



Nelson Mandela – First Black President of South Africa



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Abstract

Nelson Mandela was a social rights activist, politician and philanthropist who became South Africa's first Black president from 1994 to 1999. After becoming involved in the anti-apartheid movement in his 20s, Mandela joined the African National Congress in 1942. Mandela was an anti-apartheid revolutionary and political leader, as well as a philanthropist with an abiding love for children.

Introduction

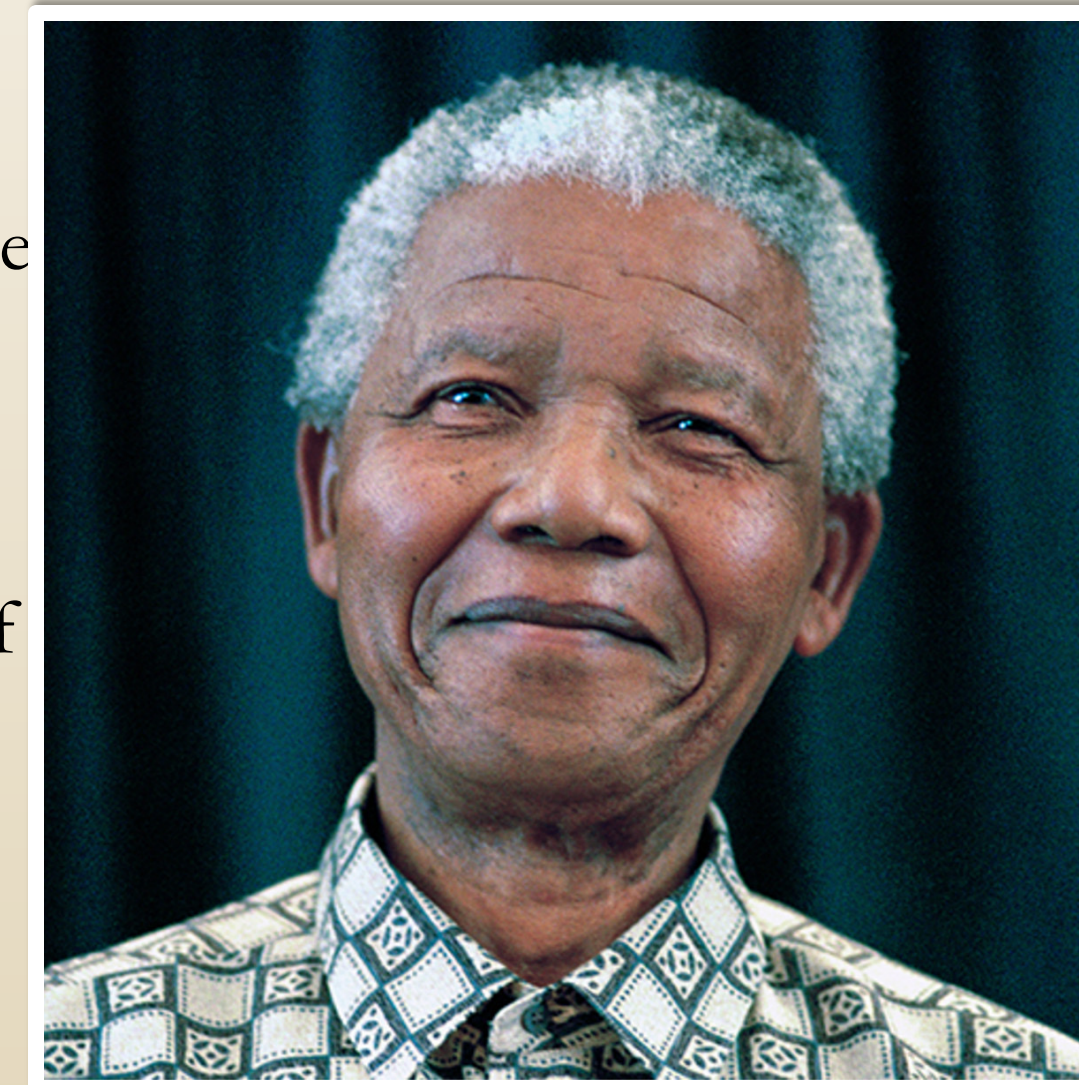
A leader is someone who can see how things can be improved and who rallies people to move toward that better vision. Leaders can work toward making their vision a reality while putting people first. Nelson Mandela, in full Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, byname Madiba, (born July 18, 1918, Mvezo, South Africa—died December 5, 2013, Johannesburg), was a black nationalist and the first black president of South Africa. In 1952 in Johannesburg, with fellow ANC leader Oliver Tambo, Mandela established South Africa's first Black law practice, specializing in cases resulting from the post-1948 apartheid legislation.

Observations

- Nelson Mandela would be the central voice for all black people.
- His presidency would benefit the people of South Africa.
- His speech and actions would stand up against the apartheid movement.

Literature Review

- “Long Walk to Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela” a book that focuses on the struggles of his fight for peace and equality.
- “Move your shadow” book by Joseph Lelyveld combines objective reporting on the state of the country and his personal reflections on his experiences.
- “Mandela: The authorized Biography” book by Anthony Sampson is also the study of Nelson Mandela's life which highlights the struggles, results and his achievements.



Results

- As a result of Nelson Mandela's movement, he was elected in a fully representative democratic election.
- His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalized racism and fostering racial reconciliation.
- One of his influences resulted in the creation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to investigate human rights violations and provide a framework to ameliorate these atrocities.
- He negotiated with State President F. W. de Klerk the end of apartheid in South Africa, bringing peace to a racially divided country and leading the fight for human rights around the world.

Discussion

As a leader, South African President Nelson Mandela demonstrated remarkable leadership qualities, including advocacy for peace, powerful presence that disarmed enemies with his smile, high level of forgiveness, positive thinking, ability to see the big picture, focus on goals and missions beyond himself, remarkable endurance, grit and determination, humility, hopefulness, and patience. These and other perspectives, such as politics, religion, economics, society, morale, and ethics, play a vital role in the process of opinions and thoughts required to become a great leader who can change and lead people to a better future. Mandela and other revolutionary leaders, as well as their leadership styles, motivate and inspire the public with action.

Conclusions

Nelson Mandela, a remarkable leader, led South Africa out of apartheid after a prolonged battle against the National Party. He dedicated himself to achieve equal rights, regardless of race, and pursued his goals despite the volatile and uncertain environment. Mandela is known for advocating peaceful protests and ideals of a democratic society “in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities.” However, when nonviolent means did not work, Mandela convinced the ANC leadership to use armed struggle, and he led the ANC's army, Spear of the Nation.

References

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