

Perspective on how the Colonial and Apartheid Regimes used Laws to Enforce Land Discrimination and Dispossession in South Africa

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Abstract

Undoubtedly, during the colonial and apartheid regimes, the white minority deployed and used different laws and policies to perpetrate and enforce land dispossession and segregation against the black majority. These laws and policies seemingly have serious discriminatory impacts and effects such as destructive, devastating and disruptive effects on the ways of life of the black people in the country. Mostly, this paper considers and covers the land discriminatory agenda from 1912 when the African National Congress (ANC) was formed up to 1994 when the ANC became the first democratically elected party by all South Africans. The paper exposes the dark days of the past colonial and apartheid regimes and accentuates that laws were effectively used to execute these forced land dispossession, removals, mobility restrictions, segregation and discrimination against the black majority owners. The paper showcases the interventions made by the black majority to abate the land grab during these periods and the various barriers the colonisers and apartheid used to thwart these interventions and efforts. The paper also looks at the roles played by the black people immediately leading to 1994 elections through CODESA and the progressive intervention made immediately by the ANC through the RDP.

Keywords: Colonial and Apartheid settlers; land dispossession; historical land discriminatory Laws and Policies; black majority; South Africa.

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