



# **History and the Present: Question-raising by Locals in Qwaqwa, South Africa**

**Sayaka Kono**

PhD Candidate  
Graduate School of  
International and Cultural Studies,  
Tsuda College (Japan)

# **Introduction :**

## **History in the post-apartheid South Africa**

- **The history used in current domestic political arena**
  - **Frequent use of the apartheid history in political discussions**
  - **Dominant understanding of the "National history"**
    - which "authorized" the **ANC's rule**

# How are the “collaborators” regarded in the histories? (I)

- **Current trend in the academic arena to re-examining the histories**

- <Bantustan histories>**

- **criticizing simplified understanding as the dichotomy of**

- “resistance vs collaboration” (Ally and Lissoni: 2012)**

- <Askaris>**

- **describing the complexity as it is**

- “Collaboration is marked by ambiguity and...**

- ‘simple**

- labels cannot explain a very complex phenomenon”**

- (Ally and Lissoni: 2012)**

# How are the “collaborators” regarded in the histories? (2)

## **HOWEVER:**

- **No unit in TRC specifically dedicated to provide materials for history education (Cole: 2007)**
- **Gap between the history taught in education/ public and the histories told by people**
  - **Dissatisfaction among the people who feel excluded**
    - from the main stream narratives
  - **Today’s political and economic situation strengthens the discontent**

# Qwaqwa as a Bantustan: Overview

- **1974 Qwaqwa became a self-governing territory**
    - the smallest bantustan among others
    - intense population growth
    - accommodating only about 2% of the whole Basotho population (1970)
  - **1975 The first election of the Qwaqwa Legislative Assembly**
    - Ruling party: **Dikwankwetla Party**
    - **T. K. Mopeli: the Chief Minister of Qwaqwa**
- <Population in Qwaqwa> 25,200(1970);  
90,000(1975);  
216,000(1980)**

# "Solidarity as Basotho"

- **Call for "Solidarity as Basotho"**
  - **Supporting the struggle of Basotho in Thaba Nchu,**  
an enclave of **Batswana bantustan**  
(**Bophuthatswana**)
- **Development of the region**
  - **Founding schools**
  - **Trying to promote African capital domination in the**  
regional economy etc...
- **Criticism against Qwaqwa government**
  - **A tool of Bakwena domination (Bank: 1995)**
  - **Apartheid's supporter (Twala: 2009)**

# Current Political and Economic Situation in Qwaqwa

- **All the changes after 1994 is regarded as done by the new ruling party, ANC**
  - **Major support for ANC by locals in Qwaqwa**
  - **Dikwankwetla Party of South Africa finally decided to take pact with ANC in 2013**
- **“Undeveloped” and poor area of one of the former Bantustans**
  - **Dissatisfaction is turning into the ANC rulings**
    - through the narratives of T. K. Mopeli’s governance during Bantustan regime**



## Quiet Confrontation among the People

**He stopped working with me, because, I think, his mother is a strong ANC supporter. I think she stops him to work with me because I don't like ANC and support T. K. Mopeli.**

**(a farmer in his 30s)**

**To be honest with you, I hate ANC with all my heart, but what can I do? I just keep saying Amandla to keep my life going.**

**(a bussiness man in his late 30s)**

## Reviving T. K. Mopeli's legacy?

**Someone must stand against blind support for ANC. T. K. Mopeli founded 4 teacher's colleges, but all were closed after ANC took over. I voted for Dikwankwetla. I hope they succeed Mopeli's work to develop the region."**

**(academics in his 40s)**

**Qwaqwa government wasn't perfect, of course. But because of their effort, the region had the foundation of the Black rule when the apartheid was collapsed and power was taken over by Blacks.**

**(a member of Bakwena monarchy in her 50s)**

# Historical Documentary Project founded by the locals

- **People firstly started to found the project:**
  - **Local Business people who are supposed to be**  
**“benefitted” by the ANC’s BEE**
- **Local youths’ interest on the project:**
  - **Dissatisfaction of the current situation led them**  
**to be interested in the history which they**  
**never**  
**experienced by themselves.**



# Conclusion: Questions raised by locals?

- **The documentary project:**
  - re-examining the former ruler in the Bantustan who is still called as “collaborator” in the ANC-centered history
  - A crossroad of the local history and the present situation of Qwaqwa
- A way of resisting ANC’s massive domination in the political and economic arena, and even historical narratives in the region through providing other perspective of the history??