

## **OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY**

In South Africa it was very difficult to start any movement against apartheid policy. Any one opposed this policy was accused of being a communist and was severely punished. Because of the

oppression of the authority, the **African National Congress (ANC)** was helpless. In spite of this situation, protest movement started on different issues.

**The ANC leader Albert Luthuli** organized a protest movement in which the Africans stopped work on certain days. In 1952, Africans started a systematic breach of the laws by entering shops and other places reserved for the whites. Over 8000 blacks were arrested and Luthuli was put in jail and the campaign was called off.

**In 1955 the ANC formed a coalition with Asian and Coloured Groups.** They organized a massive open-air meeting at Kliptown near Johannesburg. There the leaders had just announced a **Freedom Charter** before the police broke up the gathering. The Charter contained the following demands:

- (a) Equality before law;
- (b) Freedom of assembly, movement, speech, religion and the press;
- (c) The right to vote;
- (d) The right to work with equal pay for equal work;
- (e) 40 hour working week, minimum wage and unemployment benefits;
- (f) Free medical care and
- (g) Free, compulsory and equal education.

This Charter soon became the main ANC programme.

Later on the ANC organized other protests like **1957 bus boycott**. Instead of paying a fare increase on the bus route from their town to Johannesburg ten miles away, thousands of Africans walked to work and back for three months until fare was reduced.

In 1960, protests reached a climax when huge demonstration took place at **Sharpeville**, an African township near Johannesburg. Police mercilessly fired on the innocent people killing 67 Africans and wounding many more. After this, 15000 Africans were arrested and the ANC was banned. After this brutal treatment, a number of black leaders decided that violence should be met with violence. There was a spate of bomb attacks, but the authority reacted quickly by arresting most of the black leaders including **Nelson Mandela**. He was sentenced to life imprisonment. Luthuli still continued the non-violent protests. After the publication of his autobiography **Let My People Go**, Luthuli was awarded the **Nobel Peace Prize**. He was killed in 1967, but the authority claimed that he had deliberately stepped in front of a train. Discontent and protest still continued during 1970s in different ways.

## MOVEMENTS CONTINUED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY

**The Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM)** originally known as Boycott Movement also spread outside South Africa. There was opposition to apartheid from the rest of the Commonwealth. The AAM scored its major victory when **South Africa was forced to leave Commonwealth in 1961**. It held a 72-hour vigil outside the Commonwealth venue, Marlborough House, and found willing allies in Canada, India and the newly independent Afro-Asian member states.

## THE UN AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY

The UN and OAU condemned apartheid. In 1962, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling on all member states to impose a **trade boycott against South Africa**. But this proved useless because not all member states supported it. Britain, America, France, West Germany and Italy though condemned apartheid in public but continued to trade with South Africa. In 1963 the UN Security Council called for a **partial arms ban against South Africa**, but this was not mandatory under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Among the other things, these countries sold South Africa massive arms in the hope that the country would be a base against the spread of communism in Africa. But the South African authority ignored the protests of the outside world till 1970s.

The African Sports Authority now presented a letter to the **International Olympic Committee** about racism in South African sports. The International Olympic Committee then passed a ruling suspending **South Africa from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics**. The Anti-Apartheid Movement was instrumental in initiating an **academic boycott of South Africa**. The declaration was signed by 496 university professors and lecturers to protest against apartheid and associated violations of academic freedom.

## CHANGE OF SITUATION

**After the election of 1979, P.W. Botha became the Prime Minister**. He declared that he should reform apartheid, dropping some of the most unpopular aspects, to preserve white control.

He thus introduced some important changes. These were:

- (1) Blacks were allowed to join trade unions and to go on strikes;
- (2) Blacks were allowed to elect their own local township councils, but not to vote in national elections.
- (3) A new Constitution was introduced setting up two new houses of Parliament, one for the Coloured and one for the Asians.
- (4) Marriages were allowed between people of different races and
- (5) The hated Pass Law for non-whites was abolished.

This was as far as Botha was prepared to go. He was not willing to consider the ANC's main demands like the right to vote and to play a full part in ruling the country.

In August, 1986, the Commonwealth, except Britain, agreed that there would be no further loans, no sale of oil, computer equipments or nuclear goods to South Africa and no cultural and scientific contacts would be continued. In September, **1987 American Congress** voted to stop American loans to South Africa, to cut air links and to ban imports of iron, steel, coal, textiles and uranium from South Africa.

A change was seen in South Africa when **F.W. de Klerk** became the President. He had realized the situation and decided that apartheid would go completely from the country. There

was a strong opposition from the Right Wing section. **In 1990, Nelson Mandela was released after 25 years in jail and became the leader of the ANC.** Most of the remaining apartheid laws were now dropped. Talks started in 1991 between the government and ANC to work out a new constitution which would allow the blacks full political rights.

### **TRANSITION TO BLACK MAJORITY RULE**

After the discussion, an agreement was reached how to carry through the transition to black majority rule. A general election was held and the ANC won by almost two-thirds of the votes. Accordingly, a Coalition government was formed and **Nelson Mandela became the First Black President and F.W. De Klerk, the Deputy President of South Africa.** It was a remarkable achievement for which both de Klerk and Nelson Mandela deserve the credit that South Africa was able to move from apartheid to black majority rule without a civil war.

### 10.3. FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN USA: EQUAL PAY ACT OF 1963-ITS IMPLICATION FOR AMERICAN WOMEN, SUCCESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY JOHNSON (CIVIL RIGHTS ACTS OF 1964), ROLE OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) AND ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

The Feminist Movement also known as Women's Movement, Women's Liberation or Women's Lib refers to a series of campaigns for reforms such as domestic violence, maternity leave, equal pay, women's suffrage, sexual harassment, and sexual violence, all of which fall under the label of feminism. The movement began in the Western world in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The Feminist Movement in the United States, Canada and certain countries in Western Europe has gone through three waves. **The first-wave of feminism involved suffrage and political equality. Second-wave feminism attempted to combat social and cultural inequalities. Third-wave feminism includes renewed campaign for women's greater influence in politics.** Writer Virginia Woolf was associated with the ideas of the first wave of feminism. In her book *A Room of One's Own* described how men socially and psychically dominate women. The first Convention was held in New York City in 1837 to discuss women's rights. In June 1848, presidential candidate Gerrit Smith made women's suffrage a plank in his party's platform, but the Liberty Party performed poorly at the polls. Under the influence of **Elizabeth Stanton**, a convention was held in Seneca Falls, New York in August, 1848. There a set of 12 resolutions was adopted calling for equal treatment of women and men. **Stanton** led the demand for voting rights for women. In the United States, the first-wave feminism ended with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1920 granting right to vote to the women.

The second wave of feminist activities began in the early 1960s and lasted through the late 1980s. Betty Friedan, born in February 4, 1921, was an American writer, activist, and feminist. She was a leading figure in the women's movement in the United States. Her book **the Feminine Mystique** sparked off the second wave of American feminism in the 20th century. In 1966, Friedan co-founded and was elected the first President of the National Organization for Women or NOW. The aim of this organization was to bring women into the main stream of American society in fully equal partnership with men. On August 26, 1970, Friedan organized the nationwide women's strike for equality in New York City. This strike attracted over 50,000 women. In 1971, Friedan joined other feminists to establish women's political rights. She was also a strong supporter of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States

Constitution. Regarded as an influential author and intellectual in the United States, Friedan remained active for women's equal rights. She died in February, 2005 at the age of 85 years. During this time, feminists started campaign against cultural and political inequalities. Another important movement, **the Women's Health Movement**, emerged in 1960s and 1970s in which multiple groups were involved. The movement exposed how the United States Health Care system was failing women. Male control over the system was questioned which led to women enrolling in Medical schools, midwives becoming licensed, and women becoming more involved. The movement led to pass the **Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (EEA)**.

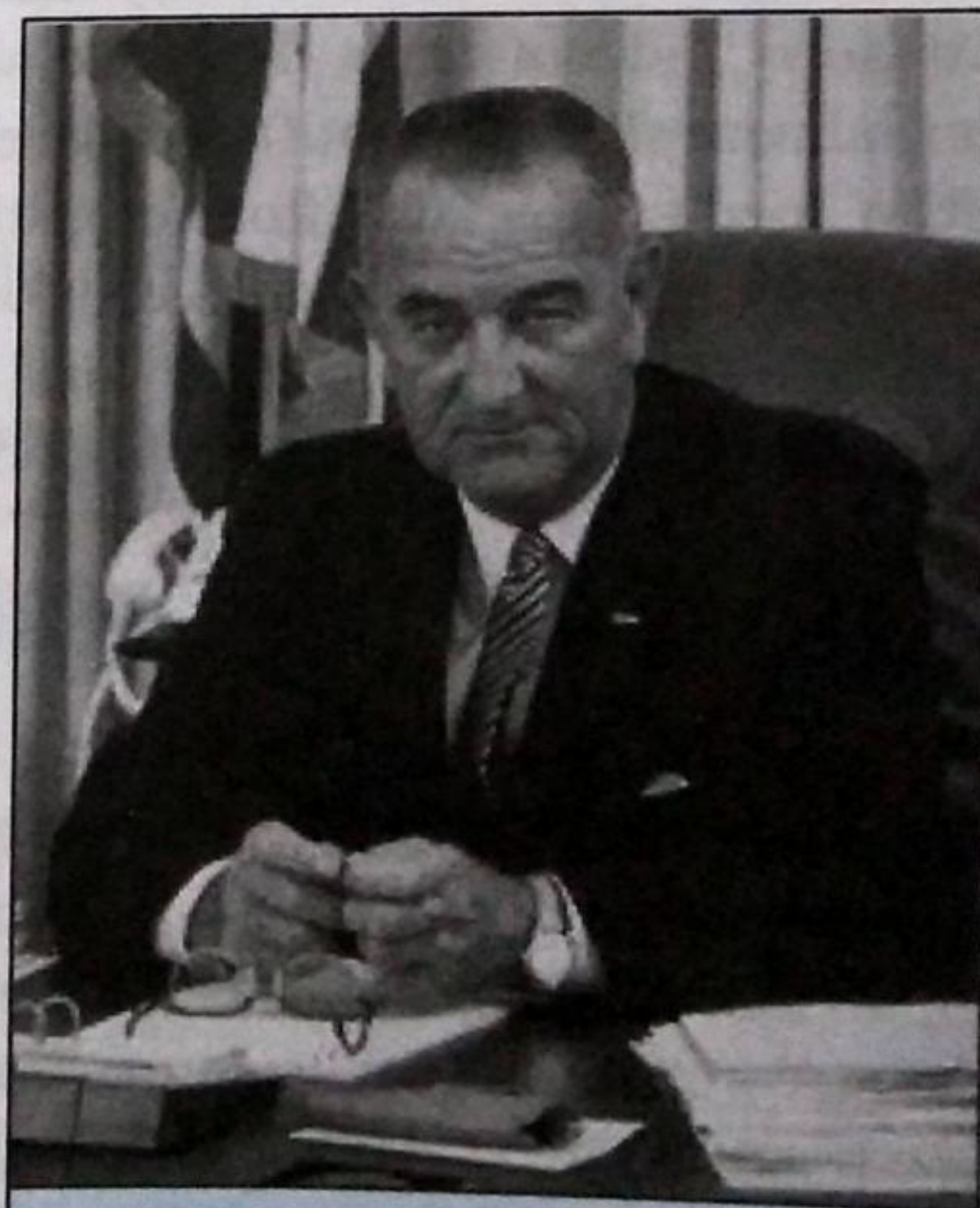
## MEASURES OF GOVERNMENT

During the Second World War, a large number of female workers took jobs in different factories. But the employers paid them low salaries than the male workers. Various Feminist groups protested against this gender discrimination. Finally the **American President J.F. Kennedy** decided to abolish this gender discrimination. In 1963 the US Congress passed the **Equal Pay Act** to prohibit discrimination on account of sex in the payment of wages by the employers. The Congress passed **Equal Pay Act 1963** out of concern for the weaker bargaining position of women. To provide a remedy to discriminatory wage-structure, the EPA provides that the employer may not pay lower wages to employees of one gender that it pays to the employees of the other gender employees within the same establishment with equal skill, responsibility and similar working conditions.

## CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

This Act was signed into laws by **President Lyndon B. Johnson on July 2, 1964**. This Act is a landmark piece of legislation in the United States. It outlawed discrimination based on race, colour, religion, sex or national origin. It ended unequal application of voter registration requirements and racial segregation in schools, at the work places and facilities that serve the general public.

Before this became law, women had been being treated as a less valuable employee in terms of their pay cheques. A woman and a man could have worked at the same place, doing the same amount of work and the woman received less money for her efforts. President Johnson tried to abolish this gender discrimination in the United States.



**President Lyndon B. Johnson**

## ROLE OF NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN (NOW) - ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

The National Organization for Women is a feminist organization founded in June 30, 1966 at Washington DC by 28 people who came to attend the Third National Conference of State Commission on the status of women. The founder-members included **Betty Friedan** who was also the first President of NOW. There were many influences contributing to the formation of the NOW. Such influences included the President's Commission on the Status of the Women and lack of enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which prohibited sexual discrimination. The President's **Commission on the Status of Women** was established in 1961 by **President John F. Kennedy** in the hope of providing a solution to the female discrimination in education, work force and social security. The main demand of the organization was to take action to bring women into full participation in the main stream of American society. Other demands were violence against women, constitutional equality, end of racism, economic justice and others. **A number of Southern states refused to ratify the Civil Rights Act of 1964.** The NOW encouraged its members to participate in marches and economic boycott for the ratification of the act by the states.

In 1970, the NOW picketed before the United States Senate which was holding hearing on a constitutional amendment to lower the voting age to eighteen years. Feminists disrupted the hearing demanding hearing on the **Equal Rights Amendment**. The ERA proposed for amendment to the United States Constitution to guarantee equal rights for women. The ERA was introduced in the Congress in 1972. It passed both houses of Congress and went to the state legislature for ratification. **But ERA failed to receive the requisite number of state ratification (38) before the final deadline set by Congress of June 30, 1982 and so it was not adopted because five states did not ratify this act.** Simple passing the amendment in the two Houses of Congress did not mean the work was finished. According to American constitution, the amendment should be ratified in at least three-fourths of the states (38 out of 50 states). The NOW tried to direct the efforts of getting the amendment ratified in at least three-fourths states. Feminist organizations of the late 1960s and early 1970s saw ratification of the amendment as the clear-cut way to eliminate all legal gender-based discrimination in the United States. The Feminist organizations continue to work at the Federal and State level for the adoption of ERA.

## Social Impact of the Feminist Movement

From the 1960's, on the women's liberation movement had campaigned for women's rights like same pay as men, equal rights in law, women suffrage, greater access to education, the right to initiate divorce proceedings, the right to own property and others. Professor Steven Pinker argues that the feminist movement has reduced domestic violence. The efforts of the movement had met with mixed results. In the final three decades of the 20th century, western women felt a new freedom through birth control. This enabled them to plan their adult lives, often making way for both career and family. It has also led to broad employment for women at more equitable

wages and access to university education. The movement gave a strong support for the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution passed in the House of representatives and the Senate. Thus, the feminist movement brought a great change among the women of the United States of America. Now also played an important role in this movement.



Answer the following:

1. Discuss the anti-apartheid movement in Africa.
2. Discuss the main features of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
3. Discuss all the features of the waves of Feminist movement.
4. State the role of the National Organisation for Women for necessary ratification of the Equal Rights of 1964 by some of the Southern states.