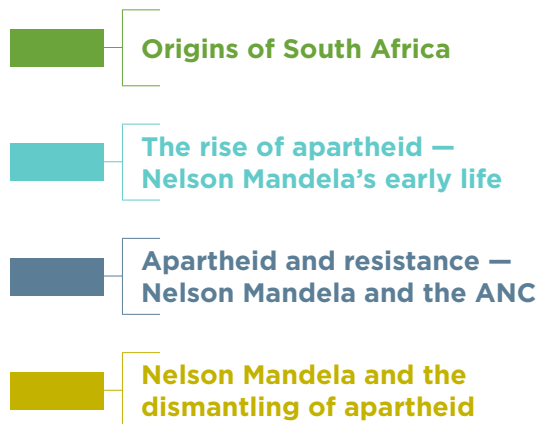


Timeline: an overview of South African modern history and key events in Nelson Mandela's life

This timeline can be used to introduce students to Nelson Mandela and the Freedom Struggle against apartheid. It will help to prepare students for a visit to *Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition*, and to consolidate learning and organise their findings back in the classroom.

Timeline key:



Key events in Nelson Mandela's life

Some ideas for using the Timeline:

- Students select highlights to help present a three-minute overview of Nelson Mandela.
- Students choose one event, research it, then all students present what they've found and how it relates to Nelson Mandela to build an overall picture.
- Students use the Timeline to explore cause and consequence. They highlight an event and then find an event or action that led to it, and another which happened because of it. They add more detail and further causes and consequences during their exhibition visit.
- Students categorise or tag events in the Timeline using their own headings such as 'resistance', 'politics', 'women'. What other events can they find in the exhibition to add to their categories?
- A small number of events have been highlighted as key moments in Nelson Mandela's life and the Struggle against apartheid. Students use their exhibition visit to choose exactly five more to also highlight. They explain their choices. Are they from the existing Timeline or did they add new ones found in the exhibition? Can the whole class agree on a top ten?
- Students create a concurrent timeline along a personally-relevant historical theme such as their local town or city, their family, the rights of women in Britain, sport, arts, literature, science. What was happening in the wider world at this time? Are there any connections between students' lives and Nelson Mandela?
- Students can refer to the Timeline to help organise their thinking and present their findings in enquiries, debates and other activities inspired by the exhibition.

"I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

Nelson Mandela, Rivonia Trial, 1964

Europeans encounter what is now South Africa for the first time

The Khoisan are established as the dominant power in the Southern and South-Western Cape regions. Nguni and Sotho speaking groups begin colonizing the Cape region. Portuguese and, later, English and Dutch ships begin to map its coastline and trade with Africans in what is now Table Bay.

Late 1400s-1500s

Europeans settle in South Africa for the first time

They begin to colonize and trade with the Khoisan peoples at the Cape. The first Khoisan-Dutch war is fought. Chiefdoms begin to strengthen, and the Nguni and Sotho groups begin splitting into the groups such as Zulu and Xhosa we know today.

1600s

The British occupy the Cape Colony (the Cape of Good Hope) for the first time

Formal possession of the colony by the British takes place in 1814.

1795

Around 4,000 British settlers arrive

They are encouraged to migrate to what is now the Eastern Cape, to increase the size of the White settler population. They are used by the colonial authorities as a buffer against the indigenous people on whose land they are settled. The conflict leads to a series of so-called 'frontier wars' between the European settlers and the Xhosa people.

1820

The Great Trek begins

Dutch-speaking settlers migrate from the Cape Colony into the interior of South Africa, away from the boundaries of the British colony. These 'Voortrekkers', descended from Dutch, German and French settlers come to be known collectively as Afrikaners or Boers ('farmers'). They seize strongholds from various African chiefdoms, driving out indigenous peoples and forming two republics in the northern part of today's South Africa: the Orange Free State and the South African Republic (also known as the Transvaal Republic).

c. 1835-40

The Voortrekkers draw up constitutions for their new states

These entrench the legal superiority of White people over Black people.

1838

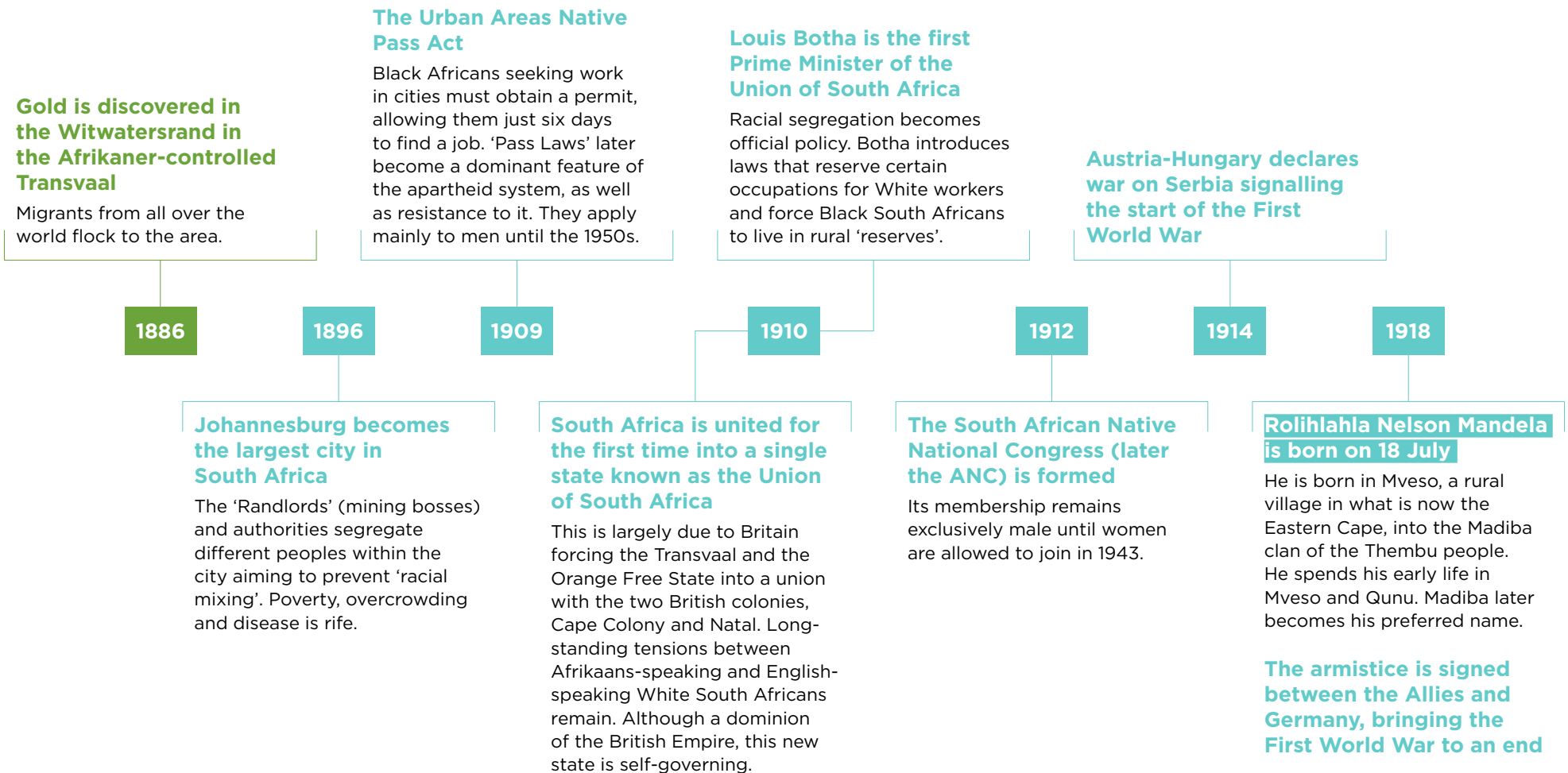
Diamonds are discovered in one of the Afrikaner republics, the Orange Free State

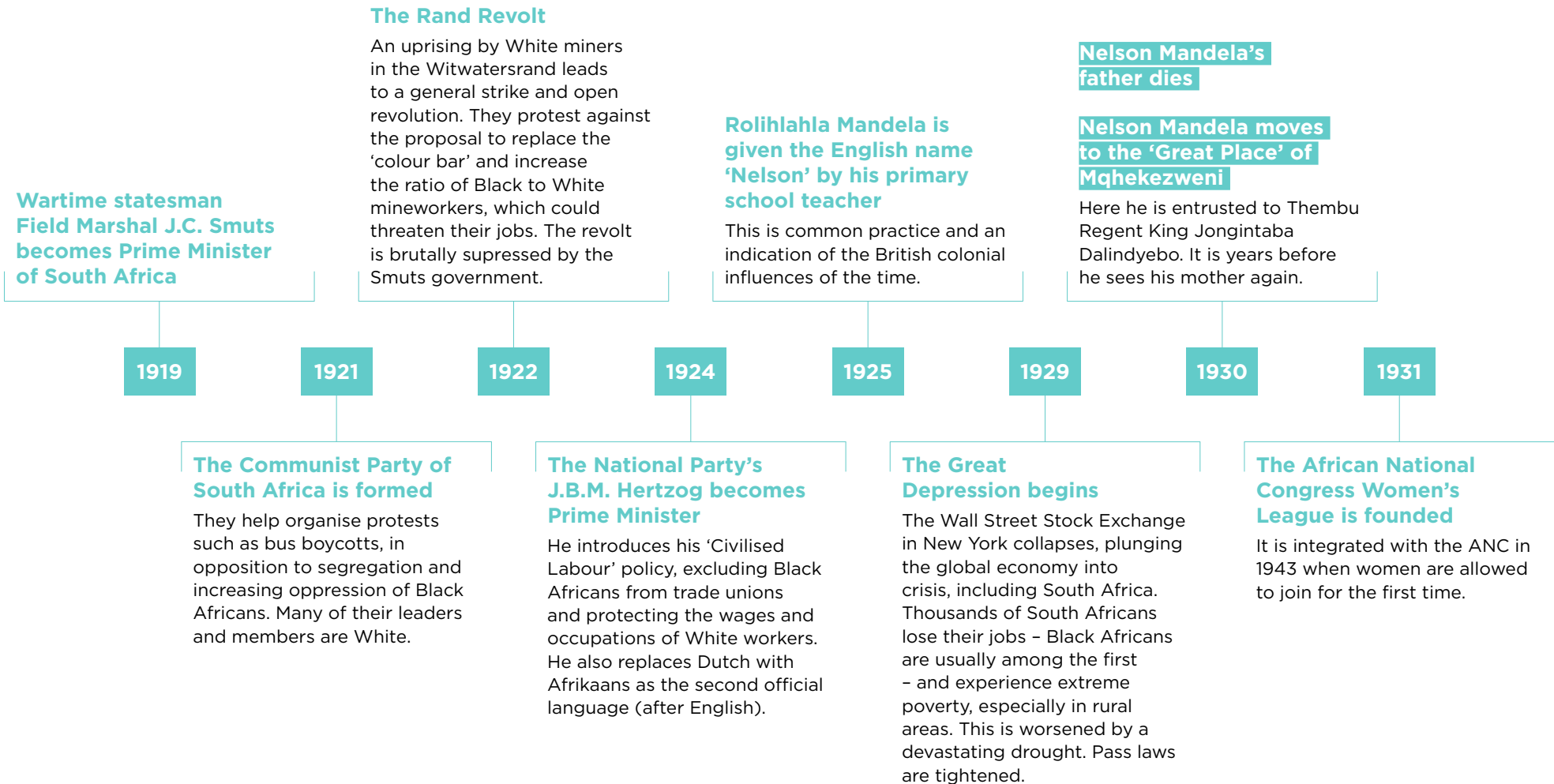
1867

The Anglo-Boer Wars begin

Fighting breaks out when the British attempt, and eventually succeed, in annexing the two Afrikaner republics, escalating into full-scale war. These conflicts have many names, but become known in Britain as the Boer Wars.

1880





Nelson Mandela undergoes the Thembu initiation ceremony

This is the traditional rite-of-passage from boyhood to manhood, including the *ulwaluko* circumcision ceremony.

D.F. Malan forms the Purified National Party

Believing in the racial superiority of Afrikaner people, he leads the movement to promote Afrikaner nationalism and make South Africa a 'White man's land'.

Nelson Mandela begins studies for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University College of Fort Hare

Nelson Mandela is expelled from university after becoming involved in a student protest

Nelson Mandela starts attending African National Congress meetings

1934

1936

1939

1940

1941

1942

1944

'Native' Acts

Prime Minister Hertzog proposes 'Native' legislation which restricts the voting rights of Black Africans, while making it easier for White and 'Coloured' people to vote – including, for the first time, White women. The number of White voters more than doubles while Black voters are reduced to a negligible number.

Adolf Hitler invades Poland sparking the outbreak of the Second World War

The South African government is divided in response. Herzog resigns, believing the country should remain neutral. Smuts takes over again as Prime Minister, and South Africa joins the war on the side of the Allies, with South African armed forces fighting in many key battles.

Nelson Mandela moves to Johannesburg

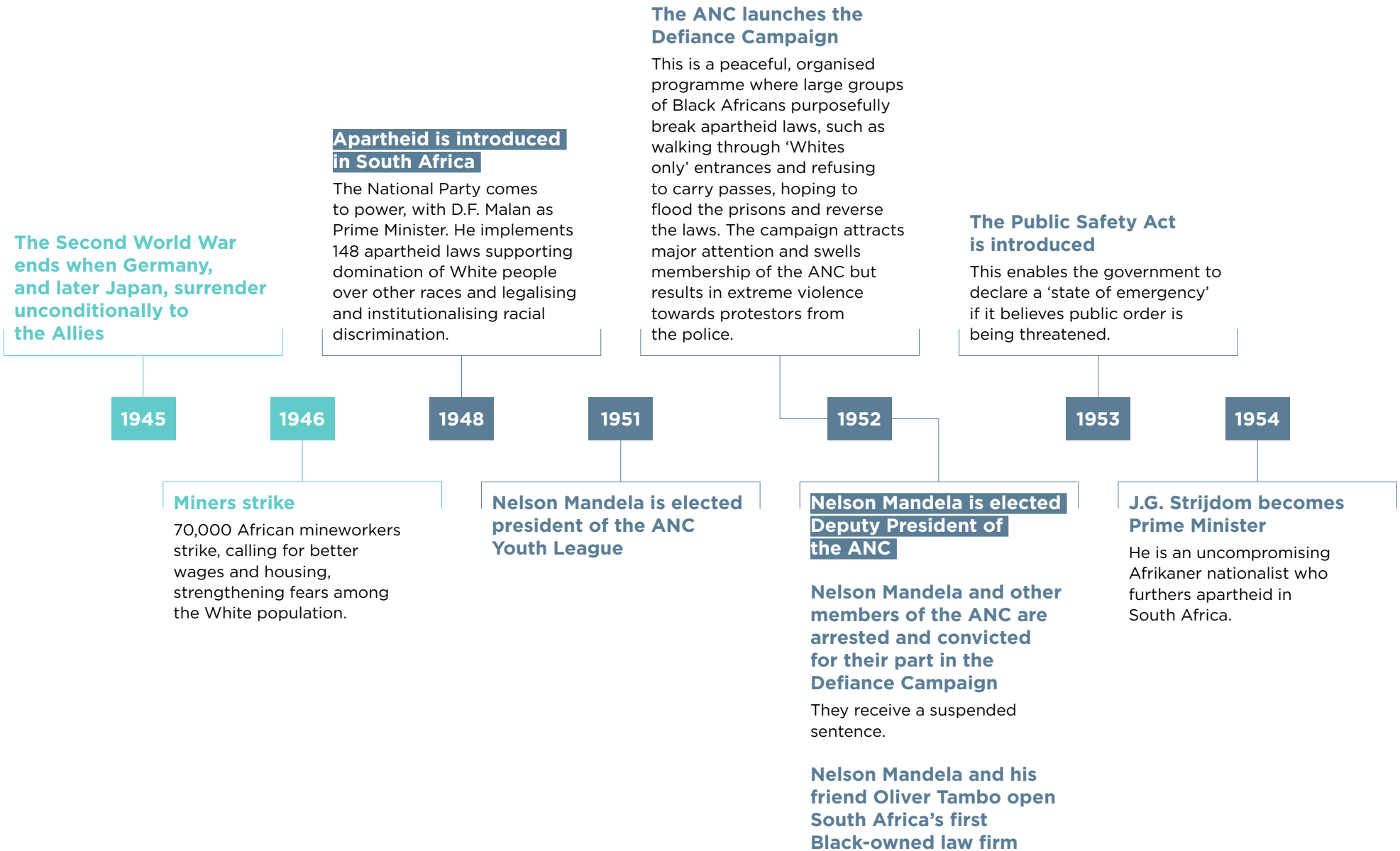
Regent Dalindyebo arranges marriages for his son Justice and for Nelson Mandela, but the two young men rebel. They run away to Johannesburg. Nelson Mandela begins law studies and meets Walter Sisulu and Albertina Totiwe (who later marries Walter). They will become key influences on his life.

Nelson Mandela co-founds the African National Congress Youth League (ANCYL)

His co-founders are Ashby Mda, Walter Sisulu, Oliver Tambo and Anton Lambede (its first president). They call for an anti-discrimination approach based on mass actions such as protests, boycotts and passive resistance.

Nelson Mandela marries Evelyn Mase

They have four children together.



The Freedom Charter is drawn up

The Congress Alliance, made up of the ANC and other anti-apartheid groups, draw up the Charter declaring 'South Africa belongs to all who live in it'. Its demands endure and go on to inspire many principles of South Africa's post-apartheid constitution.

1955

National Women's Day

20,000 women march on the Union buildings in Pretoria, on 9 August, to protest against Strijdom's proposal to extend the pass laws to include women. The women fail to prevent the introduction of the law but 9 August later becomes an established public holiday in South Africa.

1956

Nelson and Evelyn Mandela divorce

Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela marry

They have two daughters together.

1958

Nelson Mandela publicly burns his passbook

As protests erupt in the wake of the Sharpeville Massacre, Nelson Mandela burns his passbook in front of an audience of journalists. Verwoerd's government declares a state of emergency. Nelson Mandela is among over 2000 people arrested.

The ANC is banned as part of the Unlawful Organisations Act

Under this act any organisation deemed a threat to the public can be declared unlawful or 'banned' by the government. The ANC's president Oliver Tambo and his wife Adelaide move to London.

1960

The Treason Trial begins

Nelson Mandela is among 156 arrested for drawing up the Freedom Charter, which the government believes is an attempt to overthrow it. They are tried for treason. The trial drags on until 1961 when all are found not guilty.

Dr Hendrik Verwoerd becomes Prime Minister of South Africa

He will be described by many as the 'architect of apartheid'. He begins the introduction of 'Separate Development', a plan to force Black Africans to live in one of ten rural, self-governed, 'homelands' or 'Bantustans'. The Bantustans are not abolished until 1994, following the end of apartheid.

The Sharpeville Massacre

On 21 March, Black South Africans gather to hand in their passes at Sharpeville government offices, in a peaceful protest against the Pass Laws. The police open fire on the unarmed crowd, killing 69 and wounding 148. The massacre marks a significant turning point in the anti-apartheid struggle and signals the start of armed resistance by the ANC.

The British Anti-Apartheid Movement begins

Tambo leads the Freedom Struggle in exile, garnering support from Britain and the wider world. The British Anti-Apartheid Movement embraces a network of organisations including student bodies, trade unions, the Communist Party and sections of the British Labour Party.

Nelson Mandela makes his famous 'prepared to die' speech from the dock

This is widely believed to have saved him and his fellow prisoners from the death sentence. All except Rusty Bernstein are convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Nelson Mandela arrives on Robben Island on 13 June

He is imprisoned there for 18 years. It is months before he is allowed his first visit. By 1967 he is allowed four visits a year. He will not see his daughters until 1975.

1966

Verwoerd is assassinated

The attack is not believed to be politically motivated.

B.J. Vorster becomes Prime Minister of South Africa

1964

1963

Nelson Mandela appears in court for the first time in what becomes known as the Rivonia Trial

Alongside him are Walter Sisulu, Denis Goldberg, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada, Lionel 'Rusty' Bernstein, Raymond Mhlaba, James Kantor (later discharged), Elias Motsoaledi and Andrew Mlangeni.

Winnie Mandela is served with a two-year banning order

This severely restricts her activity including preventing her from leaving Johannesburg or addressing any kind of gathering. Over the coming years she is continually a target for arrest, harassment and terrorisation as the government repeatedly try to quash her role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

1962

Nelson Mandela is caught and arrested

He attends his first day of court in traditional Thembu leopard-skin kaross. He is sentenced to five years in prison. The identity of the informant is still debated now.

Nelson Mandela leaves South Africa for the first time

He tours African nations, building support for the ANC's cause. He receives military training in Ethiopia at the invitation of Emperor Haile Selassie. He also flies to London where he meets with Oliver Tambo and British politicians who are sympathetic to the ANC's cause.

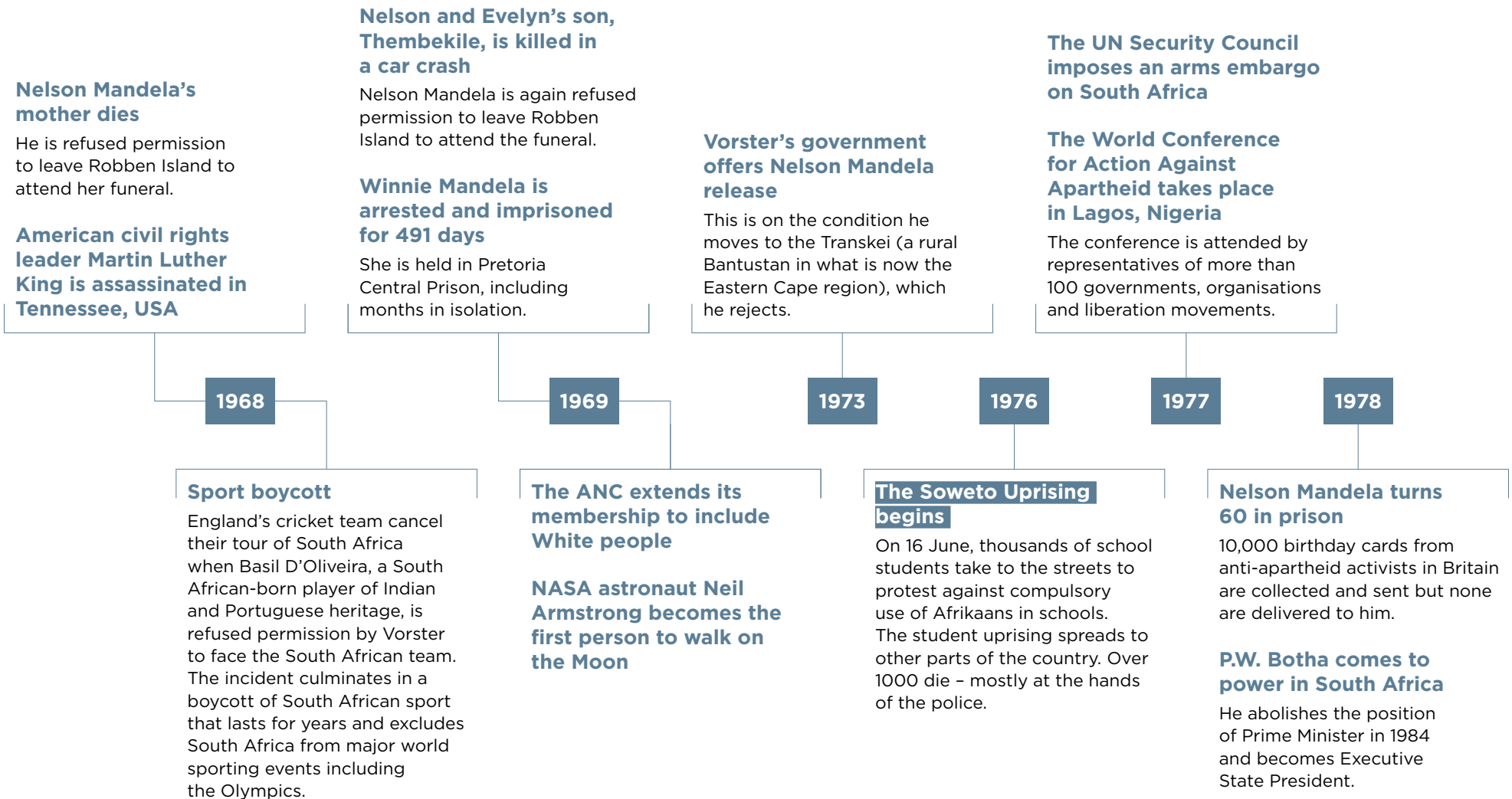
1961

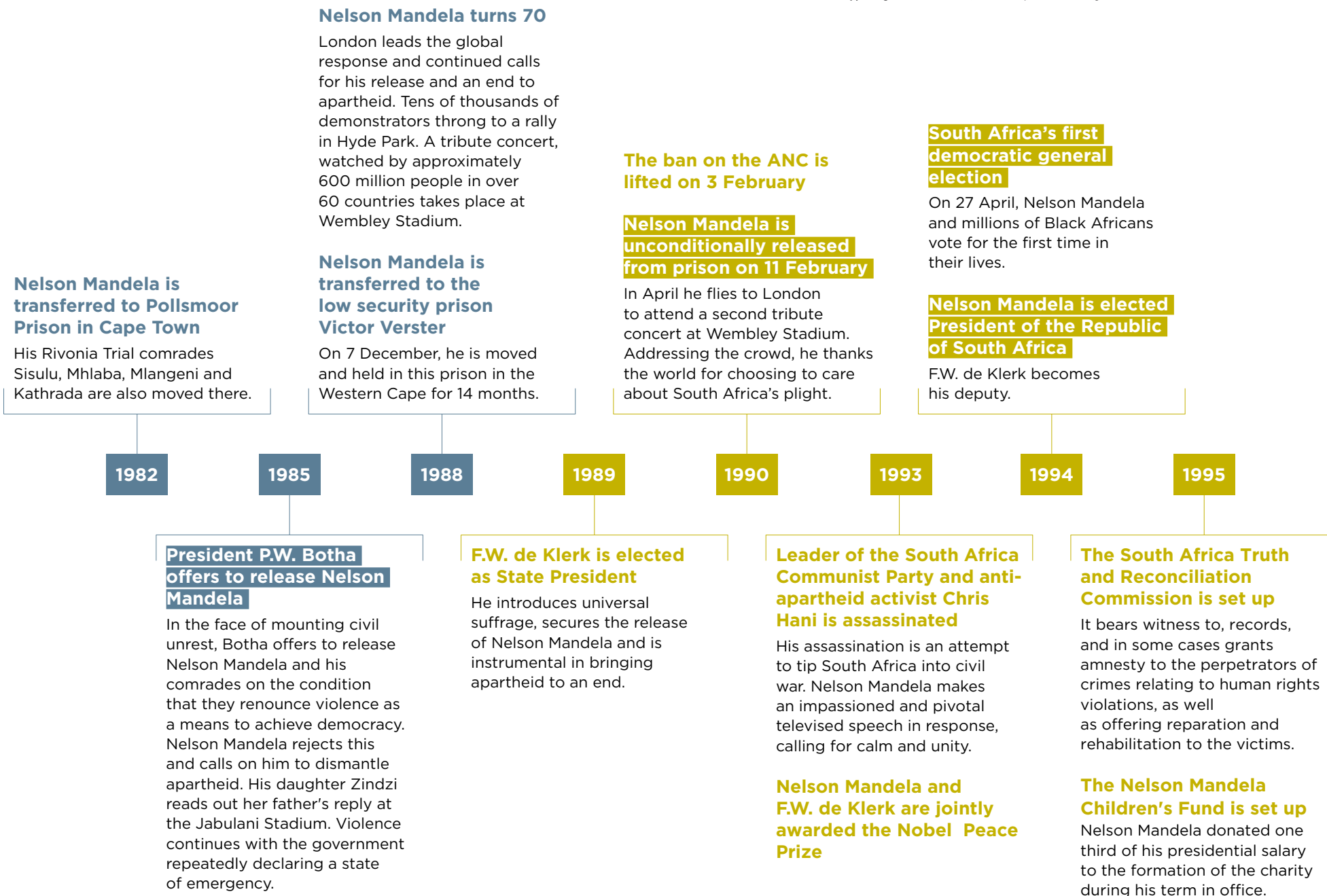
Nelson Mandela and the ANC go underground

Forced to live the life of a political outlaw, he leaves his family, his job and his home. The ANC choose a secret base at Liliesleaf Farm north of Johannesburg. There they begin planning a campaign of armed resistance.

South Africa officially becomes a republic

This is narrowly approved in a referendum in which only White people are allowed to vote. A nationwide strike is held in protest.





Francois Pienaar captains the South African rugby team – the Springboks – to their first Rugby World Cup victory

It is the first major sporting event to be held in post-apartheid South Africa and the first world cup in which South Africa is allowed to compete. Nelson Mandela awards the trophy wearing a Springboks shirt and cap in what becomes an iconic moment for racial unity.

South Africa's new democratic Constitution comes into effect

Nelson Mandela steps down as President of South Africa

The Nelson Mandela Foundation is established. This charitable organisation's work is focused on legacy work, memory and dialogue.

Nelson Mandela officially retires from public life (aged 86)

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

2002

2004

2005

Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela divorce

Nelson Mandela marries activist Graça Machel (on his 80th birthday)

Nelson Mandela celebrates the 120th school built through his Foundation's Rural Education Programme

The Mandela Rhodes Foundation is established the next year, it funds postgraduate study with the purpose of building exceptional leadership capacity in Africa.

Makgatho, Nelson Mandela's only surviving son from his first marriage, dies of Aids

This personal tragedy reinforces Nelson Mandela's commitment to combat the disease via the 46664 initiative (46664 is Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prisoner number).

Nelson Mandela attends the installation of his grandson Mandla as Chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council

Nelson Mandela co-founds the Elders

This is a group of respected thought leaders set up by Peter Gabriel, Richard Branson and Nelson Mandela to pursue global peace and human rights.

Nelson Mandela makes his final public appearance

Nelson and his wife Graça attend the closing ceremony of the FIFA World Cup, held for the first time in South Africa.

2007

2008

2010

2013

Nelson Mandela flies to London to attend a charity concert organised by the 46664 initiative celebrating his 90th birthday

It is his last foreign trip. He tells the crowd: *"We say tonight after nearly 90 years of life, it is time for new hands to lift the burden. It is in your hands now"*.

Nelson Mandela - Madiba - dies aged 95

Nelson Mandela dies on 5 December at his house in Johannesburg, surrounded by his family. He is buried in his home village of Qunu. South Africa enters a ten-day period of national mourning. Announcing his death, President Jacob Zuma says 'Our nation has lost its greatest son'. Kofi Annan, Chair of The Elders, says 'Madiba's legacy beckons us to follow his example to strive for human rights, reconciliation and justice for all.'