

South African Bantustans or "Homelands"

- June 4, 1948: Afrikaner-supported Nationalist Party unseats South African Party of Jan Christian Smuts. Nationalists accelerate legal and social separation of the races.
- 1951: Bantu Authorities Act to establish "Bantustans" or "homelands" for 10 different black tribes on 13% of the country's land.
- 1959: Bantu Self-Government Act, granted self-government to 10 "Bantustans" or "homelands" for different black tribes on 13% of the country's land. Bophuthatswana (Tswana), Ciskei (Xhosa), Gazankulu (Tsonga/Shangaan), KaNgwane (Swazi), KwaNdebele (Ndebele), KwaZulu (Zulu), Lebowa (Northern Sotho), QwaQwa (Southern Sotho), Transkei (Xhosa tribe), Venda (Venda),
- 1970: Black Homelands Citizenship Act: made black South Africans into citizens of the homelands even if they lived in "white" South Africa, and cancelled their South African citizenship.
- 1973: *Linn's Stamp News* suggests new Zululand stamps may be issued pursuant to apartheid policies.
- Transkei's philatelic debut was front page news on *Linn's* in the summer of 1976. Philatelic Services in Pretoria sets up INTERSAPA as a philatelic agent for the Homelands.
- October 26, 1976: Transkei (3 enclaves in the eastern Cape Province) declares independence. (Scott 1-4). In Resolution 402 (1976), the United Nations condemned moves by South Africa to pressure Lesotho to recognize Transkei by having Transkei close its borders with Lesotho: During its existence, Transkei issued 302 stamps and 13 souvenir sheets. In 1985, 85% of Transkei's income came from payments from the South African government.
- December 6, 1977: Bophuthatswana (6 enclaves spread over 3 provinces) declares independence. (Scott 1-4). Botswana agreed on "informal arrangements" short of recognition in order to facilitate cross-border travel. *Time* magazine wrote that Bophuthatswana had

“considerable economic potential” with an expected \$30 million a year coming from platinum mining revenues. (Scott 47-50). 65% of Bophuthatswana’s population worked outside the homeland. Bophuthatswana was home to the famous Sun City resort – gambling was illegal in South Africa. (Scott 64-67). During its existence, Bophuthatswana issued 302 stamps and 10 souvenir sheets.

- September 13, 1979: Venda (in the northeastern Transvaal) declares independence. Madimbo corridor, cutting Venda off from Zimbabwe border, patrolled by South African troops. During its existence, Venda issued 280 stamps and 12 souvenir sheets.
- December 4, 1981: Ciskei (in the eastern Cape Province) declares independence. Another homeland for the Xhosa tribe, the name *Ciskei* meaning “on this side of the Kei River” distinguished it from *Transkei*, meaning “on the north side of the Kei River.” During its existence, Venda issued 228 stamps and 12 souvenir sheets.
- An attempt to transfer parts of KaNgwane to Swaziland in 1982 failed following litigation filed by Chief Buthelezi of KwaZulu. The homeland's territory had been claimed by King Sobhuza of Swaziland, and the South African government hoped to use the homeland as a buffer zone against guerrilla infiltration from Mozambique. This would have given land-locked Swaziland access to the sea.
- In 1987, a coup d’etat in Transkei was led General Bantu Holomisa, the then-leader of the Transkei Defense force, the homeland’s officially sanctioned military unit. Holomisa became head of state and the Transkei was from that point effectively in alliance with the African National Congress and provided a relatively safe area for the ANC’s activities.
- April 27, 1994: South Africa’s first multi-racial elections held; Transkei, Bophuthatswana, Venda and Ciskei reincorporated into South Africa. Their stamps remain valid for postage in South Africa to this day.
- May 10, 1994: Nelson Mandela sworn in as President of South Africa.



Transkei
Independent 10/26/76
(Xhosa)



Bophuthatswana
Independent 12/6/77
(Tswana)



Venda
Independent 9/13/79
(Venda)



Ciskei
Independent 12/4/81
(Xhosa)



Gazankulu
(Tsonga/Shangaan)



KaNgwane
(Swazi)



KwaNdebele
(Ndebele)



KwaZulu
(Zulu)



Lebowa
(Northern Sotho)



QwaQwa
(Southern Sotho)