




**South African (apartheid) system
(continued)**

The first attempt to massify education for Blacks on the African continent came in 1953 with the Bantu Education Act which was promulgated in South Africa. The administration of schools in South Africa and Namibia was taken over by the South African regime. There is fairly general consensus that education under the Bantu Education Act promoted the subservience and subjugation of Africans and taught racial bigotry. Per pupil expenditure on Black, white, Asian and Coloured learners was not equal with white learners getting up to eight times more financial support from government coffers than Black learners.

Slavery

1. Slavery was practised in Africa from more or less 1444 when the first slaves were brought to Portugal from Northern Mauritania until 1936 when slavery was made illegal in Northern Nigeria.
2. In the space of 400 years millions of people were forcibly taken from Africa as slaves. Most of them went to the Americas and many were taken to the Middle East and North Africa.
3. Slavery did not originate in Africa but its scale was unprecedented. The Muslims of Spain took many of the *slavs* as slaves during the ninth century AD. The Greeks and Romans, the Ottomans, and Egyptians all kept slaves as did Imperial Russia in the first half of the 19th century.



Slavery (continued)

4. Slaves were shipped to the Americas in ships that carried from 260 to 600 slaves. Journeys lasted between 35 days and 2 to 3 months. Ships were generally overcrowded and slaves were packed in like spoons.
5. It is probable that at least 12 million slaves left the African continent and between 10 and 20% of them died on board. A British surgeon estimated that about two-thirds of the deaths on board occurred because of melancholy (depression).
6. If the slaves had not been forcibly removed from Africa, Africa's population could have been 4 times what it is today.