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POLISH IMMIGRATION TO SOUTH AFRICA DURING APARTHEID SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

The aim of this dissertation is to present the reasons of the emigration to the Republic of South Africa during the apartheid. This is just the beginning of my research, hence the problem is not defined precisely yet (in Poland) and the conclusions are preliminary.

To present the issue of the emigration, both from Poland and other countries to the South Africa appropriately, it is necessary to focus on the events that led to the emergence of the racial segregation policy. The significant issue is the situation after The Second Boer War as well as the consequences of this particular war, which as a result led to the creation of the racist political system. The next stage of the research will be the legal acts, racial criteria and the policy concerning the emigrants. The last element, which will require further examination in the future, is the emigration of Poles to the Republic of South Africa during the period of Polish People's Republic and the procedures involved in that.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

There was the Second Boer War in the south of Africa in 1899–1902. The Boers and the British were the parties involved. The historiography finds the source of the conflict in the clash between the British imperialism and poor peasants, who defended their freedom and land. However, the cause was different. Boers Wars are the fights for economic visage of the country and the seizure of the natural resources and cheap African workforce¹.

¹ G. Bębnik, *Ostatnia walka Afrykanerów*, Białą Podlaska 2004, p. 51.

The problem of black population in the south united the enemies after the war. The population lived in the reservations and it constituted basic workforce for white society.

They began rebuilding the country that was exhausted by the war. As a result of the remedies that were made, the economy started to develop. The extraction of the natural resources as well as construction and the railway traction development were main industrial branches.

The division into white “aristocratic” working class and black industrial proletariat was visible shortly after the war. The political parties emerged and they established the Union of South Africa in 1910².

Establishing the National Party in 1912 was the next step. They won the election in 1948 and implemented the apartheid ideology. The nationalist party changed the country into republic, hence the name of the country changed into the Republic of South Africa in 1961.

DEMOGRAPHIC BACKGROUND

How did the demographic situation look like at the end of 20th century? Actually, I should start my dissertation with this particular question to present the disparities that occurred in the south of Africa. Apart from the complicated racial structure of the society, there was also an intricate national situation. Taking into consideration this particular aspect, neither of these four groups residing in this country was consistent. It is possible to distinguish the following racial types: white people (also Afrikaners who consisted 58% of this group), Coloureds, Asians, Africans. Each group had its assigned place in the levels of the socio-political and economic development³.

White people were the most important group. The group was divided according to their nationality. They constituted only 17,5% of the whole society. The first subgroup was Afrikaners, who constituted 58% of all white people. The settlers from the United Kingdom (37%) were the second subgroup. As the third subgroup it is possible to distinguish the emigrants from Europe, America, Asia, Oceania and Africa – they constituted 5% of white society. We can also detail European countries from which the emigrants came. There were: France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, USSR and Poland⁴.

Coloureds were the second group after the white people. They constituted 9,4% of all the society. They were the descendants of white settlers from Holland and African women, the slaves brought to South Africa from India, Madagascar, and the east

² A. Jackiewicz, *Republika Południowej Afryki*, in: *Systemy ustrojowe państw współczesnych*, ed. S. Bożyk, M. Grzybowski, Białystok 2012, p. 580.

³ E. Skalski, *Apartheid*, Warszawa 1989, p. 74–79.

⁴ M. J. Malinowski, *Białe mocarstwo czarnego lądu*, Warszawa 1986, p. 65–77.

coast of Africa. During the apartheid, only the Coloureds were thought to have been the natives, who had the right to reside in south during apartheid.

Asian people were the third group. There were almost 2,9% Asian people in this society. Mainly they were Hindu, Pakistan, and they did not really assimilate with the rest of the society, because they, for instance, used their own language and not the official languages in the country (English, Afrikaans).

On the lowest level of the social hierarchy there were Africans, who dominated the society strongly (70,2% of the society was African). Despite the fact that they were the biggest group, the government impoverished their situation. Since 1948 every following Prime Minister made much effort not to let the Africans unite. The aim of these actions was to highlight the dominance of the white people over the Africans⁵.

Although white people did not constitute the majority in the society, they empowered their position over the Africans. They did it thanks to the politics, which was started in 1948 and it was confirmed after the winning of the election by the Nationalist Party. The economic aspect of the apartheid ideology, which was the main factor that influenced the emigration to Union of South Africa (then Republic of South Africa), interested me strongly.

ECONOMY

The Union of South Africa's economic perspectives from the moment of the 'boom' in 50s were extremely promising. The economy was based on the industry and agriculture. The industry provided 33% of the national product (processing industry – 21%, extractive industry – 12%), and the agriculture – 11%. The other branches which were as important as the previous ones were: trade, transport, construction, fishing industry and breeding⁶.

Until the 1980s, all of these branches developed well and fast. It is, however, important to point out that in the Republic of South African economy, as well as other African countries, it is possible to distinguish two different structural types. It will allow us to understand the racial structure and the dominance of the white people.

The first type is the market economy. Typically capitalistic, it was controlled by the whites. It involved the processing and extractive industry as well as transport, trade, construction, fishing industry, subsistence agricultural – breeding farms. It was characterized by the quick development and high profits.

⁵ *Ibidem*, p. 77–90.

⁶ International Monetary Fund: World Economic Outlook Database, October 2010, <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2011/02/weodata/weorept.aspx?pr.x=35&pr.y=18&sy=1980&ey=2010&scsm=1&ssd=1&sort=country&ds=.&br=1&c=199%2C111&s=NGDPD%2CNGDPDPC%2CLUR&grp=0&a=> (access: 27.03.2015).

What causes such fast development and large profit? The simplest answer is – white owners who used black people as cheap workforce. These actions guaranteed them big profits and quick repayment of the costs given on the production and organizational development.

The second type is very characteristic for this particular continent and that is the quasi-natural economy. It is a traditional one, based on traditional tools and production methods. This type involved about 30% of the population, mainly Africans. Its characteristic factor is that it had a little part in national product, because it was only 10%. Introduction of this term is significant for the further development of my paper, in which I will focus on the economy which was steered by the apartheid ideology⁷.

Doing some research on this subject, a statement: “The Blacks work, the Whites are getting richer” attracted my attention. This statement pictures very vividly the racial relations in South Africa.

Before the World War II, Jan Homfrey said: “The economic structure of the Union of South Africa is based on two things: the gold and natives’ hard work”. Before the party led by Daniel Francois Malan won the parliamentary election and before they started implementing their own laws which restricted the people’s rights, there were other legal acts which restricted numerous aspects of everyday life in the Union of South Africa⁸. As for an example I will refer to the following legal acts: Mines and Works Act (1911) thanks to which the Governor – General of the Union of South Africa adjusted the ordinances about the “qualifying documents”, which enabled to look for a job as an engineer or a clerk. Next one is The Immorality Act (1927) which forbade any kind of extramarital intimacy between white and black people and The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949) which forbade the “mixed” marriages. Those acts show us that the Blacks’ rights were restricted to just minimum⁹.

Since the 50s there were several dozen more legal acts regulating the black community’s life. Their education and the place of residence was decided in advance. The same was with the economy, generally speaking: The Native Building Workers (1951), the Blacks could work in construction, but only as unqualified workers, who earned 3 times less than white workers. The Native Labour (Settlement Disputes) Act (1953) forbade black people any form or participation in strikes, which arouse from the misunderstandings with the employers¹⁰.

Several offices aiming at representing the native workers emerged. The Native Labour Official was instituted as a person who dealt with this issue. Central Native Labour Office and Native Labour Committees were created. The chairman of this committee was always supposed to be white, but there were also African members

⁷ M. J. Malinowski, *Biale mocarstwo*, p. 91–96.

⁸ L. Thompson, *A History of South Africa*, Yale University Press 2014, p. 166–170.

⁹ R. Glucksmann, *Apartheid Legislation in South Africa*, http://ra.smixx.de/Apartheid_Legislation_in_South_Africa_2010-2.pdf, p. 9–13 (access: 23.11.2014).

¹⁰ *Ibidem*, p. 13–22.

who were nominated by the Minister of Labour of the Union of South Africa. The chairman played the role of the negotiator representing black workers during the conflicts with the employers. These acts only partly show the level of the racial segregation. It was also visible in the payment system – black workers usually earned 10 times less than minor white workers¹¹.

The politicians' approach during apartheid (which was probably created only for the international opinion) was that it was not about the racial segregation in the economy, because the white race lives in Money Economy, whereas the black in Natural Economy. This attitude highlighted the existence of apartheid very strongly. Those were the obstacles like the legal acts, and racists politics that made the Africans' economic development almost impossible.

The native Africans were the cheap workforce providers, although they being so numerous could have tried to become the economic and political power. Every their step, however, was blocked by the legislation. Black people lived in assigned areas called: reservations. Outside those areas they were treated as some kind of temporary city dwellers, who were tolerated only because the demand for their work. Africans were constantly controlled in this sphere. Influx control was used. It was used to prevent Africans from living in the cities permanently. Beside this, The Bantu Labour Act from 1964 settled all the conditions concerning the black people's employment. According to this act, when the employee was absent at work or they denied the employer's order, they were officially criminals. As a result of this act, private prisons started to be founded. That is the next example of economic apartheid. If the African had committed an offence, he or she could have been sentenced for two years in prison. There were many forms of punishment: building the railway, ports or extracting gold in mines. It was almost perfect solution – using the free, almost servile workforce to improve the urban infrastructure¹².

Let's move to the issue of the civilized work, which is employing the qualified white people and exchanging the unqualified black people with white ones. The more the South Africa developed economically, the more qualified people were needed, for example engineers, well-qualified construction workers and specialists, who were responsible for the supervision of the extractive and construction works, etc. Vis-à-vis this, since the end of the 1950s, the emigration to Union of South Africa became visible. White educated people came to get hired in big corporations and black people from surrounding countries came to work seasonally on the farms. In this paper I would like to present the statistics which regard emigrants from Europe, especially from Poland showing the rules under which it was possible to go away from the socialist country to apartheid country.

¹¹ L. Thompson, *A History*, p. 190–193.

¹² J. Balicki, *Historia Burów. Geneza państwa apartheidu*, Wrocław, Warszawa, Kraków 1980, p. 217–225.

IMIGRATION

The emigration from Europe is documented since 1912 (more: Table 1). After World War I, part of the soldiers settled in the Union of South Africa and more and more people were coming to earn a living there. From 1912 to 1917 about 2000 people came from Europe every year. After the war nothing changed. What is interesting is the fact that in the statistical documents already in 1922 there is a note about 124 Poles there. Next year's prove the Polish people's arrivals.

Table 1. Distribution of new arrivals 1913–1923

Nationality	1913	1914	1915	1922	1923
British	10,009	6,523	4,173	10,968	9,712
Belgian	318	256	186	579	990
Holland	225	117	48	160	174
French	98	57	37	110	82
German	724	411	13	285	315
Turkish	12	9	4	477	190
Polish	–	–	–	124	31

Source: W. F. Willcox, *International Migrations, Vol. I: Statistics*, <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c514>, p. 1057 (access: 16.05.2014).

Africa thanks to its climate and politics was not attractive for Poles during the interwar period. Even during the period of the big crisis when Poland was left by 180 thousand people a year, only 2.5 thousand went to Africa (1926–1934). Many more cases of the emigration were observed among British, American people and New Zealanders. People who were expertly educated were needed in the south then. According to the fact sheet, it is possible to distinguish three main vocational groups that could find job in the Union of South Africa: farmers, well-qualified artisans, workers: both qualified and uneducated industrial workers or personal service (more: Table 2).

Soldiers as well as white people, (mostly Americans and Europeans) tempted by the possibility of finding well-paid jobs, came to Africa after World War II. The Union's authorities also had an influence on the large emigration, because they wanted to bring as many white people, who came from well-developed European and American countries as possible.

After World War II beside Polish soldier there were many of Poles refugees. According to documents left in National Archive Union of South Africa was on the track for refuges to both Southern and Northern Rhodesia. For example in the correspondence between Foreign Office in London and the Colonial Office in 1944 we can find out that there were about 350 Polish children waiting for permission to go to South or Northern Rhodesia to met with their families¹³.

¹³ National Archive, Polish Refugees in North, East and South Africa, code 48, file 92, FO 371/42756, c. 1–2.

Table 2. Distribution of Europeans Assuming and Relinquishing Domicile by Occupation 1924

Occupation	Assuming domicile			Relinquishing domicile		
	Total	Male	Females	Total	Male	Females
Primary producers:						
fishery and agriculture	418	410	8	425	421	4
mining	30	30	–	109	109	–
Industrial	656	581	75	635	599	36
Transport and communications	102	99	3	203	201	2
Commercial	588	452	136	643	527	116
Professional	653	317	336	606	328	278
Personal service	227	50	177	163	57	106
Independent	53	45	8	106	90	16
Other and unspecified	482	118	364	486	170	316
Dependents	2,056	590	1,466	2,481	645	1,836
Total	5,265	2,692	2,573	5,857	3,147	2,710

Source: W. F. Willcox, *International Migrations, Vol. I: Statistics*, <http://www.nber.org/chapters/c514>, p. 1065 access: (16.05.2014).

Another example respecting refugees from Poland comes also from 1944 but this time from the correspondence between Polish Embassy in London and its address to the Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Foreign Office of Great Britain. In acts we can find lot of information about financial help how refugees got, when they were in the Union of South Africa and before sending them to Southern or Northern Rhodesia. Also in other ones we can read about Polish status and problem which refugees from Poland had at this time for example with accommodation and work¹⁴.

But as we can see during war many Polish were expecting to transfer themselves to South or Northern Rhodesia, to reunite families or just to live and work. Why? Well, documents did not give me straight answers but in my opinion political, social situation and according that it was last year of war suggest that in Union of South Africa, during this period, was not good to stay there. I mean they might had troubles with finding jobs, they had troubles with accommodation. In the other hand in Rhodesia they had prepared place for living.

Since 1950 the increasing number of immigrants can be observed. Without any doubt, the biggest increase is in 1960–1970s. As Pretoria's authorities report, in 1945–1985 600 thousand people settled down in this country. Over 8 thousand Poles came to Republic of South Africa in 1980–1985.

In the beginning of the 80' government of the Republic of South Africa was trying to get to South Africa workers from Europe. Especially from Great Britain but Brit-

¹⁴ *Ibidem*, FO 371/42756, c. 3–8.

ish did not want to go for overseas work¹⁵. In Poland during this time people wanted to change their lives, had more perspective for their families. In the past when Polish immigrants were coming to Africa, they were appreciated for their works, level of education and they were not showing that they did not agree with apartheid system.

The situation for the well-developing the Republic of South Africa was perfect, because we must remember that there was shortage of well-qualified workers in extractive industry, industry, construction and agriculture¹⁶.

The first question is why, despite the political system which was so discriminating in Republic of South Africa, so many people decided to move there and settle down? The second is what kind of reaction towards this politics was evoked among democratic and socialistic countries from Europe?

The attitude of the countries from the West Europe and North America undoubtedly contributed to apartheid's persistency. It was claimed that thanks to governing by the white race the Republic of South Africa is a part of the west partnership. There was also another positive aspect in case of war with socialistic countries, when South Africa would have to follow the West. The natural resources cannot be forgotten too. The private capital was placed in mines, companies or banks. It can be deduced then that the emigration was aiming at improving the financial situation.

Socialist countries' approach was completely different. From the beginning the USSR was against the authorities in Pretoria. They thought that because of such close relations with the west, they must show sympathy and support to South African liberation movement. So in Poland there was no support for apartheid and friendship with the west. As a result it was difficult to go there later. Moreover, talking about apartheid and condemning it was only a pretext to cover breaking human rights in socialist countries.

What terms should have been satisfied to go to Republic of South Africa?

Being fluent in English was required to settle down in the Republic of South Africa. Another important term was to have a vocation that was in demand for white people there (or having required qualifications). The candidate had to possess at least 2 thousand pounds or a signed job contract. Physical examination was required as well. People with mental diseases or contagious diseases such as tuberculosis and venereal diseases were rejected. The X-ray and the certification from a physician had to be given to prove the good condition of health¹⁷. In 1913 the Immigration Regulation Act, which precisely determined who could settle in the Union of South Africa, was implemented. The main aim was to constrain the possibility of settlement for Asians and since 1930 also Central and Eastern European countries. The Protestant Church also played quiet a big role, but the most important was the Dutch Reformed Church, which fought for bans on the settlement for Roman Catholics. Although this

¹⁵ National Archive, Employment in South Africa, FCO 47/1041, c. 5–10.

¹⁶ See more: A. Żukowski, *W kraju złota i diamentów. Polacy w Afryce Południowej XVI–XX wiek*, Warszawa 1994, p. 167–204.

¹⁷ I. L. Buchman, L. Gilfillan, M. Hamilton, *Przewodnik emigranta*, Warszawa 1994, p. 112–125.

ban did not exist, the citizens from the countries with Roman Catholic tradition did not get permissions to come there¹⁸.

The matter of job contracts was significant. Well, in many cases, the companies which were supposed to hire the employee, paid 80% of total cost of the arrival to the country, they made finding the flat easier and helped with dealing with some formal issues.

The immigration policy selected the immigrants in a way that they would be useful for the country in a close and distant future. The candidates should have observed the law, should have assimilated easily with the locals (namely white people, because black people lived in reservations), should not have posed a threat for the South Africa's business. It was expected that the candidates had the certificates of clean criminal record and certifications stating their social and political attitude. As we can see, this whole procedure was oriented on the Republic of Africa's economic development¹⁹.

Poles started to migrate after World War II. Some of them were either soldiers or refugees. After some actions in 1949 aiming at relocation there were only 5 thousand Poles left in Africa. They tried to get residence visas, but it was not easy. They were very often accused of not knowing English, lack of vocational qualifications, which white people should have had and lack of having sufficient funds. It was all about securing places for the soldiers from South Africa Defence Force. Such a big number of Polish people could have resulted in reduction of the vacancies available – which in theory were for those soldiers back in the country.

During the census in 1951 there were 4,898 Poles living in the Union of South Africa. When they handed in the applications for the permanent residence and they were denied, Poles had to refer to Immigration Regulation Act of 1913²⁰.

Since 1950s, Polish people had to overcome many difficulties to emigrate from the country. The limit of migration was introduced for Poles, who could go to the south of Africa. Also the problems with bringing family with them, despite stable job situation, were frequent.

The period of 1960s was a period of the economic boom and it lasted for 20 years. The increase of Polish population in the Republic of South Africa was visible then. As the country developed, the qualified workers started to be needed. Polish engineers, technicians, qualified constructors, etc. could settle down in Africa. They were recruited from Polservice, which belonged to Centrala Handlu Zagranicznego. It functioned during the Polish People's Republic (equivalents were present in every socialist country) and it was privileged to trade with western countries. It traded with products, but also construction and engineering services. Some Polish people could

¹⁸ A. Żukowski, *W kraju złota*, p. 129–137.

¹⁹ I. Buchman, L. Gilfillan, M. Hamilton, *Przewodnik*, p. 112–125.

²⁰ Documented migration, 2003, in: Statistic South Africa (Report No. 03-51-03 (2003)), Pretoria 2005, table D, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-51-03/Report-03-51-032003.pdf> (access: 16.05.2014).

go to Africa thanks to this. From 3 to 5 thousand Poles lived there at the beginning of 1980s. Such a big discrepancy was a result of inaccurate data²¹.

Poles, who wanted to leave the country and move to South Africa and other places, had to try to get passports, what was not easy. Polish citizens could not keep their passports at home. After each journey, which was approved, they had to give their passports away to the passport office. They were issued for a year or two and they were territorial, that means they allowed people go to the chosen group of countries and not to every one of them (those that allowed travelling everywhere were very rare).

In 1960–1980s it was claimed that there were up to 504 thousand legal departures to live permanently somewhere else. Unfortunately, this how many of them left to the Republic of South Africa will remain unknown until I will continue my research. According to the information that I found, I can only speculate that it was from 2 to 7% of the total number of people leaving Poland legally²².

After the events from the August 1980 in Poland and the fact that Polish government declared martial law, the emigration to African country increased. Although the martial law canceled the validity of any passport and people could not leave Poland, some of them attempted to go to Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) or Austria and to the Republic of South Africa later on²³.

Apart from the political situation which was in the country, the increase of the gold price was also very important and it helped mining in the Republic of South Africa develop. Again people with qualifications were needed. Jobs in the biggest national and private concerns were prepared for Poles. Special planes were organized which took Poles from Vienna to Johannesburg. The journey was reimbursed by the companies or the Republic of South Africa's government. The most popular branches where the employment was most possible were the strategic industry, energetics, mines and munitions industry. Apart from the technical jobs, it was also possible to find a job as a doctor or a nurse. They could be hired both in military hospitals and civil ones. When the martial law was declared, many marines who were on the ships decided to disembark. 70 Polish marines disembarked in Walvis Bay and they were employed in gold mines and private energetic companies. After only one year after the declaration of martial law, 2 thousand Poles left to Africa and the process was still continuing. Since the end of 1980s, the number of Poles in the Republic of South Africa was estimated to be 13–15 thousand²⁴.

Poles in South Africa had to fight for respect using their skills and education. Many of them educated themselves even after the departure to improve their qual-

²¹ *Ibidem*.

²² D. Stola, *Kraj bez wyjścia? Migracje z Polski 1949–1989*, Warszawa 2012, p. 177–218.

²³ *Ibidem*, p. 141–166.

²⁴ Documented migration, 2003, in: Statistic South Africa (Report No. 03-51-03 (2003)), Pretoria 2005, table D, <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/Report-03-51-03/Report-03-51-032003.pdf> (access: 16.05.2014).

ifications. At this moment they are very rich and respected. Polish people in the Republic of South Africa represent higher financial and cultural level than any other Polish Community Abroad²⁵.

People leave Poland and go to Africa from 1950 till 20th century to improve their financial status. As the history shows not only the economy but also political situations determines the number of emigrants.

Polish immigrants needed to face certain difficulties. Distance, Republic of South Africa being unknown as a place to live in and small amount of Polish communities made leaving Poland a little hard decision to make. Moreover, the Christian Church was not main religion – its value was rather marginal comparing to its significant meaning for fighting communism in Poland. Polish emigration process affected the whole country. People who decided to leave were rather highly educated specialists or workers, than unqualified, low-paid labourers.

POLES LIVING IN THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

In the last part of this article I must write something about Polish people living there. And try to answer for the most important question: Why did Polish people decide to emigrate? During socialism in Poland the most popular direction to emigrate were Great Britain, United States and American dream, even Australia and New Zealand were more popular. Yet, most educated people when they saw opportunity decided to go. In Poland especially in the 80' situation forced people to emigrate to look for better live. When in 1981 in Poland introduced martial law from refugee camp in Austria got out about 10 thousand Polish people and came to the Republic of South Africa. Mostly they were doctors and engineers but like in the past huge and global corporations like Sasol, Escom and Dorbyl gave them place to work²⁶.

In the end it is necessary to write something about social life of Poles living in the Republic of South Africa. Since the 1948 Poles have started to organized Polish organizations like “Zjednoczenie Polskie w Johannesburgu” (Polish Union in Johannesburg), in Cape Town “Rada Polonii” (Polonia Council), “Stowarzyszenie Polskich Kombatantów” (Polish Combatants' Association), “Stowarzyszenie Techników Polskich” (Polish Technicians Association) and many others. Many of this organization have published their bulletins, magazines etc. Thanks to organization like this young people with Polish origins can learn Polish language, get to know something about history and culture. I want to add that all of those organization have their supporters²⁷.

²⁵ A. Żukowski, *W kraju złota*, p. 205–217.

²⁶ According to the article of A. Romanowicz on Polony website: <http://www.polonia.co.za/Historia.html> (access: 28.12.2015).

²⁷ A. Jędrysek, *My Polacy na kontynencie Makumby*, “Polonia” 2010, Vol. 8, No. 9–10, p. 18–23.

Right now in the Republic of South Africa live about 20 thousand Poles, most of them are professional workers (like engineers), businessmen and doctors. About 1 thousand Poles are in Polish organizations²⁸.

Summing up, the Republic of South Africa was open and quite welcoming to Polish immigrants. That was an effect of connection of qualities like high education, Caucasian race (according to apartheid politics) and high motivation for being part of South African society. These values gathered together comprised the core of the Republic of South Africa economic development at that time. On the other hand, common cause for Polish emigrants to leave Poland was improving their own material status / life quality. Being employed as a specialist in this country meant high wage and financial comfort – not only in comparison with Polish wages, but with earnings all over the world.

STRESZCZENIE

POLSKA IMIGRACJA DO REPUBLIKI POŁUDNIOWEJ AFRYKI PODCZAS SYSTEMU APARTHEIDU

W artykule przedstawiono polską imigrację do Republiki Południowej Afryki w XX wieku poprzez pryzmat historii tego kraju oraz kształtowania się polityki apartheidu, wzrostu gospodarczego jako czynników, które miały największy wpływ na europejską imigrację. Porównując te czynniki z historią polityczną, czy raczej sytuacją polityczną i gospodarczą w Polsce, zwłaszcza po II wojnie światowej, łatwo zrozumieć, dlaczego wielu Polaków postanowiło przenieść się do Republiki Południowej Afryki. Artykuł zawiera także informacje na temat procedur imigracyjnych, określa najważniejsze grupy zawodowe, jak również opisuje najważniejsze polskie organizacje działające w Republice Południowej Afryki.

Słowa kluczowe: imigracja, Republika Południowej Afryki, Polacy, Polska, apartheid, rasa, wojna burska, Polska Ludowa.

Keywords: immigration, Republic of South Africa, Poles, Poland, apartheid, race, Africa, Boer War, People's Poland.

²⁸ According to the article of A. Romanowicz on Polony website: <http://www.polonia.co.za/Historia.html> (access: 28.12.2015).