Environmental Justice in South Africa
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edited by
David A. McDonald

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Note on Racial Terminology

Although apartheid-era racial classifications are a social construct with no objective significance, the legacies of apartheid and the heavy correlation between race and class in South(ern) Africa are such that racial classifications remain an integral part of political analysis in the region. There are, however, many different versions of racial terminology and a brief explanation of the use of terms in this book is in order. Following the tradition of the democratic movement, “African,” “coloured,” “Asian,” and “white” will be used to describe the four major apartheid racial categories in South Africa, with the most common use of uppercase and lowercase letters being adopted. The term “black” is used to refer to Africans, coloureds, and Asians as a whole, in recognition of their common oppression under apartheid.