

## JAN CHRISTIAN SMUTS : A CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE OF EVENTS IN HIS LIFE

1870	. (24 <sup>th</sup> May) : Born on the Farm Bovenplaats (Boplaas) in Riebeeck West, son of Mr J A Smuts, M L A.
1882	Enters school at Riebeeck West (age 12) when his older brother dies of typhoid.
1886	. Matriculates from Victoria College, Stellenbosch (after only four years of schooling). . Meets his future wife, Isie – Sybella Margaretha Krige of Dorp Street, Stellenbosch.
1888	Enrols at Victoria College as a matriculated student.
1891	. Graduates with a BA (combined Arts/Science Degree) Studies botany under Prof Marloth. . Wins the J B Ebden Scholarship to study at Cambridge University. . Enters Christ’s College, Cambridge, UK and studies law.
1894	. The first man ever to sit both parts of the Law Tripos in one year. Placed “brilliantly first” in the examinations and receives the George Long Prize in Roman Law and Jurisprudence. . Passes the Honours examination of the Inns of Court, again coming first in his year. . Spends a month in Strasbourg reading German philosophy. . Enters the Middle Temple. . Writes “ <i>Walt Whitman : A study in the Evolution of Personality</i> ”
1895	. Returns to Cape Town and is admitted to the Cape Bar. . Supplements his income through political journalism. . Becomes an admirer of Cecil John Rhodes and leaders of the <i>Afrikander Bond</i> send Smuts to Kimberley to make a speech defending the policy of Rhodes.
1896	. The Jameson Raid into the Transvaal. Smuts feels Rhodes betrayed his peoples’ trust. He believes the leadership of South Africa lies in the Transvaal. . Admitted to the Transvaal Bar.
1897	. Moves to Johannesburg and makes a good living as an attorney. . (April) : Marries Isie Krige (daughter of Mr J Krige) in Stellenbosch.
1898	. Is appointed State Attorney of ZAR by President Paul Kruger and moves to Pretoria (Smuts is the youngest man ever to hold this office).
1898	Birth of twins, Koosie and Jossie Smuts. The babies, a boy and a girl, die within a few weeks.
1899	Birth of Jacobus Abraham (Koosie) Smuts.
1899	. Smuts writes an impassioned tract ‘ <i>Een Eeuw van Onrecht</i> ’ (a Century of Wrong) issued by the State Secretary F W Reitz. . Outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War.
1900	. (June) The fall of Pretoria. . General Smuts leaves Pretoria on commando with the Republican Forces under Gen Koos de la Rey. . (August) Smuts’ son, Koosie dies. . (September) Kruger sails for Europe.
1901	. Kitchener moves Isie Smuts to Pietermaritzburg. . Smuts is appointed a General in the Republican Forces. . (September) Smuts leads the invasion into the Cape Colony.
1902	. (April) The Cape Campaign ends at O’Kiep. . (31 May) Smuts attends the signing of the Peace of Vereeniging in Pretoria. . (June) Smuts returns to Namaqualand to lead his troops in the surrender of their arms before a British column. . (August) - Isie Smuts returns to Pretoria
1903	. Birth of Susanna Johanna (Santa) Smuts.

	. (July) Smuts meets Emily Hobhouse
1904	Birth of Catharine Petronella (Cato) Smuts.
1905	. Botha and Smuts' political party, <i>Het Volk</i> , is founded. . Smuts meets Margaret Clark, Emily Hobhouse's assistant to discuss setting up home industries for the Boer women. . (December) The Liberal Party under Campbell-Bannerman assumes office in Britain.
1906	. Smuts arrives in England to campaign for self-government. Self-government is granted to the Transvaal. . Birth of Jacob Daniel (Japie) Smuts.
1907	. <i>Het Volk</i> wins the elections in the Transvaal and Louis Botha becomes Prime Minister. . Smuts becomes Colonial Secretary (General Botha's right-hand man).
1908	. Smuts write a paper entitled ' <i>Suggested Scheme for South African Union</i> '. . (January) Smuts meets Gandhi. . Birth of Sybilla Margaretha (Sylma) Smuts. . Smuts buys the farm Doornkloof in Irene.
1908/ 1909	. Smuts attends the National Convention meetings in Durban and Cape Town between October/November 1908 and February 1909 as a delegate. O
1909	. Smuts buys the British Officers' Club building in Middelburg, Transvaal, and transports the building to Doornkloof where it is re-erected as a family home. . (July) Smuts goes to London with the National Convention Delegation. . (10 <sup>th</sup> July) Mrs Smuts moves to Doornkloof.
1910	. Union of South Africa. . <i>Het Volk</i> becomes the <i>South African National Party</i> and Botha becomes Prime Minister. Smuts becomes Minister of the Interior, Mines and Defence in the First Union Parliament.
1911	Botha and Smuts' political party is renamed the <i>South African Party</i> .
1912	Birth of Jan Christian (Jannie) Smuts.
1913	. Strike on the Rand Mines. Smuts calls in Imperial troops. Violence and rioting follow. Smuts and Botha drive into Johannesburg to defuse the situation and promise to redress miners' grievances. . Smuts brings the Union Defence Force (UDF) into being and General Christiaan Frederik Beyers is appointed Commandant General.
1914	. Hertzog founds the <i>National Party</i> . . The General Strike starts in January and Smuts declares Martial Law. Commandos under General de la Rey are sent to the Rand. The strikers capitulate and nine labour leaders are arbitrarily and illegally deported. . (August) World War 1 breaks out. . (September) The decision is taken to send Union Defence Force troops to German South West Africa (SWA). . Smuts is Acting Prime Minister (while Botha is away at war in SWA). . General de la Rey is accidentally shot by the Police at a road block set up to catch the notorious Foster Gang. . (November) Outbreak of the Rebellion. . Birth of Louis Anne de la Rey (Louis) Smuts, a daughter (who later becomes a doctor). . (December) Death by drowning of General Beyers. . Execution of Jopie Fourie.
1915	. Botha and Smuts lead the UDF forces in German SWA . (July) German forces surrender.
1916	. (February) Smuts, as Lieutenant General in command of the British Army, arrives in German East Africa to command the Imperial Forces.
1917	. Smuts represents South Africa at the Imperial Conference in London. He is showered with

	<p>honours, degrees, freedoms of cities. King George V makes him Privy Councillor and Companion of Honour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Smuts settles strikes in Britain and Wales.</li> <li>. Smuts expounds the idea of a “Commonwealth of Nations” in a speech to both Houses in Parliament.</li> <li>. Smuts declines the offer of the Palestinian Command.</li> <li>. Smuts is made a member of the British War Cabinet. He declines Lloyd George’s offer of a seat in the House of Commons.</li> <li>. Smuts reorganizes the British air power. Lloyd George calls him the “Father of the Royal Air Force.</li> </ul>
1918	. Smuts writes a State paper “ <i>The League of Nations. A Practical Suggestion</i> ”. The ideas are adapted by the co-founder of the League of Nations, American President Woodrow Wilson, for the League’s constitution.
1919	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Botha and Smuts are present at the Paris Peace Conference in Versailles, France.</li> <li>. The League of Nations is founded and gives South Africa a mandate to rule South West Africa.</li> <li>. Louis Botha dies and Smuts becomes Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa.</li> </ul>
1921	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Smuts attends the Conference of Prime Ministers in London. His memorandum to the Conference on the need for a change from an “Empire” to a “Commonwealth of Nations” and on the constitutional rights of the Dominions held all the seeds of the 1926 Balfour Declaration and the 1931 State of Westminster.</li> <li>. Smuts becomes known as a negotiator in the problems of Ireland.</li> <li>. (May) The Israelites, black members of the “Separatist Church”, illegally squatting on common land at Bulhoek in the Queenstown district of South Africa are shot by Police who were sent to expel them.</li> </ul>
1922	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Strike on the Rand Mines (Dispute between the employers [SA Chamber of Mines] and the white [mostly Afrikaans] mine workers threatened with job losses because of the drastic fall in the price of gold and the Chamber’s proposed change to the <i>status quo</i> agreement which regulated and restricted the employment of semi-skilled [black] workers on the mines).</li> <li>. Smuts is lampooned as “Hoggenheimer’s (‘mining capitalists’) Hireling” and the “Puppet of the Goldbug”.</li> <li>. (March) Martial Law is declared. Isurrection on the Rand is suppressed by Government forces. Hertzog says the Prime Minister’s footsteps dripped with blood.</li> <li>. (May/June) The racially-mixed Bondelswarts tribe of South West Africa, who were Christians and spoke Afrikaans, are punitively bombed by South African forces after a dispute over the banning of their exiled leaders and a tax on their hunting dogs.</li> <li>. Smuts is disappointed at the “No” vote in the October Referendum in Rhodesia on its incorporation into South Africa as a fifth province.</li> </ul>
1923	Hertzog and Creswell form a National/Labour Party election pact.
1924	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. The Pact defeats Smuts’ <i>South African Party</i> in the general elections.</li> <li>. Smuts becomes Leader of the Opposition.</li> </ul>
1925	Smuts writes “ <i>Holism and Evolution</i> ” from his home in Doornkloof, it is published in 1926.
1929	. Smuts is invited to Oxford University as the Rhodes Memorial Lecturer.
1930	. Smuts undertakes a lecture tour of the United States and Canada lecturing on Africa, The League of Nations and Peace and Science.
1931	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Smuts is elected President of the British Association for Advancement of Science in its Centenary year.</li> <li>. Installed as Rector of the University of St Andrews, Scotland.</li> </ul>
1933	. Smuts becomes Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister in the coalition government with J B M Hertzog.

	. (December) D F Malan forms the <i>Purified National Party</i> .
1934	. The Fusion Government is formed. The <i>South African Party</i> and the <i>National Party</i> amalgamate into the <i>United South African National Party</i> which later becomes the <i>United Party</i> .
1936	Installed as Chancellor of the University of Cape Town.
1939	. (4 <sup>th</sup> September) South Africa's entry into the War is debated in Parliament. Smuts carries South Africa into World War II by 13 votes. . (6 <sup>th</sup> September) Hertzog resigns and Smuts is invited to form a new government. South Africa is officially at war with Germany. . Forms Ministry pledged to fight Nazism and Fascism. . Smuts is Prime Minister, Minister of External Affairs and Defence and Commander in Chief of the Union Defence Force.
1940	General Officer commanding Union Defence Forces in the Field.
1941	. Appointed Field Marshall by King George VI, whom he served as advisor and mentor. . Visits the troops "Up North". . Princess Frederika of Greece arrives in South Africa as a refugee from German-occupied Greece – she becomes a close friend to Smuts.
1942	. Smuts addresses both Houses of the British Parliament. . 400 radio stations in the United States of America broadcast a serial on the life of General Smuts.
1943	Smuts presides over the British War Cabinet in Churchill's absence.
1945	. (April/June) At the San Francisco Conference on the United Nations, Smuts writes the draft of the Preamble to the Charter (" <i>... an eloquent declaration of humanity's hopes and faith...</i> " Hancock).
1946	. Attends the Paris Peace Conference. . Champion of the cause for a Jewish National Home.
1947	. (February) King George VI confers the Order of Merit on Smuts in Cape Town (The Order of Merit was never held by more than 24 people at any one time).
1948	. Smuts announces South Africa's recognition of the State of Israel. . (26 <sup>th</sup> May) The <i>United Party</i> is defeated by D F Malan's <i>National Party</i> in the general elections. Smuts becomes Leader of the Opposition. . (June) Installed as Chancellor of Cambridge University. . (October) Smuts' son, Japie dies.
1950	. (11 <sup>th</sup> September) The passing General Smuts, at Doornkloof, at the age of 80.
1954	(25 <sup>th</sup> February) Mrs Smuts dies at Doornkloof
1970	. On the Centenary of Smuts' Birthday, the Master of Christ's College, Cambridge, Lord Todd states that " <i>The college is proud of three outstanding students in its five hundred year history, namely John Milton, Charles Darwin and Jannie Smuts</i> "