

DEDICATIONS (To Past and Future Generations)

To their forebears who taught them how to teach, They learned well to instil learning in others and dearly they paid

But they kept the trust

The young lions,
Recipients of the collective memory
Hand firmly gripped on the baton
as they relay the message,
Must now go yet another lap
And hasten to shorten the distance

Heartened by the knowledge that history can be willed where there is focused purpose and dogged pursuit; That tyranny has no license on eternity, Like humans, it must expire

Hercules's toils are their wage Summoning them to ethereal heights the tidings of the new griots Future awaits eagerly From ashes must arise renewed life

The past breathes on today
The present pours on the morrow
Tomorrow beckons anxiously, To detoxify the word Conveyors of the message of generations, Bidding necc, neusa, sansco, nascoc, nusas, and all

Onwards then, with the business of the moment. Onwards to a new genesis beyond tyranny and apartheid's scourge and the ameliorative pretensions Teach, so they may teach, and elevate the future

Keep the trust

This, to expectant forebears

And the beautiful ones yet to be born Onwards to a new genesis:

M. N.

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- 25. Malherbe, History of Education, 1:72-84; Pells, 300 Years of Education, pp. 23-26
- 26. Pells, 300 Years of Education, pp. 27-28; Malherbe, History of Education, 1:88-89
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- 30. Pells, European, Coloured and Native Education in South Africa 1652-1938 (Cape Town and Johannesburg: Juta & Co., Ltd, 1938) pp. 37-39.
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 Leonard Thompson, Survival in Two Worlds: Methosshoe of Leotho 1786-1870 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975), pp. 99-100, 206-207.
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Chapter 2

SCHOOLING IN TWENTIETH-CENTURY THE ROOTS OF SEGREGATED SOUTH AFRICA

Michael Cross and Linda Chisholm

Introduction

segregated nature has followed fairly closely a structural-historical process. concomitant with conquest and colonialism in South Africa and that its interests. They have tried to show that segregation in education is have attempted to periodize and link specific attitudes to social process and between pre- and post-apartheid education.3 Thirdly, there are those who Afrikaners, and that English speakers have been as culpable as Afrikaanstheoretical perspective, other writers have examined the continuities speakers in propagating segregation in schooling.8 From a different concerned to show that racist attitudes were not the exclusive preserve of attack from different quarters. Firstly, there are those who have been National Party and Afrikaner ideology. This approach has come under the moral and legal responsibility for separate schooling at the door of the schooling in South Africa. Until recently the most popular of these placed Many different explanations have been offered for the roots of segregated

The "form and orientation [of] the content of the struggles which occur" are seen as having been shaped by the "structural conditions of the political system and the shifting nexus between race and class."

white, Indian, colored, and African.⁶ constituted nature of education and schooling separated according to African education which does not reproduce, but exposes the historically dynamic of the system, one has to develop a form of conceptualizing South starting assumptions of this chapter is that, in order to understand the total ethnic consciousness is thus the second area of concern. One of the schooling has materially helped to naturalize an abnormal racial and way been shaped by a racially structured system of education. ethnic terms—as white, colored, Indian, Xhosa, Zulu, etc.—has in no small and ethnic subjects, of people seeing themselves primarily in racial and on social consciousness and identity. In short, the constitution of racial together with the wider ensemble of segregationist and apartheid practices, of segregation to economic and social inequality,5 and in its impact, apartheid education. The importance of this lies both in the relationship chapter will examine the formative events in the making of contemporary the beginnings of settler occupation and domination of the territory, this black and white have been an integral part of South African history since While recognizing that racist attitudes and differential schooling for How

The construction of segregated and apartheid schooling structures and the constitution of racial and ethnic subjectivity has been an ambiguous process. The process of education can be reduced neither to the aims of legislators nor to the systemic requirements of the economy, which it neither simply reflects or expresses but mediates in multifaceted and contradictory ways. Thus, as events and many writers have shown, passivity has not been the most marked and consistent characteristic of scholars produced by Bantu Education; the nature of South Africa's economic and political development has required the creation of labor power with different skills, especially after the 1960s boom. Education has also been the site of the production of popular discourses which have employed non-racial categorizations such as students, democrats and members of the exploited and oppressed classes.

The Mining Revolution and School Color Bars: 1886-1924

The foundations of segregated schooling were intimately connected with the development of a segregationist social policy linked to the rise of industrial capitalism in late nineteenth century South Africa. The mineral

discoveries of diamonds (1867) in Kimberley and gold (1886) on the Witwatersrand, the area that now encompasses Johannesburg and a cluster of surrounding towns, had set in train the differential proletarianization of both black and white rural producers. Their differential reproduction as partially and fully proletarianised workers formed the basis for the social policy that developed after the South African War (1899-1902).

to raise the rate of profit was labor. arefit. The only variable which could be successfully pressurized in order theapness of machinery could not be varied enough to insure a good mechanization and utilization of skilled labor. The price of gold or the sequired supplementary investment of capital and a higher degree of both exhausted outcrop grounds and encouraged deep-level mining, which secological nature of the gold fields accelerated the abandonment of the demonstrated a high level of political militancy and organization.7 The grievances expressed by the working class, particularly white workers, who aining capitalists could not easily influence; and (3) the increasing on technology; (2) the fixed price of gold in the world market, which the of which was deep underground and thus required massive capital outlays goold fields, which had an extremely low average grade of ore, the vast bulk of the mining sector was precipitated by: (1) the geological nature of the don and concentration of mining capital which led to the monopolization adustry in South Africa have convincingly argued that the rapid centraliza-Those who have examined the roots of the development of the mining regregation into an important component of South African capitalism. Witwatersrand took place in the late nineteenth century turned racial The particular constraints under which the mining revolution on the

The desire of the mining magnates to reduce labor costs to secure a somemployment of whites in general unskilled work at a time when massive white proletarianization on the Witwaterstand had resulted in the so-called The consequence was a rigid comprehensive racial division of labor in the divided on racial lines into occupations with different functions, income worked side by side with a small but politically active, fully proletarianised workers still preserved peasant characteristics which inhibited cohesive against injustices and repression in the mines, the highly proletarianized section of white workers had relatively experienced forms of political section of white workers had relatively experienced forms of political consciousness, organization and class or cross-ethnic solidarity section of white workers had relatively experienced forms of political

organization.⁹ White workers rapidly became an important force and an obstacle against the policies of the Chamber of Mines, ¹⁰ which attempted to reduce wages through skill fragmentation and replacement by unskilled workers.¹¹

This characteristic of mine labor favored a particular development of class and social relations. It united in stringgle those wage earners whose skin pigmentation happened to be white. This led to white workers' claims of rights on the grounds of color. The white workers hus practiced racial discrimination against black workers in defense of their own jobs. White workers were thus led to differentiate and define their class interests along racial lines, regarding their fellow black workers as potential competitors. They directed their grievances against black workers and demanded a privileged status. Color began to be seen as a criterion of access to rights and power through which whites occupied elite status and superordinate positions in the social division of labor. By contrast, Africans were kept at the opposite pole as a cheap labor force with no rights.

ruling class for the problems posed by a developing capitalist economy, a to the status of Africans.16 It certainly was an attractive solution for the and for those coloreds anxious to protect themselves against being reduced poor blacks, with its increased possibilities of competition, conflict particular, it dealt with the rapid proletarianization of poor whites and modernizing state and the social dislocation caused by the war. ties for those Africans concerned with restoring "traditional" authority, demanding effective controls over migrant workers; it provided opportuni for the existing economic and social forces. It served a wide range of purposes. It addressed the needs of the mining industry and farmers regulate labor relations in the mines were gradually extended to almost all known as segregation.14 Thus the institutional racist barriers imposed to treatment for whites in employment outside the gold mining industry to miscegenation and unified class struggle ideology of segregation soon became the dominant mediating mechanism spheres of economic, social and political life, including education, of economic, social and political institutions based on racial discrimination, practices, was revitalized and formalized in the form of job color bars and The legacy of color prejudices which accompanied previous colonial minimize the spread of massive unemployment of unskilled white labor.12 intervening, structure and class relations in the mining industry resulted in the state recognizing the fully proletarianized status of white workers. This labor predicated on maintaining black labor in a migrant condition and It also favored the construction of an economic and political policy from about 1906, in an attempt to secure preferential The

> processes of state formation and the formation of proletarian classes determined by changes in the mode of production.¹⁶ stances of South Africa; its origins are bound up with the interrelated process by which industrial capitalism developed in the specific circumory practices. development," the selective Cape liberal tradition and colonial discriminapractices of the past-Theophilus Sheptone's notions of "separate schooling were no mere extensions of the discriminatory attitudes and socialization processes. It thus appears that segregation and segregated ed into a white state to absorb and mute rising social and cultural conflicts. mation of racially differentiated educational structures, schooling and This process initiated in the late nineteenth century reached a decisive white workers and youth were to be politically and ideologically incorporate proletarianized labor along racially defined lines. Through education, bonist government was to ensure the reproduction of migrant and fully soint during the reconstruction period (1902-1924) with the institutional In this view, the new political strategy articulated by Milner's reconstruc This segregation was an integral part of the complex

of white labor from black competition in the labor market.23 advisable. 22 In 1908, the Transvaal Indigency Commission urged protection Compulsory education was not recommended nor was it considered sontribute towards the cost of them by payment of fees or local rates.21 but also recommended that Africans receiving educational facilities should not only prescribed an inferior schooling system based on manual labor separation of schools and a system of state-aided mission schools, SANAC merge too closely into European life.20 Sanctioning the principle of racial gradual and "assisted evolution" for Africans in a way which could not political representation of blacks and whites, and advocated a policy of SANAC suggested racially exclusive occupation of land areas, separate segregation.19 Though not advocating total segregation of land areas, released in February 1905 which proposed many aspects of the policy of the report of the South African Native Affairs Commission (SANAC) of "separate development" 18 and the Cape policy of "selective segregation" crystallized in Milner's discourse of white supremacy were reformulated in century and their interaction with local conditions." 17 Shepstone's theory held by the British rulers of South Africa at the beginning of the twentieth Milner's particular world-view . . . [and] to the far wider set of assumptions policies, Marks and Trepido have pointed out, should also be related "to character of social relations on the Witwatersrand, segregationist social As well as being related to the imperatives of mining and the particular

The introduction of free primary education just after the war was expected to create the bases of a white racial identity by Anglicizing

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free and compulsory education on the grounds that they were still unfit for of either colored or African children. 45 Africans were denied the right to white children were placed on a fundamentally different footing from that and institutionalizing racial separation in education. With these measures in the OFS, making provision for compulsory education for white children a state-controlled schooling system for whites. More significant moves Education Act of 1907 in the Transvaal and Hertzog's School Act of 1908 1908 with the promulgation of the Cape 1905 School Board Act, Smuts towards a policy of comprehensive segregation were introduced in 1905 preferential treatment for white education in the statute books, establishing Transvaal and the Orange River Colony entrenched the principle of Legislation such as the First Education Ordinance of 1903 for the Coloreds were only granted the right to free education. most of them concentrated in military camps.24

consolidated after the proclamation of the Union of South Africa. as nonantagonistic to those of capital," thus minimizing the danger of crossracial proletarian insurgency. and the need to reproduce white labor in such a way that it saw its interests reconstruction of white schooling can be interpreted as a response to the the activities of the white working class, and for building a racial identity was part of the various strategies adopted by the ruling class for containing "heightened conflict between white labor and capital on the Witwatersrand between white labor and capital.26 Free compulsory education had profound effects on consciousness and This strategy was expanded and Thus, state intervention in the

another way, African education had to adjust and conform to the social education should be considered as far as possible from the point of view of the African's "own possibilities, needs and aspirations." ³⁰ To put it life from which they were barred.²⁹ It was maintained that African ment" and for educating them to participate in an economic and social Africans "on the shoulders of the white man in a non-African environ common criticism charged mission education for attempting to raise were reflected by severe criticisms of mission education. to ethnic and cultural diversity. The North American concept of "adapted education" gained momentum. 26 The accompanying ideological shifts consequence education aims and structures had to be redefined according gy. The revised concept rejected assimilation as anticultural development culture reconstituted by the new academic discipline of social anthropolo segregationist ideology, were reformulated to accommodate the concept of eugenics, which constituted the theoretical bases of late nineteenth-century yet it permitted "racial upliftment" and ethnocultural identity. By the 1920s, the ideas of "scientific racism," social Darwinism and The most As a

> awated differently in its administration, inspection and funding accordingly. African education came to be seen as definitely sui generis and and economic roles reserved for Africans. Si Culture became part of the egiamizing ideology for segregated schooling. The curricula were revised

meated in the reserves while increasingly repressed in the urban areas. the black elite was to be gradually accommodated through institutions said down the bases for segregation of higher education. This meant that The opening of the South African Native College at Fort Hare in 1916

labor and to make them conform to the developing forms of domination; fit them into subordinate positions in the racially structured division of they also had to pay for it. 53 only compulsorily submitted to an inferior form of education designed to which dictated educational development in South Africa. Blacks were not education, colored education and native education. White children had neen fully incorporated, a feature which reflects the segregationist strategy been drawn into a form of mass schooling but black children had not yet aistarchically different schooling systems: white education, education system throughout the Union was divided into four separate, Thus in the course of the two first decades of the twentieth century, the Indian

Race Polarization, 1924-1945 Secondary Industry and Education: Class Restructuring and

society. Even though the mining industry "long remained the jewel in the south African industrial crown," 5 manufacturing industry and agricultural were gradually plucked from their marginal position in the economy and state schooling and Juvenile Employment Bureaus, "poor white" youth places in the racial division of labor. Through an improved system of unemployed whites and the white working classes to privileged, supervisory labor policy, several measures were enacted to enable the allocation of urban industrial workers—came to power with its "civilized" (i.e. white) farmers and the Labor Party representing the largely English-speaking in the reproduction of such a labor force and hence in the concerns of socilition of the National Party which represented the interests of white for a controlled migrant labor force. Schooling of blacks played little part economy, securing the government's cooperation in protecting its interests sevolution. Until the 1930s the mining industry had dominated the During the 1930s South Africa began to undergo its second industrial After the 1924 Nationalist-Labor Pact government—a

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ROOTS OF SEGREGATED SCHOOLING

interests increasingly began to play a part in the South African political

provided the rationale for segregated schooling for blacks largely under a African Party which was decisively defeated by the Nationalist Party in 1949, voluntary, mission control. for white children was built, while the refrain of "adapted education" twentieth century. A solid infrastructure of state schools and a bureaucracy pattern of racial segregation established in the first two decades of the overall state policy in education towards black and white followed finally a 1933 coalition between Hertzog's Nationalists and Smuts's South Pact government to power, then saw a Nationalist victory in 1929 and Despite changes in government which first brought a Nationalist-Labor þ

sought to reconstitute and stabilize the white working class family through to rights were. In practice it also meant that social relations were largely social rights of racial groups. 56 In this view the rights of Africans in urban control over, but also maintenance of, a migrant labor population. 87 laws, the courts, prisons and slum clearances were used to ensure not only direct state regulation of civil society, while such coercive measures as pass Charter, excluded those of color from its definition of what a child liable the creation in children's legislation of the child as a white subject. The areas were linked only to the labor services they performed. The result was from membership of civil society through its conception of differential regulated by repression for blacks and by ideology for whites. 1937 Children's Protection Act, hailed then as South Africa's Children's urban areas provided for a social policy which effectively excluded Africans doctrine of 1922 which held that Africans were "temporary sojourners" in preferential treatment for whites in the labor market, and the Stallardite The 1924 Pact government's "civilized labor policy," which ensured The state

youths from becoming apprentices, and, in the case of coloreds, displaced requirement for admittance to apprenticeship, prevented many African Act (1922) which set an educational qualification of Standard VI as for labour bureaus for unemployed white youth and the Apprenticeship restrictions were imposed on the entry of colored and African youth to were expanded for training and employing skilled white labor, while skilled trades. Legislation such as the Juveniles Act (1921) which provided nisms using education to disqualify blacks from skilled work. Facilities them from skilled trades The racial division of labor was reinforced through statutory mecha-

industry was stimulated and capitalist agriculture developed such that, by the advent of the Second World War, it constituted powerful rival interests With the help of massive state grants and subsidies, manufacturing

> question of "poor blacks" was to be an issue of "far greater dimensions" 19 recognition among a new, liberal stratum of white educators that the than that of the "poor white." and economic position of "poor whites," there was the slow, dawning a variety of relief, welfare and educational measures to change the social Inquiry into Poor Whites in South Africa, reporting in 1932, recommended motion in earlier decades. But even as the Carnegie Commission of time, segregation was entrenched through a legislative program set in the continuing conflict in the ruling class over whether Africans were to be development or neglect of African schooling remained firmly attached to sugmented by younger men and women leaving white farms. "temporary sojourners" without any rights in the cities or not. At the same substantial urban proletariat by the early 1930s. Their numbers were impoverishment of the reserves as a consequence of successive assaults on seeking state support for its particular labor concerns. African peasants, and the Depression of 1929-1932 had produced The increasing

liberal state provision was made. provisions for Africans and coloreds were revamped in 1945 when more administrations on the basis of the average attendance of pupils. differently. The state would pay educational subsidies to the provincial Through Act 46 of 1925, schooling for colored children was financed education out of a general fund plenished through African taxation no. 41 of 1925 a special account was established to finance African pegged at R340,000. Through the Natives Taxation and Development Act Relations Fourth Extension Act, expenditure on African education was dependent on shrinking state subsidies. Under the 1922 Financial that few attained Standard VI. 40 They attended mission schools increasingly The financing and provision of African and colored education was such

trained as teachers. Teacher training was thus often synonymous with 224% were in these classes.42 Those who did reach secondary school 89,000, with little corresponding increase in state spending on schooling. increased fivefold between 1921 and 1936, from some 16,000 to nearly Witwatersrand alone, the number of African children under fifteen There were facilities for less than a quarter of the population. On the without any schooling. Although the number of Africans of schoolgoing 1.4% of African students at school were in post-primary classes. By 1939 During this period very few Africans reached secondary school. In 1920 example, from 21,421 to 47,632, only 16% were in school in 1936.41 age in the Transvaal more than doubled between 1917 and 1927, for many children who grew into youthful maturity in an urban context The immediate consequence of such miserly spending was the birth of secondary schooling. By contrast, this period saw the professionalization of teacher training for whites and its location in post-matriculation colleges or university education departments.

As a result of differential financial provision, systematic statistics began to be compiled on the basis of the color of a school's children from the The construct of colored education came into being alongside that of native education, each being reproduced now not only through structures, but also through a distinct, material knowledge which at the same time helped to constitute its subjects as separate and different both from whites and each other.

Education for whites was overhauled to incorporate white children in the social and ideological universe of a broad white South Africanism within white supremacy44 and mission schools staggered from the one financial crisis to the next, encapsulating but a tiny fraction of the black schoolgoing population. New demands, meanwhile, began to be made by both white liberals and the products of mission schooling who, in different ways, addressed themselves to the question of African and colored welfare and educational facilities in the 1930s and 1940s. Among these, the participants in the Joint Councils of Europeans and Natives were probably the most important. They were stimulated by the growth and militance of an African proletariat on the Witwatersrand, especially during the

Depression years 1929-1932.

Although there was a decline in effective, national, black political activity during this period, the specter of revolution raised by the work of the Industrial and Commercial Workers' Union (ICU), the African National Congress (ANC) and the Communist Party (CP), haunted the liberal white missionaries and social workers organized by and around the Joint Councils of the South African Institute of Race Relations.45 Films, libraries and debating societies were formed to "moralize the leisure time of blacks" 46 and moderate African opinion. By 1939, "thousands of children, without effective parental guidance in this rapidly changing transition period, and without the discipline that even poor schools offer" 47 were urgently preoccupying some governmental, municipal and welfare agencies. In 1938 a Native Juvenile Delinquency Conference held in Johannesburg under the auspices of the South African Institute of Race Relations and the Johannesburg City Council urged the setting up of local committees and a Central Board of Bantu Education, Juvenile Affairs and Social Welfare. The problem, as Ray Phillips perceived it, was primarily one "of making South Africa safe for differences." 49 This could be achieved through recognizing the permanence of and stabilizing the urban African workingclass family. Such a strategy would involve improved housing, provision of

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departure from the gold standard in 1933 resulted in a considerable boom in gold production which, in turn, generated the revenue and favorable market for an accelerated secondary industrialization during and after the Second World War. Import substitution and the equipping of the allied forces during the war along with substantial direct foreign investment thereafter ensured sustained industrial growth. By 1943, the manufacturing sector, which had earlier exceeded agriculture in the contribution to the gross national product, finally overstepped mining as well. This solid economic basis together with the ability of the Nationalist alliance to override internal struggles and dictate a pragmatic policy produced conditions for the successful transition from a small-scale competitive capitalism to a large-scale monopoly capitalism from the 1950s. What is of particular interest is that unlike the pre-World War II monopoly conditions, monopolies in the late 1950s were no longer limited to small pockets in mining and finance dominated by conditions of small-scale competitive capital. They constituted the dominant feature of the South African

economy in agriculture, mining, commerce and industry.⁵³

The accession of the National Party to political power in 1948 also introduced significant changes. Its social policy involved a renewed, overt commitment to white supremacy as defined in the Race Relations Policy of the National Party, a policy document published in 1947 which called for a program of "separate development" or apartheid. A national system of labor bureaus, introduced to monitor and control the supply and distribution of African labor, placed increasingly severe constraints on Africans' freedom of movement and occupational choice. The Population Registration Act, Group Areas Act, Immorality Act and others, institutionalized a far more rigid and thoroughgoing system of racial domination than existed to date. Several enactments were made to bring the education system close to this policy. These were: the Bantu Education Act of 1953, the Extension of University Education Act of 1959, the Coloured Persons Education Act of 1963, Indian Education Act of 1965 and the National Education Act of 1967.

Underlying this legislation was the principle of Christian National Education whereby people of different ethnic and cultural groups should have different education and schooling systems. It was summarized by Coetzee in 1948 in the following words: "We as Calvinistic Afrikaners will have our CNE schools: Anglicans, Lutherans, Roman Catholics, Jews, liberalists and atheists will have their own schools." Separate schools with mother-tongue as the medium of instruction were justified on religious, psychological-educational and national-cultural grounds for the maintenance of Afrikaner identity.

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fantasy have simply not existed in South African townships. Thirdly, if the connection between industrialization and segregated schooling is a direct one, then the introduction of universal, albeit segregated schooling, ought to have been simultaneous. And if the advent of Bantu Education as a form of mass schooling was contemporaneous with the growth of monopoly capital and industry, then the question of why it was not introduced earlier still remains unanswered. The mining industry, which dominated the South African social formation in the first third of the twentieth century, was a monopoly industry from its early beginnings—or later during the 1960s, when monopoly capital consolidated its hold on the South African economy. Further state control was extended over African youth after the advent of the National Party to power, but this was not equivalent to the introduction of mass schooling in South Africa, which has not yet been achieved.

Verwoerd quite explicitly outlined the aims of Bantu Education in his 1953 speeches to Parliament. Bantu Education would restructure the conditions of social reproduction of the black working class and create conditions for stabilizing a black urban underclass of semi-skilled laborers. Thus, in the 1955-1960 years, the state concentrated its efforts on three main areas: (1) stabilization of the urban proletariat; (2) production of a semiskilled workforce; and (3) the prevention of juvenile delinquency and political militancy among urban working-class youth.⁵⁰

After 1959 Bantu Education would also provide a means of ideological incorporation in the bantustans and ensure the hegemony of the ruling class by entrenching a sense of national consciousness based on ethnicity and the illusion of self-determination. For this purpose, the National Education Policy Act of 1967 reiterated that education in schools should have a Christian and National character and have the mother tongue as the medium of instruction.

This last aspect characterized state education policy in the 1962-1971 period. Hyslop has distinguished five main ways in which this policy was carried out in practice: (1) the blocking of secondary school expansion in urban areas; (2) the use of education as a form of influx control preventing families without urban rights from attending schools in the urban areas; (3) the strangling of technical training in the urban areas; (4) homeland-based teacher and professional training; and (5) exclusion of the use of funds from private business by schools. Thus in the urban areas there was a clear emphasis on the lower primary school level, whereas higher primary and secondary schools could only be established where community-based school boards paid half the cost. For example, by 1971

80,000 Fron from n the you organiz townsh stayed : Movem caterin student and pro collapse resistan organiz itself w: mass po In th Pan Afr entered boom. rapidly The "co received English for skill black er based o stronger Afrikane address between The ver middle based o urban n greater significa balance educatio allowed

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to mid-1970s this was an important unifying ideology, although contradic ties, the black consciousness movement was vital in constituting those assertion of black cultural identity, psychological liberation from notions of inferiority and unity of all blacks including coloreds and Indians were Bantu Education. The need for blacks to reject liberal white tutelage, the prevailing political, economic and social structure and the attempts to movement was rooted in the increasing alienation of black youth from the tions in it, as well as the re-emergence of older traditions of nonracial defined by the state as colored, Indian and African as "black." In the early among its objectives. Although limited in its base to schools and universi racial inferiority through various agencies of social control particularly youth into a relatively cohesive force. 66 At the political level this assumed urban youth into a common, oppressive educational and social structure, consciousness to serve the bantustan apparatus. By drawing the mass of new tertiary institutions established to foster an elite imbued with ethnic movement among black South Africans in urban secondary schools and the and redefinition in the 1980s. resistance which became hegemonic after 1976, led to its partial decline inculcate conformist modes of behavior, passivity, and psychological and the form of a black consciousness movement. The black consciousness Bantu Education provided a shared experience which unified black urban The late 1960s also saw the emergence of the black consciousness

Organic Crisis and Schooling, 1976-1986

blind tide; in social and historical analysis, there are concepts of power, combat. In the elemental metaphor, there is only the ebb and flow of the the social and historically constituted nature of the forces locked in over. But while the imagery of nature in revolt was useful in representing in a storm whose rage has temporarily been dissipated, but which is not yet containment, engulfing South Africa between September 1984 and 1986 spectacular failure. will."88 Attempts by capital and the state to dam the tide were initially a whirlwind before the storm" which "has not struck yet, but few doubt . . . agency, consciousness, structure, struggle and change. The key questions the force and impact of resistance during this period, it should not obscure 1976 was a "turning point when South Africa did not turn," 67 "the Wave upon wave of revolt broke through the walls of

did it change?69 for this period are thus: what changed? for whom did it change? and how

class, and ultimately heralded the formation of the Congress of South in the number of unemployed and of improving the bargaining position African Trade Unions (COSATU) in 1985. of Durban which also augured the rebirth of a militant organized working working class began to flex its muscle in the 1973 strikes in the coastal city point of production. As inflation began to bite in the early 1970s, this of an industrial working class now concentrated in larger numbers at the the contradictory effect of both accelerating the rate of inflation and a rise Party. The consequent monopolization of the South African economy had be exacted by a strutting business sector and a preening ruling National crushed, and foreign investment flowed into the country at a price yet to South African economy had surged forward. Black opposition had been in a declining growth rate and recession which had begun to bear down balance of internal social forces after the mid-1970s. During the 1960s, the heavily upon the black working class, manifestly began to change the The structural crisis that showed its first signs between 1973 and 1976

of decline; the mask of bravado now worn by its managers often slipped to economic growth. The economy seemed set on a steep and drastic course shot up from 12% to over 16%." By 1986, in contrast with the high summer of confidence of the 1960s, South Africa was shuddering in the prosperity based on the 1960s importation of high capital goods and technology and a highly controlled black population. The economy staggered from a boom between 1979 to 1981 based on the unpredictable reveal panic and desperation. investments were made, and an exceedingly low rand was crippling foreign capital was being withdrawn on a significant scale, few new grip of what looked like a long, chilly winter: for a combination of reasons, traditional exports. Between July 1984 and mid-1985, the inflation rate precipitated by the falling world price of gold and low volume between mid-1983 and early 1984 did not prevent a further plunge growing indebtedness and a rise in the inflation rate. A short miniboom combined with the effects of massive state overspending to produce gold price, to a radical slump in 1982 as a balance of payments deficit Between 1976 and 1986 South Africa began to pay the price of

the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo) and the Popular Movement for she wall of regional white supremacy were knocked out when the Front for deepening organization of national-democratic forces. The first bricks in regional profile, changing state economic and political strategies and Integral to the shift of forces inside the country were also the changing

the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) came to power in Mozambique and Angola respectively in 1975. The next basion to crumble was Zimbabwe in 1980, followed shortly thereafter by increasing pressure on the South African government for a settlement in Namibia. Despite the South African defeat in Angola in 1975, and the spectacular display of internal opposition in 1976, morale was still high.

ultimately the rocks on which the strategy foundered. around the power relationships structuring inequality in the society were crisis and to effect meaningful changes, the structural violence and repression on which they rested, and the intensification of resistance revamped security legislation. The inability of these reforms to address the and colored representatives in 1983/4. Opposition was to be dealt with by separate Houses were created in the new tricameral Parliament for Indian to bantustan officials, teachers, and small businessmen; two additional, encouraged in mainly urban centers in the areas of labor, health, welfare, strategy of co-option of key middle sectors within the black community was of a monetarist "austerity package" did not emerge until 1984, a political capital were now well represented, embarked on what it considered to be housing and education. n Limited concessions were to be made available an ambitious programme of reform to contain the multilayered economic political and ideological crisis. While a clear economic strategy in the form In the late 1970s, the South African state, in which the military and big

scrap-heap of South African schooling," while a tiny minority were given of the bantustans and in resettlement camps continued to struggle on the the opportunity, largely through multiracial, private church schools institutions than black. Black children on white farms, towns, rural areas benefit; more white children graduated from secondary and tertiary terms, however, white education still stood at the apex of educational and framework within which these interventions were made. In per capita schooling available to blacks, but made little impact on the overall policy forms of private schooling introduced new differentiations in the kind of ment by capital, both local and foreign, in technical, vocational and other cabinet, as would the allocation of overall resources. Increased involvements, African education would still fall under the control of the central Indian and colored would have control over their own separate depart multiculturalism in education meant that whereas those classified as white, education72 to privilege and skill some strata within the black community of "own affairs" or multi-culturalism structured state intervention in through increased expenditure on target areas.78 Multinationalism or "separate but equal" ethos framed in the refurbished apartheid philosophy Reform in education reflected the overall state political strategy: the

increased state and industrial training incentives and schemes, and access to relatively more "open" universities than before, to glimpse a marginally more secure economic future.

Although South Africa thus had eighteen departments and fifteen munisters of education by 1986, and had increased expenditure on black affect overall quality and control over black education. To Nor did it affect growing impoverishment of the poorest within all sectors of society as a unemployment amongst black school-leavers, the inability of the economy absorb more highly skilled and educated youth or discontent with a wider political system based on white supremacy.

By 1986 the reforms begun with such confidence in the late 1970s had not been abandoned and were not in complete disarray. They were, however, maintained by sheer force. Over the course of the first half of the 1980s, the balance of forces shifted so decisively in favor of oppositional biorces, among whom high school students and youth comprised a substantial and powerful element, that the state was enjoined to declare that it faced a "revolutionary situation" which required a counter-resolutionary strategy.

The 1976 revolt had been a largely spontaneous uprising, but it had political repercussions far beyond its time and region. It stimulated organization inside the country, among and beyond the student constituenty, and propelled many others into a search for military training outside began the painstaking task of grassroots organization around labor, health, community and educational issues. During the boom years of 1979-1981, despite harassment by the state, organization of students in particular was boosted by the formation of the Congress of South African Students in 1979 and the school boycous of 1980.

Between the Soweto uprising of 1976, the Cape school boycotts of 1980 and the nationwide insurrection of 1984-1986, there were significant differences and changes in youth organization, consciousness and strategy.

The revolt in 1976 was the first sign that the educational terrain was to be come a more important site of sruggle than it had hitherto been, and opposition in the 1980s. Although the 1976 Soweto Students' Representate Coursel played an important part in giving direction and leadership the revolt, while largely spontaneous and undeveloped then, prefigured future concerns. These included links and relations between students and

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systematic mobilization and organization in schools across the country Students (COSAS) in 1979 represented the start of more sustained and physical combat." The formation of the Congress of South African wide repertoire of strategies which included the march, the boycott, and generations of students with a proud tradition, invaluable lessons and a national and union spheres; their experience also provided future wider, conscious, internal oppositional movement spread across civic, generations of students took to revolt in the 1980s there was present a internal political opposition with which to connect; independent trade these unions and organizations in the succeeding years so that when new unions, also, were in their infancy. The graduates of 1976 helped form experience of their particular form of struggle. There was no wider education was not new,76 the urban terrain and the subjects—high school and the system that sustained it as a whole. about the precise relation between the struggle against Bantu Education and working class organizations. Likewise, the revolt threw up questions and unemployed school-leavers, as well as between students and national the other, different sectors involved in education, namely parents, teachers The students had no precedents and no collective Although resistance in

concentration of the boycotts in coloured schools was important in that it constitute an acute and penetrating resource for political education. worked on. The pamphlets, newsletters and broadsheets of the time still economic system. The lessons of 1976 were consciously extrapolated and and the role of students in the transformation of the wider political and analytical attention given to the relation of schools to the capitalist system concretely explored; these were complemented by the enthusiastic but separated from African students. signalled the potential unity-in-action of students also nationally oppressed Democratic forms of school-based organization remarked upon sophistication of organization and consciousness,78 unevenly, involved mainly high school students, but demonstrated a much The 1980 school boycotts, which also spread across the country, albeit were discussed and

and broaden the base of opposition. of the Soweto Teachers' Action Committee (STAC) and the Soweto Parents' Committee, steps were taken by teachers and parents to support of a student-worker alliance. As in 1976, which stimulated the formation (TAC), formed in Cape Town, was of short duration, but the National experimental, with both sides tentatively testing the possibility and nature in links forged was pushed further than in 1976, but was still largely system of apartheid was realized intellectually, its concrete manifestation Although the centrality of the working class to the transformation of the The Teachers' Action Committee

> was pivotal in helping to provide a concrete vision of a nonracial South These groups were able to forge a strong movement in this period which recast discussion in terms of categories of class and political struggle. Education Union of South Africa (NEUSA), formed in Johannesburg historical makeup and geographical location of issues in terms of color, across the colour spectrum. New organizations, while not denying the 1980, emerged and grew dramatically as a focus for progressive teachers

organization, while uneven, was rapid, incorporating ever wider sectors in everyday reality of dispossession and powerlessness. In this context, education and national life. simply highlighted the yawning gap between the rhetoric of reform and the for larger numbers of people as a consequence of the economic crisis country to protest against the state's constitutional proposals had widened democracy in national life. The slide into ever-greater economic distress the base of popular opposition, and directly raised questions of power and tions had sprung up in many centers. National campaigns across the within the educational arena were being mobilized. Middle layers of the added weight to the growing national presence of youth. Wider layers pressures to choose sides. Small but vocal progressive teachers' organizapopulation, like teachers, were faced with insistent and unavoidable SANSCO, and the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS) changed its name to the South African National Student Congressorganizations like the Azanian Student Organisation (AZASO), which later consciousness tradition, were also formed. Older, tertiary student of youth congresses from 1983 onwards. The dominant movement was organizational base was given to unemployed youth through the formation Students Movement and Azanian Youth Union, drawing on the black nonracial in orientation, but other student organizations like Azanian had been formed. Unity talks were in process to create COSATU. By 1984, the United Democratic Front (UDF) and National Forum (NF)

national self-determination. As Lulu Johnson, president of COSAS, noted The demand for SRCs acted as a microcosm for the broader demand for (SRCs), an end to harassment of female student and release of detainees. recognition of democratically constituted Student Representative Councils students around demands for an end to corporal punishment, popular teachers and police action in schools. COSAS was organizing the Witwatersrand, students protested against racist teachers, dismissals of sporadic flare-ups and was mainly concerned with educational issues. On Between 1980 and 1984, student resistance consisted of very occasional, A watershed in popular and educational resistance occurred in 1984

when it was banned, "the demand for democratic SRCs is part of the process of preparing ourselves and building a future South Africa where representation will be genuine and democratic." "

for by a strong worker-student alliance on November 4, 1984 turn, triggered a historic, massively successful stay-away on the Rand called neighboring areas by the South African Defense Force (SADF) which, a massive show of force by the state, and the occupation of Sharpeville and seventy-five African schools in the Transvaal were emptied.⁸⁰ This evoked schools en masse to protest with their communities. place for black families to live in South Africa, it did explode. Students left the Vaal townships around the Reef, estimated to be the most expensive time-bomb was beginning to explode. As the state tried to raise rents in students out of schools had risen to 630,000 by August. The education students from these constituencies joined the boycotts. colored and Indian areas for members to the new Parliament, 40,000 more children in white South Africa. In August, as elections were held in Free State, Northern and Eastern Cape, involving more than 20,000 months, boycotts spread to many smaller towns in the Transvaal, Orange left on the streets with no alternative form of schooling. In the succeeding area were suspended for the rest of the year. Six thousand students were democratic Students' Representative Council began. In July, schools in the transfer to another school in another region. Atteridgeville, Pretoria, a boycott whose goal was recognition of a him go, and began their boycott. Also at the beginning of the year, in assassinated by apartheid death squads in July 1985, was threatened with The year 1984 began with a boycott of a school in the small rural town Here a teacher, Matthew Goniwe His students refused to see Five hundred and The number of

For all sides this was a turning point. What followed for the next two years was one of the most intense, sustained mass revolts yet seen in South Africa. It combined both spontaneous and organized forms of resistance. Its geographical spread was far wider than the 1976 rebellion or the 1980 boycotts, involving not only those in cities and large towns, but also those trapped in the smaller dops of the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Natal and struggles now merged with national ones. The state responded with brute force. A state of emergency was declared in the middle of 1985. Unlike 1976, when the SADF left the attack on youth to the South African police, armoured military vehicles used to quash anti-apartheid popular resistance roamed the townships and occupied school grounds. Schooling took place at gunpoint. COSAS was banned, children were detained, beaten and shot

in township after township.⁸¹ State violence against children, while not new, assumed frightening dimensions. Schooling in education ceased, while a new schooling in violence began. Vigilantes, conservative and similar elements within townships, informers and agents provocateur, all espitalized on a volatile situation, diverting attention from the economic and political roots of the revolt and allowing for its representation by the courth African media in the ideological terms of "black on black violence". The violence agents a status.

by other issues to run "awareness classes" (1980), it began to build the basis for a new, national curriculum and content through its Peoples (1976), or of relying on inexperienced students and teachers hard-pressed in the schools. Instead of merely critiquing the system of Bantu Education Student Associations (PTSAs) were to widen the base of democratic control in an appropriate context and manner. Through it, Parent Teacher as peoples' courts challenged the official system of distribution and abrogated by the state, of ensuring that children and students be educated affliate of the UDF), later to become the NECC, took on the task, regulation of justice, so the Soweto Parents Crisis Committee (SPCC, an in the formation of the National Education Crisis Committee (NECC). Just hand, united action between parents, students and teachers was presaged but greater parent involvement in the students' struggle. On the other in schools in 1985 produced not only the Western Cape Teachers Union (MECTU), which lasted until the end of 1988 when it, too, was banned, were organized. In Cape Town, the intensification of military intervention struggle. On the one hand, wider sectors within the educational arena These drew on a leadership more seasoned than students in political The violence against children and the inadequate state response to the gave birth in 1985 to new popular organizations

Education Commissions and subject committees in English and history. Whereas the hallmark of the 1976 fightback was its spontaneous anger, and that of the 1980 boycotts the theoretical advances they generated, the striking feature of the 1984-86 period was the development of firm and concrete links between student, national and working class organizations. The Soweto-sparked student actions were a powerful indictment of aparthetic education policy and prefigured in many respects what was to come. The 1980 boycotts reflected the growing maturity of the student body and pointed the way to Peoples Education, while 1984-86 was the mass explosion of several decades of anger, sparked by worsening economic conditions and false political promises. It represented also the culmination of a decade of intense and rapid mobilization, politicization and organization. Although conflicts within the opposition existed, and

even though mobilization in some cases took precedence over simultaneous organization such that it was unevenly developed, the educational map of South Africa had been transformed with the space of a mere ten years. Political sruggle in the field of education was a vital component in shifting the balance of forces to the side of the oppressed in such a dramatic fashion that new strategies have had to be devised by the state to defend its interests.

Conclusion

The roots of segregated schooling lie in the particular form of industrialization and the nature of the state developed in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. To a large extent the social policy to which education and schooling was related was predicated on maintaining a black migrant work force and a stabilized white working class. Schooling was to ensure the reproduction of this labor structure along racially defined lines. Through education, white workers and youth were politically and ideologically incorporated into a white state to absorb and mute rising social and cultural conflicts between white state to absorb and mute rising social and cultural conflicts between white labor and capital. Thus, in the course of the first two decades of the twentieth century, education became fragmented along racial lines into four schooling systems for whites, Indians, coloreds and Africans respectively. The curricula, control and funding of schooling was also restructured according to the perceived "racial, economic and social differences" between whites and blacks.

This pattern of development was consolidated in the succeeding four decades through a process in which white schools were developed and black schools neglected. Government commitment to a 'white labor policy" in the 1920s ensured preferential treatment for white education while the concept of "adapted education" provided the rationale for segregated schooling for blacks based more on cultural than color differences and anthropological rather than biological grounds. Within the state, conflict developed over social policy between those seeking to secure a migrant-labor based political economy and those who sought the stabilization of the black working class through adequate wages, housing, education. Amongst the latter liberal reformists, the proposal for state control of African Education through a Board of Bantu Education was swept aside by the victory of the National Party in 1948. Education policy was now structured by a social and political policy which anticipated

ok precedence over simultative development of labor power differentially developed as migrant and whose rights were articulated within the bantustan framework. With the space of a mere ten to head a large extent related to this process. Bantu Education would restruct of the oppressed in such a conditions for stabilizing a class of black semi-skilled workers, entrench withini-rive Commences, and construct national consciousness on the basis of

ethnicity. Segregated tertiary education would also provide a means of ideological incorporation in the bantustans of an elite to staff its apparatus. The "contradictions of Bantu Education" set as well as the beginnings of seventies led to the emergence of students and youth as a powerful counter-hegemonic force. Integral to the new culture of opposition, which conceptualization of people as national and not ethnic subjects, as an important recent feature of this culture was the integring to a unitary South Africa and not to fragmented ethnic units. Search for constructive alternatives, as expressed in the ideal of 'People's books and methods, to the present educational dispensation.

The state has attempted to accommodate these pressures and to re-assert its initiative through a combination of violence and reform, shifting its emphasis from the Verwoerdian formulation of apartheid education to a new version of segregated schooling in which a more technocratic and less about for industry. Paradoxically, while recognizing the need for equality in education, segregated schooling remains the framework in which equal reliated to be reached. While the economic and political crisis deepens, in the educational arena a nation-wide alliance involving has been consolidated. The breakdown of apartheid education appears inversible.

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