

Civil-Rights Heroes

Nelson Mandela

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Rolihlahla Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa on July 18, 1918. His first name could be interpreted, prophetically, as "troublemaker." The Nelson was added later, by a teacher.

Growing Up During Apartheid



Mandela grew up on cattle herding farm until the death of his father. Mandela then lived with a powerful relative, the acting regent of the Thembu people.

His Start



1942 – Law degree
from Univ. S. Africa

1952 – African
National Congress
(A.N.C.) deputy
national president

Passive Resistance to Apartheid

- At first, Mandela opted for nonviolence as a strategy to defeat apartheid. He became involved in programs that fought against the laws that forced blacks to carry passes.



- But by the time Mandela was acquitted, South Africa had been convulsed by the massacre of 69 peaceful black demonstrators at Sharpeville in March 1960. They were killed by the South African government who wanted to stop the resistant movement. All of them were innocent, peaceful protestors.

Persecution



After the Sharpsville Massacre

Many South Africans realized that peaceful protests and civil disobedience would not overturn apartheid. As a result, many turned to violence as a means to end apartheid.



Persecution

- The government didn't stop with the Sharpesville Massacre. Most liberation movements, including the A.N.C., were banned.

Resistance

- So what did Mandela do when his organization, the A.N.C. was banned by the government? Well, he traveled to other countries to recruit people to join the A.N.C. (African National Congress) a liberation organization and he continued to organize resistance against Apartheid.

- When Mandela returned to the country, he was arrested again and awaited trial in a prison on Robben Island.
- Mandela was sure he would be sentenced to death...

Jailed at Robben Island



Life in Prison

- But Mandela was not executed. Instead he was convicted of sabotage and sentenced to life in prison.
- He would serve 27 years in prison before being released. Most of his sentence was served in one tiny cell. The only time Mandela was let out of his cell was to perform backbreaking labor.

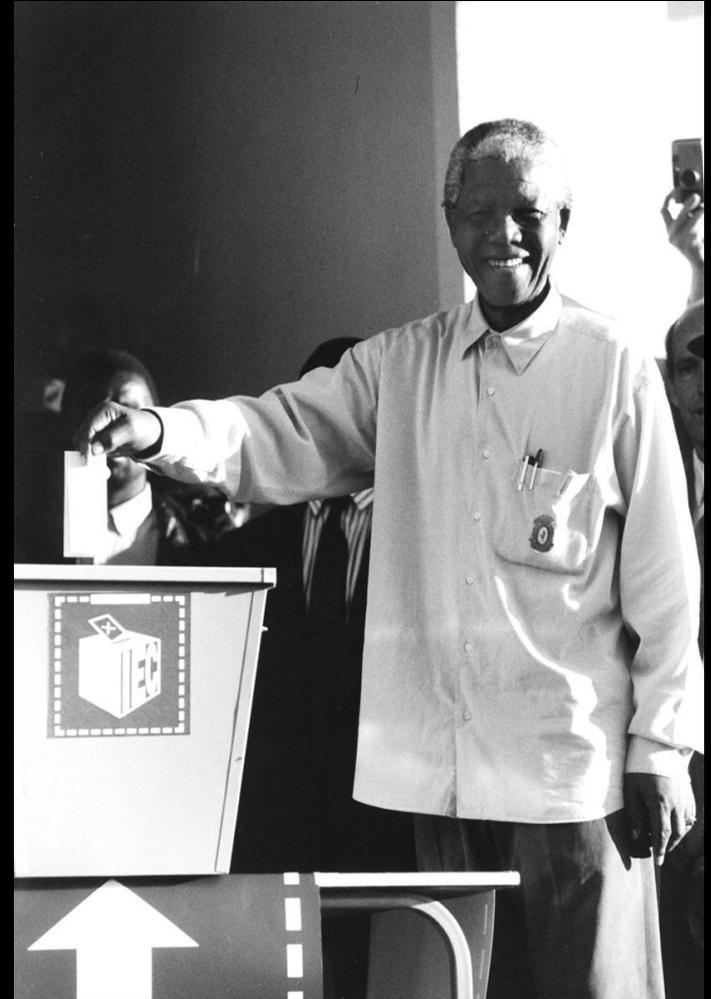


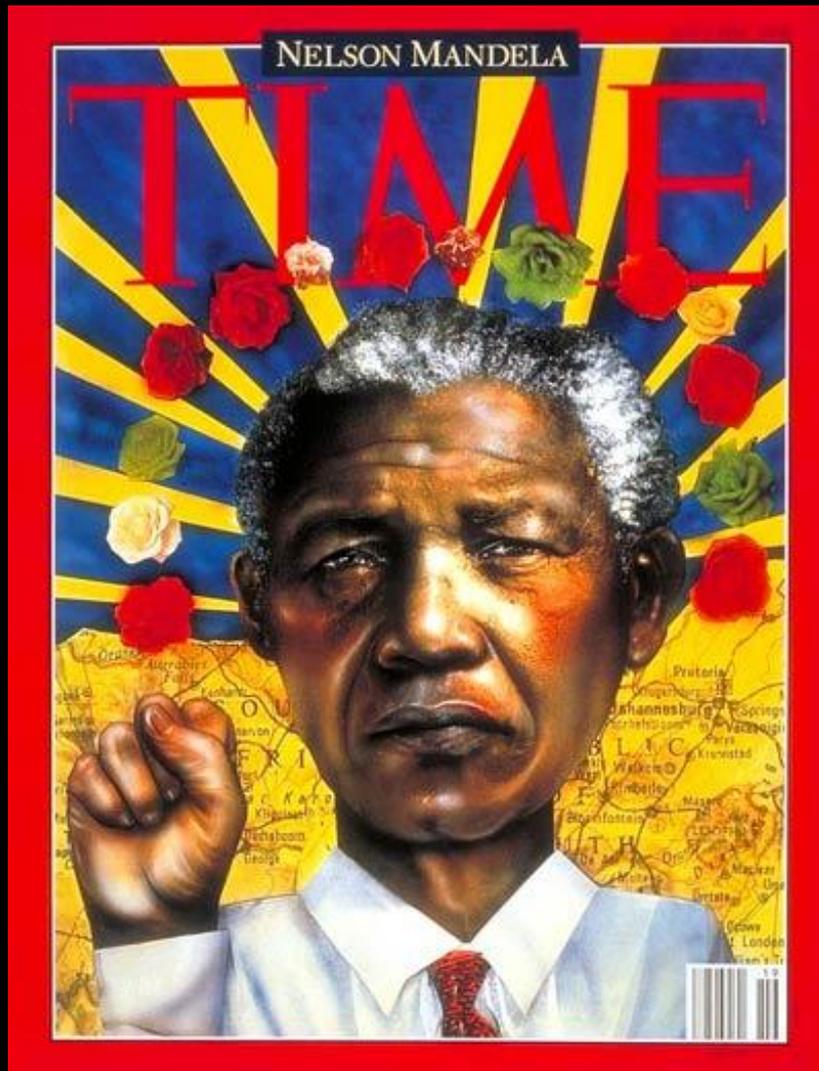
Victories!

- 1990 – Mandela is released from prison
- 1993 – Mandela earns the Nobel Peace Prize
- 1993, 1994 – South Africa begins writing a draft for the new constitution
- 1994 - First multiracial election

After Apartheid

- After Apartheid, Mandela had to calm white fears and unite the people.
- The patience, the wisdom, the visionary quality Mandela brought to his struggle, and above all the moral integrity with which he set about to unify a divided people, resulted in the country's first democratic elections...
- **And Mandela was elected President!**





- “Mandela proves through his own example that faith, hope and charity are qualities attainable by humanity as a whole. Through his willingness to walk the road of sacrifice, he has reaffirmed our common potential to move toward a new age of equality.” - TIME