

# **Racist Perspectives in the Movie *Invictus***

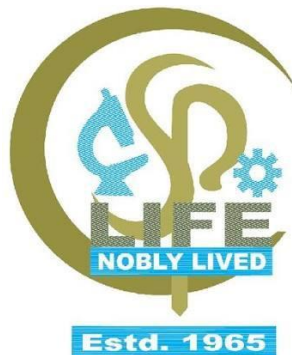
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## **Declaration**

I do hereby declare that the project **Racist perspectives in the Movie *Invictus*** is the record of genuine research work done by me under the guidance of Mrs. Deepa George, Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Paul's College, Kalamassery.

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## Certificate

This is to certify that the project work **Racist perspectives in the movie *Invictus*** is a record of the original work carried out by Yadhu Krishnan P.G under the supervision and guidance of Mrs. Deepa George , Assistant Professor, Department of English, St. Paul's College, Kalamassery.

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## Introduction

Nelson Mandela is released from Robben Island after serving twenty-six years of a life sentence for conspiring against the South African state. His release also marks the beginning of the end of apartheid, a general election, and the re-entry of South Africa into the world, including the international sporting events and championships that they have been prohibited from participating in since the beginning of apartheid. When Mandela wins the election, he vows to unite a divided nation; the majority of the black population are jubilant and hopeful, but the white Afrikaners and the Zulu are worried that they are losing their rights in the country. As Mandela rides in a convoy down the street he sees black kids playing soccer on one side of him and white kids playing rugby on the other. The national rugby team coach tells his players that the country has gone to the dogs.

When Mandela takes office, there is palpable tension because Mandela inherits a staff that consists predominantly of Afrikaners who served in the previous administration. Rather than working, they start to pack their things, convinced that they are about to be fired, but when Mandela gathers everyone for a meeting, he tells the staff that he doesn't intend to fire anyone. Rather he wants the old regime and the new administration to work together, so that everyone in the nation is represented.

Mandela's vision of unity extends to the rugby field. Chester Williams is the only black member of an all-white national team led by stand-out Francois Pienaar. To the black people of South Africa, rugby is a symbol of the racism of past regimes. They root against their own team.

The Springboks are not experienced in international competition; they are rusty and unprepared for unfamiliar opponents, and lose most of their games. This does not bode well for their hosting the Rugby World Cup the following year.

Mandela begins a campaign to unite the country through rugby. He overrules the Sports Commission when they decide to change the name of the team from the Springboks to the Proteas, knowing that by doing so he is preventing the alienation of the Afrikaners. Mandela's obsession with rugby angers many in his new administration because they think he should be worried about loftier things than sports. Mandela ignores them and invites team captain Francois to tea. Mandela and Francois find a great deal of common ground, and Mandela tells Francois that it is important to draw inspiration from within to overcome the seemingly insurmountable. In the course of the meeting, Mandela manages to get across to Francois his belief in the importance of success in the tournament for uniting a fractured nation. Francois encourages the team to learn the national anthem, but most don't take him seriously and see the national anthem as belonging only to black South Africans. Mandela then mandates that the team go out to the black townships and work with the young kids there. At first, the only black player on the team, Chester Williams, is the only player the children recognize, but soon, the kids become familiar with the other players as well, and the visit is a success.

The Springboks shock everyone by beating Australia's Wallabies in the first round. The further they go into the tournament the more support they receive from their fans. Francois brings the team to Robben Island, where he is stunned to see how small Mandela's cell was. He

thinks of a poem, "Invictus" by William Ernest Henley, that Mandela mentioned to him. The poem is all about resilience and bravery in the face of obstacles.

The day before the final, the team take their usual morning run and find themselves followed by South Africans of all races, ages and backgrounds. The security team around Mandela is worried because this is the most public appearance he has made. They place additional sharpshooters around the stadium, and one jet dips low into the airspace above the stadium so that the words "Go Springboks" are visible to the crowd below.

The World Cup final is between the Springboks, and the New Zealand All Blacks, one of the most successful teams in the history of the game, and the clear favorites to win. The game is close; each time New Zealand scores, the Springboks have to catch up, and the game ends in their favor, 15-12. Celebration breaks out throughout the country, with South Africans dancing together in the street. Mandela presents the trophy to Francois, and rides through the streets of a city united by the victory.



## Chapter 1

### Invictus – The Unconquered

Invictus opens with the release of Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman) from prison in 1990. After being held for nearly 26 years on Robben Island for planning acts of sabotage against the South African state, Mandela's release also marks what soon the end of apartheid in South Africa becomes. A new election is held, which Mandela handily wins. For his oath, he gives a speech pledging to unite the people of South Africa. The current divide has largely divided the Afrikaners (white South Africans that came from Europe during the 17th century) and the various black tribes, the largest of which include Zulu, Xhosa, and Bapedi. The effects of Mandela's victory give rise to jubilation for much of the black population of South Africa, while the white Afrikaners and Zulu begin to feel that they're losing the country. This is punctuated by a squadron of cars carrying Mandela down a road, poor black kids playing soccer on one side, white Afrikaners playing rugby on the other. The coach of the National team, the Springboks, tells his team to remember this day, as it marks 'the day the country went to the dogs'.

Mandela's head of security Jason Tshabalala (Tony Kgoroge) makes a request of Mandela concerning the team. He asks for more personnel to secure the president, the current team being made up of four blacks. Mandela's response is to hire four white former Special Branch members led by Etienne Feyder (Julian Lewis Jones). On first meeting, they clash due to deep-seated racial issues, yet are compelled to work out their differences. Seeing that he has no choice but to work alongside them, Tshabalala tells his black co-workers, especially Linga Moonsamy (Patrick

Mofokeng), that while working together, they will watch the whites carefully.

In his first days in office, the tension is palpable, as most of the former president's underlings (mostly Afrikaners) still hold their jobs. Worried that Mandela will fire them, they begin packing up their belongings, awaiting what they assume is the inevitable. Upon seeing this, Mandela holds a conference and makes an impromptu speech in which he informs his staff that he won't fire anyone who used to work for the old regime, and that they need to work together to promote racial equality throughout South Africa. The speech goes over well without any dissenters.

Mandela soon begins taking pre-sunrise walks accompanied by two security personnel. While walking through the streets, a blue van, making wild turns while speeding, comes upon Mandela. While security fears an attack, it is merely a man delivering newspapers.

We are soon introduced to François Pienaar (Matt Damon), current captain of the South African Springboks rugby team, made up of whites save for one black member named Chester, who misses upcoming games due to a hamstring injury. For many black South Africans, the Springbok name, logo, and colors represent the dark history and perceived racial injustice of apartheid and they thus refuse to support them, rooting for England instead when they play the Springboks. With less than a year to the rugby World Cup in 1995 (which South Africa is hosting), the Springboks lose more games than win, and are highly anticipated to lose early in the tournament to Australia.

Having read that the Springboks' coach has been replaced (with captain François still remaining),

Mandela begins to think in terms of how he's going to unite South Africa and put away their differences and sees rugby as the vehicle to do so. Since most Afrikaners fear losing their identity, Mandela aims to unite them by keeping the Springbok name (opposing the Sports Commission's unanimous vote change the team name to the Proteas) and using the upcoming world cup as an example of how to overcome South Africa's apartheid past.

Mandela personally travels to the commission to change its mind, saying that by keeping their former colors/name, they can reach out to Afrikaners, who believe that Mandela is out to rid South Africa of their presence. This doesn't go over well with the commission, and by the time he leaves, Mandela has acquired only 13 votes for his proposal. Still, he sees this as progress, as those votes were enough for him to keep the Springboks name. His assistant, Brenda Mazibuko (Adjoa Andoh), disagrees with him, and wishes Mandela would concern himself with more important matters than rugby, a sentiment shared by others in the administration. Nonetheless, Mandela forges ahead with his own plans, which include inviting François to tea.

An Afrikaner on the security team asks François how the Springboks will fare this year. Despite François promising that they'll do their best, the Afrikaner decides that they have absolutely no chance and tells the rest of the team as much. Inside his office, Mandela talks to François about inspiration and how to motivate under extreme pressure. He mentions a poem that kept his spirits up while he was imprisoned and François tells him he understands, mentioning a particular song the team sings before every match. While not directly asking François, Mandela implies that a win for their team in the Cup could have huge ramifications for South Africa by uniting Afrikaners and the other tribes that make up South Africa.

In an attempt to convey Mandela's message, François gives his team copies of the South African national anthem, telling them that they shouldn't mumble through the words like they used to, but rather actually learn it and sing it properly. Most of the team crumples up their copies, saying they have no interest. François recants and says it is optional. They are ordered, however, by Mandela, to take occasional breaks from their rigorous training schedule, go out into the townships and teach rugby to the natives. At first, Chester (McNeil Hendricks), the team's only black player, is swarmed by the township kids, but soon the entire team is out there helping a new generation to learn rugby and instill national pride, regardless of ancestry. François reminds his team that life and the game implies change all the time and their team is no different.

Mandela is found outside his home, unconscious. While his doctor orders complete bed rest to sustain his energy, Mary keeps his schedule open so that he can follow rugby. The tournament is soon underway and the Springboks surprise everyone by besting Australia. They continue to take morning runs, and as they win more games, their support by all South Africans continues to rise, and they continue to advance in the tournament. After a match, François proclaims that they need a break and they head to Robben Island, where Mandela was held. Standing inside Mandela's former cell, François is dismayed to see how small it is (barely covering his arm span), with a sheet on the ground to sleep on. Through voice over, the poem Mandela mentioned to François earlier is recited while the team looks out over where prisoners broke rocks as part of their labor while imprisoned.

The final day before the match finds the Springboks taking another early morning run. This time

they are joined by both white and black South Africans cheering them on to victory. Before the match, the security team is nervous, as it will be the most exposed Mandela has been since taking office. Extra sharpshooters take up positions on adjacent roofs while the rest of security take posts inside the stadium. A 747 jet, whose captain (David Dukas) announces full responsibility for his actions to the co-captain (Grant Swanby) (thus leading people to believe he might commit a terrorist attack), flies the jet low over the stadium, displaying the words 'Go Springboks' painted underneath. The crowd erupts in cheers.

The final match is between the undefeated New Zealand All Blacks and the Springboks, which 62,000 fans have turned up at the stadium to watch. Chester's injury has finally healed and he's been cleared for the game. NZ has mostly shut out other teams in the tournament thus far, the closest score having been won by 20 points. Though the odds don't favor S.A., they resolve to do their best. The game stays tied throughout and goes back and forth, South Africa mostly playing catch-up whenever N.Z. kicks a goal for three points. In the end, S.A. is able to edge out New Zealand by three points as the clock runs out. South Africa wins 15-12.

After the trophy presentation the streets of South Africa are ecstatic, with South Africans of all ancestries cheering the Springboks in celebration. Mandela's security team is seen trying to make its way through the crowd with little luck, but Mandela says that there is no need for them to rush. Their national pride, at least for the moment, seems to have been somewhat restored in the eyes of themselves, not to mention the rest of the world. The film ends with the final recitation of the poem, *Invictus* (which is Latin, meaning 'unconquered').

Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever gods may be  
For my unconquerable soul.  
In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud.  
Under the bludgeonings of chance  
My head is bloody, but unbowed.  
Beyond this place of wrath and tears  
Looms but the Horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.  
It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate:  
I am the captain of my soul.

## Chapter 2

### Racism and Apartheid

Law about the racial segregation in South Africa was published in 1910, same year as the constitution of South Africa. There came a lot of resistance against racial segregation. Between 1910 and 1930 Africans founded many political parties and labour organizations. For example South African Native National Congress was founded in 1912. It later became the most famous and biggest of the parties and is called ANC, African National Congress. The leader of this party is Nelson Mandela.

South Africa is known about its history of apartheid. Africaner intellectuals started to use the word apartheid in the 1930s. The word means apartness. (Thompson 1996, 186.) In 1948, The Afrikaner National party won a general election and began to apply its policy of apartheid. Strategists in the National Party invented apartheid as a means to cement their control over the economic and social system. Initially, aim of the apartheid was to maintain white domination while extending racial separation. Racial discrimination was institutionalized with the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948. In 1950, the Population Registration Act classifies people by race. There were three categories: white, black (African) and coloured (of mixed descent). The coloured category included major subgroups of Indians and Asians. Thompson says (1996, 190) that the Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act (1949) and the Immorality Act (1950) created legal boundaries between the races by making marriage and sexual relations illegal across the colour line.

The National party used its majority in Parliament to eliminate the voting rights of Coloured and African people. Thompson (1996, 191) says that the government transformed the administration of the African population. It grouped the reserves into eight (eventually ten) territories. These territories became "homelands" for potential African "nation", administered under white tutelage by a set of Bantu authorities. The idea was that Africans would be citizens of the homeland, losing their citizenship in South Africa and any right of involvement with the South African Parliament which held complete hegemony over the homelands. All blacks were required to carry "pass books" containing fingerprints, photo and information on access to non-black areas.

In 1952, ANC and its allies launched a passive resistance campaign. In 1953 the government assumed control of African education. (Thompson 1996.) The Bantu Education Act denied blacks to get higher education. Next year the government decided to resettle 60 000 Africans, Indians, coloured and Chinese from Johannesburg to the South-West of the city. The remove was called Western Areas Removal Scheme. In 1955, National Conference of ANC accepted foundation of the Congress of the People. Same year the Congress of the People adopted a Freedom Charter. It had four points: 1) The People Shall Govern, 2) All National Groups Shall Have Equal Right, 3) The People Shall Share In The Country's Wealth, 4) The Land Shall Be Shared Among Those Who Work It.

Pan African Congress (PAC) was founded in 1959. In 1960 African and Coloured representation in Parliament was terminated. Same year police kill 67 African anti-pass-law demonstrators at Sharpeville and the government bans African political organizations. Nelson Mandela and other ANC and PAC leaders sentenced to life imprisonment in 1964. In 1984, a



new constitution gave Asians and Coloureds but not Africans limited participation in the central government. First contacts between the government and imprisoned and exiled ANC leaders happened in 1985. De Klerk became leader of the National party and then president in 1989. He unbans the ANC, PAC and SACP and releases Mandela and other political prisoners in 1990. In 1994, the ANC won first nonracial election. Nelson Mandela was elected the first black president of South Africa. He formed Government of National Unity. (Thompson 1996, 1959 - 1960.)

According to Thompson (1996, 221-240) apartheid was in crisis in the years 1978 - 1989. There came domestic resistance against apartheid. The end of apartheid was really important stage in South Africa. Years 1989 - 1995 were time of transition (Thompson 1996, 241-277).

In 1997 Helsingin Sanomat wrote an article about black people coming to business life in South Africa. Most of the black entrepreneurs have small enterprises, but there are also some very rich owners and businessmen.

Apartheid ended in 1994, but South Africa still struggles with racism and racist attitudes. One story on BBC News tells about a black South African woman, who works in a coffee shop. She was attacked by white man, who told her that there is no place for kaffir lover like her in the town. And he used a sharp instrument to carve a "K" onto her chest. "K" denoting an abusive term for black people. BBC tells also about quite new racism, a dramatic rise in xenophobia towards black African immigrants.

### Chapter 3

#### Analysis of the Film

The film opens with an evocative image of racial tension in South Africa. Two sports fields lie on either side of a road; one is nicely maintained and is where the white rugby team plays, while the other is muddy and poorly maintained, used by a black soccer team. When the famous activist Nelson Mandela drives by in a car, the black soccer players run to their barbed wire fence and begin chanting his name, while the white rugby players simply stare at them. The image is striking in that we see two groups of sports-loving young people, separated only by a road, but they are from extraordinarily different political and socioeconomic worlds.

Indeed, the white rugby team is actively antagonistic towards the black activist, Mandela. When one of the players asks the coach who is passing, the coach calls Mandela a "terrorist," and suggests that the day marks the day that their country goes "to the dogs." This shows the racial tension that exists in the country, the fact that white South Africans see an anti-apartheid activist like Mandela as a threat and someone who will ruin the country, which they believe belongs to them. Thus we see that a major conflict of the film is the systemic racism and post-colonial attitudes in South Africa.

Just four years after getting released from prison, with the enfranchisement of black South Africans, Mandela is elected the first black president of the country, an exciting but daunting development in South African history. It marks an empowering moment for black individuals in the horribly racially divided country, but, as a newscaster states, Mandela is "balancing black aspirations with white fears." Mandela must unite a divided country while also facing personally the distracting and spirit-crushing racism from the white citizens he governs.

Mandela begins to unite his divided nation first within his own sphere of influence: the presidential office. While many of his white employees who are holdovers from the previous administration assume that he is going to fire them, he insists that he will not be firing anyone from the previous administration, but asks that anyone who stays on be willing to unite in their effort to help keep the country running. He also sends the previous president's white bodyguards to work alongside his head of security, Jason Tshabalala, which alarms Jason. When Jason confronts the president about this racial integration, Mandela simply insists, "The rainbow nation starts here," using a phrase coined by theologian Desmond Tutu, suggesting that racial unity and diversity are not only possible in South Africa, but essential to its health as a nation.

The divide within South Africa and its failure to integrate with the rest of the world becomes represented within the narrative of the film by the failing Springboks rugby team, and its divided fandom. The team, headed by Francois Pienaar, is on the brink of being disbanded altogether, due to the fact that they are not playing at a competitive level. Mandela, when he visits a game, also notes that the fan base of the team is divided along racial lines; while white South Africans root for the Springboks team, black South Africans root for the opposing team always—whoever is not their oppressor.

Mandela is determined to create unity in the nation at any cost. When he gets wind of the fact that the National Sports Council has voted to completely reconstitute the national rugby team, he goes directly to their meeting to speak with them and convince them to keep the old rugby team. In spite of Brenda's insistence that he ought not to risk looking like an autocrat over the emblem and colors of a rugby team, he is sure that the key to South African peace and unity is to push through the racial friction that has plagued the nation in the past and create a culture of forgiveness and acceptance.

When Mandela addresses the National Sports Council, he gives the people some insight into his ethic of trying to accept and understand the white South Africans. He talks about the fact that when he was in prison for 27 years, all his guards were Afrikaners, and he took his time in confinement to study the language and work of the white man, in order to better understand his enemy. He insists that understanding, forgiveness, and a peaceable attitude are what create victory, and urges the black South Africans to practice such acceptance and understanding moving forward.

Mandela acknowledges the fact that he is championing a generosity that white South Africans have not practiced towards black South Africans, and that during apartheid, Afrikaners denied black South Africans generosity and humane treatment. But he argues that now the black South Africans who have come to power must be stronger than their old oppressors if they want to unite the country and see it flourish. He promotes peace and compassion even in the face of hatred and prejudice.

While Mandela exhibits formidable conviction as a political leader, he has his weak spots, particularly when it comes to his personal life. In one scene, a servant tells Mandela that his daughter has abruptly canceled a trip to come visit him, without giving a reason why. Then, on an early morning walk, a bodyguard makes the mistake of asking Mandela about his family, which sends Mandela rushing back to the house and forgoing his walk. Mandela's isolation from his family evidently connects him even more fully to his role as a leader, but it takes an emotional toll nonetheless.

Mandela sees the South African rugby team as a microcosm of the conflicts of the country at large. It is his belief that, if he can unite the country through rugby, he can unite them

in larger ways which motivates him to invite Francois to his office to discuss the team's participation in the World Cup. He speaks to Francois as an equal, and suggests that it takes a great leader to get people to perform better than they thought they could. They bond over their shared belief that poetry and song can bring people together and motivate them.

The film seeks to portray the fact that Mandela's brilliance as a leader is linked to his singleminded vision. This vision is one of a nation that initially lacks a strong sense of unity coming together, against the odds, to exceed its own expectations. He likens this national project to the project of captaining a rugby team when he sits down with Francois and asks him about his tactics as a leader of his team. Mandela is sure that humans can be mobilized to become better than they think they are with the right kind of guidance.

Mandela's attitude of more universal regard for his fellow man is in conflict with the beliefs of his own family members. When his daughter expresses her disappointment in the fact that he is being so diplomatic with white men, Mandela tells her that she is only thinking of her personal feelings, rather than about what is good for her country and others, even going so far as to call her "selfish." In the film's imagination, political critique is a form of selfishness, while Mandela's ethic of universal love, forgiveness, and acceptance is the optimal way forward.

Francois is changed by his meeting with Mandela, and sees his role as captain as an opportunity to motivate his teammates in new ways. When the authorities inform the Springboks players that they will be participating in a number of coaching clinics to help with PR, the players are resistant, but Francois insists that it is good for them to be working so hard in preparation for the World Cup. Having taken Mandela's message to heart—the notion that a good leader can motivate his charges to exceed their own self-image—Francois steps into a more

motivational leadership ethic, asking more of his players than he has in the past, in the hopes that they will rise to the challenge.

Francois alternately faces unity and dissension among his teammates. When they visit the small black township, the team members enjoy teaching the young boys of the town how to play rugby, and footage of the coaching session sends the exact message of unity that Mandela and Francois have hoped. However, when Francois asks his teammates to learn the South African national anthem, the white players crumple up the page, insisting that it is not theirs, and that it belongs to "terrorists." While Francois is able to make some headway with his white team members, there are still big blockages to understanding among them.

In spite of the disunity in the country and the team, something about Mandela's efforts and Francois' help seems to charge up the athleticism of the South African team. Even though their chances of beating Australia seemed slim, they end up winning the first game that they play with them. Unity and a sense of belonging is enriching and helpful to the team in that it instills in them a sense that they can rely on one another.

Francois is all the more inspired by Mandela and his motivational project when he visits the prison where Mandela was confined. In the very cell in which they kept Mandela, Francois has a vision of the president, sitting on his small mat, and reciting the poem "Invictus," by William Ernest Henley. The poem is about resilience and never losing hope, even in the face of great struggle. Francois' visit to the prison is a spiritual experience, in which he looks plainly at the strength and bravery that Mandela is modeling for him and his teammates.

Part of what makes Mandela so inspiring is the fact that he has ascended to such great heights after sinking so low for such a long time. After 27 years of confinement and hard labor in

prison, he has emerged as an unflappable and poised leader of a new Africa. What might have crushed another man's spirit has only strengthened Mandela's, and it is this very strength of character that so compels Francois to listen to his wisdom as a leader.

In spite of his immense strength, Mandela falls prey to his own hard-working spirit when he collapses from exhaustion on the pavement in front of his house. Part of Mandela's strength as a leader is the fact that he is willing to work so hard for his country, but this has taken a toll on his body. The doctor insists that he take a complete break from all of his obligations, lest his condition worsen, but his employees are doubtful that the president will be willing to do so.

Additionally, the Springboks are about to face a giant challenge in their match with the seemingly unbeatable All Black team from New Zealand. The All Blacks have not only won every game, but have set new records for points scored in a single match. Part of their success is due to their performing a Maori war dance before each match, a show of unity and togetherness that some say decides the outcome of the game before it has even started.

Through everything, Mandela's greatest strength is his equanimity and far-reaching sense of compassion. Before the game against the invincible All Black team, Mandela wishes each member of the Springboks team good luck, before then shaking the hands of the members of the opposing team. It is an unusual move, to wish luck to all of the players, but it is emblematic of Mandela's ethic throughout the film, to send compassion and goodwill to all men in order to make them feel good and be their best selves.

The national anthem is the one element of South African culture that the Springboks team refuses to engage with throughout the film. However, right before the game against New Zealand, all of the players sing the anthem on the field, much to the surprise of many of the people in the

stands. The moment of singing the national anthem, which the players have previously characterized as belonging to terrorists (meaning black South Africans) is symbolic of the improving unity of the country, the fact that the players are willing to evolve and put away their prejudices in order to feel connected to their country.

The final section of the film is mostly devoted to the crucial game between the New Zealand All Blacks team and the Springboks. In a certain way, this game is symbolic of the entire fate of South Africa. The fact that the Springboks team has gotten so far already in spite of the odds is representative of the fact that unity and nationalism has bolstered them in their sportsmanship. Thus, their ability to beat the New Zealand team, to win it all, would be a tremendous feat for South Africa, because it would represent the fact that unity between Afrikaners and black South Africans is necessary for victory in sports.

The film moves around and shows different people watching the big game, in order to show just how important it is in the lives of South Africans, and what it means for the country. In one moment we see Mandela watching, then Francois' mother and his family's maid, then a little boy listening to the game on the radio outside the stadium. This collage of different spectators shows the diversity of South Africa itself and the fact that the game is bringing together many disparate types of people in order to cheer for the same thing.

The climax of the film occurs when the Springboks win the game against New Zealand in the final moments of overtime. The symbolic win that Mandela believes the country so needs comes true and the South African people are united by the athletic victory. The film frames this event as sentimental and momentous, a moment of joy that is felt by all South Africans in the



same way. Director Clint Eastwood and writer Anthony Peckham eschew nuance in favor of unambivalent joyous outburst—a moment of full, unbridled, nationalistic celebration.

While the film's plot concerns the unity of an entire nation, it also looks at the ways this unity is brought about by the confidence and clarity of one man, Nelson Mandela. The film ends with Mandela in the car as it drives through the mobbed streets following the South African victory. He is proud of what has happened, and again thinks of the poem, "Invictus," which gave him so much courage during his time in prison. The poem is about one man keeping firm to his beliefs and to himself in the face of great obstacles. Mandela is the prime example of someone who has done just that, and who has inspired resilience and determination in his associates, all in the service of the greater good.

## Conclusion

Based on my analysis on the movie *Invictus*, I realized that there are two strong leaders, Nelson Mandela and Francois Pienaar. As a President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela believed that unity is the nation's most powerful weapon for the growth of the country. Unlike other presidents who focused on politics, international relation issues and the economic growth, he focused on building the nation by creating small steps such as supporting the Springbokes rugby team. He realized that hatred developed in young generations such as the black African children should be immediately addressed and organized coaching by the rugby team. Nelson Mandela wanted his people to see the bigger picture, and not only from the game point of view but the fact that every individual plays a big role in uniting the nation. Francois Pienaar understood Nelson Mandela's vision and strived hard in the final round of World Cup. It was definitely a very different game for him and the team as they were willing to sacrifice and bear the pain to bring victory for their country which demonstrated the love and patriotism for their country. However, I would like to recommend on areas in which Nelson Mandela and Francois can improve on in terms of their leadership. Nelson Mandela has successfully addressed his stakeholders, which is the nation but however, failed to recognize his family members as his stakeholders as well. Leaders are to be seen as individual whom create success stories in their personal life and goals before identifying the organisation and nation needs. Nelson Mandela should have put in efforts on bringing his family together and making them understand his vision and goals. On the other hand, Francois Pienaar has identified his stakeholders, which are the 46 million people

of his nation and has a very strong family support. Another issue I would like to address and recommend on is the fact that Nelson Mandela encouraged the blacks to play rugby game. This is a very good idea to encourage the blacks to participate and give their support to the Springboks however in my opinion, the whites should have also participated and play football with the blacks. This would have created a tighter bond between the whites and blacks of Africans and promote unity.

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