**From the Fight against Nazism towards the Victory of Apartheid**

**(Union of South Africa in the years 1939-1961)**

**Contents of the course**

This course will address the development of the political environment and society in the Union of South Africa between 1939 and 1961. This period is characterized not only by close cooperation with Great Britain during World War II, the temporary suppression of nationalist opposition and the dominance of the United Party led by Jan Smuts in the South African political scene, but also by social tensions and escalating conflict between the mainly Afrikaner “white” populations in the Union and non-European ethnic groups. Regardless of the fact that the Union was on the side of the victors in World War II and the sacrifice that it had to make in comparison with many other belligerent countries was relatively small, Smuts and his United Party suffered a fatal defeat in the first post-war elections in 1948. These elections not only meant the actual end of Smuts’ political career and the repositioning of the United Party to the place of permanent opposition and the departure of the United Party to its place as permanent opposition, but also the beginning of the rule of Afrikaner nationalists that lasted more than forty years.

**Aims of the course**

This course aims to give students an overview of the changes in society, economy and political climate in the Union during World War II, in the final years of Smuts’ government and the reasons that led not only to long-term dominance of nationalists in South Africa but also to the country’s “trek to isolation”.

**Lectures’ topics**

1. Introduction, trends in South African historiography, constitutional and political system of the Union of South Africa, population and ethnical issues, the Great War experience.

2. Interwar politics — formation of the United Party, relations with Great Britain and Germany, the Union enters into the war – the fall of Hertzog’s cabinet, the state of the Union Defence Forces in 1939.

3. Divided Union — nationalistic opposition between 1939 and 1943.

4. UDF at war — German secret operations and SOE in South Africa, UDF campaigns in Africa and overseas, the UDF’s contribution to war efforts.

5. Internal security and propaganda during the war.

6. South African economy — war economy, gold mining and the new industry, war expenditures and fiscal stability, Lend and Lease.

7. South African society — native majority during the war years, ANC, Youth League and Natives Representative Council, the Pegging Act, demobilisation and veterans.

8. Interracial issues – natives in industrial areas, South African Communist Party in the 40s, 1946 mining strike, Fagan Commission, Indian minority.

9. South Africa international relations – UN and failure of Smuts’ policy, South West Africa, trade war with India.

10. 1948 House of Assembly election – Malan v. Smuts, apartheid versus trusteeship, immigration, international position of the Union, collapse of Dominion Party.

11. South Africa post 1948 – new cabinet and its policies, the Communist Oppression Act and actions against opposition, Smuts’ final years.

12. South Africa in the 50s – native representation and constitutional crisis, legislative measures of the new government, Torch Commando and other mass protest movements, constitutional referendum, United Party and decline of white liberal opposition.

13. Summary and conclusions, test.

**Requirements to pass the course**

All students are required to attend at least ten lectures and participate in discussions. [These requirements will be sufficient to obtain two credits.]

In order to obtain six credits students will be further required either to make a presentation or write an essay (5 to 7 pages) on a selected topic and pass a written test. Each of the presentation/essay and the test will represent 50 per cent. of the passing requirements.

**Suggested reading**

ANDERSON, C.: International Conscience, the Cold War, and Apartheid: The NAACP's Alliance with the Reverend Michael Scott for South West Africa's Liberation, 1946-1951, Journal of World History, Volume. 19, No. 3, New Histories of the United Nations (September 2008), pp. 297—325.

BENTZ, G.: From El Wak to Sidi Rezegh: The Union Defence Force’s First Experience of Battle in East and North Africa, 1940-1941, Scientia Militaria Volume 40, No 3, 2012, pp. 177—199.

BOULTER, R. S.: Afrikaner nationalism in action: F. C. Erasmus and South Africa’s defence forces 1948- 1959, Nations and Nationalism, Volume 6, No. 3 (2000), pp. 437—459.

DAVENPORT, R. and SAUNDERS C.: South Africa – A Modern History, London 2000.

DE WET, F. and LIEBENBERG, I.: Conflict and Consequences, in Reflections on War: Preparedness and Consequences, Potgieter, T. and Liebenberg, I. (Eds), Stellenbosch, 2012, pp. 241—268.

DUBOW, S.: Afrikaner Nationalism, Apartheid and the Conceptualization of 'Race', the Journal of African History, Volume 33, No. 2, pp. 209—237.

DUBOW, S.: Smuts, the United Nations and the Rhetoric of Race and Rights, Journal of Contemporary History, Volume. 43, No. 1 (January 2008), pp. 45—74.

FEDOROWICH, K.: German Espionage and British Counter-Intelligence in South Africa and Mozambique, 1939-1944, The Historical Journal, Volume 48, No. 1 (March 2005), pp. 209—230.

FORTESCUE, D.: The Communist Party of South Africa and the African Working Class in the 1940s, The International Journal of African Historical Studies,

Volume 24, No. 3 (1991), pp. 481—512.

FRIDJHON, M.: The Torch Commando & The Politics of White Opposition. South Africa 1951 — 1953, University of Witwatesrand, March 1976, available at <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/39667624.pdf>

GILIOMEE, H.: The Making of the Apartheid Plan, 1929—1948, Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume 29, No. 2 (June 2003), pp. 373—392.

HENSHAW, P.: South African Territorial Expansion and the International Reaction to South African Racial Policies, 1939 to 1948, South African Historical Journal, Volume 50, Issue 1, (2004), pp. 65—76.

ILSLEY, L. L.: The War Policy of South Africa, The American Political Science Review, Volume 34, No. 6 (December 1940), pp. 1178—1187.

KATZ, D.: The Greatest Military Reversal of South African Arms: The Fall of Tobruk 1942, An Avoidable Blunder or an Inevitable Disaster?, Journal for Contemporary History: Military History 1912-2012, Volume 37, Issue 2 (December 2012), pp. 71—104.

KIENZLE W.: German-South African Trade Relations in the Nazi Era, African Affairs, Volume 78, No. 310 (January 1979), pp. 81—90.

KLEYNHANS, E.: The First South African Armored Battle in Italy during the Second World War: The Battle of Celleno – 10 June 1944, Scientia Militaria Volume 40, No. 3, 2012, pp. 250—279.

LICHTENSTEIN, A.: The Hope for White and Black? Race, Labour and the State in South Africa and the United States, 1924-1956, Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume. 30, No. 1, Special Issue: Race and Class in South Africa and the United States (March 2004), pp. 133-153.

MARX, C.: The Ossewabrandwag As a Mass Movement, 1939-1941, Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume 20, No. 2 (June 1994), pp. 195—219.

MOLLER, P.: The Warsaw Airlift, A Triumph of South African Bravery, Military History Journal, Volume 13 No 1, June 2004, available at: http://samilitaryhistory.org/vol131pm.html.

MONAMA, F. L.: Wartime Propaganda In the Union of South Africa, 1939 – 1945, Dissertation, Stellenbosch University (April 2014)

O'MEARA, D: The Afrikaner Broederbond 1927-1948: Class Vanguard of Afrikaner Nationalism, Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume 3, No. 2 (April 1977), pp. 156-186.

OOSTHUIZEN, F.: Demobilisation and the Post-War Employment of the White Union Defence Force Soldiers, Militaria, Vol. 23, Issue. 4 (1993), pp. 32—38.

OVENDALE, R.: The South African Policy of the British Labour Government, 1947—51, International Affairs, Volume. 59, No. 1 (Winter, 1982-1983), pp. 41—58.

POSEL, D.: The Meaning of Apartheid before 1948: Conflicting Interests and Forces within the Afrikaner Nationalist Alliance, Journal of Southern African Studies, Volume 14, No. 1 (October 1987), pp. 123—139.

RITNER, S. R.: The Dutch Reformed Church and Apartheid, Journal of Contemporary History, Volume 2, No. 4, Church and Politics (October 1967), pp. 17—37.

ROSS, N.: The Springbok and the Skunk: War Veterans and the Politics of Whiteness in South Africa during the 1940s and 1950s, Journal of Southern African Studies, Vol. 35, Issue 3, September 2009, pp. 643—661.

STEWARD, A.: The British Government and the South African Neutrality Crisis, 1938—39, The English Historical Review, Vol. 123, No. 503 (August 2008), pp. 947—972.

STEWART, A.: “The Klopper Affair”: Anglo-South African Relations and the Surrender of the Tobruk Garrison, Twentieth Century British History, Volume 17, Issue 4, pp. 516—544.

TEER-TOMASELLI, R.: In service of Empire: the South African Broadcasting Corporation during World War II, Critical Arts, Volume 28 Issue 6 (2014), pp. 879—904,

TIRYAKIAN, E.: Apartheid and Politics in South Africa, The Journal of Politics, Volume 22, No. 4 (November 1960), pp. 682—697.

UYS, S.: Apartheid: Opium of the Afrikaner, Transition, No. 19 (1965), pp. 13—16.

VISSEL, W.: Trend in South African Historiography and the Present State of Historical Research, available at: <http://www.academia.edu/2874752/trends_in_south_african_Historiography_and_the_present_state_of_Historical_research>

WADDY, N. L.: The fork in the road? British reactions to the election of an apartheid government in South Africa, May 1948, Historia, Vol. 55, Issue 1 (May 2010), pp.78—89.