## Contents

**List of tables**  
page xii

**List of figures**  
 xv

**List of maps**  
 xvi

**Preface**  
xvii

**A note on terminology, country names, and currency**  
xix

1 Setting the context: South Africa in international perspective  
A unique historical endowment  
The economy in an international perspective  
The people and economy before 1652  
  
2 Seizing the land: conquest and dispossession  
European expansion into the interior  
Abundant land and scarce labour  
The roots of conflict  
Defeat and dispossession of the Pedi by British and Boers  
The final outcome – land allocation in South Africa from 1913  
  
3 Making the labour force: coercion and discrimination  
Black labour for white masters  
The use of compulsion to obtain labour  
Taxes, restrictions on movement, and other forms of pressure  
African labour on white-owned farms  
Migrant labour for the mines  
The paradox of scarce labour and low wages  
The deterioration of the reserves  
  
4 Creating the colour bar: formal barriers, poor whites, and ‘civilized’ labour  
Motivation and methods for creating a colour bar  
The conflict with white mine-workers  
The ‘poor white’ problem and the closing of the pastoral frontier  
Labour policies of the Pact government, 1924–33  
  
5 Exporting the gold: the vital role of the mineral revolution  
Models of export-led growth  
The special features of gold in South Africa  

## Contents

The character and expansion of the mining industry ........................................... 99  
Gold mining as the engine of growth ................................................................. 106  
Exploitation of African mine-workers ............................................................... 109  

6 Transforming the economy: the rise of manufacturing and commercial agriculture ................................................................. 113  
Factories are few and unimportant ................................................................. 113  
The state, tariff policy, and the rise of manufacturing industry ..................... 116  
Expansion of industrial output and employment ......................................... 121  
Faults in the foundation .................................................................................. 127  
Inefficiency, low wages, and skill differentials ............................................... 132  
The destruction of African farming and slow progress of commercial agriculture .................................................................................. 135  

7 Separating the races: the imposition of apartheid ...................................... 143  
From triumph to disaster – an overview of the post-war period ................. 143  
The political economy of developments after 1948 .................................. 149  
Apartheid versus urbanization ....................................................................... 151  
Trade unions, job reservation, and education .............................................. 157  
Domination or development? ........................................................................ 161  

8 Forcing the pace: rapid progress despite constraints .................................. 165  
Three more windfalls for the gold mines ..................................................... 165  
Manufacturing: the unprecedented boom ..................................................... 172  
The expansion of the financial sector and the rise of Afrikaner capitalism .... 176  
State-directed industrialization ..................................................................... 180  
Trends in employment, output, and productivity ......................................... 184  
Weaknesses and constraints – the limits to growth ..................................... 188  
A revolution finally comes to commercial agriculture ................................ 193  

9 Hitting the barriers: from triumph to disaster .......................................... 200  
From growth and stability to stagnation and inflation ................................ 200  
The decline of gold mining despite yet another windfall ............................ 203  
The expansion of coal and platinum .............................................................. 210  
Manufacturing’s failure to achieve export-led growth ................................ 211  
The decline in fixed investment ...................................................................... 221  

10 Confronting the contradictions: the final crisis and the retreat from apartheid ................................................................. 224  
Sanctions, capital flows, and the balance-of-payments crises .................... 224  
Changes in the labour market ....................................................................... 230  
The retreat from apartheid ........................................................................... 240  
The fallacy of ‘cheap’ labour ........................................................................ 244  

Annexe 1: the people of South Africa ............................................................. 252  
The black population before 1900 .............................................................. 252  
The white population before 1900 .............................................................. 256  
The population in the twentieth century ........................................................ 256
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annexe 2: the land and the geographical environment</strong></td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The land area and the geological legacy</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainfall, soil, and vegetation</td>
<td>262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diseases and pests</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural regions</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annexe 3: the labour force and unemployment</strong></td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The census benchmarks</td>
<td>271</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labour market ratios</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpolation and classification by economic sector</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Guide to further reading</strong></td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>References</strong></td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Index</strong></td>
<td>294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>