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Abstract: The rainbow nation of South Africa has come a long way. From Colonialism to the Boer wars that empowered minority white population and the system of racial segregation and apartheid regime that secluded and discriminated against the majority indigenous African and other peoples of colour. Apartheid was finally dismantled after a negotiated process culminated in an election of the first black president Mr Nelson Mandela and his party the African National Congress.

The African National Congress which has dominated the political scene in South Africa like a colossus since 1994, has indeed made some progress towards reversing most of the relics of apartheid but the huge expectation of impoverished Africans remains to be fully realised though the country has moved on with a new multi-racial democratic constitution enacted in 1996, the electoral system of closed lists proportional system has come along with its teething challenges including political party centeredness that leaves little room for the politicians to be directly accountable to the electorate. This chapter provides an in-depth and comprehensive study of South Africa's political process. From the biodata to historical origins and development, it also examines the peoples and culture, governmental structure and institutions as well as political culture/socialization process, political recruitment, interests groups and political parties. The chapter also examined the policy process and contemporary political challenges of South Africa.

