

1/10/2017

*Summarised notes on the*  
**HISTORY OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN**  
**Grade 10**

THE METHOD WITH WHICH WE SHALL FOLLOW IN THIS TREATISE WILL BE ALWAYS TO MAKE WHAT IS SAID DEPEND ON WHAT WAS SAID BEFORE.

*Galileo Galilei*

(17<sup>th</sup> century Italian Physicist)

THIS BOOKLET HAS BEEN DESIGNED IN LINE WITH THE NEWLY REVISED SYLLABI FOR SENIOR SECONDARY HISTORY

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# GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa has three types of climates:

## Eastern Region

This area stretches from the Indian Ocean to the Drakensberg mountains. The area

- a) Receives rainfall throughout the year.
- b) Has good grassland with tall trees.
- c) Has many big and small rivers.
- d) The area has very fertile soils.
- e) The area is free from tsetse flies.

Because of these factors the region is densely populated.

## Central Region

The central region extends from the Drakensberg Mountains to the border of the Kalahari Desert. The region:

- a) Has one long rainy season in a year.
- b) Has few deep and long rivers.
- c) Has a grassland with few scattered trees.
- d) Has moderately populated.

## Western Region

The region stretches from the borders of the Kalahari to the Atlantic Ocean. The area is

- a) A semi-desert with very little rain fall.
- b) Mostly sandy with coarse grassland and unfertile soil.

The region is therefore thinly populated and only nomadic people are found there e.g. the Khoisan.

# PEOPLING OF SOUTH AFRICA

Today the population of South Africa can be divided into these groups, the Bantu (about 70%; the European (White) Community (about one – third of the total population) the coloureds (unspecified proportion), the Asian (mainly in Natal) and the Khoisan (Bushmen and Khoikhoi (Hottentot) who are the earliest inhabitants.

## THE EARLIEST INHABITANTS.

### THE SAAN PEOPLE

#### Introduction

The Saan belonged to the late Stone Age because they used tools made of stone. Before the coming of the Europeans and the Bantu, these people were found all over South Africa.

### **Location (Distribution) and names**

These people had settled all over South Africa from the Indian Ocean coast to the boundaries of the Kalahari Desert. With the coming of the Bantu and Europeans the Saan were forced out of their traditional land. Today they are found in the Kalahari Desert. In South Africa the Saan came to be known by various names:

- (i) The Boers call them Bosjesmen: 'Men of the bush'
- (ii) The Xhosa call them Twa.
- (iii) The Sotho call them Roa.
- (iv) The Khoikhoi called them Saan: 'Settlers'
- (v) The east coast Bantu called them Wak-wak. (because of the click sound in their language)
- (vi) The British call them Bushmen: Men of the bush.
- (vii) In the Kalahari they are called 'Masarwa'
- (viii) They call themselves: Khwai: 'Men'

### **Characteristics**

The Saan have certain characteristics by which they are identified:

- (i) They are yellowish-brown in complexion
- (ii) They are short on average 1.15 meters but generally not taller than 1.5 meters.
- (iii) These people have kinky hair.
- (iv) They have a language full of click sound.
- (v) Men usually have small feet and big stomach.
- (vi) Women have slender arms and fatty thighs and big buttocks.

The Saan were (and still are) generally peaceful people but inclined to violence in the face of intrusion into their privacy and hunting grounds. They spoke a language with click sounds.

### **Economic life**

The Saan belonged to the Late Stone Age. They were hunter-gatherers. These people kept no domestic animals except a dog, necessary for hunting and security (defence). The Saan did not practice farming. They moved from place to place in search of wild animals and food. Besides hunting using bows and arrows they also killed animals by trapping methods. They gathered wild fruit; berries, roots, honey, termites, caterpillars and many other wild edibles. Gathering was mainly done by women.

Saan economic life was characterized by division of labour based on sex and age. Apart from hunting and gathering the Saan also caught fish.

## **Social organisation**

The Saan lived in small hunting bands comprising 20-30 members. They lived in rock shelters where available otherwise they made simple shelters for protection, especially from strong wind and sunlight. Each family had a totem, an animal with which the family was associated. The totem of the family was not hunted, or eaten, by that particular family.

These people married at an early age, girls of about 7 or 8 getting married to boys aged 14 or 15. Boys and Girls underwent initiation during which the boys were taught how to hunt and girls, how to gather foodstuffs, raise and look after families property. The Saan widely practised polygamy.

Although a woman gave birth to many children, on average only 4 or 5 survived. The small families suited their nomadic life. When time came to give birth the woman fell behind. The delivery was supposed to take, at most half an hour. The baby was washed with soil and the woman was expected to catch up with the hunting band before evening.

The Saan were gifted artist. They made four types of drawings (paintings); naturalistic, schematic, dirty white-wash and engravings. These people wore small aprons or loin cloth of soft, tanned animal skins. However, their paintings suggested they wore; in the warm periods; at any rate.

## **Political system**

The Saan did not have an elaborate political system. They had no chiefs, but an elder from the central clan provided leadership in each band. He made decisions on when and where to move. He was the guardian of the camp fire.

## **Religion**

The Saan had a strong religious system. They respected the praying mantis as an insect of god. They danced at the appearance of the new and full moon. In addition they believed in their god keegan (or "huwe").

These people believed that a human being is composed of body and spirit. They believed that man has a spirit inside and another near him, like a shadow. The spirit inside converses with the one outside when a person is dreaming.

## **Death**

They respected their dead and gave them a decent burial. They believed that death is caused by a bad spirit. When the bad spirit departs, the person is able to come back to life again. They marked burial places with pebble stones. The Saan believed that crossing a grave may cause their own death. They believed that a human being can turn himself into his animal totem; hence the custom of not killing or eating one's totem.

### **Relation with the Khoikhoi**

The Khoikhoi kept cattle and sheep, and had iron tools and weapons. Because the Saan sometimes killed their cattle, fighting often broke out between the two groups.

As there was plenty of land, at first the Saan and the Khoikhoi did not have to compete for land. When the Bantu came, competition for land became intense.

### **Relation with the Bantu**

When the Bantu came to settle in the Saan land, they chased away most of the wildlife in the area. The Saan began to kill the cattle of the Bantu for meat. This led to instant clashes between the two groups. The Bantu had an advantage over the Saan. They pushed them out.

## **THE KHOIKHOI**

The Khoikhoi were also among the earliest inhabitants of South Africa. These people call themselves Khoikhoi which means “Men of men”. The Portuguese landed at the cape in 1497; they called them Hottentots, a name derived from their language called Hottentots.

### **Location (Distribution)**

In terms of location or distribution they occupied the area from the Atlantic coast to the Buffalo coast on the Indian Ocean. Earlier on, they could be found all over South Africa. But by the seventeenth century they were living around the Cape, along the banks of the Orange River and on the coast, in Natal and much of the South-West Africa (Namibia). Today they are mostly found in Namibia.

### **Features**

The Khoikhoi resembled the Saan in many respects. They were, Yellowish – brown in complexion. But they were slightly taller than the Saan (Their language had click sounds).

### **Economy**

These people were pastoralists. They kept short – horned cattle and fat tailed sheep. The Khoikhoi only moved in search of water and pasture for their livestock. They also depended on hunting, gathering and fishing to supplement their diet.

### **Social Organisation**

The Khoikhoi lived in large and more efficient communication than the Saan. A group, or settlement had 600-2000 people. Each village or camp consisted of related clans. Intermarriages were forbidden between members of the same clan.

They made dome-shaped structures on which they spread mats. These were their houses. They used cattle for ridding and as pack-animals. The Khoikhoi were Iron-workers. They lived a more settled life because they had a good supply of food.

The Khoikhoi wore leather cloaks, fur caps and leather sandals. In addition they wore loin-cloths.

### **Political System**

These people had chiefs with limited powers. The main functions of the chief was to prevent, or settle, disputes.

### **Religion**

The Khoikhoi respected the praying mantis. They danced at the appearance of the new moon. They believed in a supreme being who was the creator of all things called **Tsuigoab**. For them God was part of the mystery in the sky. They worshiped as the provider of rain. At times they consulted magicians.

## **THE BANTU**

The Bantu were liked by their similarities of languages and origin. They came from the upper Benue region between Cameroon and Nigeria in West Africa. The migration for a variety of reasons:

- (i) Population Increase
- (ii) Need for more land
- (iii) Adventure
- (iv) Witchcraft
- (v) Debts/Crimes
- (vi) Cruel leaders
- (vii) Family quarrels
- (viii) Occupation (e.g. Blacksmith moved to areas where they could find the right metals.
- (ix) Succession disputes

### **Main groups**

The main groups were the Nguni, The Sotho-Tswana, The Venda, The Tsonga, The Herero and the Ovambo-Ukarango.

### **The Nguni**

By the sixteenth century this group had established itself along the coastal belt between the Drakensberg and the East Coast. They lived in small writ, usually collection of clans. Chiefs generally obeyed the opinion of their subjects. Expansion was limited by fertile soils and to the west, by the Drakensberg Mountains.

### **The Sotho – Tswana**

These were found west of the Drakensberg. They lived in large communities around water sources. These people were skilled iron workers. The chiefs had greater control. The Sotho-Tswana traded sheep and goats.

### **The Venda**

The Venda lived west of the Limpopo. They mined copper and gold. The Venda were involved in the copper trade with the Tswana. They traded in ivory and skin with traders from the coast, from whom they obtained cloth.

### **The Tsonga**

The Tsonga lived north of the Nguni. They had greater contact with foreigners than the Nguni. From about AD 1600 they traded with the Portuguese in ivory, iron and other minerals. These were also involved in the Slave Trade. They kept cattle on a small scale.

### **The Herero**

The Herero mostly lived west of the Nguni, in central Namibia. They had a loose political structure.

### **The Ovambo – Okavango**

The group lived south of the Herero. They were herdsmen and cultivators but had no centralised political system.

## **THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE BANTU**

### **Social Organisation**

The Bantu smallest unit of society was the family. Several families combined to form family Households, which in turn formed clans. Several clans formed villages which combined to form tribes or chiefdoms. The Bantu lived in larger groups of over 2000 people. They lived in houses made of mud and poles thatched with grass. These were arranged in a circular form with the cattle kraal in the middle to protect the animals. There was division of labour between the Male and the female. Their diet comprised of pulp made from millet and sorghum, meat, fish, wild vegetables, and fruits, insects, milk and beer. The Bantu celebrated important moments in life such as births, initiation ceremonies, marriages and funerals. They co-operated and united during these celebrations.

### **Economic Organisation**

The economic way of life of the Bantu speaking people was based on Agriculture. The Bantu mostly grew crops such as millet, sorghum and beans. They were also pastoralists of both big and small animals such as cattle and goats. The Bantu were also pottery makers, hunters and food gatherers, they were also fishermen and iron smelters. They used the iron for making tools. They also traded with other groups using the barter system by exchanging pottery with

other products. Men also performed religious ceremonies while others were soldiers who defended the Bantu community.

### **Religious Organisation**

The Bantu believed in a supreme being who they believed to be the creator of all things. They also believed in various spirits for different occasions. They also believed that the spirits of the dead ancestors acted as the medium between them and the creator. They worshiped the creator through offering sacrifice under the Msoro tree or an anthill or tomb of a dead ancestor. Sacrifices were made of animals, beer or food. The chief acted as priests in these religious ceremonies.

### **Political Organisation**

Politically, families formed a clan which was headed by the eldest male member, clans formed villages, which were headed by an induna or village headman. The villages formed Tribes or chiefdoms headed by a chief who was believed to be semi-divine.

## **THE MFECANE**

### **Definition**

During the early part of the nineteenth century a series of wars took place among the Northern Nguni of South Africa. By the 1820's one state, the Zulu kingdom had emerged to dominate others in the area. In the 1820's and 1830's armies and refugees from these wars spread warfare and destruction. This was the time of troubles. The Nguni people called these wars of wondering, the '**Mfecane**', the '**Crushing**'. The Sotho referred to the wars as '**Difecane**'. '**The scattering**'.

### **Background**

The Mfecane started in Nguniland, the area between the Drakensberg Mountains and the Indian Ocean. The area was occupied by the Nguni tribe such as the **Mthethwa, Ngwane, Ndwandwe, Khumalo, Pondo, Thembu, Xhosa, Tsonga, Bhaca and Dhlamini**. The land was fertile, there was enough rainfall and pasture for grazing animals. The Nguni were therefore cultivators and pastoralists whose life was determined by the availability of land and pasture.

### **Causes**

The Mfecane had several causes. But the basic reason was the **shortage of land** which called for new firm and military minded leaders with new military systems and conquest.

#### **1. Shortage of land and Population increase**

Around AD 1775 the Nguni speaking people began to experience a shortage of land. The fertile land between the Drakensberg Mountains and the Indian Ocean had attracted a huge human

population to settle in the area. Fertile land and healthy climate contributed to the drop in infant mortality and people lived longer. This led to rapid population increase.

Another contributing factor to the need for more land was the introduction of maize as a staple crop among the Nguni people. The Portuguese had brought maize to Delagoa Bay, from there it spread to other areas; around 1775 it was no longer possible for a family or village to split to solve the problem of land shortage as all the fertile land had been occupied. One solution to the problem was the **defeat of the weaker by the stronger**. The defeated (weaker tribes) were then incorporated into victorious groups.

## 2. Long distance trade

The hunting of elephants was important because ivory was on high demand in the trade with the Europeans at Delagoa Bay. Trade increased the wealth and prestige of the King since he had at his command sources of rewards for the followers. Therefore the desire to control the long distance trade (i.e. the route and sources of items) was an important cause of the Mfecane.

## 3. The Madhlatule Famine

The first decade of the nineteenth century was characterised by drought, resulting in what became known as the Madhlatule famine. This led to the introduction of raids for grain and cattle. Thus the regiments were permanently on the battlefields.

## 4. The rise of large states

The process of conquest and amalgamation led to the emergence of three large states namely **the Mthethwa of Dingiswayo, the Ngwane of Sobhuza and the Ndwandwe of Zwide**. The main task of the new states was the defence of land and conquest of neighbours for more. The situation increased the role of the age regiments, also used for hunting of elephants.

- a) **Zwide:** became chief of the Ndwandwe in 1870. The Ndwandwe settled in the region of the Pongola valley with the Ngwane. To increase his power, Zwide changed the custom of his people for example he abandoned the traditional Nguni initiation ceremonies and placed emphasis on military training. These changes enabled him to conquer and assimilate other groups such as the Khumalo and Ngonis. Both his people and the neighbours feared Zwide because he made them believe that he had magical powers. It was in his kingdom that the harvest ceremony of **incwala** was performed. It was used to unify the Ndwandwe, to check on the Impis and also to intimidate the neighbouring clans.
- b) **Dingiswayo:** became the king of the Mthethwa around 1800 after seizing power from his brother. He also changed the traditional customs of his people and emphasised on military training and preparedness. Dingiswayo changed the traditional temporary raiding party into permanent military force that was always available for war. He used to attack and assimilate other weaker groups such as the Zulu into his Kingdom.

- c) **Sobhuza:** became chief of the Ngwane in about 1815. Fearing his more powerful neighbours Zwide and Dingiswayo, he also reorganised his army by introducing changes similar to the ones the other two had made. Using these changes, Sobhuza was also able to create a stronger kingdom through attacking weaker groups around his chiefdom.

## 5. The career of Shaka

The wars of wondering were intensified by Shaka with the introduction of his new Military and Political reforms.

### SHAKA AND THE ZULU KINGDOM

Shaka (Chaka) was born in 1787, the son of the Zulu chief Senzangakhona and princess of the neighbouring Langeni clan Nandi. Because Nandi conceived out of wedlock, Shaka was not accepted in the Zulu royal establishment. Later Nandi was chased from the palace to her own people and Shaka grew up a fatherless child to the teasing and bullying of his companions.

When he grew up, Shaka joined Dingiswayo's army. He proved very courageous and brave warrior. Therefore Dingiswayo promoted him to the rank of an induna and commander of the Zulu regiment of the Mthethwa army. In 1816 Senzangakona died and Shaka's brother Sigujana succeeded to the Zulu throne. Because of his ambition for leadership Shaka, with the aid of Dingiswayo, attacked and killed Sigujana and became King of the Zulu.

### SHAKA'S MILITARY REFORMS

Shaka introduced several reforms in the fighting and defence system:

#### i) The Assegai

Shaka introduced the long throwing spear with the **short stabbing spear** called **Assegai**. It was used more as a sword than a spear and was to be retained throughout the battle. He forbade the warriors on pain of death to leave or lose the weapon on the battle field. The Assegai was used together with a **long shield which covered the Impis from chin to toe**.

#### ii) The Cow-horn formation

This was a movement of troops in such a way that the enemy was eventually surrounded completely. The movement consisted of a strong centre known as the 'Chest' made up of several regiments branching out into the caving projections. The horns would attempt to surround the enemy while the chest moved forward to complete the destruction. Therefore any organised retreat would not work.

#### iii) Standing Army

Shaka made a fundamental change of keeping his regiments on a standing or permanent force of warriors for long periods. This was essential for severe discipline and training which could not be achieved as long as warriors only gathered on the eve of war. The soldiers were grouped into age-regiments in special military camps and remained there constantly occupied in military

drilling and displays until Shaka himself officially dissolved it. The soldiers were not allowed to marry until the right time (usually at 40) only determined by Shaka himself.

**iv) Barefoot fighting**

Shaka discarded the use of leather sandals. His soldiers were training and fighting barefoot in order to increase mobility.

**v) Fierce discipline**

Shaka imposed fierce discipline on his soldiers which made them fear and respect him. Any loss of battle meant not only heavy punishment but also a loss of lives on his soldiers.

**vi) Rewards**

Shaka rewarded the warrior who fought bravely and fiercely and killed those who fought ineffectively.

**vii) Abolition of Circumcision**

Shaka abolished circumcision because, in his view, it was sheer waste of time. The time that the young men spent nursing their wounds after circumcision was now spent on military training.

These reforms went along with the use of **smoke signals** and **dawn attacks**. Speed was also emphasised.

### **SHAKA'S POLITICAL REFORMS**

The strength of the Zulu Nation did not only depend on the success of Shaka's military changes only but also on the political changes and these were:

**i) Recognised the loosely controlled chieftainships**

Shaka managed to unite all the loosely controlled chieftainships and homestead of the northern Nguni into a single large centralised kingdom in which all authority came directly from him, the king. Shaka ensured that his power was absolute and his word was law. He was greatly feared.

**ii) Political appointments**

Shaka **did not appoint his relatives** to important posts within the kingdom. Instead he appointed commoners based on merit. One had to prove himself to be a competent warrior and leader on the battlefield. By so doing, Shaka created an effective and efficient system of governance. Those appointed were also extremely loyal to him. He only appointed Nandi (Mother) as Queen of the Zulu Nation. She was highly respected and sometimes acted as advisor to Shaka.

**iii) Tribute System**

All the conquered people were expected to pay annual tribute to him. This enabled Shaka to effectively control the defeated groups. Tribute also provided him with important resources to use in Long distance trade such as ivory and slaves.

#### **iv) Long Distance Trade**

He participated in the long distance trade with the Portuguese who had settled at Delagoa Bay. From this trade Shaka was able to acquire European manufactured goods hence increasing his influence. This assured the growth of the Zulu Nation.

#### **v) Diplomatic Relations**

Shaka had diplomatic relations with the Europeans who had settled at the Cape. He was careful not to deliberately provoke them. Instead he wanted to learn about the European culture. This ensured peace and stability in the Kingdom.

#### **vi) Introduction of Age Regiments**

All young adults between 15 and 35 years were drafted into male and female regiments. Each village of regiments had a huge enclosure for sheltering cattle (obtained during raids) at night and used for military parades and ceremonies during the day. The male and female regiments lived separately. The females cultivated maize and sorghum for consumption in their particular villages. This ensured the orderly organisation of the Zulu Kingdom.

#### **vii) Assimilation Policy**

Shaka also introduced a deliberate policy of assimilating all the conquered tribes. The conquered were fully incorporated into the Kingdom. This guaranteed the growth of the Zulu Nation.

### **THE DEATH OF SHAKA**

To some extent, Shaka had always used fear to instil loyalty in the Zulu kingdom. As he became more powerful, the rate of executions also increased and people were killed for minor offences. This caused a lot of rejection from the people. After his mother's death in 1827, Shaka's mind is said to have become imbalanced. He put thousands of people to death under the accusation that they had bewitched the queen mother, for not mourning his mother enough. No one was allowed to cultivate or milk cattle for one year and sexual intercourse was forbidden. He also became extremely suspicious of those around him, fearing for their lives, Shaka's half-brothers **Dingani and Mlangeni** stabbed him to death in his royal kraal in 1828. This was with the help of **Mbopa**, Shaka's induna. After quarrelling with Mlangeni, Dingani killed him and became the new Zulu king.

### **THE ZULU KINGDOM AFTER SHAKA**

#### **The rule of Dingani 1828-1840**

When Dingani took over the Zulu kingdom, he wanted to please the people and the Impis by relaxing some of Shaka's cruelty. He lessened the execution and allowed the regiments to marry and live a normal life. They were only called upon to train once in a while to prepare for war. As a result of this, the Zulu Impis started losing some of their Battles and blaming the losses on Dingani's ineffective leadership. As a result the Soldiers tried to revolt against him. He was able to subdue the revolts and started to implement some of Shaka's methods to please the Impis. As such, Dingani started the executions against those who were not loyal to him. He is said to have become a worse dictator than Shaka. In addition, he also started regular raids against the neighbours and the Zulu Impis were sent out on regular raids.

Dingani was also not a good leader as Shaka had been. As a result the Zulu Nation started falling apart. Some subordinate chiefs started rebelling against him, for example the Qwabe broke away.

The Zulu Armies were now being defeated by some of the groups because of disorganisation.

Due to constant executions of those suspected of being disloyal, Zulu refugees started migrating to port Natal. This brought the Zulu kingdom into conflict with the whites.

The major problem that Dingani faced that led to his downfall was the problem of the Trekking Boers because he did not use diplomacy in dealing with them. After 1834, the Boers were looking for land for settlement in Natal. Dingani saw them as a threat to his kingdom. In order to get rid of this threat, he decided to invite the Boers under Piet Retief to a party where he ordered his Impis to slaughter them. The other Boers reacted by organising themselves into commando units and attacked the Zulu kingdom. At the **battle of the Blood River**, the Zulus were defeated and Dingani was killed and replaced by his brother **Mpande** who became a puppet king.

### **The rule of Mpande 1840-1872**

Mpande was a puppet ruler of the Boers who helped him come to power in 1840. Therefore, he ruled for a long period. His rule was characterised by peace and prosperity for the Zulu Nation. This was because:

- He was not interested in the expansion of the Zulu Nation through raids. And he managed to persuade some of the subjects to become Zulus.
- He also followed a non-provocative diplomatic policy with the Boers at Natal who had installed him and also because he was afraid of their advanced powerful weapons.
- He even allowed many Boers from the Transvaal to acquire land in the Zulu kingdom.

However, the younger warriors who thought that it was cowardice and humiliating did not appreciate Mpande's diplomatic policy of avoiding open conflicts with the African neighbours and the Europeans. This was because the Zulu nation had been founded on military success. However, before Mpande's death in 1872, there was a succession dispute between his sons

Cetshwayo and Mbulazi in 1856, which Cetshwayo won on the Banks of the Tugela River and became heir to the Zulu throne.

### **The rule of Cetshwayo 1872-1884**

Cetshwayo's rule in Zululand was characterised by the revival of the Zulu Military strength on which the Zulu Nation was built. To archive this, he;

- Organised 12 age regiments.
- Started to conduct raids to acquire food and to strengthen the Impis, these military campaigns were referred to as the "washing of the spears".
- Rebuilt the feeling of Zulu nationalism and restore prosperity and self-confidence among the Zulus.
- Crowned as King of the Zulu in 1873 by the secretary for Native affairs Sir Theophilus Shepstone.

However, the growing power of the Zulu Nation started threatening the British plans to federate South African states. Therefore, the British started looking for an excuse to destroy the Zulu Nation. The British High commissioner Sir Bartle Frere used the Zulu attack on some tribes of Natal in 1878 to disband the age regiment system and destroy the Zulu political organisation. Cetshwayo refused to comply and war was declared on the Zulu Nation in January 1879.

### **The Anglo-Zulu war 1879**

When war broke out in January 1879, Zululand was invaded by 13,000 British troops under Lord Chelmsford. In the initial stages, the British suffered an embarrassing defeat at the **Battle of Isandlwana**. However, on 4<sup>th</sup> July 1879, the British under Lord Chelmsford were able to defeat the Zulu at the **Battle of Ulundi**.

After the battle, the Zulu Nation was destroyed. Cetshwayo was exiled and taken to London in 1882. Zululand was also divided into 13 regions and put under the enemies of Zulus to prevent an emergency. The Age regiments system was also disturbed. This led to the complete destruction of the Zulu Nation.

## **EFFECTS OF THE MFECANE**

The Mfecane lasted for more than 20 years though the grievous effects were felt in the first ten years north of the Limpopo some of these effects were:

### **Negative effects**

- It led to widespread destruction of property and life. Many people died in war while others died from starvation and diseases.
- Old kingdoms were destroyed and many people fled as refugees. Some fled to the eastern regions and became known as the Mfengu while others hid in the forests and mountains.

- The Mfecane also led to depopulation of vast areas in the interior, which were occupied by the Trek Boers.
- The Mfecane also led to an increase in slave trade as those who were captured were sold as slaves.
- Led to the destruction of central and southern kingdoms by the groups fleeing the Mfecane e.g. Undi's kingdom, the luyi and the Rozwi.
- Destroyed customs of the conquerors and conquered e.g. Shaka had to do away with circumcision.

### **Positive effects**

- Brought out new type of leadership. The new leaders realize the importance of efficiency in administration.
- The Mfecane led to emergency of defensive Nations such as Moshesh of Basutho and Mswati's Swazi kingdom.
- Mfecane led to emergency of Empire Builders such as Mzilikazi, Sebitwane and Zwangendaba.

## **THE ARRIVAL OF THE EUROPEANS AT THE CAPE**

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to have contact with the cape. These were sailors. In 1497 Bartholomew Diaz reached Delagoa Bay. The following year (1498) his compatriot Vasco Da Gama sailed round the Cape and reached India. However, the Portuguese did not occupy the Cape because they did not find ivory or gold there. It was the Dutch who first occupied the cape.

### **Dutch occupation of the Cape.**

At that time sailors en route to the Far East faced a number of problems. They lacked fresh water, fresh fruits and vegetables. Moreover they frequently ran out of Medicine on the ships. Many died of scurvy and malnutrition. Therefore they recognised, the need to have a refreshment station. The cape was strategically located for that purpose.

In 1602 a number of companies in Holland merged to form the Dutch East India Company. It was the Dutch East India Company (D.E.I.CO) which, in 1652, sent Jan Van Riebeck to set up the refreshment station at the cape. Riebeck and some Company workers establishment vegetable gardens, orchards and farms for wheat, tobacco and cattle. A hospital for sailors, and workshops were also built. Later Huguenots, French missionaries running away from persecution in France, started flocking to the cape. By 1688 there were 200 of them. The Huguenots saw the Cape as their permanent home.

### **Dutch Society at the Cape**

The Dutch farmers faced various hardships at the Cape. For instance they encountered scarcity of food. As a result they bartered copper bars, wine, tobacco and other items for cattle. Due to financial problems Riebeck gave free land to the independent Dutch farmers (Burghers) in 1657. This caused conflicts with the local people. The shortage of labour led to the introduction of slave labour in 1655.

Intermarriage at the Cape produced the 'Cape coloureds' or half – castes. Afrikaans evolved as the language of the Dutch settlers, the Boers. In 1679 Simon Van Stel became the commander at the Cape. However, the more whites came the more the demand for land and territorial expansion.

### **Relations between the Boers and the Africans**

#### **a) The Saan**

The Saan resisted the takeover of their land to death. In an effort to drive out the Boers

- i) they raided their farms
- ii) killed cattle and herdsman

The Boers reacted by waging war to exterminate the Saan. The Saan were finally defeated and forced to settle in the Kalahari Desert because they could not match the superiority of the Dutch.

#### **b) The Khoikhoi**

Boer expansion into the interior resulting in grabbing of the land of the Khoikhoi went to war with the Boers in 1658-1660. They lost.

From then on they offered very little resistance. Most of them sold their land and cattle to the Whites. A number of them died in the smallpox epidemic of 1793.

With these problems the Khoikhoi social system collapsed. Most of them ended up working on European farms and living a European way of life. Others like the Khorana and the Griquas left and settled in the interior.

#### **c) The Bantu**

On reaching the Great Fish River the Boers came face to face with the Xhosa, a Nguni group who were just settling down in the area called Zuurveld. Thus in 1779 the two groups fought and Xhosa were defeated at Battle of the Great Fish River, the Xhosa suffering heavy losses: 5,000 dead. Various such clashes took place.

However, in 1794 the Dutch East India Company went bankrupt and stopped administering the Cape. The Boers and other Whites continued to occupy the Cape until the British came.

### **BRITISH OCCUPATION OF THE CAPE**

First British occupation of the Cape 1795-1802.

Several factors led to the bankruptcy of the Dutch East India Company and led to its disbanding:

- i) Inefficiency and corruption of the company employees
- ii) losses incurred during its period of administration
- iii) The Boer rebellion of 1795 (Dutch settlers) felt they were not adequately defending against local Africans.

These problems led to the bankruptcy of the company. The situation prompted the British to take interest in the Cape because of proper governance.

### **Reasons for British Interest in the Cape**

There were also basic reasons which made the British occupy the cape:

- i) They wanted to control it because of its strategic importance (e.g. its control would ensure the security of their Asian colonies and trade with India.
- ii) They wanted to prevent the cape from falling into the hands of Napoleon (France), Britain being at war with France. Therefore in 1795 British troops invaded the Cape colony and occupied it with little resistance from the Boers.

But in 1802 the treaty OF Amiens was signed. This was a peace agreement. By its terms, the Cape was surrendered to the Batavian Republic. (Batavia was the new name for Netherlands).

### **The Cape under Batavian rule**

The Batavian Republic took control in 1803 between 1803 and 1805 it introduced various reforms at the Cape aimed at ensuring peace and security:

- i) Lieutenant-General Killeon Janssen was appointed Governor of the Cape.
- ii) Jacob Abralls de Mist became commissioner of the Cape.
- iii) Restrictions on trade were removed.
- iv) The High Court was made independent of the executive.
- v) Hottentots were given some land.
- vi) Humane treatment of the Africans by the Whites was encouraged.
- vii) White labour was preferred to slave labour. (Non-White).
- viii) Freedom of speech was granted.
- ix) Local government was reformed.

However in 1806 Britain took the Cape.

### **The second British occupation of the Cape**

In 1803 Britain resumed war against France. This Anglo-French War prompted Britain to annex the Cape. In 1806 Britain sent 61 ships under General Baird to capture the Cape which they did

without much ado. This occupation was formalised in 1814 when Britain declared control of the Cape colony.

### **Between 1806 and 1811 Britain made some minor reforms**

#### **Before 1811**

- i) The governor legislated for the colony.
- ii) He made appointments and dismissed government officials.
- iii) He headed both the criminal and judicial appeals.

#### **Reforms at the Cape 1811 to 1836**

In addition to changes made since 1806 the British introduced various legal and administrative reforms. These forced the Boers to leave:

##### **1. Circuit Courts (1811)**

Through the introduction of the Circuit courts the Khoikhoi were granted rights to bring complaints and disputes concerning their white employers to court.

##### **2. New currency**

In 1825 British introduced new paper money based on the British model to replace the old notes which had lost value or greatly fallen in value.

##### **3. Anglicisation**

In 1822 a proclamation was made regarding the replacement of Dutch with English. The proclamation took effect in 1828 when English was declared the official language in courts, schools, churches and all other public and official places. This angered the Boers who did not know English and were unwilling to learn it.

##### **4. The 50<sup>th</sup> Ordinance**

In 1828, in the main, because of pressure from the missionaries, especially Dr John Phillip, the British passed the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance. This piece of legislation:

- i) Gave equality before the law with Whites in the Cape.
- ii) Gave the Khoikhoi freedom of movement without passes.
- iii) Allowed the Khoikhoi to leave farms; hence slave labour was abolished by the ordinance. This angered the Boers.

##### **5. Land ownership**

The British placed restrictions on land ownership by the Boers. Boers were allowed to own land only through rent schemes. In short free ownership of land was restricted.

##### **6. The press**

In 1828 the laws governing the press were also reformed to grant freedom of expression. This led to the establishment of several papers, e.g. the 'Grahamston Journal' the 'Commercial adviser, and 'Zuid Afrikaans'

## **7. The Judiciary**

There positive changes were made

- i) Supreme Court was set up
- ii) Judges were made independent
- iii) Judges, were to be appointed by the British Crown and could not be dismissed by the Governor.
- iv) English criminal laws were introduced to replace the old Roman laws.

## **Administrative Reforms**

Similar reforms were made in the British administration to allow the Boers a measure of participation.

### **1. Advisory council**

Council was established in 1825, comprising the governor, chief justice and four (4) council secretaries. Its functions was to advise the Governor.

### **2. Seats for Boers on the Council**

In 1827 Boers colonists were allowed two seats on the advisory council.

### **3. Legislative Council**

This was set up to replace the advisory council. It comprised members of the Executive council, the Attorney-General and 5 to 7 nominated members. But the Boers were dissatisfied with the concession made in the administration as many felt much had to be granted. They preferred a representative government of their own.

### **4. The Frontier question, 1834**

In 1834 Benjamin Durban became Governor of the Cape colony, Durban wanted to end this conflict overland among the Boers, Xhosa and the rest. Therefore, in 1834 he extended the eastern frontier to give more land to colonists and drove the Xhosa out of the fertile land. But under missionary pressure (especially from Dr John Philip). Durban secured an agreement in 1835 by which the Xhosa and Khoikhoi were given some land and allowed to live on settler land. This increased the dissatisfaction of the Boers towards the British government. They could not bear it any longer and rather began the Great Trek.

# THE GREAT TREK

## Introduction

The word 'Trek' is Dutch which means to journey from one place to another usually by ox-wagons carrying all possessions. The word is both a verb and a noun. The Great Trek refers to the movement of the Boers from the Cape region to the lands in the north and north east of South Africa.

The Trek of the 1830's differed from previous voluntary movement of the Boers because of these features:

- i) was well organised and had disciplined leadership
- ii) the trekkers had no intention of returning to the Cape colony after migrating
- iii) Provided hope for the Boers to establish a new Rome, where they would determine their own affairs, thereby freeing themselves from British rule.

## Causes of the Great Trek

### Several factors led to the Great Trek

#### 1. Trek:

##### i) Self-centred causes:

Some Boers left the Cape because they wanted a change in their way of life in a different environment. Others were attracted by the movement of friends and relatives, while there were those who left for adventure in new land.

##### ii) Bitterness over Native Policy

The Boers considered the non-whites inferior and therefore subordinate to them. They preferred racial segregation so as to preserve their culture. At the same time the missionaries, especially John Philips, pressed for equality and protection of the rights of all Men. They consistently condemned the Boers for being cruel to non-whites; they urged the government (Britain) to declare the non-whites as equal in the Cape. This created tension between the Boers and the British.

##### iii) Anglicisation

This refers to the introduction of English culture and way of life of the British into the Cape colony. To do this in 1822, the British issued a declaration that English would replace Dutch. The declaration took effect in 1828: a decree made English the official language in schools, churches, courts and all public institutions.

Furthermore, English magistrates were appointed, followed by the introduction of new English coinage to replace the Old Dutch currency. This policy of Anglicisation created tension among the Boers who neither knew the language nor had no intention to learn it.

iv) **Circuit courts (1811)**

Convinced by the missionaries, the British introduced Circuit courts in 1811, which made it possible for the Khoikhoi and other Africans to take their white employers to court. This annoyed the Boers.

v) **The 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance in 1828**

It gave non-whites equality and more civil rights. The ordinance declared all Native (local) people as equal and free as the others before the law. The Boers condemned it.

vi) **Land Policy**

The new land policy introduced by the British contributed to the Great Trek. In the past the Boers had acquired land freely. The new Governor Durban in 1834 secured an agreement by which land was given to the Xhosa, Khoikhoi and other local people in the Cape. Moreover, the eastern boundary was extended to allow more settlers to acquire land. This policy of giving land to non-whites and restriction of their (Boer) landownership through the introduction of the rent scheme angered the Boers.

vii) **British Labour schemes**

The immediate cause of the Great trek was Boer dislike to British labour policy. The Boers relied on Khoikhoi and other local people for labour. But in 1807 the British passed an act (law) to abolish the slave trade, which was followed by the abolition of the slavery act in 1833. The effect of the two laws was the abolition of slavery and slave trade in all British colonies, including the Cape.

The Boers were to receive compensation but this had three problems:

- ✓ Compensation was too small
- ✓ Money had to be collected from the U.K.
- ✓ Involved the hiring of lawyers

Therefore many Boers did not get it. The emancipation (setting free) of the slaves:

- ✓ Cut down on labour supply to the Boers
- ✓ Reduced the authority of the Boers over the Khoikhoi

### **Summary of the Causes**

The Great trek was mainly caused by the administrative and legal reforms introduced by the British between 1806 and 1836:

- i) Anglicisation
- ii) Land policy
- iii) Dislike of missionary and British attitude towards non-whites

- iv) The circuit courts
- v) The 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance
- vi) The emancipation of slaves.

### **THE COURSE OF THE GREAT TREK**

The Legal and administrative measures introduced by the British between 1806 and 1836 forced the Boers farmers to trek (leave the cape into the interior of Africa were they wanted to be free and continue with their way of life)

#### **Leadership**

- i) Louis Trigardt and Van Ransburg
- ii) Hendrik Potgieter, Sarrel Cellier and Geertz Martiz.
- iii) Piet Retief
- iv) Leinsberg and Erasmus

#### **LOUIS TRIGARDT**

Trigardt was the first to leave in 1835. The party comprised nine wagons carrying 19 men and women, 60 children, a few Saan as servants. At one stage, in 1836, the group was joined by the party of Van Rensberg which later headed for Delagoa Bay under Portuguese. Trigardt crossed the Caledon River and headed for the Vaal River slowly. For a year the group was settled at Zoutpansberg Mountains in Transvaal.

While in the area the group led a strict religious life in keeping with their faith. They held family prayers, Bible readings, and preparation of food was done by the women and their daughters. Men and boys protected the group while looking for food through hunting wild animals and grazing their cattle.

Trigardt party was isolated and as time passed members of the group contracted fever, animal fell sick, they experienced food shortages but worst of all, ran out of gunpowder. Trigardt and many others died of fever. Efforts to contact Lournco Margues (Maputo) proved fruitless until Askari were sent to lead the group to Maputo. Only 27 people reached, eight Months later.

This group was wiped out by diseases and attacks form the Tsonga tribe.

#### **LIENSBURG AND ERASMUS PARTY**

The party was destroyed at the Battle of Vegkop on 19<sup>th</sup> October, 1836 by the Ndebele of Mzilikazi near the Vaal River.

#### **PORTIETER AND CELLIERS PARTIES**

The two parties started off from their base at Thaba Nchu and after being involved in the clash with the Ndebele at Vegkop, one group crossed the Limpopo River. They then organised a laager using 50 wagons around the area and these helped until the group of Maritz joined

them. The group felt strong, so Potgieter made a surprise attack on Mzilikazi in 1837. The Ndebele were defeated at the battle of Mosega. The second attack was on Marico River in the same year. This forced Mzilikazi and his people out of the area, which the Boers established as the organised Free State under Maritz, Potgieter and Ulyses.

### **PIET RETIEF**

Piet Maritz was made governor of the united laagers of Maritz, Potgieter and Ulyses in 1837. He crossed the Drakensburg Mountains and went on to the Upper Tugela Valley (in 1837) where he captured Sikonyela. The capture of Sikonyela was given to him by the Zulu King Dingani to test his honesty before he could permit the Boers to enter Natal. The Boers avenged the death of Piet Retief when they defeated the Zulu at the battle of the blood River in December (15<sup>th</sup>) 1838. Pretorius, Retief's successor proclaimed Mpande the new Zulu King, he became a puppet of the Boers. The Boers settled in Natal with their capital at Piet Maritzburg until governor Napier through Captain Smith, annexed it in August 1843.

### **RESULTS OF THE GREAT TREK**

#### **a) Emergence of Boer Republics.**

One of the major results of the Great Trek was the emergency of Afrikaner or Boer republics where they exercised their own political authority.

- i) By the Sand River convention (1852) the British granted the Transvaal Boers self-government and a free hand in dealing with the Bantu to the north.
- ii) The British withdrew from the Orange Free State through the Bloemfontein convention, making it a Boer Republic.
- iii) After the death of Dingani the Boers formed the Natal Republic. However, the British took it over in 1842 for three reasons.
  - War between the Boers and the Zulu.
  - Durban was becoming a threat to Capetown as a commercial port.
  - The Boers failed to establish a stable government.

In 1856 Natal became a crown colony like the Cape. Most of the Boers left for the interior. Many went to Transvaal.

- a) British colonial authority was drawn further into the interior as a response to the activities of the Boers.
- b) The Africans of the high veld and the south eastern interior were permanently affected.
  - The Ndebele (Mosega, 1837) and the Zulu (Blood River, 1838) were severely defeated.
  - Other groups were permanently affected by the presence of the Boers because it was no longer possible to separate, the Boers and Africans. Racial segregation was intensified ending in the 20<sup>th</sup> century policy of apartheid.

- c) Due to insecurity arising from the Boer states some African states (e.g. the Basotho Kingdom of Moshesh) asked for British protection.
- d) It marked the end of South African Unity
- e) The Boers achieved their aims:
  - Acquired free land
  - Gained independence (freedom) from British rule.

## **THE ANGLO-BOER WARS**

This refers to the wars which were fought between the British (Anglo) and the Boers in the interior of South Africa after the Great Trek. These wars mainly took place in two major phases 1880-1881 which came to be known as the **first Anglo-Boer War** and 1899-1902 known as the **second Anglo-Boer War**. These wars were also referred to as the **White Man's war** of South Africa because it involved the white population only.

### **Causes of the first Anglo-Boer war 1880-1881**

#### **1) Boer attacks on the British.**

The immediate cause of this war was the attack on the British by the 300 Boers who wanted to recover the confiscated property of their fellow Boer who had been accused of defaulting taxes. This triggered off the conflict since the British were also not willing to surrender the defaulter without any penalty.

#### **2) The discovery of minerals.**

The British and the Boers clashed at Majuba Hills over minerals in an area which was under Dutch control with some British settlers. Unfortunately, the British wanted to take control of these areas from the Boers yet the Boers considered themselves as rightful owners of this mineral rich region thus resulting in war of occupation.

#### **3) Change of leadership in Britain.**

A new government was elected in Britain which could not favour the British settlers in South Africa. This government was also partially responsible for the war under the new prime minister Gladstone who became too reluctant to fight against the Boers in South Africa. This gave the Boers moral to put up strong resistance against the British.

#### **4) British takeover of Transvaal in 1877.**

The Boers fought basing on grounds that they wanted to be independent yet the British claimed that they wanted to offer protection. However, the takeover was condemned by British new Prime Minister Gladstone who said that the Boers had to be given chance to manage their own affairs and form their own government. This greatly inspired the Boers to fight against the British thus the first Anglo-Boer war.

### **5) Poor British administrative system in Transvaal.**

This might have caused the war in that the administrative system was so poor characterised by inefficient and ineffective legislators who were offensive to the Boers. The British also refused to share administrative positions with the Boers after the takeover of Transvaal.

### **6) Boer failure to pay back debt.**

The Boer leader Burger had borrowed a lot of money from the British which eventually refused to pay back and yet the British wanted their money amidst all circumstances.

### **7) Dishonest of British Prime Minister (Gladstone)**

Gladstone refused to grant the Boers their Political Independence as he had earlier promised despite the many efforts made by Paul Kruger to ask for independence peacefully also contributed to the outbreak of the war.

### **8) Abuse of the Dutch culture by the British**

A desire to replace the Dutch language with English language gave rise to Afrikaner nationalism with intention to fight for the preservation and conservation of the Dutch culture which was being eroded by the British.

### **9) Mistreatment of British miners by the Boers**

The British wanted to intervene and fight for the rights of its citizens who were mistreated by Paul Kruger fuelling the first Anglo-Boer war.

The 1879 Isandlwana defeat of the British by the Zulu gave the Boers false confidence that they could also defeat the British. Basing on this, the Boers of Transvaal became more active and started preparing for war against the British.

The Boers in Transvaal also expected support from their colleagues in the Orange Free State thus making them to confront the British without any fear thus leading them into the **First Anglo Boer War on December 8<sup>th</sup> 1880.**

### **Course of the first Anglo-Boer war 1880-1881**

The Boers openly confronted the British who had settled in Transvaal killing and injuring a number of them. The Boers then hoisted the Transvaal flag instead of the British.

The first gun shot was fired by the Boers on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1880. A group of about 300 Boers attacked the British in order to recover the property of their colleague which had been confiscated by the British tax collectors. This was later followed by an ambush on the British troops under Colonel Anstruther, many were severely wounded and killed. Hence Anstruther surrendered. Many numerous attacks on British installations and nationals were carried out and all British garrisons in Transvaal were besieged.

The British sent a reinforcement group from Natal under the command of General George Colley. However, this was intercepted by a strong Boer force under the command of Pietier Joubert at Majuba Hill.

In February 1881, the Boers managed to humiliate defeat the British at Majuba Hill. About ninety-two British soldiers were killed and many Boers sustained serious injuries. The British were finally forced to accept defeat and pleaded for peace.

After the war, Sir George Colley was replaced by Sir Evelyn Wood who signed a peace treaty with the Boers on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1881 basing on the instructions of Gladstone. However, the Boers refused to put down their weapons and fighting continued up to August 1881 when the **Pretoria Convention** was signed.

### **Effects of the First Anglo-Boer war**

- Britain was severely humiliated to other European powers such as Germany, Hence it made future war with the Boers unavoidable just to prove its supremacy.
- The Boer victory in the war gave rise to Afrikaner nationalism.
- Enabled the Boers to restore their lost political independence and the Republic of Transvaal as a result they decided to rename their capital Pretoria in memory of one of their great leaders Andries Pretorius.
- It led to the increased scramble for new territories by the Boers in to the interior of South Africa there by increasing warfare with Africans over land e.g. war with the Pedi in 1887 as well as asserting more influence in Swazi Kingdom. They took over Stellaland and Goshen in 1882 and part of the Zulu land in 1884.
- It led to the British takeover of Bechuanaland in 1885 and Zulu land in order to check on the expansion of the Boers and also safeguard their strategic interests.
- The war promoted unity among the Boers of Transvaal and those of the Orange Free State. All Boers in the Boer republics had combined hands during the war in order to ensure total defeat of the British.
- Uitlanders (Britons) were recognised as legal citizens in Boer Republics through the signing of the Pretoria Conversion.
- It made the Boers to become suspicious and increased their mistrust with the British than ever before. This later lade to other conflicts like the Jameson Raid of 1895 and eventually the second Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902.
- Led to loss of lives, casualties and destruction of property to both the Boers and the British.
- As a way of checking on the ever increasing imperialistic desires, vice president Paul Kruger was elected president of the Boer Republic in 1883. Kruger was greatly interested in defending Boer nationalism and independence against British control.

## **THE SECOND ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902**

The second Anglo-Boer war also at times known as the South African war or the Anglo Boer War of Independence and at times the White man's war was a bloody war fought between the British and the Boers with involvement of Africans on both sides. It is highly recognised as a very important landmark in the history of South Africa.

### **Causes of the second Anglo Boer war**

#### **1) British desire to control the Boer Republic of Transvaal.**

The discovery of minerals in the region made the republics economically viable and attractive to the British which made the British Prime Minister, Joseph Chamberlain to attempt to force the Transvaal Republic to submit to British imperialism thereby sparking off another war with the Boers.

#### **2) Appointment of Lord Milner as high commissioner at the Cape.**

In 1896 Milner was appointed commissioner at the cape. He was:

- More than determined to accomplish British imperialism in South Africa by any means.
- Always rejected peaceful resolution.
- Encouraged and supported the anti-Afrikaner groups in Transvaal to fight against the Boer government with the aim of creating a state of confusion that would spark off the war.

#### **3) The desire for revenge.**

The British had suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Boers during the First Anglo-Boer war and wanted to revenge against this shameful defeat at the battle of Majuba.

#### **4) Refusal by Transvaal to offer citizenship to Uitlanders.**

The Uitlanders sent a petition to the Queen of England seeking for help. This was also defended by the telegram from Milner which emphasised the need for intervention thus creating a war mood that could have resulted in the Second Anglo-Boer War.

#### **5) The Pretoria Convention of 1881**

The Boers opposed the clause which stated that the British were to control Transvaal's foreign policy and all trade activities in Transvaal.

#### **6) Paul Kruger's election as president of Transvaal Republic.**

In 1898 the Transvaal republic had elected Kruger as a Boer Republic president. This was seen as a direct challenge on the British as Kruger had earlier led a successful defeat of the British during the First Anglo Boers war.

#### **7) Anticipation for Help**

Kruger had a strong belief that in a situation of a War with the British he would get military support from Germany, Netherlands and the Boers in Natal.

### **8) Role of the press**

The media spread a lot of propaganda which exposed the injustice towards the British miners by Paul Kruger's government thus forcing them to wage a war against the Boers.

### **9) Failure of the Jameson Raid of 1895**

John Cecil Rhodes who was in command of the British troops had an intention to overthrow Paul Kruger's government in Transvaal on claims of rescuing the Uitlanders who were being mistreated by his government. The raid was aborted when the Boers managed to defeat the British. The British had to plan for another war hence the Second Anglo-Boer War.

### **10) Congratulatory telegram from Kaiser William II**

Immediately after the Jameson Raid, Kaiser William II sent a telegram congratulating Paul Kruger on his victory and the efficient way in which he handled the Jameson Raid. This made Kruger to be hopeful for Germany support against British imperialistic desires.

### **11) High taxes on goods imported from Britain.**

Goods coming from Britain and the Cape Colony were heavily taxed hence their demand reduced because they became so expensive. He later banned the importation of British goods which was against the Pretoria Convention. This greatly offended the British. Kruger also imposed high tariffs on the railway line between Vaal and the mineral rich area of Rand. This made the British to resort to the use of Pretoria-Maputo railway which was expensive.

### **12) Kruger's ultimatum to the British**

On 9<sup>th</sup> October 1899, Mr Corynham Green the British Resident commissioner in Pretoria received an ultimatum from Paul Kruger demanding him to withdraw all British troops from Transvaal border within forty-eight hours and that her Majesty's troops on major water bodies shall not be allowed to land on any part of South Africa. Failure to abide by the Ultimatum would directly result in war. This came as a golden chance to the British who had for long waited for a war of revenge against the Boers. The British refused to respect the ultimatum and the Second Anglo-Boer war broke out.

### **The course of the Second Anglo-Boer War**

The war started on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 1899. The British were caught by surprise since they had not adequately prepared and lacked enough geographical knowledge about the area they were fighting in, unlike the Boers who had stayed in the area for some good time.

The Boers attacked an armoured British train at Kraaipan in Cape Colony South of Mafeking and quickly moved to cut off communication between the Cape and the British in Rhodesia. (Zimbabwe).

The Boers thereafter moved to invade Natal which was now under the command of Sir George Whitehouse and it was also the British headquarters.

Between 12 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 1899 the Boers under General Pieter A. Cronje made fresh attacks on the British garrisons in Kimberly and Mafeking which was under the command of Lt. col Baden Powell.

The Boers continued with the War and blocked the railway line between Talana Hill and Lady Smith. Towards the end of October, a combined force from the state under the leadership of General Christian de Wet managed to cut off Lady Smith and by 1 November 1899 British forces could hardly access it.

With all the above advances the, the British government came to realise the gravity of the war and advantages the Boers had over them ranging from courage to intimate knowledge about the geographical set up of the country.

Basing on the above, more troops were sent by Sir R.H Buller of Britain in December 1899. To everyone's surprise, within three weeks, the Boer Commandos had crushed all the British soldiers. This greatly scared the British but remained hopeful.

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 1900 more reinforcement arrived from Britain with General Lord Roberts as the new commander.

On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1900, Bloemfontein was taken over by the British and the Boers capital of Orange Free State face heavy losses. On 24<sup>th</sup> March Orange Free State was taken. In the same month the British took over Johannesburg. This marked the second phase of the war.

Having seen the aggressive advance of British troops under the command of general Roberts and Buller, President Kruger decided to flee by railway to Maputo where he connected to Europe in order to seek for more arms and foreign assistance.

The British took over Transvaal and celebrated its takeover on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1900. Having achieved the above, Lord Roberts thought that the war had come to an end and returned to Britain. Lord Kitchener took over from him as the new commander of British forces.

In October 1900 the Boers resorted to Guerrilla warfare under the leadership of Louis Botha, Christian de Wet, Jan Christian Smuts and F.H de la Rey. These organised the Boers into small mobile Military groups. The established groups were able to capture the British forces, took away their supplies cut off their communication system and injured the British forces they came into contact with.

The progress of the Boer of guerrilla warfare tactics made the British commander Lord Kitchener to resort to the use of the **Scorched earth policy** which involved the burning of all farms as well as destruction of homesteads in order to starve the Boer fighters. All the women and children were put in concentration camps of most of them died due to poor living conditions.

Despite all these measures the Boers continued to fight. Hence in 1902 Kitchener adopted the **drive to comb policy** the countryside. This proved more efficient and the Boers were left with no option but to consider peace negotiations with the British.

On May 31<sup>st</sup> the Vereeniging peace treaty was signed which put an end to the Second Anglo-Boer war which had lasted for almost three years.

### **Effects of the Second Anglo-Boer war**

- Led to loss of both life and property.
- Led to disruption of economic activities which had been established in Boer republics after the discovery of minerals. E.g. many industries and Dutch farms in Orange Free State and Transvaal were destroyed.
- The Boers lost their political independence.
- It led to the isolation of Africans from the politics of South Africa and as a result white dominance was endorsed.
- Led to migrations by the Boer women, children and civilians into unknown land from the war stricken areas where they suffered from diseases and famine.
- Through the Vereeniging peace treaty, the act of union was called which led to the **Federation of South Africa** and finally put an end to the hostilities which existed between the Boers and the British in South Africa.

## **THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA-1910**

The Union of South Africa was a Federation intended to unite the Whites in South Africa. That is, the British and the Boers in the Republics of Natal, Cape Provinces, Transvaal, and Orange Free State. The union was made after the 1910 Act of Union which was signed between the Boers and the British shortly after the second Anglo-Boer War which was followed by the signing of the Vereeniging Peace Treaty on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902.

### **THE VEREENIGING PEACE TREATY OF MAY 1902**

This was a peace document which was designed by the British High Commissioner for South Africa and the Governor of the crown colonies Lord Alfred Milner and the legal advisor to the Transvaal administration Sir Richard Solomon on behalf of the British government and General Ian Christian Smuts (ex-state Attorney of Transvaal) and General Hertzog represented the Boers.

It was signed on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1902 at Melrose House in Pretoria.

#### **Aims of signing the treaty**

- To put an end to the Second Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902.
- To end the enmity attitude between the Boers and the British in South Africa.

- To make away forward for the Federation or Union of South Africa.
- It also aimed at solving the issues concerning citizenship and voting rights in South Africa.
- It also aimed at determining the Official language to be used in South Africa that is to say: either Dutch or English language.
- To find ways of reconstructing the economy of South Africa which had greatly been destroyed by the war.
- To resolve on how the Whites would control the economy of South Africa.

### **Terms of the Vereeniging peace Treaty**

Transvaal and the Orange Free State were to lose their political independence and become British territories.

The Dutch children were to be taught in public schools of Transvaal and the Orange Free State on the request of their parents.

The Boers were also to accept the hoisting of the British flag (Union Jack) in all areas where they stayed and honour the British Queen.

Both English and Dutch languages (Afrikaner) were to be recognised as official languages in South Africa.

Africans were not allowed to participate in any meaningful politics of South Africa and the issue of allowing them to vote was to be addressed after the independence of the Boers.

All Africans who abandoned their work or jobs during the course of the Second Anglo-Boer War were to be punished severely.

Africans were barred from keeping guns after the war much as it permitted the Afrikaner soldiers to remain with theirs.

All Boer prisoners of war were to be released by the British government. Even those who were still fighting the new government in the Orange Free State had to be forgiven.

The hostility between the Boers and the British had to come to an end in South Africa and the British were to withdraw all their soldiers from areas occupied by the Boers.

All Africans who had been put in concentration camps during the second Anglo-Boer War had to be kept inside as prisoners of war until further notice.

The British were to give large sums of money to the Boer Republics as compensation for the property destroyed during the course of the war.

### **Effects of the Vereeniging Peace Treaty**

The treaty automatically brought the second Anglo-Boer War to an end and peace prevailed again in South Africa.

It led to total loss of Independence of Boer Republics when they accepted to be under the control of the Queen of England.

The Afrikaners (Boers) were given three Million pounds as a compensation for the property lost during the war. Furthermore, they were given soft loans and some relief aid for the same cause.

The white minority was to determine the political future of South Africa and the treaty put both the British and the Dutch at the same level.

It led to the migration of some Boers who opposed British control from South Africa to countries like Argentina, Mozambique, Congo and Belgium.

Afrikaners who had been detained were released from concentration camps and prisons and were given food, seeds and other incentives as a resettlement package.

It reconciled the two historical white rival communities (Boers and British) since all the unsettled issues were finally resolved by the treaty.

The treaty paved way for the calling of the National Convention (Conference) in 1908 which gave birth to the Act of Union in 1910.

### **THE NATIONAL CONVENTION 1908**

This was a parliamentary Convention which was called in 1908 and attended by both government and opposition members from each colony. It was attended by about thirty members who had been appointed by the four colonies, twelve came from Cape colony, Eight from Transvaal, Five from Natal and the other Five from Orange River Colony. It was also attended by three non-voting members from Rhodesia as observers. The High commissioner and other governors also attended for purpose of consultation. The convention was chaired by Sir Henry de Villiers who was the chief justice of the Cape Colony.

It was held between 12<sup>th</sup> October – 5<sup>th</sup> November 1908 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1909 in Cape Town. It aimed at presenting, debating and passing a new joint constitution for the United South Africa.

#### **Reason for calling of the Convention**

##### **1. Make a frame constitution**

To discuss and make a frame constitution which was to determine the political future of South Africa.

##### **2. End political differences (Boers and the British)**

The differences which existed had caused wars, that is the First and Second Anglo-Boer Wars which left the two white communities in South Africa hostile to one another. Hence the convention was called to reconcile the two parties.

### **3. Discuss the nature and rights of voting**

To discuss the nature and right of voting in case of any election in South Africa. Earlier on, in the Cape Colony, some Africans were allowed to vote while in other three states they were completely not supposed to vote. (Disenfranchised).

### **4. Decide on the form of unification**

Before the convention, the British were in favour of a Federation while the Boers wanted a unitary system of government.

### **5. Decide the site for the new Capital**

They wanted to decide on the site for the new Capital in case a Federation was achieved or attained. They finally decided that they would have dual Capital with Cape Town as the Legislative Capital and Pretoria as the administrative Capital whereas Bloemfontein was to be the base for the court of appeal.

### **6. Discuss the customs and economic barrier issues**

It was called to discuss the customs and how to remove economic barriers in order to enable a closer Union of the four provinces.

## **EFFECTS OR RESULTS OF THE CONVENTION**

It gave both English and Afrikaner languages equal status in South Africa and were both recognised as official languages.

It was also officially agreed in the convention that the Orange River Colony was to be called by its former name, the Orange Free State.

It led to the creation of the Provinces of the Cape colony, Orange Free State, Transvaal and Natal as components of the Union.

Led to the establishment of the dual Capital of the Union. Pretoria was to be the executive capital, Cape Town the legislative capital and Bloemfontein the home of the court of appeal.

Gave birth to a two housed assembly. This mainly comprised of the Upper House (Senate) and the Lower House (House of Assembly)

It led to the final drafting of the Constitution which was meant to govern the Union and the following were the most important articles.

- The Governor General of the Union was to be appointed by either the King or Queen of England.
- The Governor was to be assisted by a Council of Ministers.
- The right to vote was to be given only to White males thus women were not allowed to vote.

- All blacks (Non-Whites) were excluded from the Union Parliament. Therefore the parliament was meant for white race only.

Lastly, the convention led to the unification of the four White Colonies under one Government, one Parliament and one flag thus leading to the Union of South Africa and the Signing of the Act of Union.

### **Summary**

The main discussion at the convention concerned the nature of Franchise and the racial policies in the new united South Africa. After so many deliberations, it was agreed that each colony would continue with its franchise policies, but that non-Europeans should not be allowed to have seats in the union Parliament. In this new arrangement, the African civil and political rights were ignored. This paved way for the segregation policies passed by the Afrikaner politicians and the later introduction of the policy of Apartheid.

## **THE ACT OF UNION-1910**

Despite protests against Franchise arrangements in the proposed constitution, the British government approved the proposed constitution, which came into effect in May 1910. The British agreed to the new constitution, which was mostly influenced by Afrikaner/Boer racial attitude as a form of reconciliation between the Boers and the British at the expenses of the African rights. The terms of the Act of union were as follows:

- The union parliament was given supreme authority over the four colonies, which were to be called province in future.
- The leading executive officer was to be the governor general who was to be appointed by London. He was to be assisted by a prime minister and ministers.
- The Union parliament was to comprise of a House of Assembly and an upper chamber, the Senate. The Senate was to have representatives from all four provinces i.e. eight members selected from each province. Each Senator was to hold office for 10 years.
- The House of Assembly was also referred to as the Lower House.
- The new State was to be a Federation whose provinces were to be subordinate to the Union parliament.
- There was to be a single supreme court with provincial and local divisions.
- The official language were to be English and Afrikaans with equal status.
- The capital was to be divided into three with the parliament at the Cape, the executive at Pretoria and the Judiciary at Bloemfontein.

### **Effects of the act of union**

The Act of the union was successful in serving the interest of the Boers and the British i.e. there was a feeling of conciliation and compromise between the two. The Dutch and the English

could now co-exist. However, the Act of Union failed to completely wipe out the Boer feelings of superiority and retaining and maintaining their identity though it managed to minimize it.

For Indians and coloureds, the Act of Unions achieved partial victory as these were allowed to vote in the Cape and Natal councils but were not allowed to have seats in the Union Parliament.

Franchise for Africans was deliberately left out to be dealt with after the formation of the Union. However, after the formation of the Union of South Africa, Africans were never granted Franchise. Instead more segregation laws were passed to suppress Africans. This forced the Africans to start fighting through the rise of African Nationalism.

### **South Africa after the union**

From 1910 onwards, whites took complete control of the political and economic fields while Africans were left out for fear that they might turn against them. The Afrikaners however cooperated with the British in politics because they found it very difficult to gain complete political freedom e.g. between 1910 and 1919, Botha cooperated with the English speaking South Africans and Britain which led to the formation of the Nationalist party.

Other Afrikaner nationalist leaders such as Hertzog wanted to achieve complete separation development among the Boers the British and Africans. This was facilitated by the fact that government was in the hands of the Afrikaners.

The other problem that the new Union of South Africa faced was which side to support during the First World War. In the end the new government supported Britain. This made South Africa to gain considerable power over South West Africa at Versailles Treaty in 1919.

## **MINERAL REVOLUTION IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The Mineral Revolution in South Africa comprised of the discovery of Diamonds in 1867 at Kimberly and the discovery of Gold at Witwatersrand in the Transvaal in 1885. The discovery of these minerals marked a turning point in the history of Southern Africa. This is because these minerals had social, economic and political consequences that had a far reaching impact on the whole history of South Africa.

Diamonds were discovered in 1867 at a place called Kimberly. Until 1871 it was not clear as to who owned these fields because there were five claimants. And these were;

1. The Orange Free State
2. Batlapin
3. Griqualand under the leadership of Nicolas Waterboer.
4. The Transvaal and
5. Baralong

This led to a dispute as to who was the real owner of the Diamond fields. As such, all the parties involved decided to invite an independent party to decide in the matter. The Claimants invited

Lord Keate who was British Governor of Natal. In his ruling, Lord Keate gave the Diamond fields to Nicholas Waterboer of Griqualand. This ruling was referred to as the **Keate Arbitration Award of 1871**. In fact the Orange Free State had a genuine claim to the diamond fields because in 1854, the territory of Kimberly had belonged to her according to the Sand River Convention.

However, Lord Keate deliberately gave the diamond fields to Nicolas Waterboer because the British had plans to take over the area of Griqualand. The Orange Free State was compensated with 90,000 pounds for the loss of the Diamond fields. Lord Keate immediately persuaded Waterboer to put his are under British protection. In the same year, the British annexed Griqualand west. By 1880, it was under the Control of the Cape.

### **Effects of the discovery of diamonds**

The Diamond discovery had far reaching consequences that changed the whole history of Southern Africa.

#### **Economic Effects**

- The obvious economic consequence for Kimberly and the Cape was that there was prosperity. Kimberly area became a mining area with the development of the mining industry. The development of the mining industry had a trickle-down effect which led to;
- The development of the manufacturing industry for the manufacturing of consumer goods such as cloths for the increased population in the mining area.
- There was also the development of the construction industry for the construction of the needed infrastructure such as roads, schools, railways, and houses.
- The other important industry that developed was the Agriculture Industry. The areas around Kimberly also developed Commercial Agriculture. This was in response to the high demand for foodstuffs by the increasing population of the mining area. In relation to this, the value of land increased.
- There was also the development of the Transport industry in response to the movement of people and goods to and from the mining areas.
- Another important effect was that the development of the mining industry attracted a lot of capital investment from Europe and America to develop industry and other facilities that would support the mining industry such as Banks.

#### **Social effects**

The social effects of the Diamond can be divided into the Positive and Negative. Among the **positive effects** were;

- Led to labour migration. The movement of both Blacks and Whites from all over southern Africa and Europe in search of employment.

- Led to an increase in employment opportunities for both White and Blacks.
- The Discovery of Diamond led to raised standards of living for most people.
- There was also an increase in the provision of social amenities of improved quality such as schools and health facilities.
- Led to a process of Urbanization, which was the development of cities for example Johannesburg was one of the cities that developed as a result of the mineral revolution.

### **The Negative effects;**

The discovery of diamonds led to overpopulation in the mining area as a result of labour migration.

This over population led to unemployment. This was due to the fact that the mining industry could not employ all the labour migrants.

Those who were not employed by the mines and could not find employment elsewhere became destitute in towns. These started engaging themselves in social vices and crimes such as theft and prostitution.

Another negative effect of the Discovery of diamonds was that it led to the creation of shanty compounds as a result of overpopulation. These compounds were a health hazard because in these compounds there was no proper sanitation and this led to the outbreak of contagious diseases such as cholera, dysentery and tuberculosis.

The negative social impact on the rural community was that it led to underdevelopment. This was because the able-bodied young men and women who could have developed the rural areas through agriculture migrated to urban areas to work in the mines. In some areas, this led to starvation and famine.

Labour migration also led to the break-up of families in the rural areas.

It also led to the worsening of racial segregation in the mining industries. African workers in the mine were overworked, had the worst conditions of service and were given little wages as compared to their white counterparts.

### **Political Effects**

The Cape increased its Political power. The British at the Cape revived their desire to control the whole of Southern Africa. This resulted into Federation schemes.

Led to an increase in tension between the Boers and the British. The Boers became hostile towards the British especially after the British Annexation of Griqualand.

There was a change in political leadership in the Transvaal following the events after the discovery. Rev Thomas Berger as the president of the Transvaal replaced Pretorius. This was

because the Boers felt that Pretorius was more sympathetic of the British. This also led to the rise of some political leaders such as Paul Kruger.

### **DISCOVERY OF GOLD (1885)**

Gold was discovered in the Transvaal at Witwatersrand in 1885. Prior to the discovery, there were other minor discoveries at Tati and Umfuli North of the Limpopo River. But the major discovery of Gold was at Witwatersrand. Unlike the Discovery of diamonds, the gold belonged to the Transvaal. During this period, the Transvaal was under the leadership of Paul Kruger a Boer. Paul Kruger was anti-British. He hated the British with passion since his childhood when he took part in the Great Trek.

Despite this hatred for the British, the Transvaal government under Kruger decided to invite the British miners to come and exploit the gold in the Transvaal. This was because Transvaal was a poverty stricken state with no capital to invest in the machinery needed to exploit the gold. The British had the capital, machinery and expertise to carry out large scale mining.

The British miners who settled in the Transvaal to exploit the gold were referred to as **Uitlanders**, which was a Boer word meaning “**foreigners**”. The Transvaal government however, benefited from the mining industry through heavy taxation on the miners.

### **Effects of the discovery of gold**

#### **Economic effects**

The obvious economic effect was that Transvaal was transformed from being poor and agriculture based to being one of the richest states in South Africa. Just as with the discovery of diamonds, gold also led to the development of industries and attracted foreign investment in Transvaal.

#### **Social effects**

The social effects of the gold discovery were more or less the same as with the discovery. Refer to the same notes on the discovery of diamonds.

#### **Political effects**

Transvaal increased its political power and Paul Kruger also became one of the most influential political figures in South Africa.

The British political interest in the interior also increased. Cecil Rhodes in particular wanted to acquire the Transvaal as part of the British Empire. This created political tension between the British and the Boers.

The discovery of gold also created political tension between Paul Kruger and his government and the Uitlanders. Kruger stated mistreating the Uitlanders by denying them citizenship and franchise. Besides, Kruger insisted that the Uitlanders did not use English in public. Economically the Uitlanders were heavily taxed. The Uitlanders grievances led to them to plot a coup against the Transvaal government with the help of John Cecil Rhodes and Dr Starr Leander Jameson. This Rebellion failed and the incident became known as the Jameson Raid of 1895.

## **RACE RELATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA**

### **The policy of Apartheid in South Africa**

Apartheid was a philosophy that was created by Afrikaner Nationalists in the 1930s and included in the South African constitution in 1948 by the National Party led by Dr D.F. Malan.

Apartheid was a policy of separate development that was characterised by racial segregation between whites and non-whites. Therefore, Apartheid was racial segregation in politics, jobs, churches, transport, marriages etc. The reason for the introduction of the policy of Apartheid was to suppress blacks. This was because between 1909 and 1948, Africans had become more educated than the whites (Boers), were better paid than before and were more aware of their grievances than before.

The African leaders were generally well informed in political matters. Moreover, Africans were in the majority i.e. comprised of 80% of the South African population. All these factors put together created a black threat to the white population.

### **Roots of Apartheid**

The beginning of Apartheid can be traced to the creation of multi-racial society after the arrival of the Dutch in South Africa in 1652. The emergency of a coloured race made the situation worse because the Dutch considered themselves to have been better than the other races.

The Dutch missionaries also advocated for racial separation. The Dutch Reformed Church encouraged racial segregation based on the Bible story of Noah and his two sons (Genesis 9:18-28).

In addition, as early as 1854, the constitution of the South African Boer Republic (Transvaal) clearly stated that “there shall be no equality either in state or church between a white man and a black man.” This shows that the Boers racial attitude were deep rooted.

Racial segregation became worse in the mining industries after the Mineral Revolution. This period was characterised by the economic exploitation of non-whites by white capitalists. This was because non-whites were given the toughest jobs and little wages in comparison to the whites.

### **Consolidation of Apartheid**

The period 1910 to 1948 saw the white community in South Africa consolidate their power over non-whites. The Act of Union of 1910 introduced racist policies that aimed at eliminating African participation in politics in South Africa. The South African government under the Afrikaners introduced a number of racist acts in order to dominate and exploit non-whites. Among these were:

- The introduction of the Customs Union in 1903, which provided for a common tariff against the outside world, this customs union eased economic cooperation between the four colonies in South Africa.
- The railways of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal were brought under one authority, which reduced their rivalries. In 1905, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal signed an agreement with the Cape and Natal Railways Authority. This brought a closer coordination of the Railways in the whole of South Africa and encouraged economic cooperation.

Due to the above conducive economic and political changes, the formation of the union of South Africa was made possible. A national convention was held in 1908 to decide on an acceptable format for a union constitution. The Convention was held at the Cape and delegates from all four colonies and observers from Rhodesia attended.

The main discussion at the Convention concerned the nature of franchise and the racial policies in the new United South Africa. After so many deliberations, it was agreed that each colony would continue with its franchise policies, but that non-Europeans should not be allowed to have seats in the Union Parliament. In this new arrangement, the African civil and political rights were ignored. This paved way for the segregative policies passed by the Afrikaner politicians and the later introduction of the Policy of Apartheid.

### **The Broederbond and Apartheid**

Nationalists Afrikaner intellectuals formed a secret society called the **Broederbond** meaning Brotherhood in 1918. The aim of this organisation was to develop and consolidate Afrikaner racial superiority in South Africa. This was done through promoting Afrikaner nationalists and ensure Afrikaner domination of South Africa's social, economic and political structures.

To achieve this, the organisation assisted the Nationalist government in perpetuating racial segregation and consolidation of Apartheid after 1948. The organisation made sure that ministerial posts, key posts in banks, churches, schools, chancellors at universities, head of police and the army, labour movements were held by members of the Broederbond.

### **Intensification of Apartheid after 1948**

The policy of Apartheid became official and was included in South African constitution in 1948 by the Nationalist Government under Dr D.F. Malan. This led to the introduction of more intense and serious segregation laws in the social, economic and political sphere.

## Social policies

1. **The prohibition of mixed marriages act of 1949-** this Act banned marriages between whites and non-whites. This was done to ensure the survival of a pure white race.
2. **The Immorality Act of 1950-** This act made any sexual contact between whites and non-whites illegal and punishable by a prison sentence, this act was also passed to ensure the survival of a pure white race.
3. **The population Registration Act of 1950-** This Act classified individuals according to race.
4. **The Group Areas Act of 1960-** This Act separated living space between the blacks and whites. This was a follow up to the 1913 Native Land Act. This led to the creation of Native reserves that came to be known as **Bantustans**. There were seven Bantustans that were created such as Soweto, Venda and Bophuthatswana. The Bantustans comprised 13% of the land of South Africa though they were meant to accommodate 80% of the population. This led to overcrowding in the Bantustans and other vices such as poverty, ignorance, crime, and diseases. In addition the Bantustans were underdeveloped due to government negligence.
5. **The Abolition of Passes act-** This Act strengthened the existing old passes system. In addition to ordinary passes, the blacks were now required to carry variety of passes and identity cards that were consolidated into a reference Book. Even women were now required to carry their passbook when travelling outside their Native reserves.
6. **The separate Amenities Act of 1953-** This Act separated public serving such as transport, beaches, stadium, cinema halls, shops, schools and hospitals between “Whites Only” and “Non Whites Only”.

## Economic Policies

The white capitalists also made laws that suppressed the African economic development and encouraged the economic exploitation of Blacks. Among these were;

1. **The prevention of illegal Squatters Act of 1957** – This Act gave the Government officials power to remove Africans from “White land”. Africans were expected to live in Native reserves those who lived elsewhere were considered to be squatters and were removed by force. This destroyed the African agriculture economy.
2. **The Native Labour settlement of Disputes Act of 1953** – This Act stopped Africans from forming or joining Trade Unions.
3. **The Industrial Conciliatory Act was amended in 1956** – This led to the separation of racially mixed trade Unions. Under this Act, the Ministry of Labour was also empowered to reserve jobs for whites.
4. **The Bantu Labour Act of 1954** – This Act also banned strike Actions among workers and breaching of work contracts by African workers. Africans were also not allowed to bargain for conditions of work.

## Political Policies

The Nationalist government under Dr D.F. Malan aimed at dismantling the political institution created by the United Party under Smuts to cater for blacks, Indians and coloureds. By 1946, Indians were allowed to some franchise and representation. Africans were also being represented politically through the Native Representation Council. However, by 1957, the coloureds were removed from the common voting roll in the Cape Province. The Nationalist government passed the following political laws;

1. **The Suppression of Communism Act of 1950** – This Act banned communism in South Africa and any group that was trying to bring social, economic or political changes. The South African Community party was effectively banned.
2. **The Bantu Education Act of 1953** – This Act brought African education under Government control. Missionaries were no longer allowed to provide education of Africans. African Schools had a new Bantu syllabus, which was inferior to that of whites. Primary school pupils were taught in their own ethnic languages. The reason for providing inferior education was to ensure white domination. This arrangement led to wide spread demonstration and boycotts by pupils and teachers.
3. **The extension of University Education Act of 1957** – This Act led to the creation of “Tribal” University Colleges for non-whites since they were not eligible to enter white universities. Indians and coloureds also had their own universities.
4. **The Separate REPRESENTATION OF Voters Act of 1956** – This Act removed the coloureds from common voting roll and was no longer allowed to vote in local and general elections.
5. **The Bantu self-government Act of 1959** – This Act applied to the administration of Bantustans as political entities. These Bantustans were self-government states and Africans were allowed to practice their political ambitions within the Bantustans. The Commonwealth of these Bantustans was administered by the South African white regime. All Africans in South Africa belonged to these Bantustans meaning they were no longer citizens of South Africa.

## AFRICAN NATIONALISM

The Period after 1948 saw the official introduction of the policy of Apartheid and the intensification of social, political and economic policies against Africans. As a result, there was also a rapid development in African Nationalism with regards to aims, leadership and methods used to fight white domination.

### African National leaders and their Reaction to Apartheid

The 1940s saw the rise of a new brand of Nationalist leaders who wanted to use new methods to fight the Apartheid regime. Among these were;

1. **Chief Albert Lithuli**

Albert Lithuli was a mission educated man. After college, he taught at Adams College from 1920 to 1935. In 1935, he was offered the Umvoti chieftaincy of the Zulu. He became responsible for over 5000 people. During his rule, Lithuli became aware of the sufferings of his people especially over land issues.

Therefore, in 1945, he realised the need for political action to solve his people's problems. In 1945, he joined the ANC and in 1946, he became a member of the native Representation Council. As a result of his political activities in ANC, Lithuli was forced to resign as a chief and concentrated on his political activities. In 1953, Lithuli became the ANC president.

During his presidency, Lithuli advocated for non-violence in fighting the Apartheid regime. However, the government banned him from attending or addressing public meetings. Nevertheless, Lithuli continued protesting against Apartheid and organizing boycotts against the Bantu Education Act and the pass system. As a result of his activities, he suffered restrictions and detentions from the government between 1954 and 1967. On 5<sup>th</sup> December 1961, Lithuli won a Noble Peace Prize after publishing his autobiography entitled **Let my people go** for advocating non-violence. His main ambition had been to achieve racial partnership in South Africa. He was killed in 1967.

### **Robert M. Sobukwe**

Sobukwe was born in 1924. He was also mission educated and became a language assistant at the University of Witwatersand. In 1960, he resigned from his position. This is because in March 1959, he had formed the **Pan African Congress (PAC)**. This was a breakaway movement from ANC, which at this time under Lithuli emphasised the use of non-violence.

Sobukwe created a military wing of PAC called Poqo meaning alone or pure. Poqo attacked isolated white farms and installations in order to paralyse the work of the work of the Apartheid regime. Sobukwe also organised protests against pass laws that led to the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960. In 1960, Sobukwe was arrested and sentenced to Robin Island together with Nelson Mandela.

### **Nelson Mandela**

Mandela was born in 1918 and was educated at Fort Hare University. After graduation, he became a lawyer in Johannesburg with Oliver Tambo. Mandela became a member of ANC and organized demonstrations and general strikes against the Government. Mandela proved to have been a very good leader and organised. He formed the youth wing of ANC.

Mandela and the other young leaders of ANC such as Sobukwe initially agreed with the non-violence methods for struggle. However, during the 1960 and especially after the Sharpeville Massacre, ANC and PAC were banned in April 1960. This forced ANC and PAC to start operating secretly and using violence.

Mandela formed the **Umkhondo we Sizwe** meaning **Spear of the Nation**. Umkhondo was the equivalent of PAC's Poqo. It was the military wing of the ANC. Umkhondo targeted the bombing of economic and political installations as well as telecommunication lines. As a result of his activities, Mandela was arrested and during the Rivonia trials was sentenced to life imprisonment on Robben Island until 1990 when he was released.

## FORMS OF AFRICAN RESISTANCE TO APARTHEID

African Nationalists put up considerable resistance and opposition to the discrimination laws of Apartheid. Among these forms of resistance were;

**Defiance Campaigns of 1952** -The ANC sponsored demonstrations which were aimed at persuading many people to break the segregation and discrimination laws of Apartheid. This was done through the refusal to comply with Apartheid laws e.g. the carrying of passes and boycott the transport and education policies.

**Women Protest Movement** – These were demonstrations by women against Apartheid laws. E.g. in 1956, women demonstrated against the carrying of passes. In 1956, the government's attempt to stop the selling of illicit beer in Durban led to women to retaliate by destroying property and government beer halls. This led to clashes between the women and the Police as this deprived the women of their source of income.

**Student Protests Movement** - After the banning of PAC and ANC, in 1960, there was the rapid emergence of student protests movement. University students started these protests movements. These students' movements advocated for Black consciousness and political freedom. **Steve Biko** an African medical student was very influential in student movements. The South African police for being an exceptional leader murdered him.

**Peasant Resistance** – This was resistance to government policies in the rural areas in native reserves. This resistance took form of boycotting government agriculture policies such as dipping animals and fencing land. This resistance sometimes became physical between the peasants and police.

### The Sharpeville Massacre-1960

This was an incident that brought the evils of the policy of Apartheid into the open for the world to see. On 21<sup>st</sup> March 1960, a huge demonstration was organised by PAC in order to protest against the pass laws. About 15000 Africans participated in the demonstration. The police fired on the crowd killing over a hundred people. Many were also wounded and many more arrested.

After the Sharpeville Massacre, the Apartheid regime was confronted with attacks from growing number of African independent countries as well as international organisations such as the Commonwealth and the United Nations Organisation. At the 1961 Commonwealth

conference, criticism of South Africa policy of Apartheid was intensified. It became likely that South Africa was going to be expelled. However, South African withdrew its application for continued membership. In 1960, South Africa became independent of British dominion and became a Republic. By so doing South Africa cut off all ties with Britain.

Nationalism within South Africa also gathered momentum. In the 1980s Apartheid greatly increased. By 1987, the Apartheid Regime started negotiating with the banned ANC to bring about reforms in South Africa. In 1987, the South Africa president F. W. de Klerk who succeeded P. W. Botha as president relaxed Apartheid laws e.g. he allowed the operation of black political parties and African National Congress leaders who had been imprisoned were released. Nelson Mandela was released from prison on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1990.

Finally, ANC won the one-person one-vote elections in 1994 and formed the first majority government with **Nelson Mandela as the first African President of South Africa.**