
"The Art of Becoming a Minority…” discusses the significance of political ethnicity and nationalism in South African culture. Alsheh analyzes the meaning of what constitutes a minority in a nation where the state of race and the voice/power that it holds may be different than what is normally thought of as typical to the world today. This article discusses how the formal political end of the apartheid did not result in a halt in the assumed superiority of the Afrikaans culture. Because the end of the apartheid did not equate to an end of the Afrikaans influence as a culture, there is speculation that the effort to preserve the Afrikaans culture equals the effort to enforce Afrikaans as superior (nationalism). Alsheh explains the difference between cultural conservation and nationalism. Afrikaans is observed as a competitor to English influence in language and education. Language and education provide a large foundation for the state of a nation and the ways of life that the people approve of, which may be why the Afrikaans population wishes to challenge its assimilation into English. South Africa’s white population is largely split into Afrikaans and English, and Afrikaans people want to avoid being grouped into the more internationally known English speaking community. This article explains that Afrikaners do not wish to obtain superiority, but they desire for their ethnicity and differences to be celebrated in politics. They understand that they are a minority and do not wish to claim the power of a majority, hence they embrace “the art of becoming a minority”. This perception is different than that of the white demographic who, even in places where they hold the minority in population, tend to claim a large influence in politics. This article contradicts with “Make Afrikaners Great Again!”, another piece that I included later in this bibliography.


This article argues for the legalization of the sale of the rhino horn. When first posed, this sounds ridiculous to most; why the sale of a body part of a terribly endangered species should be
legalized sounds contradictory. Biggs’s reason for this argument is that “it artificially restricts supply in the face of persistent and growing demand.” Even though rhino horn trade was made illegal in 1977, the value of it has skyrocketed and is worth more than diamonds and gold in its weight. Because of the rhino horn’s incredible monetary value, there has been increased hunting of rhinos which puts the species in great danger. Parks have implemented increased security, however that yields high costs and makes the illegal trade of rhino horns even riskier. If the trade was made legal, there would be less incentive to illegally poach. Also, rhinos would not have to be killed to get their horn because they can be sedated for a low cost and the horn would safely be removed: their horn is sawed off and the rhino goes about unharmed. There is a certain attitude towards illegal products that can make them more desirable to have or make the product special because effort that had to go into obtaining it and the fact that they are not supposed to have it but do anyway. When the product becomes legalized, certain parts of it become less desirable because now anyone can get their hands on the “cancer cure”.

https://christinerevellchildrenshome.co.za

Christine Revell Children’s Home, located in Athlone, Cape Town is where I spent much of my time volunteering while abroad. The home was started about 60 years ago by a woman named Christine Revell, who opened this haven as care for unwed mothers. Today, it is a children’s home that provides care for up to 49 children ages 0-6 who have been abused or neglected. The home’s primary goal is to reunite the children with their birth parents if possible. If that is not an option, the children may be adopted or move on to another orphanage when they reach 6 years old. At the home, the children have lots of time to play outside each day and receive three meals and two snacks a day. The home has many volunteers come through its doors each day and the children develop relationships with both the employees and volunteers at the home. Volunteering at this home made me become much more interested in early childhood development and I realized how important care and love is for children in their first years of life. Volunteering here was one of my favorite parts about living in Cape Town because it gave me a purpose of being there greater than just myself, and I believe that both the children and I benefited from my presence at the home.

The Cradle of Humankind is known as the birthplace of the human race and also is a UNESCO World Heritage site. This book discusses the history of the location as well as fossils and historical evidence found at this incredibly significant location to humanity. I will be going to the Cradle of Humankind next month (January 2019) and plan on including what I learn from this visit in my project.


*South Africa: The Apartheid Years* is a documentary about life in South Africa before and during the apartheid. The film provides background information on the mixture of black and white life before the twentieth century and facts on why the English were able to obtain power. Tribal divisions weakened the Africans, and later Africans realized that they must do away with tribalism if they were ever going to compete against outsiders. Whites dominated parliament even though they did not dominate the population. Because they had power in the government, they were able to create laws such as the Land Act of 1913 which took 93% of land away from Native Africans. Other forms of oppression were introduced such as a passbook that black and colored people were required to carry or else they would be subject to arrest. Laws like this show a resemblance to how Jewish and minority groups of people were treated in the WWII period; they were required to carry special paperwork at all times that validated them as citizens. Protests against the mistreatment ensued which were met with violence from the police and government. The ANC had been using non-violent techniques for a while, but when that did not work they began to use violence as well to fight against the oppression of the apartheid.


I was not able to find the original “Age and education effects on cognitive functioning in coloured South African women” article, but I wanted to include the responses to this very recent study done in South Africa in my research because it directly ties to the inherent racism still
present in the post-Apartheid country. In April 2019, while I was still studying in Cape Town, researchers from Stellenbosch University [Cape Town’s neighbor] published a study about the cognitive function of coloured women in South Africa, and in South Africa “couloured” is a term used to describe a person of a mix of races [black, white, and coloured are the three main racially descriptive terms]. This study received immediate backlash and it was questioned how it was allowed for the study to be published at all.


*Secret Cape Town* is a piece that takes the reader on a journey throughout notable places to visit in Cape Town. It organizes landmarks by region of Cape Town and provides background history as well as the significance to why each location should be visited. *Secret Cape Town* has provided inspiration for how I would like to formulate my final project. The book includes landmarks of both historical and natural connotation.


*Long Walk to Freedom* is Nelson Mandela’s highly acclaimed autobiography that takes readers on an intimate journey through Mandela’s life, but mainly his work to fight against the apartheid that consumed South Africa in the mid to late 1900’s. Although the apartheid is politically over now in South Africa, I believe that this work is important to read before journeying over to South Africa because it holds insight on what the country was like not too long ago, and parts of what used to be still resonate in ways of current life. “The struggle is my life” is another term coined with Mandela, as he dedicated basically his entire life to ending the struggle that was the apartheid. He was not able to see his children grow up or spend time with his wife because he spent the majority of his adulthood in prison. Mandela refused to be released from prison until the South African government erased the laws of the apartheid, and upon release he became the first president of South Africa in its new democracy.

When studying abroad, the ethics of volunteerism and the white savior complex were often discussed amongst my service learning class as well as the whole program. My service learning professor discussed reciprocity in terms of the service projects we participated in. I know that I personally gained a lot from volunteering at the children’s home, and I may have gained more for myself than what I gave them. However, there is no real way for me to measure individual growth against the function of an orphanage and early childhood development. Volunteer trips are popular amongst teens and college students, but the majority of people choose to pay the high expenses for these trips to travel and is based on where they want to go, not necessarily if the place they want to visit would benefit from their presence. Voluntourism is not the same as normal volunteering in a developing country. The former runs off of a profit from a company.


Table Mountain is what creates Cape Town’s beautiful, picturesque, and mountainous skyline. It also often dons a layer of clouds on top of it, known as the “table cloth”, which appears when “air from the SE is forced up Table Mountain under such conditions that condensation can occur on the slopes.” This table cloth is the reason that hiking around and on Table Mountain can be so dangerous. When Table Mountain is set, the table cloth is so thick that it fills the air. The surroundings, including the edge of the mountain, cannot be seen. So, if someone is exploring the top of the mountain and walks too close to the edge but cannot exactly see where the edge is because of the table cloth, a dark fate could await them. When reading through this article, I realized that it discussed the flow of water droplets and the condensation around the mountain in a way similar to the conversations and lectures I heard in my measurements class that I took at the University of Cape Town. Not only does this article relate back to the extensive amount of hiking that I did in Cape Town and love for nature that it gave me, but it also relates back to my academics from the semester.

This article looks at urban tourism in South Africa and attempts to surface attention towards it. Nature and cultural tourism are the two most popular generators of tourism in South Africa but urban tourism is growing, especially in Cape Town, South Africa where I studied last semester. Tourism is considered an “invisible export” because it can bring in large amounts of money to the city and a “major catalyst for urban regeneration” which is needed throughout the still-recovering post-apartheid South Africa. Cape Town in particular utilizes its natural beauty, expansive waterfront, and unique blend of cultures to tend to tourists’ time and wallets. When walking through the V&A Waterfront, a main tourist attraction in Cape Town, one of my friends commented that it reminded them of Disney World—that is not something that can be said about many other places in South Africa or Africa as a whole even. Markets are also a popular activity for tourists to attend to on the weekends, and Cape Town has those aplenty. Rogerson mentions “the danger of the serial reproduction of tourism products” which was a concern the whole semester in South Africa. It was difficult to know whether to trust the claims that products were homemade or not, but we soon found out that most tourist gadgets were mass produced and distributed. The top three approaches to urban tourism are physical attractions, cultural attractions, and events. Cape Town has all three: for physical attractions, the V&A Waterfront is the star with shopping, restaurants, and glamorous hotels. It is also home to the modern Zietz Museum and Two Oceans Aquarium. Cultural attractions come naturally to Cape Town with its blend of different African and Western cultures found in everywhere from food to fashion and artwork. One of my favorite parts of the Mother City is that there is so much to do there; it was difficult to not find something to do.


HIV is incredibly common in South Africa, it has one of the highest rates in the world. There is also a strong stigma attached to HIV/AIDS and those who have it: “40% of persons with HIV/AIDS had experienced discrimination resulting from having HIV infection and one in five had lost a place to stay or a job because of their HIV status.” Because of this, institutions like the children’s home that I volunteered at have a policy in place that forbids the discrimination
against those with the disease, and all are treated equally. It is also not allowed to discuss one’s HIV status. Because of how HIV is transmitted, through sex and drugs, it adds a layer of taboo to it. The stigma attached to the disease is an issue that needs to be overcome.


*The Making of Modern South Africa* goes through the history of South Africa and the formulation of racial segregation and the apartheid to the current post-apartheid climate. Worden connects the past with the present; where South Africa came from and how that has led to the present situation. It is important to be aware of why South Africa is what it is now and what shaped it to be this way in order to understand the current climate that I will be participating in which is why this book will be helpful for my project.


"Make Afrikaners Great Again!" is an article that describes how the white minority of South Africa refuses to settle and live as a minority population typically does, with less voice in the government. The apartheid was created by a group of white Afrikaners and this piece makes evident the feeling of superiority that the white Afrikaans population is known to have and dives into the racial culture of post-apartheid South Africa. Although there are no longer official laws that separate and selectively oppress South Africa’s population based off of race, remnants of the apartheid still echo in the country’s culture and socio-economic life today. In Cape Town, where I lived while studying abroad, the divide was still very clear. The wealthier white population lived in ZAR1,000,000,000 houses in affluent areas by the seaside such as Seapoint and Camps Bay while much of the black population resided in the townships created during the apartheid.