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An Analysis of the Theological Justification of Apartheid in South Africa

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Summary for the Wetenschapswijzer – Gwashi Manavhela

Date graduation:	3 July 2009
Naam promovendus:	Gwashi Freddy Manavhela
Titel dissertatie:	An Analysis of the Theological Justification of Apartheid: A Reformed Theological Perspective

Description of the Research:

Now that Apartheid as a political system has been abolished it is time to analyze the factors that evoked a *theology* of Apartheid. This theology has not been developed suddenly and independently but is part of a long lasting process, intertwined with many other factors. When viewing available literature it appears that many aspects are brought in, whereby different perspectives play a role. The aim of this study is to gain a survey of the many factors that played a role in the origin of Apartheid and especially Apartheid theology, that is intrinsically interwoven with the other factors. It aims, with the help of this diverse literature, to understand the roots and the nature of Apartheid theology, especially with regard to the present position of the traditionally white churches in South Africa. The focus is especially on the Dutch Reformed Church (the Nederduits Gereformeerde Kerk) as the leading *volkskerk* of the Afrikaners.

Colonization, repression by the English and the subsequent Anglo-Boer war, saving of economic positions and cultural identity, good intentions for indigenisation and contextualisation of Christian Faith – all these are a complex amalgam from which Apartheid is shaped. It is a theology of exclusiveness whereby other people may not disturb the difficultly achieved identity and wherein feelings of endangerment and striving for self preservation - are sides of the same coin. That makes the question of perpetrator and victim so complex in South-Africa.