

TIMELINE**1887**

The Transvaal Chamber of Mines in Johannesburg was formed

1897

White workers struck against wage reductions at the Randfontein mine

1902

Transvaal Miners Organisation (TMO) was formed

1907

Miners go on strike, and the government uses violent tactics to halt the strike - First big clash

1909

Transvaal Industrial disputes Act passed in parliament

1913

The Transvaal Miners' Association is renamed as the South African Mineworkers Union (MWU) and gains recognition by the Chamber of Mines.

1 May 1913 - Widespread strike after a decision by Kleinfontein Goldmine to force underground mechanics to work longer hours on Saturday

1914

8 January - Railway men's Union strike

13 January - Mine workers joined, and a general strike is declared. Johannesburg is placed under Martial Law

15 January - Trade Union leaders and union members are surrounded by armed Government troops. The strike collapses and many of the leaders are forcibly placed aboard a mail-ship in Cape Town and illegally deported to Britain. None ever returned

1915

21 December - 2 800 Black miners strike at Van Rhyn Deep

1918

February - African miners, hard hit by the rising cost of living, boycott concession stores on the East Rand in February 1918. Police break up the boycott by arresting picketing workers

FRAME 1
[Click here](#)

FRAME 2
[Click here](#)

DISORDER ON THE RAND THE 1922 MINEWORKERS STRIKE

FRAME 3
[Click here](#)

FRAME 4
[Click here](#)

TIMELINE**1918**

May - A bucket strike is held by Black sanitary workers - 152 arrests. The ANC launches a labour campaign threatening to organize a General Strike - workers released.

11 May - White Power Station workers go on strike

1 July - When 15,000 miners stop work, Police rush to the scene and try to force the miners down the shafts, resulting in violent clashes.

The Police arrest eight men who are accused of 'incitement to violence' for the strikes of the period. Two belong to the ANC, three to the ISL and three to the IWA.

September - White mineworkers persuade the Chamber of Mines to agree that no position filled by a white worker should be given to an African or Colored worker.

1919

Some 70, 000 Black miners go on a peaceful strike. Government troops broke up meetings, killing 11

1 February - White building trade workers strike

29 March - White power station workers go on strike

31 March - White municipal workers strike

1 April - The strike is called off

6 April - Settlement is reached

1920

January - Black miners' strike

29 February - Black workers riot near Vrededorp

4 May - White tramway workers strike

21 May - Tramway strike ends

1922

2 January - White coal miners went on strike and on **9 January**, **White miners' strike** is formally declared, following disputes in 1921

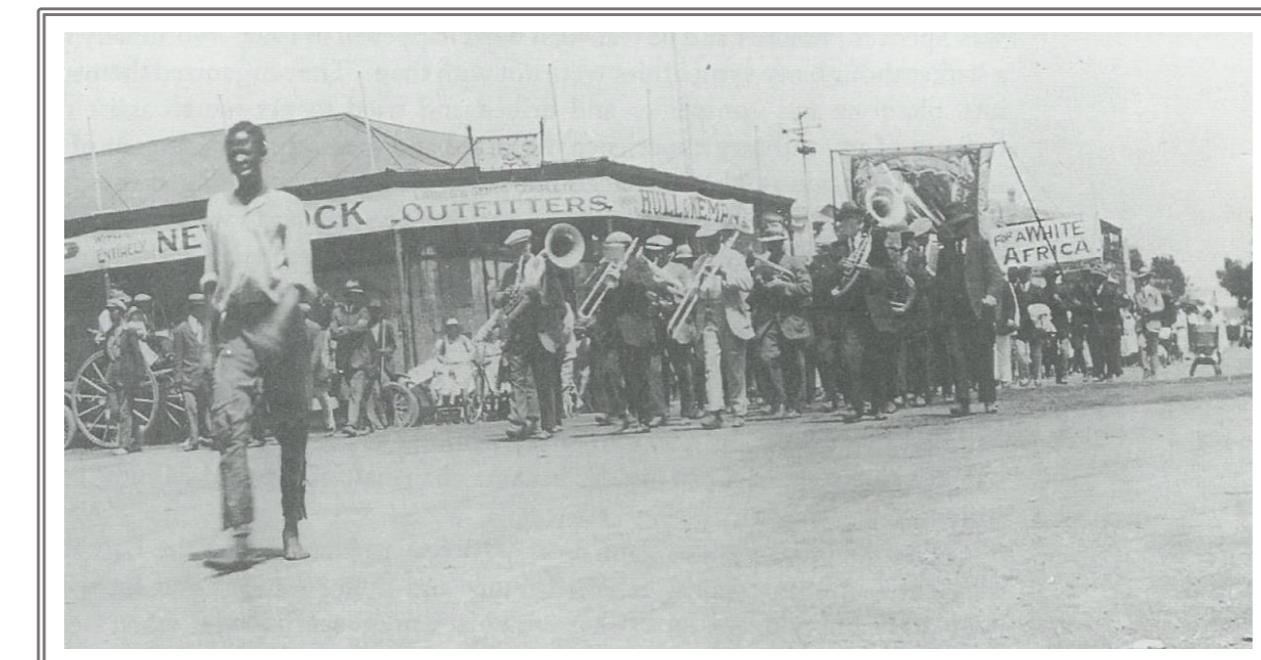
19 January - Tramway service is reduced to minimum

27 February, White Power Station workers down tools

7 March, General Strike called by workers' Council of Action

10 March – Declaration of Martial Law

17 March - Strike called off



A picture from "Gold Their Touchstone" with the caption: "1922 Revolt: A Black *voorlooper* ('forerunner') led a procession of miners whose banners proclaim, **"Workers of the World unite for a White South Africa"**.

This slogan was used mainly not to alienate the sympathy of white South Africans for the strike

The humiliated black "forerunner" is **symbolic** of the white strikers' demand not to abandon the colour bar, or job reservation.

Initially the government refused to interfere and felt the Chamber and SAIF should resolve the matter themselves. Government attempted to get the two sides to negotiate, but neither side was willing to compromise. The strikers formed commandos.

In response, government sent in troops from the Active Citizens Force and declared martial law. The ensuing violence resulted in hundreds of injuries and deaths.