Racial Discrimination in South Africa

President Trump, here is the evidence

S.A. Justice

Dedication

To every South African who has been told,
"there is no racial discrimination here,"
while living under rules that say otherwise.

And to those—of every colour—who still believe
truth matters more than slogans.

Disclaimer

This book is a work of non-fiction and opinion. It is based on publicly available information, news reports, legal texts, and comparative research at the time of writing.

It is **not**:

- legal advice,
- professional policy advice, or
- an official statement by any organization.

All interpretations, conclusions and errors are the author's own.

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By S.A. Justice

Author's note

This is not a book about nostalgia for the past. Apartheid was a moral and economic disaster. It denied millions of South Africans basic rights and opportunities, and it enriched others through laws that were explicitly racist. Nothing in these pages is meant to excuse that.

This book is about something different: **what is happening now**.

After 1994, South Africa introduced policies to correct the economic injustice of apartheid. Chief among them is Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE). Its stated purpose is to help those who were previously excluded from the economy gain a real stake in it.

Over time, however, I began to notice a disturbing pattern. The people who seem to benefit the most from empowerment policies are often not the poorest South Africans, but a relatively small non-white elite who are already well off. At the same time, all white South Africans are excluded from empowerment benefits in law – including those who are clearly poor today.

I am not a politician and I am not writing a policy manual. I am an ordinary citizen who believes that **fairness should be measured against present reality, not only against history**. A system that claims to help the disadvantaged should, at the very least, be able to distinguish between those who are currently poor and those who are currently rich.

In these pages I do three simple things:

1. I show, using public data, how wealth in South Africa is distributed today.

2. I explain, in plain language, how the B-BBEE Act decides who may benefit.

3. I compare the two, and point out where they no longer match.

I do not propose a new law. I do not claim to have a perfect solution. My aim is more modest: **to say clearly what is wrong**, and to ask whether a system that directs most of its benefits to people who are already richer per person than whites, while leaving most of the poor untouched, can still honestly be called "broad-based" or "empowering".

You may not agree with all my conclusions. That is healthy in a democracy. My hope is simply that, after reading this, it becomes harder to repeat slogans without also looking at the numbers behind them, and harder to talk about "previously disadvantaged" people without asking who is disadvantaged **now**.

Note on Data and Method

The analysis in this book relies mainly on three public sources:

• The **Momentum–Unisa Household Wealth Index Q4 2023**, which estimates the total value and distribution of household wealth in South Africa.
• **Statistics South Africa** population and household estimates.
• The **Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Act** and related Codes of Good Practice.

From these, I construct three analytical groups of individuals:

1. **All white South Africans** (about 4.5 million people).

2. **The wealthiest 4.5 million non-white South Africans** (a non-white elite defined by wealth, not by law).

3. **Everyone else** (the remaining ±54 million South Africans).

The official reports do not present data in exactly this form, so I approximate the wealth held by Groups 2 and 3 by combining racial shares, wealth deciles and national concentration measures (such as the fact that the wealthiest 10% of households own around three-quarters of total wealth).

All such figures are clearly marked in the book as estimates or "approximate". They are not intended as precise tax statistics. Their purpose is to provide a **reasonably accurate picture of relative positions**: who sits far above the national average,

who sits far below it, and how that overlaps with who is allowed to benefit under B-BBEE.

Any simplification has costs. Grouping millions of individuals into three blocks inevitably hides some variation within each group. There are poor whites and rich Africans in every province. But the broad pattern remains robust across many sources: **a small minority, white and non-white, holds most of the wealth, while the majority of South Africans have very few assets**.

It is against this broad pattern, rather than against perfect precision, that the arguments in this book should be read.

Is This Redress or Racial Discrimination?

For a moment, imagine South Africa divided into just two groups:

- **Group 1:** a non-white group
- **Group 2:** a white group

Each group has the **same number of people: 4.5 million**.

Now look at these facts side by side and ask yourself:

Is this **redress**, or is it **racial discrimination against the white group**?

Metric	Non-White Group	White Group
Number of people	**4.5 million**	**4.5 million**
Wealthiest group overall	✓	✗
Highest wealth per person	✓	✗
Number of Black Economic Empowerment race-based laws applied **against**	0	100+
Legally protected as "previously disadvantaged"	✓	✗
Major influence over Parliament, policy, enforcement	✓	✗

Table 1: Redress or Racial Discrimination?

Looking at this table, an obvious question arises:

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When one group is now richer overall, richer per person, shielded by law as "previously disadvantaged", and untouched by race-based laws that apply to the other group, **is this still redress – or has it become racial discrimination in the opposite direction?**

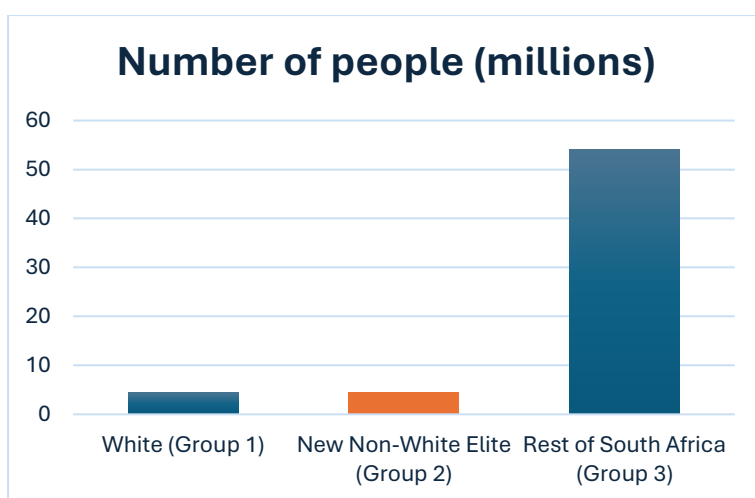In this book, **I call this racial discrimination against white people**.
The South African government, by contrast, **calls it redress**.

Visual Evidence

Chart Descriptions

These descriptions match the numbers in the Comparative Table in Table 3.1 so that any reader can recreate the charts in Excel, LibreOffice, Google Sheets or similar. The prompt is in Appendix A.
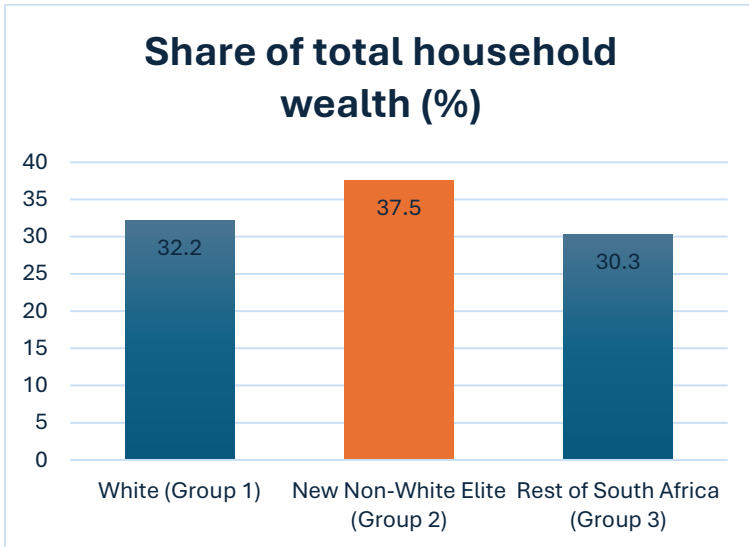
Chart 1 – Number of People per Group

What it shows:
Two small bars (Groups 1 and 2) of equal height, and one very tall bar (Group 3) showing that the rest of the country is numerically huge compared to either elite block.

Chart 2 – Share of Total Household Wealth (%)

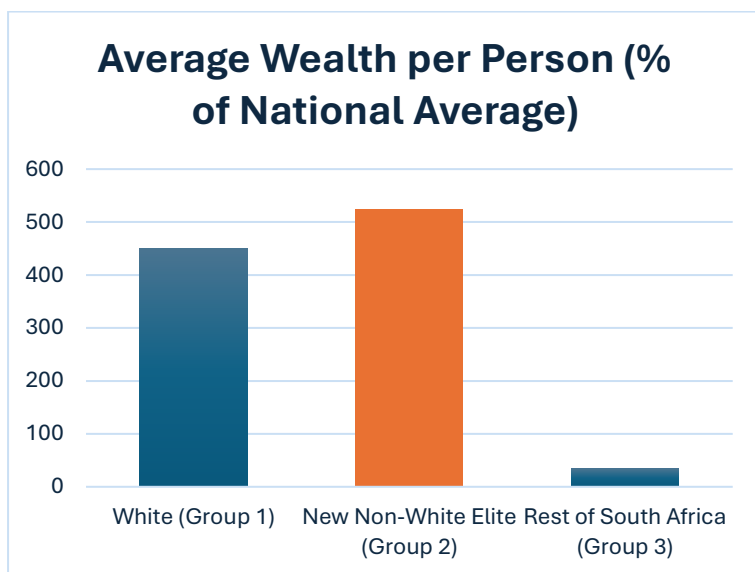## Share of total household wealth (%)

What it shows:

Although Groups 1 and 2 are the same size in people, **Group 2's bar is the tallest**, followed by Group 1, with Group 3 slightly shorter. This makes it visually clear that:

- The **4.5 million non-white elite** own more wealth in total than the **4.5 million whites**, and

- The **remaining 54.1 million people** share not much more wealth than either elite block.

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Chart 3 – Average Wealth per Person (% of National Average)

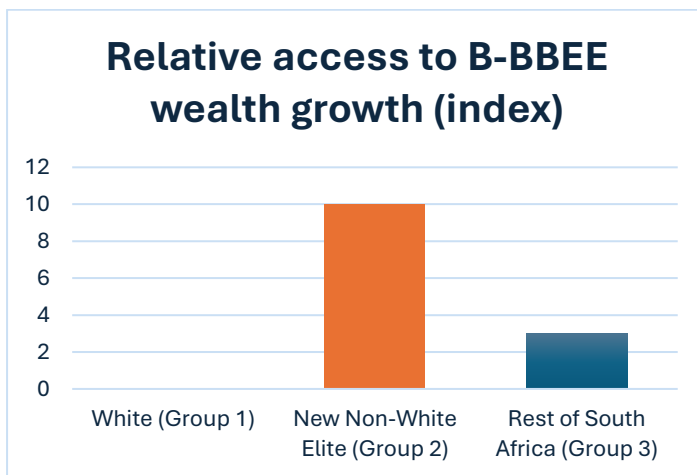**Average Wealth per Person (% of National Average)**

What it shows:

- Two very tall bars (Groups 1 and 2) far above the 100% line.

- One short bar (Group 3) well below 100%.

It makes the per-person picture stark:

- **Both** elite groups are several times richer than the average person.

- The **new non-white elite (Group 2)** is richer per person than whites (Group 1).

- The **majority (Group 3)** is far below the average, with roughly one-third of the national per-person wealth.

Chart 4 – Access to B-BBEE Wealth Growth

Relative access to B-BBEE wealth growth (index)

Interpretation:

- Group 2 has by far the greatest access to B-BBEE-driven wealth growth.

- Group 3 has some limited access.

- Group 1 has effectively none, and in many cases is explicitly excluded.

The New 4.5 million Non-White elite is shown above in **gold**. Look at their wealth in total and their wealth per person and their access to BEE compared to the other groups.

The ChatGPT prompt is in Appendix A and the results in Table 3.1 in Chapter 3.

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