

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course Name/Code

Date

History Extended Essay

Title: The Role of Economic Sanctions in Apartheid South Africa's Decline

Research Question: To what extent did international economic sanctions contribute to the end of apartheid in South Africa between 1985 and 1994?

Subject: History

Citation style: Chicago

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Context: apartheid system, international pressure from the 1960s onward

B. Research question: restated

C. Thesis: Sanctions were a necessary but not sufficient cause. Their effect was amplified by internal resistance; neither alone was decisive.

II. THE SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF SANCTIONS (1985-1989)

A. Claim: Sanctions were more comprehensive post-1985 than commonly assumed, targeting financial, trade, and cultural sectors

B. Evidence: Commonwealth Accord 1985, US Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act 1986 (Massie, Loosing the Bonds, 1997)

C. Analysis: Establishes the actual economic pressure applied as the baseline for measuring impact

III. ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN STATE

A. Claim: Sanctions created measurable fiscal stress, reducing the government's capacity to fund enforcement

B. Evidence: GDP contraction data, Reserve Bank reports, Lipton (1988) analysis

C. Analysis: Distinguishes economic stress from political will and links to the research question

IV. INTERNAL RESISTANCE AND THE SANCTIONS RELATIONSHIP

A. Claim: Sanctions were most effective when coordinated with ANC internal campaigns. Neither worked independently.

B. Evidence: ANC strategy documents, Mandela correspondence, de Klerk memoirs

C. Analysis: Tests the "necessary but not sufficient" thesis directly

V. THE LIMITS OF SANCTIONS: COUNTERARGUMENTS

A. Claim: Key trade partners continued partial trade; sanctions had gaps that limited their impact

B. Evidence: Trade statistics, Thatcher government position (Renwick 2014)

C. Analysis: Acknowledges limitations, required for balanced argument per IB Criterion C

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Thesis restated: Sanctions were a necessary accelerant, not a sole cause. The evidence supports a multi-causal account.

B. Summary: how each body section built the argument

C. Implications: Raises questions about sanctions efficacy in other authoritarian contexts and the limits of the case study

VII. REFERENCES

Citation style: Chicago (History requirement)

Sources: Massie (1997), Lipton (1988), Renwick (2014),

ANC Archive materials, South African Reserve Bank data