

Claim 9: Historic Right

That whites arrived in South Africa at approximately the same time as blacks, occupied and developed more of the country than the 'black immigrants' did, and therefore have a moral claim to the present 'white-zoned' areas constituting 87 per cent of the country's territory.

The Facts Irrelevant though the migrations of the seventeenth century may be to contention about apartheid today, the claim that whites migrated earlier than blacks is also inaccurate — by at least seven centuries. The first white settlers give accounts of meeting settled indigenous populations, notably the Khoi and San, on their arrival, and carbon-dating and other tests have recorded more than 1000 years of African habitation in the country.

The parallel claim that Zululand is the 'traditional' homeland of the Zulu-speaking people, the Transkei of the Xhosas, and so on, is equally spurious. The borders of these 'homelands' were decided by bitter wars over land. The blacks, who eventually lost the wars, were initially contained in these areas by colonial government decisions.

The corollary of these claims is that whites *deserve* more land (to be exact 87 per cent of the country for 15 per cent of the people) because black South Africans lacked the background or intellectual capacity to develop it themselves. The assertion that certain races are 'superior', others 'inferior' is the core of racism. Leaving aside the cynicism of those who prohibit proper black education then criticise blacks for not being educated, the error of this claim is exposed by the remarkable black intellectual tradition in South Africa which was nurtured by previously independent missionary institutions such as Fort Hare University, Healdtown and Lovedale Institutes.

Conclusion **Territorial and political claims to white priority in South Africa are demonstrably false on historic as well as moral grounds.**