

Fighting for Equality: The Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Legacy of Civil Rights.

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Fighting for Equality: The Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Legacy of Civil Rights.

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Abstract

The 1986 passage of the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act (CAA) over President Reagan's veto marked the culmination of years of pressure on the American public to the apartheid policy of the white minority government in Africa. The United States had been since the early Cold War a major importer of strategic resources from that country, and a major importer of strategic resources from that country, regardless of the white government's repressive racial policies. The Carter administration, while tipping its hat to the need for change with its "constructive engagement" policy, stayed true to a cold warrior mentality and a major importer of strategic resources from that country, regardless of the white government's repressive racial policies. Africa was of strategic interest to the United States. The CAA represented a different direction as a leader in the international campaign for the end of apartheid state. Some have argued that the sanctions included in the CAA were the result of changing strategic interests, such as a decreasing dependence on South African mineral imports. This paper, however, argues that the CAA was a direct result of the anti-apartheid movement in the United States, which gained its strength from the anti-apartheid movement in the United States university campuses, which in turn gained its strength from the anti-apartheid movement in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s, and was furthered augmented by the Carter administration's foreign policy on human rights.

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