

# **South Africa's foreign policy - a pre-requisite for or result of liberation?"**

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The main focus of the paper will be an analysis of South Africa's foreign policy towards Africa. There will be an overview of South Africa's foreign policy up until 1990, identifying the main principles the apartheid regime expounded over time, but also the problems it encountered in the face of South Africa's increasingly isolated position in world affairs. This will be followed by a brief description of the very different foreign policy environment of post-1994 South Africa.

A brief description of the theoretical framework underpinning the paper is also required. The theoretical framework will consist of a combination of Carlsnaes' (1987) approach, focusing on explanations of foreign policy actions, as well as critical foreign policy analysis, dividing the world up into "core" and "periphery" states (Rothgeb 1995). In order to get a better idea of the internal structure of South Africa's foreign policy, Carlsnaes' (1987) approach will be *used to examine South Africa's* foreign policy doctrine in terms of choices and motivation (the international dimension), in terms of a belief system comprising perceptions and values (the dispositional dimension) and briefly (for the purposes of this study) the objective conditions and organisational setting of foreign policy decision-making in South Africa (the situational dimension). One of the questions to be asked is how South Africa's a belief system and values, based on constitutionalism and democracy, as well as the nature of its negotiated transition from apartheid to democracy have influenced its foreign policy and have possibly differentiated it from that of other African states.

It is in terms of South Africa's foreign policy towards Africa where the other dimension of the theoretical framework becomes important. South Africa can arguably be seen as a "core" state in the African foreign policy context - it is influential as it is substantially more economically and politically powerful than other African states. What influence does this comparative economic and political prowess have on South Africa's foreign policy towards Africa? From a different angle, however, to what extent will South Africa be able to realise its ambitious aims and objectives for Africa, especially those regarding an African Renaissance, given the fact that, internationally speaking, it is classified as a medium power at most, and is thus closer to a "periphery than "core" state?

South Africa's post 1994 foreign policy towards Africa will be dealt with in this context. The focus here will be on foreign policy actions and *decisions* taken with regard to relevant examples and South Africa's role in the initiation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Renaissance and the African Union.

The paper will be concluded with an evaluation of South Africa's foreign policy evaluation and a focus on possible future foreign policy directions.