

Song in the Anti-Apartheid and Reconciliation Movements in South Africa



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Keywords:

[South Africa](#)[Music](#)

Issue Date:

2007-06

Metadata

[Show full item record](#)

Publisher:

The Ohio State University

Series/Report no.:

The Ohio State University. Department of International Studies Honors Theses; 2007

Abstract:

As Apartheid developed in South Africa, political, cultural, and religious resistance emerged. This essay will explore the history of songs used in the anti-Apartheid movements in South Africa. Studying music's role in the South African liberation movement reveals various issues concerning the social dynamics and cultural history of the nation. Exploring the soundscapes of South African independence opens space for a new perspective and better understanding of the way diverse communities formed a unified movement to resist Apartheid. Music helped people of diverse tribal and racial identities transcend differences that remained salient in other contexts. This paper draws on a wide variety of scholarly sources in disciplines such as history and musical ethnography. Interviews with Gabi Mkhize, a current member of the African National Congress (ANC), Ohio State University Graduate Student, and isiZulu instructor, offer evidence to support the centrality of music in anti-Apartheid movements. Music spanned ethnic differences, united generations, and aided in the organization of South Africans against their oppressive white government. The findings of this project will expand upon prior research and provide specific historical data to substantiate the claims that music indeed has a strong impact on the revolution in South Africa. Song is embedded in South African culture and it is not surprising that this medium would serve as a principal vehicle in defeating the Apartheid government. Songs were used to hide protest slogans, banned materials, secret information, etc. Further research concerning the historic role music played in unifying and liberating oppressed communities might consider other timeframes in black South African history or explore the role of music and politics in the context of white South African communities. Other historic occurrences might also be approached through the study of music, then compared and contrasted to South Africa's experience. The portability and flexibility of music allowed it to play a crucial role in the liberation movements against Apartheid.

Embargo:

Type:

Thesis

URI:
<http://hdl.handle.net/1811/28447>

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Anti-apartheid protests continued as life for black South Africans became more and more dire under apartheid. On June 16, 1976, up to 10,000 black schoolchildren, inspired by new tenets of black consciousness, marched to protest a new law that forced them to learn Afrikaans in schools. In response, police massacred over 100 protesters and chaos broke out. Despite attempts to restrain the protests, they spread throughout South Africa. In response, exiled movement leaders recruited more and more people to resist. Over 100 people were killed and more than 1,000 injured in South Africa following a... The apartheid regime in South Africa began in 1948 and lasted until 1994. It involved a system of institutionalized racial segregation and white supremacy, and placed all political power in the hands of a white minority. Opposition to apartheid manifested in a variety of ways, including boycotts, non-violent protests, and armed resistance. Music played a large role in the movement against apartheid within South Africa, as well as in international opposition to apartheid. The impacts of songs opposing The Anti-Apartheid Movement has launched a website documenting its long campaign against the apartheid regime in South Africa. Featuring photographs, posters and videos, the archive spans over three decades - and depicts the wide range of groups involved, from politicians to pop stars, students to trade unionists. Wed 12 Mar 2014 17.22 GMT Last modified on Thu 26 Mar 2020 14.47 GMT. Poster for the March Month of Boycott, 1960, when supporters in Britain picketed shops and distributed leaflets asking shoppers not to buy South African goods. Facebook. Twitter. Pinterest. A protest in 1949 outside South Africa House in London against apartheid laws introduced by South Africa's first National Party prime minister, DF Malan. Facebook. Twitter. Pinterest.