

# How the Black Conscious Movement challenged the apartheid state.

(UNIT 4.1)



- There was very little protest action in the 1960s in the apartheid state.
- After the Sharpeville Massacre in 1960 the ANC and PAC were banned.
- The government had tight control over the media and anyone who opposed the government was detained by the police.



# Steve Biko and the BCM

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- A new generation of black students arose and began to organize resistance in the late 1960s and early 1970s.
- Many of them had been through the Bantu Education system and had become students of the “bush colleges” which were established for black students as tertiary education under Bantu Education.
- BCM was known as a mindset rather than a political movement.



# THE THREE MAIN AIMS OF THE BCM WERE:

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1. Raising self-respect of all black people.
2. Promoting black pride, identity, culture and history.
3. Withdrawing from multi-racial organisations.
4. Promoting unity amongst black people so that they could fight against apartheid.

**THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE BCM WAS THE SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS' ORGANISATION (SASO) ESTABLISHED IN 1968 UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF STEVEN BIKO.**





STEVE BIKO



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The main focus of this section (4.1) is to assess: to what extent Steve Biko and the BCM contributed to the 1976 uprising?



# The preferred/easier argument is to a large extent.

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Your will need to gather information to back up this argument by focusing on pp 160-165 (sources included)

- Examine the organisations that the Steve Biko and the BCM formed and why? Eg. SASO, SASM, BPC, SRCs etc. How did Biko use these organisations to influence the youth of SA?
- What exactly was Black Consciousness? Look in the TB, as well as online. See if there is any connection between the Black Power Movement in the US and the BCM.
- Look carefully at the apartheid government's initial reaction to the BCM and how that changed over time.
- Read over the 1976 uprising pp 163-165 to see who, how and why this uprising happened. Please ensure that you are not guessing your answers, but rather are fact checking. For example, check whether the Afrikaans policy was actually brought in by the apartheid government or whether it was scrapped.

