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# Continuity and Change in the Foreign Policies of South Africa; 1994–2012

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**Abstract:** *This article explains the foreign policy of South Africa from the period of 1994-2012. It explains the points of the dimensions of South Africa's foreign policy. "Continuity and Change of South Africa's Foreign Policy 1994-2012" focused to understand how and what effect, changing and significance has been there in the foreign policy of South Africa from the Mandela to Jacob Zuma time period. The foreign policy of South Africa has been important. The basic foreign policy of South Africa is to promote its territories, human rights, and peace. South Africa foreign policy has been relating to an apartheid policy which is a background of it. It examines the foreign policy in Nelson Mandela, Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma presidential. It describes the foreign policy from apartheid to post-apartheid.*

**Keywords:** *Foreign Policy, Post- Apartheid Period, Idealism, Realism, South Africa*

## I. INTRODUCTION

In the post-apartheid period, as Mandela was elected the president of a democratic South Africa in 1994, the new South African government in need of another foreign policy and needed to reconnect and adjust to the new cooperative energies of a globalized world. It was required for improvement if the ANC methodology for advancement and social development were to be fruitful.<sup>i</sup> South Africa had joined international organization like with UN, the OAU, commonwealth and SADC. Mandela adopted a human rights friendly foreign policy for development of South Africa. As Mandela took over as the president of the country, he felt the need of upgrading South Africa's foreign policies as it had been left behind in the global scene due to its not-so-humanitarian apartheid policy. To fix Africa's place it was inevitable to adopt such a foreign policy.

"Democratic state has brought freedom of movement and of association, the right to own property, freedom of expression and freedom of the press, the equality of women, religious freedom, workplace freedom and the right to strike and protest, all in an attempt to restore the human dignity that was stripped away from us in our colonial and apartheid past. Much has been done to address the orderly violence and land removal that was a typical feature of the apartheid era. Even more has been done to actively empower previously disadvantaged people through employment equity, affirmative action, and business empowerment."<sup>ii</sup>

## II. FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES DURING THE MANDELA PERIOD

South Africa foreign policy came to be known in the world politics after the arrival of Nelson Mandela. There is a lot of contribution of Nelson Mandela to South African foreign policy as similar to Nehru contribution to Indian foreign policy. He crafted a policy which makes South Africa familiar and connected with other African states, as earlier it was segregated because of apartheid. Therefore, for new leadership, it was a challenge to cope up with African countries together under a common roof.

Mandela had to sync its economic and foreign policy with its neighbours, as well as, Africa. Mandela's idealistic policy helps to connect South Africa with other world. It can be seen in the Mandela period (1994-1999) that gradual economic development took place.

South Africa joined multilateral organizations, including UN, SADU, OAU, SACU, NAM etc. Nelson Mandela saw an Africa where apartheid would, at last, be cancelled and each man would be free and equivalent according to the Nation. After the apartheid, South Africa has changed. Mandela's policy was a marvel for South Africa's development.

South African President Nelson Mandela, preceding his residency of the administration, cautioned that the disregard of human rights issues can be disastrous to the universal framework. Furthermore, he hopefully pledged that a vote based South Africa's foreign policy would weight on human rights and majority rule government. It would additionally fit the view, that the nation's future is subject to Africa and Southern Africa specifically, and that South Africa would look for local participation and not domination.<sup>iii</sup>

Basically, the post-apartheid South Africa foreign policy sets up a strengthened and developed African agenda on priority basis. The guideline of advancement of regard for human rights stretches out past the political circle, grasping the financial, social, and ecological measurements. As demonstrated before, the prioritization of human rights has regularly been emphasized by President Mandela. Human rights, particularly amid the Mandela period, the thought were an essential piece of South Africa's foreign policy.

Mandela advocated the fact that the new South Africa's strategies ought to be found on the standards, methodologies and exercises learned from it and from his own particular battle against apartheid and persecution. In this manner, Mandela contended that the new South Africa can't be indifferent to the rights of others and strongly attested that "human rights will be the light that guides our foreign affairs." He argued too that struggle has taught us that only true democracy can guarantee rights and that 'respect for diversity' should be promoted in international institutions.<sup>iv</sup>

Mandela stated that 'South Africa's relations with the continent of Africa ought to be based mostly on the 'principles of equity, joint profit and peaceful cooperation', and he committed the new South Africa to taking responsibility for the Southern African region. Mandela accepted RDP for economic development.

The foreign policy of South Africa under the GNU had also been influenced by the acceptance of the RDP as an internal policy framework.<sup>v</sup> It was essential for South Africa to reach out to its neighboring countries so that they could collaborate and formulate a growth and development approach benefitting for Southern Africa.

Regional organization like SADC, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), AU/OAU the new administration of South Africa underpins these associations.

They are moral with these and back their belief system, and likewise financially guide to these associations. Democratic strife ought to be unraveled by these provincial associations.

SADC embraced an advancement incorporation approach, which is not very same as a market improvement approach. South Africa has been looked at with an immense test of tending to some exceptional issues in its foreign relations, both in Africa and abroad. Nonetheless, with the new administration of Mbeki, Nigeria and South Africa are close partners and they both have impact in their individual sub-districts; to be specific the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).<sup>vi</sup>

### III. ROLE OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC)

Having struggled through the freedom battle for quite a long time on solid standardizing issues, the African National Congress (ANC) came to control with the expectation of building up another political and social request in South Africa and consummation types of worldwide apartheid.

After protracted discourses, the principal law based races were held under a temporary Constitution in 1994. This arranged progress from apartheid to majority rules system has been hailed as both 'a standout amongst the most astounding political accomplishments within recent memory' and 'a wonder'. Since 1994 the legislature has been driven by the African National Congress (ANC), which won majority rule decisions in 1999, 2004 and 2009. Since 1994 the administration has sought after democratization, financial change and goals.<sup>vii</sup>

The negotiations initiated by the ANC resulted in the holding of historic first elections based on one person one vote in April 1994. The ANC won these first historic elections with a vast majority. 62.6% of the more than 22 million votes cast were in favour of the ANC. On the 10th of May 1994 Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as the President of South Africa. The ANC has been in power ever since.<sup>viii</sup>

Lastly, the ANC played out the significant part of debilitating racial and ethnic clash. Racial enmity is an unavoidable result of the nation's political and social history, following three centuries of racial domination, isolation, and apartheid which finished in African being migrated to Bantustans, confined to untalented or semi-gifted work.

The advancement's optional invulnerability allowed it to approve a repulsive anyway vital task of money related change. The ANC primarily kept up a key separation from the usage non-law based expects to achieve its destinations. The ANC acted enthusiastically to a made institutional structure for good organization.

The South African electorate has kept up sensible suppositions about the pace of advancement, a legitimacy that has been invigorated by the ANC's ability to alter the relationship of trust with its voting open. The ANC played out the imperative piece of discouraging racial and ethnic conflict.<sup>ix</sup>

President Mandela resigned in 1999 after just a single term. He was succeeded by Thabo Mbeki whose second term of office ended in 2009. Shaken by interior quarrelling amongst Mbeki and previous representative President Jacob Zuma, the ANC held a sharply challenged Party Convention in December 2007. Zuma won over Mbeki for administration and ended up becoming South Africa's third post-apartheid President. Up to this point, the ANC has prevailed with regards to forming a multicultural, however fragile, a legislature in South Africa, and under Nelson Mandela had encouraged a really large majority rule constitution that finally completed apartheid.<sup>x</sup>

#### IV. NATIONAL CONVENTIONAL ARMS CONTROL COMMITTEE (NCACC)

The foundation of the South African National Conventional Arms Control Committee (NCACC) in August 1995 echoed both expectation and disillusionment. The NCACC was a noteworthy bit of the new policy by the post-apartheid South African government. The motivation behind the NCACC is to practice political control over arms exchanges the import and fare of customary weapons into South Africa and the transit of such weapons through South Africa. Besides, the NCACC assesses against national contemplations applications for arms-related research, advancement, producing, advertising, contracting, and settles on choices on giving licenses for these exercises.<sup>xi</sup>

Human Rights Watch does not protest, on a fundamental level, to national endeavors to anchor counter balances when obtaining weapons. It is concerned, in any case, that such understandings, when they incorporate arrangements for joint permitting and co-generation of weapons with foreign accomplices, could trade off South Africa's human rights responsibilities if satisfactory safety measures are not taken. In December 1999, South Africa marked arrangements to purchase R.30 billion (the U.S. \$4.9 billion) worth of boats, submarines, and air ship from European arms makers.<sup>xii</sup>

A few indications of perplexity stay where democratic South Africa's foreign policy lies, yet the new grouping stands out forcefully from arms control plans in the last long stretches of apartheid. The issue of human rights and limitation in arms exchange is so high on the administration plan that the eleven NCACC ministers meet each month to talk about issues identifying with arms export. South Africa has turned into a pioneer globally with regards to traditional arms control.<sup>xiii</sup>

#### V. GROWTH ITS RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (RDP)

So as to build and redesign the economy once long periods of social policy administration's financial seclusion and money sanctions that were executed by the universal network, Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) that was a piece of the election stage of the African National Congress inside the 1994 decisions was picked in light of the fact that the essential financial program. The more extensive point of this financial policy was to find out a considerable measure of equivalent society through reproduction and advancement likewise as reinforcing democracy for every single South African. The RDP recognizes 5 noteworthy policy programs printed inside the give an account of the Reconstruction and Development Program (1995) as takes after: create a vigorous, dynamic and adjusted economy; Develop human asset capacity of every single South African; ensure that no one endures racial or sexual orientation segregation in procuring, advancement or training circumstances; Develop a prosperous, adjusted provincial economy in Southern Africa; and Democratize the state and society. Quickly, this policy was meant to manage and review the heritable gross disparities of social policy, socially, monetarily and spatially. As was at first enunciated inside the first 1994 RDP archive the ANC government needed to mobilize all our folks and our country's resources towards the ultimate demolition of social policy and also the building of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist future.<sup>xiv</sup>

The South African government's response to those local difficulties was to alter its reproduction and improvement program (RDP), which focused on neediness decrease and meeting the fundamental wishes have those greatest denied by methods for apartheid. By receiving the neo-liberal macroeconomic increment, work and redistribution (GEAR) strategy in 1996, the point of convergence moved to auxiliary financial change. This included monetary changes, the end of progress controls, financial scope train, the privatization of the nation claimed property, work commercial centre adaptability, and duty rebate and skills improvement.<sup>xv</sup>

The RDP was the ANC's creative and insightful for social equity after apartheid and the controlling structure for government policy inside the primary term (ANC, 1994). The RDP gave neighborhood specialists a sweeping command to meet basic wants and offer individuals focused on experts and said the key thoughts of democratic nearby specialists which incorporate a solitary expense base, participatory government, cross-sponsorship of transporter sending, and discounting of the obligations aggregated by methods for dark nearby experts. The white paper may merge the RDP gauges into a dream for formative adjacent government.<sup>xvi</sup>

#### VI. FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES DURING MBEKI PERIOD

##### A. *The African Renaissance*

The idea was intended to put Africa at the focal point of South African foreign policy, introduce South Africa's monetary power and political accomplishment as a sparkling case of the mainland's potential, and feature the nation's driving part in elevating Africa's motivation to whatever remains of the world. Vale and Maseko see the essential target of African Renaissance as being, "to maximise South Africa's foreign policy options in Africa including continental support for the country's search for a seat in the United Nations Security Council".<sup>xvii</sup>

Mbeki's speeches on the African Renaissance that were in line with the ANC document from time to time are highly crucial as a result of the globalizing market economy for Africa.

“We must be at the forefront in challenging the notion of ‘the market’ as modern God, a supernatural phenomenon to whose dictates everything human must bow in a spirit of powerlessness”, he stated at the 1998 ANC Conference.<sup>xviii</sup>

The beginning of an African Renaissance in this way turned into an imperative piece of South Africa's national mindfulness. And furthermore, it turned into a factor in Africa and among the Western nations with respect to South Africa's late 1990s part. Furthermore, the idea of an African Renaissance consolidated help for democracy, sensible administration and human rights. In any case, the official reports of the late nineties demonstrated a fairly diminished weight on this idea on the nation's part in African undertakings, however, Mbeki in different addresses underlined the essential significance of those ideas for the mainland's recharging.

One of the mainstays of Mbeki's idea of a Renaissance for Africa was undoubtedly the foundation of stable majority rules systems in Africa. The ANC pioneer rehashed the significance of democratization on fluctuated events (not just for Western gatherings of people), making it a basic and conspicuous piece of his arrangement for Africa's resurrection. Recognizably, Mbeki conjointly addressed the commentators that had indicated the peril of the idea being abused in an exceedingly exclusivist Africanise clarification by African elites and tyrant rulers when he remarked on the African Renaissance in a 1998 radio show. Around then the future President of South Africa tended to Africa's ruined and underestimated parts and condemned the landmass' political and monetary elites when he expressed that “Africa cannot renew herself where its higher echelons are a mere parasite on the remaining of the society.”<sup>xix</sup>

South Africa, since 1994 and especially since Thabo Mbeki's progression to the administration in 1999, has embraced an accord based, multilateral way to deal with African undertakings, with the goal of building more grounded conciliatory and political capital inside Africa. Mbeki has prudently gained by this with a specific end goal to bump the landmass towards an African Renaissance and a financial restoration process typified in NEPAD and the AU.<sup>xx</sup>

Under Mandela and Mbeki, South Africa's foreign policy has elevated adherence to democratic benchmarks and administration markers so as to profit by a re-established centre around African 'proprietorship'. South Africa was instrumental in setting up an African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) in 2003 to advance democratic administration in Africa.<sup>xxi</sup>

### *B. The Economic Dimension of Political Stability*

Political change is an unfilled expression if it's not throughout changes inside the financial circle, bringing about essential changes in the personal satisfaction of the standard subject. Another explanation for the proceeded with political solidness in South Africa is the way that the new South African government never ignored the financial measurement: actually, monetary development and financial advancement involve the inside phase of the policy destinations of the South African government. This is reflected in GEAR (Growth, Employment and Redistribution Strategy) and RDP (Reconstruction and Development Program); both key policy affirmations that deliver monetary development intended to help financial advancement.<sup>xxii</sup>

Possibly the foremost vital short term challenge of presidency is to get back credibleness in its economic policymaking and implementation the best thanks to do that would be identical means because it credibleness began to be won, at nice price, within the Nineties although the firmer implementation of economics commitments, particularly within the realm of economic policy. Deficit targets are exceeded once a year since 2009 this pattern must be broken. Financial policy is currently a lot of credible the system of inflation targeting has been systematically followed, although there was bigger flexibility within the application of the policy once the world money crisis began. However, some a true commitment to order accumulation and therefore the introduction of some targeted macro-prudential measures may scale back the volatility of the worth of the currency and reduce its impact on the domestic economy, particularly for the non-traditional tradable sector.<sup>xxiii</sup>

## **VII. RDP TO GEAR (GROWTH, EMPLOYMENT AND REDISTRIBUTION STRATEGY)**

GEAR is link to Republic of South Africa policy. It was vital for Republic of South Africa policy. For any reasonably development like economy, political and social policies one had to depend upon economic policies and GEAR was the most effective method of development. Republic of South Africa policy throughout this point had re-entered into the globalization neo-liberal economic science. GEAR was meant to recover economic process, generating employment and addressing difference. The shift from RDP to GEAR had necessary implications for South Africa's policy since getting the economic fundamentals right was meant to boost world aggressiveness and export efficiency likewise to inspire confidence among foreign investors. After 1994, Nelson Mandela could have embraced Mugabe-style redistribution. Instead, he pragmatically and intelligently embraced large industry (assisted by the end of economic sanctions). The result was booming investment and increase in 70 quarters out of 73; inflation, interest rates and the deficit fell harshly. Since the end of Apartheid, the economy has doubled in real terms and South Africa is now the

economic super power of the region. Not only is this proof that an African economy can be run efficiently as part of the global community but it's also a model that many other countries are following with enormous success.<sup>xxiv</sup> With booms in minerals and telecommunications, African capitalism is in the ascendant.

In this sense, GEAR was viewed as key for accomplishing the occasion objectives of reasons, which RDP did not convey. Towards the end, the DFA refined the administration's responsibilities directly down to two essential targets, security and riches creation. The past was to be accomplished through the advancement of consistence with worldwide law and dynamic commitment in compromise, the later through facilitated with way to deal with globalization, the improvement south Africa's picture abroad and enthusiastic quest for exchange and speculation (Department of Foreign Affairs , Thematic Reviews/Strategic planning).<sup>xxv</sup>

As opposed to desires, the gigantic capital streams into the nation didn't increment mounted domestic speculation, in any case, now and profoundly unpredictable, boosting share costs on the stroke trade, anyway not bringing about an expanded monetary generation or occupation creation. At the end of the day, the market fundamentalism of GEAR was viewed as key for accomplishing the improvement objectives that for a decent variety of reasons, the RDP had not conveyed.

### VIII. NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT (NEPAD)

One of the incredible bosses of the African Union and New Partnerships for Africa's Development (NEPAD), South Africa has assumed a crucial part in reshaping the security talk on the mainland. This has been obvious, for instance, in the Southern African Development Community's Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation. This convention sets out a security motivation spreading over politico-military dangers and additionally non-military dangers, including: between state war; internal war; vast scale human rights mishandle; atrocities; violations against humankind; slaughter; nourishment security; mass developments of exiles; illicit transients; cataclysmic events; infection (especially HIV/AIDS and malaria); poverty and underdevelopment; and environmental corruption.<sup>xxvi</sup>

NEPAD primary targets are that, a) To remove poverty; b) To region African countries, each in my opinion and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development; c) To halt the marginalisation of Africa inside the globalisation system and beautify its complete and beneficial integration into the worldwide financial system; d) To boost up the empowerment of ladies NEPAD are based in this ideas, right governance as a basic requirement for peace, safety and sustainable political and socio-monetary improvement, African possession and leadership, in addition to extensive and deep participation by way of all sectors of society. Anchoring the development of Africa on its sources and resourcefulness of its people; Partnership between and among African peoples. Acceleration of local and continental integration; constructing the competitiveness of African countries and the continent; Forging a brand new international partnership that adjustments the unequal courting among Africa and the developed global; and making sure that each one Partnerships with NEPAD are connected to the Millennium development dreams and different agreed development goals and targets.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Progressed monetary governance in a country provides substantial direct economic advantages in terms of greater effective shipping of public items and services, each to the terrible (health, education, household infrastructure, get entry to the monetary gadget and so forth), and to firms (lower cost and more reliable infrastructure services, economic offerings and so on). Without the enhancements in public expenditure control, in public carrier delivery control and within the regulation of both physical and institutional infrastructure networks, all of that are implied through progressed governance processes, its miles hard to imagine how either poverty reduction programmes or financial boom programmes may want to begin to take effect.<sup>xxviii</sup>

### IX. FOREIGN POLICY CHANGES DURING ZUMA PERIOD

Jacob Zuma takes on the formidable task of succeeding a 'foreign policy' president - and an architect of Africa's continental institutions - notably the African Union (AU), New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its flagship good governance initiative, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Africa under Zuma is likely to remain a strong proponent and financial supporter of this network of institutions, which are themselves undergoing marked transformation.<sup>xxix</sup>

However, while talks of fundamental change were being dished up for popular consumption, in reality many actors hinted at stability and predictability. More significantly, they did not wish to end those of Mbeki's policies that were proving successful. One such case conveyed by the new Zuma-drove government was that it would expand on crafted by the Mbeki government in the territory of advancement participation and continue to set up an improvement office for South Africa. The new government freely dedicated itself to set up the South African Development Partnership Agency (SADPA), with the point of advancing formative associations.<sup>xxx</sup>

The agenda of development was subsequently to be based on the pre-existing strategic pillars of foreign policy. (1) There should be no gap between domestic and foreign policy; (2) ongoing prioritization of the African continent; (3) fortifying of South-South relations; (4) relations with vital arrangements of the North; (5) reinforcing political and monetary relations; and (6) taking an interest in the worldwide arrangement of administration. All these were recognizable topics and proposed congruity, not change. While the wording had been adjusted all over, in actuality, it implied business as usual.<sup>xxxii</sup>

Zuma made it just as clear that, in line with the Mbeki approach, his government would continue to pursue a 'broad-based developmental' foreign policy trajectory. Even the Zuma government's emphasis on a domestically driven foreign policy was akin to a notion pursued by both the Mandela and Mbeki governments, if not as well articulated or skilfully constructed.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

Two broad themes emerged with respect to Zuma administrations 'Africa prioritisation' strategies: "Africa continental; and improving political and economic integration of the SADC. Even though the government set out to pursue its Africa strategies under the label of 'African advancement', its policy strongly reflected the Mbeki government's notion of the African agenda." It retained the very same label too.<sup>xxxiii</sup>

The most outstanding achievement under the Zuma government might be South Africa's joining of the (BRICS) and an even-handed administration structure in worldwide multilateral foundations like the World Trade Organization and United Nations Security Council (UNSC). On the residential front, however, the Zuma organization has egregiously negated SA's promise to human rights and Ubuntu, revered in the Constitution and typified in Mandela's administration'.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

The progress from the Mandela to the Mbeki time was set apart by congruity instead of progress. Actually Mbeki acquainted numerous refinements and changes with foreign policy, and as it were it was profoundly upgraded. Africa was raised to high need in Mbeki's foreign policy direction, and he was resolved to leave an engraving of the nation as a solid accomplice, working with individual African states, not as a hegemonic keen on managing the terms to whatever is left of the mainland.

## X. ENTER THE BRICS

South Africa's entrance into the BRICS gathering of developing markets was a critical accomplishment for the Zuma organization in 2011, which could conceivably lead the nation forward its national advantages, create framework and advance provincial joining, in the meantime, it can offer substance to its interests in the south.<sup>xxxv</sup>

This is the fellowship of South Africa with China, which has developed under Zuma, which demonstrated useful and profitable to think about Nigeria's biggest economy, was additionally keen on joining this gathering, assembling of Nigeria the Association's Outgoing Chairman Mr. John Aluya remarked.

Presumably, the most outstanding accomplishments under the administration of Zuma in South Africa 2011 incorporate Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and fortifying South African relations with China, more agents and the even-handed run would keep on calling. Structure in worldwide multilateral foundations like the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). On the household front, the Zuma organization has denied SA's pledge to human rights and Ubuntu, which is set up in the constitution and is associated with Mandela's initiative.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

## XI. CONCLUSION

These three time periods give away their particular advancement in South Africa's foreign policy since 1994. In spite of the fact that distinctive organizations had diverse needs, yet amid the different periods, South Africa's foreign policy was constantly concentrating on African Renaissance, property creation, and security, the motivation was engendered in the multilateral fora and a regional concentration in the Global South. In such a manner, South Africa is thought to be a delicate power for different reasons. To start with, in the Renaissance of Africa, Africa's authority is resolved to lead Africa, as observed amid the Mbeki period. Second, because of Mandela's time specifically, its ethical authority has earned the nation an exceptional place inside the global network. Furthermore, along these lines, Zuma's policy is connected to the financial level. It would be right to state that these huge changes and diverse philosophies can be found in the season of the three Presidents. Communist, reasonable and optimistic philosophy is by all accounts found in South Africa's foreign policy.

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