

Gordimer (1)

It's inevitable that nineteenth-century colonialism should finally come to its end there [South Africa], because there it reached its ultimate expression, open in the legalized land- and mineral-grabbing, open in the labor exploitation of indigenous peoples, open in the constitutionalized, institutionalized racism that was concealed by the British under the pious notion of uplift, the French and Portuguese under the sly notion of selective assimilation. An extraordinarily obdurate crossbreed of Dutch, German, English, French in the South African white settler population produced a bluntness that unveiled everyone's refined white racism: the flags of European civilization dropped, and there it was, unashamedly, the ugliest creation of man, and they baptized the thing in the Dutch Reformed Church, called it *apartheid*, coining the ultimate term for every manifestation, over the ages, in many countries, of race prejudice. Every country could see its semblances there; and most peoples.

"Living in the Interregnum," *New York Review of Books*, January 20, 1983, [nybooks.com](https://www.nybooks.com).

- 1910 Union of South Africa established (home rule)
- 1923 Nadine Gordimer b. Springs (near Johannesburg)
- 1948 National Party in power; apartheid institutionalized
- 1949 *Face to Face: Short Stories* (Johannesburg: Silver Leaf)
- 1953 "Six Feet of the Country," *New Yorker*, May 23, 1953
- 1960 Sharpeville massacre
- 1974 *The Conservationist* (London: Cape): Booker Prize
- 1976 Soweto uprising, June 16
- 1977 Black Consciousness leader Steve Biko murdered in detention
UN enacts arms embargo
- 1979 *Burger's Daughter* (New York: Viking); (briefly) banned in SA
- 1980 Zimbabwe achieves independence following civil war
- 1981 *July's People* (New York: Viking)
- 1985 [Rutgers divests from South Africa](#) after student protests
- 1990 negotiations to end apartheid begin
- 1991 Nobel Prize
- 1994 Nelson Mandela elected in first universal suffrage elections
- 1999 "Loot," *New Yorker*, March 22, 1999
- 2001 *The Pickup* (London: Bloomsbury); 2002 Commonwealth Prize
- 2014 d.

“I’m not a liberal, my dear,” she said sharply. “I’m a leftist.”

Rachel L. Swarns, “A Vibrant Battler of Apartheid Keeps Her Vibrancy,” *New York Times*, May 10, 2002, [nytimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com).