

S.S.
Per. 5 History
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Final Draft

The characters and events in the movie Cry Freedom were historically accurate with Apartheid in South Africa during the 1900's. The movie was basically about South Africans fighting for freedom and independence. Denzel Washington played the character of Stephen Biko, the leader of the Africans uprising against the Whites. He was also more intellectual than the authorities. Kevin Klein played Donald Woods, the editor for a newspaper called the Daily Dispatch in East London. He printed out an article containing photos of a forced entry in a black community. Printing such things was against the law. Woods, alongside Biko, was against the way black people are being treated. Biko was arrested on his way to Cape Town and dies in custody. Woods heard of this incident and traveled to London to publish a book about it. This movie is quite accurate towards the Apartheid that happened during the 1900's. Throughout the seventeenth century, the Dutch and English took over South Africa, the Public Safety Act & the Criminal Law Amendment Act was approved in 1953, and Apartheid was created to divide white and non-white South Africans. These are reasons why this movie was historically accurate.

One reason why this movie is fairly accurate is because during the actual Apartheid era, the Dutch and English took over South Africa. While this was going on, racial intolerance was spread throughout the laws of South Africa. Such laws included the prevention of marriage between whites and non-whites. Also, jobs were authorized only

for white people. This obviously brought up protests against the white government from the blacks.

Looking at the way blacks were being treated, whites never had respect for them in the past. Most of their first-generations were strained to come here without their consent. They were prohibited to practice their own religion and to speak their native language. Considering all of this, protest were the only way they could be heard. However, the Public Safety Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Act was passed in 1953. Both laws augmented the punishments for protesting against the government. Although, in 1960, blacks held yet another protest against the government in Sharpeville. The law enforcements were forced to call a state of emergency. This lasted for 156 days, which left 187 people injured and 69 dead. Apartheid was made to divide whites and non-whites.

Due to Apartheid, South Africa was excluded from the United Nations in 1974. Apartheid in South Africa was formed to segregate whites and non-whites, to make life superior for whites and to control the blacks. This movie relates very much to Black History Month. It relates because Black History Month brings up historical figures and leaders, such as Martin Luther King, Jr. Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for black freedom and independence. During his time, whites and blacks were separated, just like they were in South Africa during the Apartheid. A prominent Church leader once said, "South Africa belongs to us once more. For the first time since union, South Africa is our own. May god grant that it will always remain so." (No Author.

http://www.rebirth.co.za/apartheid_history1.htm. February 22, 2003)

Tolerance and acceptance about people with differences play a big part in Black History Month. If it wasn't for Martin Luther King standing up for what he believed in, we might not have been where we are today.

In the movie Cry Freedom, the characters and events are historically accurate with Apartheid in South Africa during the 1900's. Its contents are very similar to the ethnic intolerance that was spread highly throughout the laws of South Africa. The movie can be compared to the Public Safety Act and the Criminal Law Amendment Acts that were passed in 1953. Apartheid was created to separate whites and non-whites in South Africa. Also, the movie relates extremely to Black History Month. Steve Biko can be very similar, and can be compared to, Martin Luther King, Jr. They both fought for what they believed in, and who knows what our world would be like without people like them.

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