

# Collective Violence and the Agrarian Origins of South African Apartheid, 1900



## Collective Violence and the Agrarian Origins of South African Apartheid, 1900–1948 by John Higginson

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3765 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 409 pages



The history of South Africa is marked by a long and painful struggle for racial equality. The system of apartheid, which was implemented in 1948, was a brutal and oppressive form of racial segregation that denied black South Africans basic human rights. However, the roots of apartheid can be traced back to the early days of European colonization in South Africa, and in particular to the agrarian origins of the country.

## The Dispossession of African Land

When the Dutch East India Company first arrived in South Africa in the 17th century, they quickly recognized the potential of the region's fertile land. They began to acquire land from the indigenous African population, often through force or intimidation. This process of land dispossession continued throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, as European settlers moved into the interior of the country.

By the late 19th century, the vast majority of land in South Africa was owned by Europeans. This dispossession of African land had a devastating impact on rural communities. Many Africans were forced to move to overcrowded and unsanitary slums on the outskirts of white-owned towns and cities. Others were forced to become migrant laborers, working on white-owned farms for a pittance.

## **The Rise of Collective Violence**

The dispossession of African land led to widespread poverty and resentment among rural communities. This resentment sometimes erupted into violence. In 1900, a series of collective violence events known as the Bambatha Rebellion took place in Natal. The rebellion was sparked by a government attempt to collect taxes from African farmers, who were already struggling to survive. The rebellion was brutally suppressed by the British colonial authorities, but it marked the beginning of a new era of collective violence in South Africa.

In the years that followed, there were numerous other outbreaks of collective violence in rural South Africa. These outbreaks of violence were often linked to land disputes, labor disputes, or other forms of social and economic inequality. The government's response to this violence was often heavy-handed and repressive. This only served to further alienate rural communities and to increase the likelihood of future outbreaks of violence.

## **The Impact of Apartheid**

The system of apartheid was implemented in South Africa in 1948. Apartheid was a system of racial segregation that denied black South Africans basic human rights. The government used apartheid to justify the dispossession of African land and to suppress collective violence.

Apartheid had a devastating impact on rural communities. The government's forced removals of black South Africans from their homes and farms led to widespread homelessness and poverty. The government's control over the agricultural sector also made it difficult for black farmers to compete with white farmers. As a result, many black farmers were forced to abandon their land and to seek work in urban areas.

The legacy of apartheid continues to haunt South Africa today. The vast majority of land in South Africa is still owned by white people, and black South Africans continue to face discrimination and inequality in the agricultural sector. The collective violence that was a feature of rural South Africa in the early 20th century has also continued, albeit in different forms.

The agrarian origins of South African apartheid are complex and multifaceted. However, it is clear that the dispossession of African land and the subsequent poverty and inequality that it created played a major role in the development of apartheid. The collective violence that was a feature of rural South Africa in the early 20th century was a manifestation of the deep-seated resentment and anger that this dispossession caused. The legacy of apartheid continues to haunt South Africa today, and it is only by addressing the underlying causes of inequality and injustice that we can hope to build a more just and equitable society.



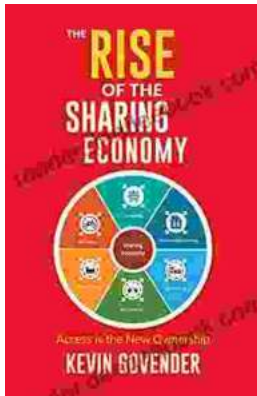
## Collective Violence and the Agrarian Origins of South African Apartheid, 1900–1948

by John Higginson

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

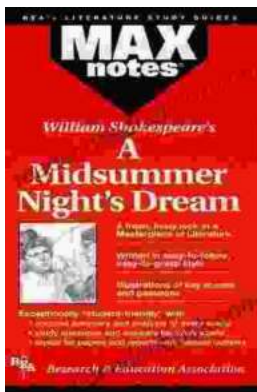
Language : English  
File size : 3765 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 409 pages



## The Rise of the Sharing Economy: A Transformative Force Shaping the Modern World

The sharing economy, a revolutionary concept that has reshaped various industries, has become an integral part of the modern world. From its humble beginnings to its...



## Midsummer Night's Dream: Maxnotes Literature Guides

Midsummer Night's Dream is one of William Shakespeare's most beloved comedies. It is a whimsical and enchanting tale of love, magic, and...