

"Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice..."



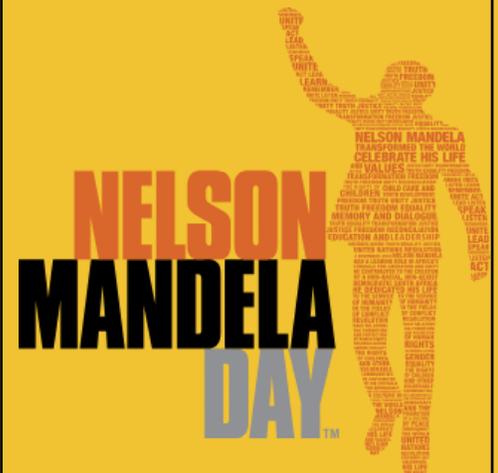
Nelson Mandela (middle), after negotiating the dissolution of the system of apartheid in South Africa, accepts the Nobel Peace Prize alongside F.W. de Klerk in 1993.

- **Birth:**  
July 18, 1918
- **Tribe:**  
Xhosa
- **Imprisonment:**  
1964–1990
- **President of South Africa:**  
1994–1999
- **Death:**  
December 5, 2013

## NELSON MANDELA

After 27 years of imprisonment due to his activism, Nelson Mandela negotiated the end of apartheid and was elected president of South Africa in 1994 with the goal of unifying the country.

Nelson Mandela dedicated his adult life to seeking equality in South Africa through unrelenting activism as a lawyer, prisoner, and president. Nelson Mandela first began his activism against the system of apartheid by studying to become a lawyer and then joining the African National Congress (ANC), a Black-liberation group that opposed apartheid in South Africa in opposition to the ruling National Party. As a member of the ANC, Mandela campaigned against apartheid policies, such as pass laws that regulated the movement of Black South Africans. However, after events like the Sharpeville Massacre, a protest that turned deadly after police fired on demonstrators, Mandela abandoned his nonviolent stance and was eventually charged with treason against South Africa. He continued his activism even in the face of his imprisonment. In Mandela's speech, "I Am Prepared to Die," before the Rivonia Trial, he admitted to some of the charges but declared his actions were in pursuit of liberty against a tyrannical government. During his imprisonment from 1964 to 1990, he "became a potent symbol of resistance" (The Nobel Prize) through his unrelenting commitment to dismantling apartheid, even under torturous conditions. Upon his release, he became president of the ANC and led negotiations to end apartheid in South Africa, which earned him the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize. In 1994, he won South Africa's first democratic election and became president. During his presidency, Mandela further sought to dismantle apartheid policies by focusing on education, housing, and the economy, as well as creating a new democratic constitution for the country. Ultimately, Mandela's legacy is an "inspiration to all who are oppressed and deprived" (The Nelson Mandela Foundation) in their lives, searching for hope.



Mandela's raised fist represents the end of apartheid and symbolizes hope, unity, and democracy for millions of people.

...all for the freedom of their people" – Nelson Mandela

## Works Cited

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