the coup in Lesotho **1999** Term ended and Thabo Mbeki assumed office

Key Establishments

Helped to end apartheid in South Africa • Led the adoption of a new constitution guaranteeing free speech, free political activity, and the right to restitution for land seized under apartheid regime • First person to receive the Freedom of the City of Sydney, Australia • Received foreign honors: the Order of St. John from Queen Elizabeth II and the Presidential Medal of Freedom from George W. Bush

Honors and Awards^o

Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 • Awarded honorary degrees from over 50 international universities • Elected Honorary Life President of several Student Unions at the London School • Roads, schools, civic halls, rooms of trade unions, etc. named in his honor • Honorary citizenship of Rome and Bologna, Italy, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Canada and Olympia, Greece • Chancellor of the University of Natal, South Africa • Received numerous Freedom of the City awards • Sakharov Prize for Freedom of thought • International Gandhi Peace Prize • Numerous human rights awards • Award of the order 'Star of Friendship' by the German Democratic Republic • Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian award)

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: Personal Trivia

Presidential Number: 1 **Years President:** 1994-1999 **Age at Inauguration:** 76 **Terms:** 1⁷ **Political Affiliation:** African National Congress (shares power with the Inkatha Freedom Party) **Deputy President(s):** Thabo Mbeki & F.W. de Klerk **Birth Date:** July 18, 1918 **Birthplace:** Qunu, South Africa **Nickname:** Madiba **Parents:** Fanny Nonqaphi Nosekeni and Henry Gadla Mandela **Early Activities:** Made own toys out of clay and tree branches; Played hide-and-seek and thinti⁹; Herded livestock, Fought with the other boys of the village;

^o For more information visit <http://www.anc.org.za/ancdocs/history/mandela/awards/>

⁷ Shared with former South African president F.W. de Klerk

⁸ May serve no more than 2 five-year terms

⁹ Joint second-in-commands—primary responsibilities similar to U.S. Vice Presidency

¹⁰ A popular war game for boys that uses sticks as targets

¹¹ Delicacy of fermented corn meal

¹² African tribal group concentrated in the former Transkei, Ciskei and Eastern Cape regions

¹³ Dondaldson Orlando Community Center (DOCC)

Boxing; Running **Education:** University of South Africa; Law Degree at Witswatersrand University **Professions:** Mine policeman and Attorney **Pre-Presidential Offices:** Commander of the ANC's armed wing Umkhonto we Sizwe; President of the ANC **Occupation/Activities after Presidency:** Campaigns globally for peace, children, and the fight against HIV/AIDS **Writings:** Autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom (1994) **Wive(s):** Evelyn Ntoko Mase, Winnie Madikizela and Graca Machel **Religion:** Methodist **Hobbies:** Drawing **Favorite Music:** Music by Handel or Tchaikovsky **Favorite Food(s):** Sheep and Amarhewu¹⁰ **Children:** 2 sons-Makgatho and Thembekile; 3 daughters-Zindzi Mandela-Hlongwayne, Makaziwe and Zenani

Notable Facts

First democratically elected President and first black head of state of South Africa • Pledged one-third of his presidential salary for five years for the establishment of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund

Interesting Facts

- ❖ Native Xhosa¹¹ name Rolihlahla means "troublemaker"
- ❖ Given the English name "Nelson" by a teacher on his first day of school
- ❖ First in his family to attend school
- ❖ Boxed in his youth & trained every weekday evening at the DOCC's¹² boxing club in the early 1950s
- ❖ Married and divorced while in office (Winnie Madikizela Mandela and Graca Machel)
- ❖ Imprisoned for 27 years for his opposition to apartheid
- ❖ 1984 song, "Free Nelson Mandela" by Special AKA was an international hit
- ❖ Criticized for his close friendship with leaders Fidel Castro and Moammar Al Qadhafi, whom he called his "comrades in arms"
- ❖ Awarded honorary degrees from over 50 international universities
- ❖ Chancellor of the University of the North
- ❖ A series of his sketches exhibited in the Belgravia Gallery in central London
- ❖ Wakes daily at 4:30 A.M. and works a 12 hour day

¹⁰ Delicacy of fermented corn meal

¹¹ Name in the African language. The Xhosa are composed of numerous groups of people concentrated mainly in the former Transkei, Ciskei and Eastern Cape regions

¹² Dondaldson Orlando Community Center (DOCC)

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela: Timeline

1951 Bec

1918

Born in Mvezo, South Africa in the Transkei on July 18

1925

Attended the Qunu village school
Given the English name "Nelson"
by a Methodist teacher

1938

Graduated from Healdtown High School (college) in Fort Beaufort

1941-1943

Met Walter Sisulu who helped get his apprenticeship
at a law firm in Johannesburg
Apprenticeship at Witkin, Sidelsky and Eidelman law firm
Earned a B.A. degree via correspondence with
University of South Africa
Enrolled in Law School
Joined ANC

1927

Father died
Left in the care of his uncle,
Parmount Chief Jongintaba Dalindyeboa
Attended Clarkebury Boarding Institute

1934

Initiated according to Xhosa custom & attended
a 3-month initiation school
Graduated from Clarkebury Boarding Institute

1939-1940

Attended Fort Hare University
Expelled from Fort Hare for boycotting against university policies
Employed briefly as a night watchman on a gold mine

1944

Formed the ANC Youth League (ANCYL)
in partnership with Oliver Tambo and Walter Sisulu
Married Evelyn Mase

1948-1950

The National Par
racial discrim
ANCYL drafted a
resistance aga
Elected to the AN

ame national president of the ANC Youth League (ANCYL)

1952

Volunteer-in-chief for the ANC's Defiance Campaign
Traveled country to organize mass non-violent resistance to apartheid
Arrested for activities in Defiance Campaign and given suspended sentence
Opened first black legal firm in South Africa with Tambo
Made deputy president of the ANC to work underground-the M-Plan

1959

ANC opposed the passage of the Promotion of Bantu Self-Government Act that forced the resettlement of blacks into eight separate "tribal homelands"

1960

69 unarmed anti-apartheid protesters are shot and killed by police
Government banned ANC and other opposition groups
Mandela arrested along with other ANC members for treason
Oliver Tambo left country to work for ANC causes in exile

1963-1964

The Rivonia Trial:² found guilty and sentenced to life in prison at Robben Island

1964-1985

Ren
nn
Mott

ty elected on its policy of apartheid:
ation, segregation, and oppression
Program of Action calling for passive
nst the apartheid
IC National Executive Committee

1957-1958

Divorced Evelyn Ntoko Mase
Married Winnie Madikizela

1962

Arrested and jailed for five years
for illegal travel abroad and
incitement to strike

1953-1956

Banning order forced his official
resignation from the ANC
Worked for ANC underground
ANC created the Congress of
the People and adopted the
Freedom Charter Arrested along
with 150 others and charged with treason
The marathon Treason Trial of 1956-61¹: found not guilty

1961

ANC responded to government banning and endorsed
armed struggle
Launched an armed struggle underground: Founded
and became commander of the ANC's armed wing,
Umkhonto we Sizwe (The Spear of the Nation) or MK
Coordinated a sabotage campaign against military
and government targets
Made plans for possible guerilla warfare if sabotage
failed to end apartheid
Fundraised for MK abroad and arranged for
paramilitary training

1982

¹Arrested for protest activities and charged for violating the suppression of the Communism Act

²ANC leaders and Mandela charged with sabotage and attempt to overthrow the government

1985

Refused an offer of conditional release
in return for renouncing armed struggle
U.S. Senator Edward Kennedy visited
South Africa to show his anti-apartheid support
Underwent prostate surgery

1990

Released from prison by state president F.W. de Klerk
Worked with de Klerk to end apartheid
Ban on the ANC ended
Deputy president of the ANC
Traveled with Winnie to the U.S., Europe and North Africa
ANC and the National party began negotiations on a new constitution
ANC and the government signed the Pretoria Minute
ended armed struggle Awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award

1988

Diagnosed with tuberculosis
Transferred to Victor Verster Prison
Awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought
Freedomfest-'Mandela's 70th Birthday Celebration' held in London

1989

Newly inducted President de Klerk released most of the Rivonia Trial prisoners and began to dismantle the apartheid structure
Mandela and de Klerk have first of three official meetings

1986-1988

Mandela met and negotiated with government

1991-1997

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rk
Africa
forming a democracy
e agreement to end
highest civilian award

1992-1993

Separated from wife, Winne
Signed the Record of Understanding³ with de Klerk
Awarded Nobel Peace Prize with F.W. de Klerk
Worked with de Klerk to draw up interim constitution

1994

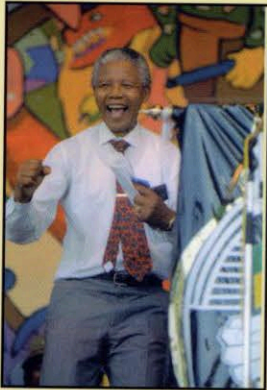
Elected President of South Africa
Autobiography, Long Walk to
Freedom published

1999

Retired as President
Became an advocate for a variety
of social and human rights
organizations

2001-2004

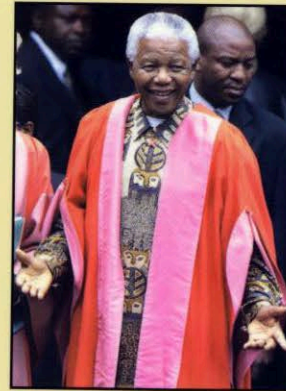
Made controversial speeches,
attacking the foreign policy of
the Bush administration
Lent his support to the 4664 AIDS
fundraising campaign, named
after his prison number
Received numerous awards
Announced retirement from public
life except for the fight
against AIDS



President of the ANC, Mandela dances at the ANC's 80th birthday celebration, Free State stadium in Bloemfontien, 1992*



President Mandela receives his honorary Doctor of Law degree, Harvard University, 1998*



Former South African President Mandela made an Honorary Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge, England, 2001*



Former South African President Mandela, speaks during his launch of the '46664' live concert, the number is used to fight against HIV/AIDS, 2004*

1996-1998

Divorced Winnie Madikizela
Married Graca Machel on his 80th birthday

Served as President of the ANC

³Promised to establish investigations on violence and police actions