CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DEFENCE POLICY

COUNTRY PROFILE

SOUTH AFRICA

FOR INORMATION

General Information

In 1652, the Dutch settled in what is now known as the Cape Town colony as a meeting point for ships, between Europe and the East Indies. These

has focused on controlling inflation but they face structural constraints that limit economic growth, such as: skills shortages, declining global competiveness, and work strikes. The unemployment rate is around $\sim 25\%$ with $\sim 31\%$ of the population below the poverty line which has put pressure on the government to deliver basic services to low-income areas and increase job growth.

Race is an important matter in South Africa because of the issues that have translated since apartheid, evident in the inequality between the white minority and black majority. This is especially prevalent in the workplace, because of affirmative action policies that attempt to compensate affected people. South Africa is a multiethnic society consisting of approximately ~80% black, ~8% white, ~9% mixed race, and 3% Indian/Asian. As a result of its colonial history and landlocked trader location there are many

locals and foreign nationals in recent years. The xenophobic concern is prevalent in society because it reflects both a historical factor from South Africa's divisive apartheid past, as well as poverty and inadequate redistribution of post-apartheid economic growth to the poor. In 2008, more than 60 people were killed due to xenophobic attacks. Since then, hundreds of causalities between locals and foreign nationals have occurred in city centers.

The state police response has

• Harmony is a gold mining and exploration company and was the third largest producer of gold in South Africa and eleventh in the world in 2014.

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