

6. Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity Agreement Relating to Supply Chain Resilience. URL: <https://www.commerce.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/2023-09-07-IPEF-Pillar-II-Final-Text-Public-Release.pdf> (date of access: 22.03.2025).

Vladislav Belko, Alina Velentei
Science tutor *L.V. Bedritskaya*
BSEU (Minsk)

THE CONTRIBUTION OF NELSON MANDELA'S POLICIES AND THEIR IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL ECONOMY

The world economy and social movements have been significantly affected by the activities of Nelson Mandela, a prominent South African leader and human rights fighter. Mandela began his career as a lawyer before becoming a key figure in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. He served as the country's president from 1994 to 1999, becoming the first black leader since the end of racial segregation.

Mandela implemented a dramatic change of course from previous governments that had supported a system of apartheid and racial discrimination. He established the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which investigated human rights violations and promoted national healing.

The Apartheid era in South Africa (1948-1994) was defined by racial segregation enforced by the all-white National Party government. Non-white South Africans faced separation from whites and restricted access to public facilities. Following the 1948 electoral victory, laws formalized this segregation, classifying citizens into four racial groups: black, Indian, coloured, and white. Millions of black South Africans were forcibly relocated to tribal homelands, while whites controlled urban areas.

The regime adopted Afrikaans as the official language, disenfranchising black citizens and relegating them to low-wage labor. Political organizations emerged to challenge this dominance but faced severe repression.

By the 1980s, internal dissent and international pressure prompted a reassessment of policies. Ultimately, the regime conceded to reform, resulting in the release of political prisoners and the establishment of a constitutional democracy in 1994, emphasizing non-racialism.

Former South African President Nelson Mandela actively protested against apartheid for most of his life, becoming one of the world's most famous political prisoners. His activism never faltered; he delivered powerful speeches, wrote letters from prison, and, after his release in 1990, engaged in negotiations with government officials to end apartheid. Mandela's leadership was pivotal in the transition to a democratic South Africa, promoting reconciliation and nation-building.

Mandela's efforts not only dismantled apartheid but also had a profound impact on the global stage. His commitment to human rights and equality inspired movements worldwide, fostering a greater awareness of social justice issues. Economically, the end of apartheid opened South Africa to international trade and investment, leading to

increased economic growth and integration into the global economy. Mandela's legacy continues to shape discussions on equality and justice, making him a symbol of peace and resilience.

Under Nelson Mandela, South Africa sought to share natural resources, employment and education for all, and his five-year reign was certainly marked by economic developments.

The official unemployment rate in South Africa was as high as 25 per cent for many years, and even higher among young people. Change has been slow even after the end of apartheid, but the percentage of employed South Africans rose from 48.4 per cent in 1990 to 52.2 per cent in 2000.

In terms of overall economic situation, GDP per capita also increased, rising from \$5,760 in 1990 to \$6,679 in 2000. While total GDP has fluctuated, inflation has shown a significant decline. It was 14 per cent until 1994, but fell to 5 per cent over the next decade.

And the lifting of sanctions, such as UN embargoes and Commonwealth restrictions, has meant a rapid increase in trade, and one of the characteristics of the past period has been the constant expansion of international trade.

Nelson Mandela's legacy transcends South Africa. His relentless pursuit of human rights and equality toppled a repressive regime and set a global standard for peaceful democratic transitions. Economically, he transformed South Africa from an isolated state into an active global player, as evidenced by rising employment, GDP per capita, and trade, alongside declining inflation.

His influence endures in global conversations about equality, justice, and economic development. Mandela's life demonstrates that inclusive policies and social harmony are vital for prosperity, leaving a lasting mark on the world as a symbol of peace, resilience, and transformative leadership.

REFERENCES:

1. World Economic Forum [Electronic resource]: South Africa – Mode of access: <https://www.weforum.org/stories/2015/07/5-ways-south-africa-changed-after-mandelas-release/>. - Date of access: 22.03.2025.
2. African Union [Electronic resource]: AUHRM Project Focus Area: The Apartheid – Mode of access: <https://au.int/en/auhrm-project-focus-area-apartheid>. - Date of access: 23.03.2025.
3. Aljazeera [Electronic resource]: South Africa: 30 years after apartheid, what has changed? – Mode of access: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/27/south-africa-30-years-after-apartheid-what-has-changed>. - Date of access: 24.03.2025.