



## PART THREE

# WORKERS' RESISTANCE

In this section we shall see how workers tried to resist the control of the mine-owners over them.

Blacks were not the only workers on the mines. The mine-owners recruited far and wide to find labour to suit their needs – they imported workers from China, from the coal mines of Wales and Cornwall in Britain, and from the lesser gold mines in America and Australia.

The treatment and conditions of these workers varied immensely, but they all had one thing in common – all were wage-earners, labouring to make profits for the gold mines. And when they were dissatisfied with their employers, they expressed their resistance in whatever way they could.

In this section we shall first examine the conditions of the Chinese mineworkers. We begin with the background to the coming of the Chinese, their conditions of work and resistance to these conditions.

We shall also look at the coming of the white, skilled miners to the Rand, how their work changed, and their relationship with the mine-owners.

Lastly, we shall deal with the ways in which black workers, seriously weakened by a forced labour system, defended themselves.