

C H A R L I E J A D E

A SHORT INSIDERS COMPARISON GUIDEBOOK TO THE
PARALLEL UNIVERSES

BETAVVERSE

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BETAVVERSE:

(We will focus on planet Earth in Betaverse)

Earth in Betaverse had and has a long and familiar history of struggle, evolution, rivalry, and international conflicts – who can forget Apartheid or the devastation of 911 when the world declared war on terrorism. The cry for peace remains loud and clear, yet blindly unheeded. Countries which can't afford, or which no longer want to be targeted as the "world's cops", have dumped the task of "peace and prosperity" onto the lap of the United Nations. Overburdened with a daunting mandate it can't fulfill, the United Nations is rapidly disintegrating, and conflict and famine is on the rise world-wide – terrorism is commonplace, and the response to it is apathetic.

In a move to further integrate the world, believing integration is the key to curing the world's woes, the United Nations has been instrumental in opening up trade and travel borders. This "free and open borders" policy has done little more than increase the appetite for financial exploitation, opening the door for further conflict. In the midst of this, Africa has successfully entered the era of the "African Renaissance". Initially inspired and spearheaded by South African president Thabo Mbeki, and now championed by its current female president (perhaps Zinzi Mandela daughter of Nelson Mandela), the African Renaissance has turned the dark continent into the destination of choice for multi-national corporations to set up shop, and for millions of N. Americans, Europeans and Asians to relocate. South Africa is by far the preferred country, and has become a melting pot of nationalities and cultures. Here, there is a spirit not unlike that of the wild-west during the early years of the US – growth and expansion at the expense of all that is native.

Cape Town is a strategic location as a major shipping port to the world. It is an emerging democracy in its infancy (making it more easy to manipulate). It is far away from the more scrutinizing eyes of the West. These are the key reasons CY-Cor chose Cape Town as its headquarters in Betaverse.

Look

- Photographically a mix of contrasts between AV and GV depending on the areas in question.
- This is our world, the world we know, but embellished with slightly futuristic technology that dots the landscape.
- Practically, we will take advantage of downtown Cape Town as a primary location, but also have the opportunity to broaden the scope in areas within reach of Cape Town, such as dunes, rolling winelands, pristine beaches, coastal communities, scrubbed deserts, the filth and cramped areas of the townships, Table Mountain, and nearby mountains that can double for European and N. American locations.
- Lighting is as varied as the drastic differences in the areas chosen, ranging from harsh and expressionist to sharp and clean.
- Streets and highways are typical of those found in most European and N. American cities, congested with traffic, well maintained in areas of affluence and poorly maintained in poorer areas. In townships we see the stark contrast of new black tar roads

- cutting a swath through the squalor. In the center of Cape Town, overhead highways suddenly dead end like a cliff at the ocean's edge – much folklore as to why the highways were never completed.
- Trash and litter exists where one would expect, but now even pristine beaches and roadways near more affluent areas are showing signs of unchecked litter.
 - Architecture in Cape Town is very urban and cosmopolitan, consisting of the few inspired landmark buildings side by side with less than inspiring concrete, aluminum and glass monoliths. The past, present and future stand side by side, ranging from stone buildings from the 1700's to an abundance of art deco and Victorian.
 - Bright colors contrast against the drab.
 - The city skyline is dominated by the Cy-Cor Tower on the foreshore near the waterfront (CGI embellishment of the Safmarine building). By the presence of large ostentatious signs crowning the surrounding buildings, there is no doubt that banks, insurance companies and everything digital (several owned by Cy-Cor) are the real profit makers. Nearby in the new Convention Center, water taxi's fairy executives on canals from the hustle of the city to the more leisurely shopping, eating and playground at the V&A Waterfront.
 - Two Nuclear cooling towers are seen along the West Coast, not far from downtown. Along the N2 highway, we are privy to the two coal cooling towers next to the large old red brick electric plant.
 - Robin Island's prison of horrors is sacred ground that the city fathers have seen fit to turn into a tourist trap. Large powered catamarans are seen shuttling tourists to and from the Waterfront for a morbid peek at a part of history fading from view.
 - The harbor is very developed, serving as the continent's main hub for export/import around the world. The valuable port land is quickly being gobbled up by property developers to further expand the waterfront.
 - Housing contrasts in style based on status.
 - Technology is slightly futuristic – there is a blend of slick modern technology with older, wetter, more distressed architecture and environment.
 - Top executives live in fantastic houses featuring high security features. (Walled, fenced, patrolled, and monitored at all times). Size of property and the area it is located is key to status, i.e. the large estates of Bishops Court and Constantia, and the more modern and freestyle homes of Fresnaye overlooking Sea Point and Bantry Bay.
 - Every inch of sea-view land along the coastal areas from Sea Point to Hout Bay is rapidly developing. Conservation borders up the Twelve Apostles Mountains are lined with new construction pushing as close to the borders as possible. Unscrupulous land developers and corrupt city council members strike under-the-table deals that are seeing more of conservation land disappearing.
 - Exteriors are clear, crisp and clean, with all smog and fog kept at bay by the ever-present Southeaster winds.
 - Graffiti is everywhere, ranging from black gangs marking their territories as warnings to other gangs, to inspired murals depicting hope, unity, and a culture still besieged by HIV Aids.
 - For the most part, graffiti is dealt with by the private rather than public sector. Graffiti on city trains is a growing problem – a canvas for the disinfranchised.

- Poor blacks live in cluttered shacks of the townships, with more affluent blacks living in more predominantly white neighborhoods. A recent development has seen poor whites moving into isolated areas within the townships. Colored's (mixed race) live in brightly colored duplexes in the city center and tend to group in pockets of suburban areas. Middle to upper class white's dominate the city bowl surrounding downtown, and the more affluent white's live in areas highest above the city bowl, or along coastal communities and estate lined suburbs 20 minutes from downtown.
- Housing is broad and varied, depending on stature and culture.
- In cities like Cape Town, the highest objective of the middle class is to own a home or flat. To own a home in or near the city bowl, or along the coastal communities is a dream many will never achieve. The vast majority of the middle class live in the flats – typical suburban grid street neighborhoods. With the influx of foreigners snapping up homes and land at alarming prices, the middle class is slowly being driven further and further away from the city.
- Much of society is very visible from the street. During the day, the downtown area is alive with pedestrians from every walk of life. Sidewalks are lined with day merchants, who set up their mobile stalls in the morning and strike them at the end of each day. At night, downtown is a ghost town, with the exception of Long Street and it's short narrow side streets, which is the main hub of nightlife – clubs, cafes, restaurants and eclectic art exhibitions. Strolling down any of the streets more than a block from Long Street at night is taking one's life into their own hands. Almost anything can be bought at night on or near Long Street – drugs, weapons, prostitutes, foreign currency – a smorgasbord of unlikely treats mingling with Cape Town's more affluent white youth.
- There is evidence of fantastic wealth next to unbelievable poverty. Small pockets of shack communities are built under highways, in alley-ways, fields, in large clumps of vegetation along roadways, all within shot of more affluent areas, and growing worse each day.
- South Africa's credo that all are equal has meant the end of isolating more affluent neighborhoods from the rest of society – calling them too "elitist". After Apartheid was abolished in the early 90's, affluent home-owners began putting up security gates and guards on city maintained streets leading into their neighborhoods. Now illegal, these have been removed, forcing owners to erect huge walls, razor wire and electrified fencing – all built on fear. In order to circumvent the anti-elitist laws, clever land developers are now buying whole sections of land and building fenced in communities, called "enclaves" where security gates and guards control who is and who is not allowed to enter, with all streets and public services paid for and provided by the community, not the city. These enclaves have sparked public outcry, many believing that corrupt members of city council have enabled these communities to be built – those who have on the inside are hated more by those on the outside.
- Locals cross highways and cut through train yards to save time when going from one place to another – highway pedestrian deaths are so common statistics are kept.
- Wardrobe varies from super fine and formal for the more old money upper class to hip and casual for the more nouveaux money – "lables" mean everything, and are worn with arrogant pride.

Middle class ranges from button down collars and cheap suits for middle management, to locally manufactured (non-label) jeans, cargo pants, skirts, blouses and shirts (all poor knock-off's of more trendy label fare) for Joe and Josephine public. People living in townships wear surprisingly well pressed, clean and coordinated apparel. Cultural influences on wardrobe are wide and varied, from traditional African and Indian, to slick European "all black" and colorful and funky.

- Make-up in BV depends on who, where and culture. The range is fresh and clean to dark and moody depending on character and culture. By and large we will want to keep make-up to a minimum for most, with more elaborate and avant-garde make-up for those in the upper crust or cutting edges of society.
- Style in Cape Town is very LA and Cannes casual at the higher levels – and very Seattle grunge at the lower levels – always mindful of the multi-cultural environment in which we live.

Population: Status and Traits

- The mass self-imposed relocation of blacks lured to the cities by promises of prosperity in the early 90's, has created townships full of squalor and cramped quarters. While the promise to provide affordable and livable housing for all has seen the building of hundreds of thousands of cinder block, tin roof houses, the demand is greater than the ability to keep up. The existence of these cinder block housing developments has done little more than to create bigger and better slums. In addition, the mass influx of foreigners buying up property, much of which is promoted by Cy-Cor subsidiaries, has also lead to absurd increases in property prices to the point that the vast majority of people will never be able to afford anything other than a cinder block shack. Tensions run high at this continued imbalance, and xenophobia is on the rise as a result.
- In spite of the African Renaissance gaining momentum, Africa, like many other countries in the world, continues to increase it's birth rate at an alarming new high. The archaic belief that a family has the right to bare children which will contribute to the families workforce is hard to break. Not wanting to be politically incorrect or offend cultural sensibilities, forced birth control is discussed behind closed doors but not yet implemented on the African continent.
- Hospices, clinics, and hospitals are overwhelmed with the ever growing number of HIV and AIDS patients – an epidemic that is only now being admitted and dealt with realistically across Africa and the rest of the world – too little too late for many.
- **Class Structure** – To even suggest the existence of any recognized and accepted classes in South Africa or in most of the world is akin to social suicide. Classes are not supposed to exist, but we all know they do, and individuals are treated according to these "unspoken" class structures. In South Africa they consist of the following.

Lower – Those born into poverty with no chance of ever increasing their stature in life. Those of color are also known as "previously disadvantaged". Lower class individuals have been catered to in ways that go against the laws of the land, i.e.

past taxes, electric and water bills have been forgiven, which has stirred public debate. Lower class workers are the garbage men, janitors, maids, gas station attendants, baggage handlers, construction labor, tea ladies. While the lower class in Africa is predominantly black, in South Africa the number of lower class whites is rapidly growing – those who have disappeared from the shrinking middle class.

Middle – The heaviest burden in all walks of life and in all countries is placed on the middle class. They are the hardest working, and pay the bulk of the forgiven debts and taxes of the poor and the loop hole savvy wealthy. They are the fastest disappearing of the classes in Africa and the world. Many among the upper class are smart enough to know that the demise of the middle class will impact their own lifestyle, and so support the middle class just enough to keep them working, feed themselves, and enjoy small moments of life, but not enough to ever advance beyond their current status – the carrot is just a few inches away, and the status quo is maintained.

Upper – These are the movers and shakers – the wealthy and affluent. But to be really in the upper crust of the upper class, one has to be politically connected in the new South Africa. South Africa has seen black rule since 1994. The trends of Apartheid, which kept the blacks down, is now being quietly reversed, and the whites who find themselves outside the predominantly black political arena, know they face the possibility of losing what they have gained through the years. Radical pockets of Afrikaaners are quietly reorganizing, not unlike the white supremacists in the US. – the dream of an independent state ruled by the Afrikaaner, while distant, is alive.

- The appearance of politically correct motivated tactics and strategies that are obviously far from realities are considered the social norm and acceptable.
- Mandela, like Ghandi, is quoted and praised. Yet, fewer and fewer of Mandela's philosophies are practiced.
- The majority of the South African population exists in a confusing world where ancestral belief's conflict with modern times – mistrust runs rampant. Many blacks believe that HIV and AIDS don't exist, and is only a scare tactic of whites trying to keep the blacks from procreating.
- Murder among the lower class, predominantly black on black, is at it's highest rate, yet little is done to understand or curb the violence. Senseless murders during robberies are common. Black on black rape is the highest in the world, with pockets of uneducated blacks believing that sex with a virgin will cure AIDS.
- Muti killings, while not common, are still practiced. These are believed to bless those who perform the killings, or those who the killings are performed for, bringing about prosperity and good health. Often, young children are the victims of these offerings.
- Taking advantage of others in business, while once subtle, is now obvious and flaunted – everyone is out to get his piece of the rock, and almost any method of business is acceptable as long as it is successful. Few systems are in place to protect the "little guy".

- Work at the expense of leisure or family is considered necessary.
- Size and space allotment of home or office seen as ultimate status symbol, which also creates discontent among the have-nots.
- The lower class are seldom seen out for leisurely nights in the city or malls because most live too far, rely on public transport that is not available at night, and have little money in any case. Nights out are for the upper-middle to upper class, which frequent areas such as malls, beach front communities, and Long Street where others of similar stature play in large numbers.
- 10 hours is considered minimum normal work day. The credo "work hard and you will prosper" has seen an increase in time spent at work.
- The work ethic in Cape Town is "do as little as is required to keep one's job". By and large the service industries are slow and inefficient.
- There is an imbalance between men and women from all races and classes in the work place, with men earning more than women in the same job, and women not even considered for employment that has long been seen as a man's position. Women who have managed to excel beyond their gender are generally not trusted or respected by their male counterparts.
- Children rarely raised by working parents among the whites, who hire nannies to care for their children. Lower class children are free to roam the streets, even as young as 6 or 7, many of which who are already committing crimes or hustling for money on street corners. Colored families have a high ethic when it comes to raising children, resulting in very tight family unity throughout childhood and adult life. It is very common to see large groups of colored families and friends on outings together.
- For the poor, children are considered assets for a family's earning capacity – the overwhelming majority will not finish school. Middle class children enjoy a fairly stable life, however, most will never succeed beyond their parents status. Upper class children are groomed for great things with love and family nurturing taking a distant second to educational and financial success.
- The upper class enjoy all benefits of society – but in a country where the buzz word is "empowerment" (which has a broad definition, but in reality equates to black empowerment not unlike affirmative action in the US), many among the white elite are finding it more difficult to maintain their lifestyles. In neighboring Zimbabwe, the push to empowerment has reached extreme measures as seen in the forced reallocation of lands, which are now threatening to become common in South Africa.
- Wealth is major form of measure determining class.
- While basing age on employment violates anti-prejudice laws, the underlying reality is that "younger" is better because younger works harder and cheaper.
- Sex is common, even among young teens. This is a result of a society that for decades was ruled on Calvinistic ideals, and with the new freedoms – everything goes. Among the colored Muslim communities young women are forced into marriage at an early age so as to not disgrace the family through pre-marital relationships, real or perceived – arranged marriages are common. However, more "modern" Muslim women are emerging, but not without the stigma of shame that goes with their new found freedoms.
- Smoking is popular. Some of the world's largest tobacco growers are found in Southern Africa, which Cy-Cor has it's hands in.

- Entrepreneurism is alive and well, but the majority of support is earmarked towards the previously disadvantaged.

Government & Political System

- Parliament is the seat of government – and the real power is the party that holds the most seats. To date, the African National Congress (founded by Mandela) is the overwhelming majority party among all provinces, except the Western Cape. However, politics in the new South Africa are brutal as opposing parties try to split the ANC through slander and allegations of corruption in order to gain a foothold in provinces.
- South Africa is a democratic state governed by a constitution put in place in Oct 1996 which preamble reads: "Human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms. Non-racialism and non-sexism. Supremacy of the constitution and the rule of law. Universal adult suffrage, a national common voters roll, regular elections and a multi-party system of democratic government, to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness." The efficiency of how these are realized and put into practice is heavily debated.
- All provinces are regulated by laws legislated by parliament. Unlike the US where states can legislate their own laws, such as the death penalty, South Africa's laws are for the most part universal. The parliamentary system is managed efficiently and serves the nation well, although the allocation of certain government support to one province over another is often met with great debate and allegations of impropriety.
- The political arena is a minefield, where wrong moves can cast friend and foe into the political wasteland. Reading the political landscape properly is a valued asset.
- Corruption runs rampant throughout government – sometimes for political gain, sometimes for monetary gain – almost always for personal gain.
- Political rhetoric amongst politicians is common place and largely ignored by the socially apathetic, or those who don't understand the basics or nuances of politics.
- Many ministers and others were appointed in the early days of the new government that had no political experience or political education, other than what was learned during the struggle. As a result, some of the old ideals and practices of the struggle form the basis of leadership and management among a few that hold high positions in government.
- South Africa has become the watchdog of the African continent, using it's political and economic muscle to intervene in conflicts (what the US is to the world, South Africa is to Africa). For many, this brings back memories of Angola (SA's Vietnam) and no one wants to repeat this part of history, and with the still large number of people living below the poverty line, assisting other countries is seen as inappropriate.
- South Africa has led the way for the "African Renaissance", which is witness to free trade agreements and political unity amongst African nations, as well as with international partner countries.
- Statutes, legislation, courts, and regulations designed to support the new constitution.

- In keeping with the mandate of the constitution to treat all citizens as equals, eleven official languages are recognized and catered to. The news can be seen each night in all 11 languages.
- Cities are reliant on provincial authorities.
- Corporate mismanagement is tolerated.
- All citizens have the right to vote – understanding the issues and the bigger picture is another story. Most vote for politicians and parties whose promises seem to directly affect the voters in question – “If it puts food on the table, it has my vote”. Unfulfilled promises have created more mistrust, especially from the lower and middle class. Less than half those eligible actually vote.
- Voting is conducted efficiently and without controversy.
- In spite of laws that are designed to govern all equally in spite of race, culture or creed, ancient animosities between rival tribes (i.e. Zulu, Xhosa, Soto) dating back 1000’s of years find their way into the educated political arena.
- The South African government is often maligned by the US for SA’s historical support of Palestine, Libya, Syria and other nations the US considers terrorist strongholds. These nations supported SA during the struggle – Mandela’s response to the US regarding SA’s relationship with these country’s? “Where were you when we needed help?”
- The Truth And Reconciliation Commission and hearings it spear headed are seen as one of the greatest strategies for averting war and strife at a time when conflict seemed inevitable. SA recognized the time of Apartheid as a time of war. As such, the TRC had only one request – admit one’s role in the struggle openly and honestly, and all will be forgiven. The TRC is credited for a mass healing that led the country away from war and into peace.

Currency & Economy

- Inflation is stable with acceptable annual increases.
- The rand is highly volatile, most notably affected by the USD.
- For the vast majority, cash is king. Only the affluent rely on electronic financial transactions, i.e. internet banking and credit cards – credit cards are accepted virtually everywhere. Many from the lower class have no means to cash a paycheck, and in some cases pay is provided in cash.
- Invoices, accounts payable and receivable, purchase order system basis for value measure of company wealth.
- Corporate balance sheets used annually to measure size of the economy and GNP.
- All fiscal policies controlled locally by Minister of Finance, with national policy controlled by Minister of Economic Affairs.
- Banks are among the wealthiest and most stable businesses (several are owned by Cy-Cor). Fees are far and away higher than any other country on the planet. Banks are largely unregulated and do not operate in the interest of the public.
- Interest rates are among the highest in the world, fluctuating between 12% and 20%.
- Small business is encouraged, but due to empowerment quotas, many small businesses fail as owners do not possess the experience required to run a small business. Funds from small business loans and grants are often used to buy expensive cars, rather than building a successful business.

- Large underground economy estimated to be in the billions.
- Whole jobs are created out of thin air, i.e. street parking security guards – no permits or licenses, just individuals creating jobs for themselves. Mostly, this is an annoyance, but tolerated as part of the culture. Government is cracking down on unlicensed vendors, forcing many to crime.
- There is no lack of food for most. Subsistence is provided by government for those unable to work.
- Middle class lives in debt – lower class are by and large debt free as they are not a good debt risk.
- Small percentage of the population controls a large percentage of the wealth. Extreme wealth is not uncommon, nor is extreme poverty.
- Credit is difficult to secure – most credit awarded to individuals who are virtually no credit risk.
- Exchange controls limit the amount of funds that can be taken out of the country. Wealthy individuals do not have the ability to move large sums of money off-shore, which has left a huge cache of blocked funds in the country. There are many strategies afoot to access these blocked funds.
- Debts, especially among the poor, are easily forgiven, creating a greater burden on the middle class.
- Multi-million rand homes are plentiful and common. Real estate is booming, with yearly price increases topping 50%. 38% of homes are purchased by foreigners.
- The majority of housing is unaffordable for the majority of the population, especially in the cities.
- Owning a car is considered a luxury as opposed to a necessity, and is a benchmark for status.
- South Africa stringently controls the world's diamond trade through De Beers – call it SA's ace-in-the-hole in terms of it's global financial ranking and stability.
- SA's largest and most profitable businesses are banks and insurance companies.
- Cheap labor equates to an increase in exportable goods, and export is encouraged and supported by government – export equals hard currency, increased employment.
- Competition is often crushed under less than ethical, if even legal, circumstances. To kill it's profitable rival, the government owned airline, SAA, secretly bought up shares of it's competition, then shut down the airline – cries of foul play quickly subsided – proof, you can't beat city hall.
- The world continues to open up free trade zones. The US controls much of what most smaller countries can and can't trade by lending to these countries, then threatening to call in loans if that country competes in products and services with the US. In South Africa, the US has shut down a multi-million dollar satellite manufacturing facility before it opened for business, and killed a helicopter program that competed head on with the Black Hawk.
- The financial infrastructure is healthy, and among the best run in the world.
- Minimum wage means most must work two jobs to keep families fed.
- Poverty is considered the greatest instigator of crime.
- Taxes are among the highest in world, ranging from 25% – 60% income tax, all under the watchful eye of SARS (South African Revenue Services). All goods and services have VAT (valued added tax) of 14%. Companies that are VAT registered enjoy 100% refund

on VAT payments – a silly system where money is wasted administering the payment and refunding of VAT.

- Cheating on income taxes is a common practice openly encouraged by chartered accountants. SARS is cracking down on cheaters, but is only doing so industry by industry, earmarking those it believes the biggest culprits first.
- Teachers are among the lowest paid. Many teachers in rural areas are untrained.

Security, Police, and Fire Protection

- Military conflicts are on the rise. There has not been a day on the African continent in the past 150 years that has not seen a war – middle and West Africa continue to see senseless conflicts in spite of the genocide of Rwanda in 1994 – most conflicts flare up over power struggles between powerful military regimes and government.
- South Africa has not seen a war on it's soil since the early 1900's when the Afrikaaner and the English battled during the Boer War.
- The lack of police after the 1994 change of government led SA into a country of violent crime. Many argue the ANC had the power to stop the crime by force, but were reluctant to do so for fear of being perceived in the same manner as the Apartheid regime before it. The strategy was to get a foothold as the ruling party, then after the following election in 1998, step up internal security. This has led to a greater presence of police, but by many was regarded as too little too late as crime has reached all time highs.
- Seeing the need for policing in order to protect it's number one asset, "Tourism", Cape Town launched a massive security campaign that included greater police presence, and security cameras throughout the city. Cape Town's crime has dropped.
- The national answer to crime – "Zero Tolerance" – if you commit crime, you go to jail.
- Civil rights are hotly protected and embraced.
- Security forces, such as the elite Scorpions (a combination of the FBI and SWAT), are quick to react to major crime syndicates, and often conduct simultaneous country-wide sweeps.
- Security technology and R & D at highest level.
- The Military in SA is made up of the following branches: Army, Navy, Air Force and Reccies (similar to Navy Seals). Threat of war by neighboring countries is minimal. The SA military is being used more and more as peace keeping forces in the war torn countries of middle and Western Africa. New high tech battle ships (one being the Amatola) were recently purchased, and are used for peace keeping around the continent.
- Fire brigades are a function of provincial and local government.
- Prison terms are less than expected, as prisons are overcrowded and cannot accommodate the influx of criminals.
- The penal system struggles between rehabilitation and justice.
- Prisons are antiquated.
- Prisons populated 90% with blacks.
- Many larger corporations (like Cy-Cor) have a well-funded independent security divisions that rival police administrations.
- Jobs as a security guards are a highly desired profession due to it's non-requirement of education and skills.

- Joining the police force is for many a last resort job due to the extreme dangers associated with the job in tandem with low pay.
- Police corruption is wide-spread, many times reaching the highest levels.
- Harbor, airport, train, bus stations administration controlled by various pseudo government authorities similar to the Port Authority's administering of the World Trade Center in New York. These include Portnet & Spoornet.
- Drunk driving is a national past time.
- Large police roadblocks are common. These serve to catch criminals carrying illegal weapons, illegal aliens, drunk drivers, etc. They have become an effective tool in fighting crime and driving abuses.

Climate & Environment

- In Cape Town, windy most of the time, ranging from mild to raging.
- Air pollution kept to a minimum due to the constant winds.
- Drinking water is among the cleanest in the world.
- Trash is a major problem, especially in the townships, where garbage is routinely dumped near shacks and along streets.
- South Africa is one of several countries around the world that suffers from a high incidence of skin cancer due to a large hole in the ozone overhead. The depleted ozone is not due to South African pollution, but rather to global pollution that is blown to the South by the circulating trade-winds. It's estimated that 1 in 5 South Africa's will have skin cancer in their lifetime.
- Sunlight is stinging – a bright white compared to a warmer light in the Northern hemisphere.
- Major cities, such as Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, continue to grow at alarming speed due to the constant urbanization.
- 48% of the world's population lives in urban environment. The trend towards urbanization is steadily rising.
- 14 cities world-wide now have a population in excess of 10 million. This is expected to double in the next 15 years.
- Water is a precious commodity in the Western Cape. Water rationing is common in Cape Town.
- Cape Town's surrounding mountains have seen an increase in devastating snow storms that would not have been heard of less than 25 years ago – an unusual event given the world's global warming warnings that have seen the Antarctic melting.
- The majority of the city of Cape Town is built on reclaimed land, mostly engineered during the Dutch occupation. Less than a hundred years ago, these areas were under water. The reclaiming of land continues, creating valuable waterfront property.
- Conservation and preservation of flora and fauna is a high priority. However, unscrupulous developers and corrupt city officials bend the rules regularly.
- There are still large mass untouched reserves set aside in each economic zone of countless acres.
- Cape Town is home to flora that is found only in the Western Cape, such as the Protea – the national flower.
- The Western Cape landscape is among the most diverse in the world, ranging from dunes and deserts, to lush vineyards, mountains, oceans, bush, and forests. These are Cape Town's

treasures that bring in tourists, and more importantly hard currencies.

- Oceans are abundant with sea life, including the annual migration of the Southern Right Whale, which up until recently was all but extinct, but has, through conservation, grown steadily in numbers. Dolphins and seals are seen in abundance.
- Wildlife dominates the Eastern Part of the country in Sabi Sabi and Kruger Park (which is the size of Israel). Conservation among many species has been so successful, such as with the elephant, that culling is required to curb growth.
- Poaching continues to be a problem, with gangs known to kill those who would oppose them and the unfortunate tourist who happened upon a poachers camp.
- Livestock is seen grazing along city highways next to the townships.
- Wood is at a premium and not readily available. Most construction utilizes brick and mortar.
- The polar caps continue to melt at an alarming rate, but little notice is taken by the public at large.

Technology

- Technology is slightly advanced and futuristic. Printed billboards have been replaced with 3D photo-realistic animated billboards.
- ATM machines are being replaced by multi-tasking kiosks that dot the city where one can conduct banking, make phone calls, pay bills, surf the net, make purchases, read the headlines, etc.
- Cell phones, especially ones that take and send photos, are all the rage. A cell phone is considered a must, even among the poor, a market that Vodacom and MTN created by providing free cell phones and selling airtime vouchers. Every inch of the country is serviced by cell providers.
- Technology and the toys of the 21st century is embraced by all - Cy-Cor is rapidly introducing it's technology into Betaverse, quietly creating the BV version of the Ektoskin.
- Security technologies are among the most advanced in the world - many are used as much to protect as they are to spy - Cy-Cor is emerging as a leader in the field.
- A brain drain occurred after the 1994 elections, where the country lost many of its professionals and large corporations. Many are now returning as the African Renaissance gains momentum, and South Africa is seen as a largely untapped source of wealth.
- Customer service is lacking - customer complaints are by and large ignored.
- Some of the most innovative IT corps are based in SA - many of the advanced technologies created in SA are bought up by the US and Cy-Cor. Mark Shuttleworth created on-line security system Verisign, which he sold to the US for \$100 million - and made each of his employees instant rand millionaires.
- Downtown Cape Town and the majority of its surrounding highways are wired with a massive camera network.
- South Africa has been fitted with fiber optics in most urban cities, however, the system has not yet been connected due to corporate competition. In the same way a fusion driven car would put GM out of business, fiber optics will put several SA companies out of business - and progress is stalled.

- The country's electrical needs are served by both nuclear and steam power plants.
- HUD screens are emerging in the market, but only affordable to the wealthy.
- Rail systems are antiquated, and electric.
- Right hand drive.
- World class airline with a fleet of 101 jets, and growing.
- Cape Town is home to the world's largest private air force – Thunder City.
- Most advanced military helicopter developed by government – exceeds capabilities of Black Hawk.
- Wildlife conservation employs surgically implanted transmitters to track animals – field operating theaters are common and advanced.
- Advanced pharmaceutical industry.
- Leaded fuel still in use – diesel fuel common.
- Everyone is on-line.
- Abundance of untapped natural gas off-shore currently being explored for harvesting.

Science

- Science research funded by government and private sector.
- Patents difficult to obtain, as many concepts have been registered in foreign countries but are not developed – like website addresses in the 1990's, patented ideas are being held and sold off to the highest bidder.
- Mark Shuttleworth expanding science and space exploration in South Africa.
- Cy-Cor's facilities are funded in part by SA government. South Africa saw the securing of Cy-Cor to its shores as a major coup, and supports its operations through tax holidays and land grants. Cape Town was the obvious choice to locate Cy-Cor's headquarters, as it is the major shipping point to all destinations around the world, and is away from more scrutinising eyes of the West.
- A large portion of SA's R&D science budget goes to Cy-Cor's operations.

Utilities

- Public Utilities controlled by national government, which has a monopoly – no competition.
- Well run operations, with few failures. However, the steadily increasing population is straining the system.
- Rural areas under serviced and largely overlooked.
- Gangs steal underground copper wire from electrical and phone lines and sell off to buyers who don't ask where it came from.
- Most homes and businesses run on electricity – natural gas is uncommon and only accessed by refilling portable tanks.
- Water and electrical theft is common, as rural and township populations illegally divert lines to their shacks.
- Utilities usage fees not paid by the vast majority of the poor – most are in arrears by several months and years. Government vacillates between switching off non-payers and turning a blind eye so as to not offend future voters.

- New Dup Drive invented by South Africa in his garage – defies Newton’s theory of motion and has ability to provide 100% clean power.

Health System

- Supported by national and provincial government.
- Medical services provided by the state are sub-standard – hospitals are overcrowded, understaffed, under-funded.
- Middle class largely without medical insurance, and unable to qualify for subsidized national health-care.
- Corporations not required to provide medical insurance.
- All upper class have private medical insurance.
- Substantial increase in private hospitals for the upper class – 100% privately funded – well run and maintained.
- Health insurance fraud common.
- State doctors earn low salaries on par with lower/middle class – doctors are not seen as a wealthy sector of the economy as in the West.
- Township population treated in small under-staffed clinics.
- HIV AIDS has reached epidemic proportions among townships and poor – rapidly moving into more affluent society. Shame prevails.
- Experimental drugs encouraged – healthy R&D infrastructure – especially around HIV AIDS.
- Pharmaceutical companies marketing drugs as a right of all citizens for “equal health”.
- Many turning to holistic medicine as an alternative.
- Sangomas (traditional African healers) are sought more and more by patients in need – black and white – poor and rich.
- Ancient ancestral manhood rituals involving dangerous circumcision still practiced widely – many young men die in the process.
- TB still prevalent in some areas.
- Malaria has been eradicated in most cities – more common in bush areas in Eastern part of the country.

Education & Sport

- Education consists of primary school (age 7-12), high school/secondary school (13-17).
- When one graduates from Secondary school, they have “matriculated”.
- Tertiary education includes university, college and technicons. Technicons are popular and are an alternative to university – specific trades learned.
- University for the upper class – middle class struggle to afford fees or make the grade for entrance.
- Law, economic and business degrees heavily sought after – doctors degrees not sought after due to the low salaries – a career that pays well is the key to selecting one’s path.
- Public census records commence at birth. However, South Africa cannot accurately account for its total population as many blacks in the townships are either not registered at birth or do not participate in census gathering out of fear.
- Small portion of private sector contributes to learnership and mentorship programs.

- Teachers among the lowest paid in all fields. Teachers in rural areas have no teaching degrees and many have not matriculated.
- History is an important part of education – understanding the atrocities of the past.
- Higher education is highly respected and an indicator of social status.
- Many are matriculated even though grades fall below required minimums.
- Rugby, cricket and soccer are South Africa's favorite pass times, to participate in directly, but even more so to watch on the tube. Sports has to some extent been instrumental in uniting people from all walks of life in South Africa.
- Professional sport teams competing internationally are the pride of the country when they are winning – scorned when they are losing.
- Salaries for top players pale in comparison to sporting heroes of the West – but many are praised and looked up to like movie stars.
- Education is considered the one key factor in empowering the population, and curbing crime and poverty. What is disturbing, is that all must pay for their education beginning with primary school!
- Cape Town actively seeking to win summer Olympics bid.
- Monday through Friday TV classrooms in the mornings on SABC.
- Many outdoor sports, i.e. kite surfing, mountaineering, mountain biking, surfing, fishing, jet skiing, auto racing etc.
- Large annual bike race and 24K run attracts tens of thousands locally and internationally.

Social Support & Welfare

- Unemployment benefits available for those retrenched (laid off).
- State hospitals provide free medical for poor.
- Medical clinics and social services located in every township – all free.
- Social welfare systems inefficient and provide little in comparison to needs.

Entertainment

- Anything Western is embraced, i.e. Hollywood movies and TV shows that appeal to mainstream society.
- Big push for more local flavor in films and TV.
- Three government owned national free to air TV stations, SABC 1, 2, & 3. One independent national TV station, eTV. All must have and pay for a TV license in order to watch TV.
- One pay TV service, MNET, which is satellite based and offers over 70 channels, local and international.
- Local free to air channels pay little for production of local programming, creating a line-up of cheap programs. Broadcasters commission many low budget drama series with a heavy hand in teaching, i.e. AIDS awareness, education, sex, business, crime etc.
- Local soaps are consistently highest rated – there are both soaps aimed at blacks, whites – and youth – all popular.
- Multiplex cinemas mushrooming around the country.

- Development of local music is largely unsupported. However, South Africa has an abundance of musicians in a variety of genres. Rock is not as popular as it is in the West.
- Locally indigenous music called "Kwaito" (mix between R&B, electronic and African) is all the rage with young black listeners – largest revenues in local music sales.
- During Apartheid, South African morals were ruled by and large by Calvinistic beliefs, which suppressed all things sexual. In the New South Africa, all things sexual are revealed on TV and the radio.
- Sundowners with friends at the many cafés along the coast is a must.
- TV/Radio Advertising content is controlled, but truth in advertising is largely disregarded – sponsors can make just about any claim without justification.
- The word "God" is censored/beeped on all TV stations.
- Giant 3D animated billboards in city centers advertise 24/7.
- Advertising overtly teases and taunts buyers that they must have their product if they want to be accepted – and the public buys into it – not unusual to see and hear ad campaigns talked about or mimiced.
- Movies are rated and age restricted depending on sex, violence and language content.
- Poor blacks seldom attend cinema due to cost and location of cinemas.
- All voices heard in films – no censorship of ideas.
- News on TV at varied times in all 11 official languages.
- Hot seat reporting, ala 60 Minutes, is often sensationalised yellow journalism.
- Cy-Cor ad campaigns consist of soppy images designed to convince the public that "CY-Cor cares". Ads are often interlaced with subliminal images designed to sell, sell, sell.
- With the prevalence of TV, Cy-Cor has chosen this as the ideal medium to perpetuate the Ektoskin, and though it's manufacturing of home and business electronics, the Ektoskin is rapidly coming together.
- Multi-task Kiosks dotting the city have become meeting points for youth to listen to the newest, coolest music and videos – like hogging pay phone, others are unable to use the Kiosk's as a result.
- Reality TV is all the rage.
- Broadcasters only recently realized the benefit of turning presenters into stars.
- Performers and arts in general lowly paid.
- Several radio stations, mostly playing R&B, electronic, or a broad mix of music in an attempt to please everyone.
- Magazines tell it like it is – from sex to political scandal.
- Booming film and TV industry. 600 international commercials and over 1000 international stills shoot – brings in 100's of international models from all over the world.
- Internet porn sites easily accessible.
- Rapidly becoming the playground for the rich and famous.
- Theater is largely unsupported.
- Cape Town is club capital of the African continent.
- Club DJ's have become the most revered music stars.
- Literature and poetry largely unexplored. The few with a voice are unique and inspirational.
- Prostitution is alive and well, and about to be legalized.

- There is one casino in Cape Town – open to all.