Preface

South Africa is undoubtedly a beautiful region but it has been in the hot news after the second world war because of its apartheid policy. It has been the target of criticism throughout the world because it is the only country which has legalised the racial policy. Apartheid as it is called is found there in its worst form. People have been struggling for their rights and the struggle having reached in its last phase. The apartheid policy is not only violative of people's fundamental rights but also of the United Nations charter and has come to be a major threat to international peace and security. Thus the world body has to contend with the racist regime of South Africa.

The United Nations has various means to deal with such a recalcitrant state. Economic sanctions as a potent technique has been institutionalized in the United Nations Charter. In case of South Africa, the United Nations has applied sanctions for its non-compliance to the UN charter. More interestingly it has applied sanctions not only to preserve the international peace and security but also for the furtherance of certain norms viz human rights and majority rule.

Sanctions is an important instrument of coercion in the hands of the world body. Their application against
South Africa has important implications. But it is power politics and vested interest of certain powers that has had a bearing on the effectiveness of sanctions and it this which deserve in depth research. This study focusses on 'struggle against apartheid' with its main emphasis on the 'politics of sanctions'. It highlights the manifestation of apartheid and role that the world body and other organizations like NAM, OAU and ANC have played in exposing the events necessitating imposition of sanctions and building up of public opinion in favour of sanctions. The study also examines the reaction of the major powers which has constrained the way of implementing the sanctions. The study has been conducted within the framework of the theory and practice of sanctions basing mainly on official documents of the UN, NAM and OAU reports, conference papers etc.

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