

SENIOR TWO HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA NOTES

THE BRITISH OCCUPATION AT THE CAPE IN 1795:

Why the British settled at the Cape in 1795:

Qn: Why were the British interested in the Cape of South Africa?

Why did the British settle on the Cape of South Africa?

The Cape of South Africa went through two major periods of colonization by the European powers.

The first Europeans to establish their rule at the Cape in South Africa were the Dutch, in 1652 under the Dutch East India company.

The British became the second Europeans to occupy the Cape of South Africa after the Dutch and they occupied it twice.

The British first occupied the Cape of South Africa between 1795-1802 from the Dutch.

The British then returned it to the Dutch at the peace treaty of Amiens in 1802 signed between Britain and France under the rule of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The British then re-occupied the Cape in 1806, after the Battle of Blaauwberg and ruled it up to 1910 when the Union of South Africa was attained.

The British became interested in the Cape **because of a number of reasons** which included among others;

The British feared that the European wars fought during Napoleonic rule would spread and spill over to South Africa and destroy her interests in India.

The British wanted to protect the sea route to India so as to protect her commercial empire and interest in the Middle and Far East (Asian continent).

The British were encouraged by the good relationship between the two royal families i.e. the Dutch Crown Government and the British Royal Families.

The collapse of the Dutch East India Company in 1794 also paved way for the

British occupation of the Cape since it created administrative vacuum.

The British responded to the request made by King William V of Holland to the British Crown to protect her overseas possessions including the Cape.

The Cape was strategically located and it was half way between Europe and Asia and this encouraged the British to take over Cape from the Dutch.

The British wanted to protect the many British farmers who were living at the Cape and those who were being mistreated at the Cape by the Dutch.

The British wanted to get market for their manufactured goods from Britain since many people had settled at the Cape during the Dutch regime.

They wanted to get raw materials for their industries which were established following the industrial revolution in Europe hence they took over Cape colony.

The British wanted to use the *Cape as a calling and refreshment station* for the sailors from Britain to India since the journey was too long and tiresome.

The British occupied the Cape for prestigious reasons since there was belief that the more the colonies one had the more one would be respected.

The British wanted to control the *profitable spice trade* and the trade in precious stones and above all they wanted to monopolize the trade in India.

They were attracted by the good natural harbours at the Cape that allowed the British ships to anchor safely without being disturbed by the strong winds.

The British occupied the Cape for humanitarian reasons i.e. they wanted to save the African girls from the Dutch who were marrying off young girls at the Cape.

The British wanted to establish a defence base at the Cape to challenge the ships of their enemies especially those of the French and the Portuguese.

Some British officials wanted to abolish the enslavement of the Africans by the Dutch farmers that had caused a lot of sufferings to the Africans at the Cape.

The British wanted to spread Christianity so as to promote equality,

brotherhood and unity among the different races living in South Africa.

It was a period of scramble and partition and the British being one of the imperial powers wanted to acquire more colonies outside Europe.

The Invasion of Holland by the French forces in 1795 was used as an excuse by the British to take over Cape from the Dutch in South Africa.

The British Occupation of the Cape (1795-1806):

Qn:

1. Describe how the British occupied the Cape between 1795-1806.
2. How did the British acquire the Cape from the Dutch?
3. Show the British acquisition of the Cape from 1795-1806

The British first occupied the Cape between 1795-1802 from the Dutch, and then returned it to the Dutch at the peace treaty of Amiens in 1802 signed between Britain and France under the rule of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The British then re-occupied the Cape in 1806, after the Battle of Blaauwberg and ruled it up to 1910 when the Union of South Africa was attained.

The British acquisition of the Cape was at first through force and later through diplomacy by entering into agreements with other rival powers like France.

The occupation of Cape by the British came from the invasion of Holland by the French forces in 1795 during the French revolutionary wars in Europe.

In 1795, after the Battle of Muizenberg, the British sent a fleet of 9 warships which anchored at Simon Town and gained control of the Cape from the Dutch.

The British were threatened by the French move to dominate the most treasured sea route to the Far East which forced Britain to take over Cape.

The Dutch King William V had fled to England and requested the British Crown to safeguard the Dutch possessions which included Cape colony.

During all these confusions, the DEICO collapsed which made the Cape colony to have no administration which forced the British to occupy it in 1795.

The British occupation of the Cape between 1795-1802 lacked serious activities since they were restricted only to the Cape and they made no reforms.

In 1802 the French and the British signed a peace treaty of Amiens that restored peace temporarily between the two European powers.

By the terms of the treaty, Britain was to withdraw from the Cape and the French were to leave Holland which they all accepted and complied.

From 1803-1806 the Cape colony was returned to the Dutch under Batavian rule which marked the end of the first British occupation of the Cape.

In 1806, with the help of the Batavian rulers, the French forces invaded Holland again and this act threatened the British who had interest in the Far East.

The French Invasion of Holland in 1806 worried the British, who thought that the French might take over Cape which was strategically located to India.

The British forces were led by **General Biard** who came with 61 warships invaded the Cape and deposed the Batavian rulers in 1806.

The British then re-occupied the Cape for the second time and set up a colony on 8th January 1806 and ruled the Cape till 1910 after the formation of the union government.

This action by the British led to the collapse of the peace treaty of Amiens which was signed between France and Britain in 1802.

In 1814, the Dutch government handed over the control of the Cape to the British under the terms of the Convention of London.

In 1815 the Vienna settlement officially recognized the British occupation of the Cape of South Africa.

When the Cape was handed over to the British in 1815, the Dutch were compensated with £700,000 for their colony which was given to the British.

The Batavian Republic (Cape Administration 1803-1806)

Qn:

1. How was the Cape administered from 1803 - 1806?
2. Describe the organization of the Batavian Republic of the Cape.
3. Describe the achievements of Jan Van Janssens from 1803-1806.
4. How did the Dutch reform the administration at the Cape between 1803-1806?

The Batavian Republic at the Cape was a Dutch government that came after the signing of the peace treaty of Amiens in 1802 between Britain and France.

This treaty of Amiens demanded that the Cape should be handed over to the Dutch and it was formalized in 1803 under the Batavian Administration.

The Batavian rulers remained in-charge of the Cape from 1803-1806, when they were deposed by the British forces led by General Biard.

The Cape placed under the administration of Jan Van Janssens who served as the governor.

Governor Jan Van Janssens assisted in administration of the Cape by the Commissioner General Jacob De Mist Abrahams.

However, the British were also included in the new administration but they served as the subordinate staff to the Batavian rulers.

The senior posts and positions of the Cape went to the Batavians while the British dominated the lower posts of the civil service.

The governor was the head of the administration and given all the powers over the whole colony.

The governor general handled matters related to criminal and civil affairs of the people under the Batavian administration.

The judicial assembly system was reformed and the high court became independent of the executive.

The local government was reformed and the districts were sub-divided into divisions and each division headed by a Veldkotnot.

Each district had a government representative called the Landrost.

The Landrost acted as magistrate and peacekeeper who settled minor disputes, minor criminal cases and some civil cases and acted as a link between the government and the settlers.

The Landrost was assisted by a council of Six Elders who helped him when handling civil matters or cases affecting the smooth running of the district.

The districts were further sub-divided into *wards* each administered by a government officer called a *Field Cornet*.

The Batavian administration allowed the freedom of worship to all religious groups at the Cape including the African religions.

The Khoisan got back their land that was away by the Dutch settlers and treated fairly during the new government of the Batavian.

The new administration undertook agricultural development by introducing new agricultural projects at the Cape and imported the Merino sheep from Spain.

The Batavian government promoted formal education and extended the education services to all the districts in the colony.

The Commissioner General in 1805 produced a comprehensive plan for extending the education services to all the districts in the colony.

The new government even allowed the Africans to attend missionary schools without any form of discrimination.

The Batavian government tried to discourage all forms of racial discrimination practiced by the Dutch settlers at the Cape.

The Batavian government removed all the trade restrictions and the Dutch settlers allowed selling their produce to any buyer.

In 1806 after the collapse of the peace, treaty of Amiens Britain sent back her troops to recapture the Cape but this time there was little resistance marking the end of the Batavian government.

Why The Batavian Lost Control Of The Cape (1806):

Qn.

1. Why did the British become more interested in the Cape after 1805?
2. Why was the Batavian administration defeated in 1806?
3. Why the Batavian administration at the Cape short lived?
4. Why did the Batavian lose control in the 1806?

The British were militarily superior as compared to the Batavian when they came with the force of 61 warships hence they easily defeated the Batavian army.

The Batavian army well facilitated by the administration, which was more interested in carrying out reforms in other sectors at the expense of the army.

The Batavian administration had become financially bankrupt and therefore it could not afford to fight against the British forces when they invaded in 1806.

The British economy was stronger than that of the Batavian and therefore they could not sustain a prolonged war against the strong British economically.

The Batavian administration was not so friendly to the Africans and the Africans did not support the Batavian in fighting against the British forces.

The Batavian lacked the European alliance because they had supported France during the Napoleonic rule hence they were easily defeated by the British in 1806.

The collapse of the peace treaty of Amiens when the French invaded Holland in 1805 encouraged the British to re-occupy the Cape from the Batavian rulers.

The Batavian administration welcomed the French from Holland, which threatened the British who had interests in the Cape, hence the British had to fight against the Batavian administration.

The determination of the British forces to defeat the Batavian administration at the Cape, forced the British to fight a winning battle at Blaauwberg.

The British wanted to protect the English farmers who had settled at the Cape and mistreated by the Dutch farmers, which led to their defeat.

The population of the British was large enough and worked against that of the Batavian thus enabled the British to occupy the Cape with a lot of ease.

The effects of the Batavian Rule on the Cape:

Qn: What were results of the Batavian rule at the Cape?

The Batavian rule, which lasted for only three years had significant and lasting effects on the Cape as seen below;

The Batavian rule led to the introduction of the new Europeans ideas of liberty and equality of all people at the Cape in South Africa.

The Batavian administration allowed the freedom of worship to all religious groups at the Cape including the African religions.

The Khoisan got back their land that was away by the Dutch settlers and treated fairly during the new government of the Batavian.

The new administration undertook agricultural development by introducing new agricultural projects at the Cape and imported the Merino sheep from Spain.

The Batavian government promoted formal education at the Cape although the education was elementary one.

The new government allowed the Africans to attend missionary schools without any form of discrimination.

The Batavian rule extended Dutch East India Company rule at the Cape at least for a period of three years, thereafter the British re-occupied the Cape.

The Batavian government tried to discourage all forms of racial discrimination, practiced by the Dutch settlers at the Cape.

The Batavian government removed all the trade restrictions and allowed the Dutch settlers to sell their produce to any buyer.

The Batavian rule created the fertile grounds for future conflicts between the British and the Boers due to its policy of promoting equality and liberty.

The Batavian rule at the Cape resulted into loss of lives due to the conflicts and wars between the Batavian forces and the British forces.

The Batavian Republic collaborated with Napoleon which forced Britain to re-occupy the Cape in 1806 to prevent France from gaining control over the Cape.

The British took over the Cape for the second time in 1806 from the Batavian rule with little resistance from the Governor at the Cape.

In conclusion, the effects of the Batavian rule were positive and negative; short term and long term; political, social and economic in nature at the Cape.

The Second British Occupation of the Cape (1806-1910): The British Reforms at The Cape:

Qn:

1. Describe the changes introduced by the British at the Cape between 1806-1910.
2. Describe the reforms that were made by the British at the Cape up to 1910.

The British introduced a number of reforms (changes) upon their second occupation of the Cape on 8th January 1806, which included;

Changes in the economy; Changes in the church; Changes in the language; Changes in the press; Changes in the judiciary and administration

Changes in the Economy:

In 1825 new paper money based on the English Currency known as the **English Silver** introduced to replace the **Dutch Rix dollar**, which had fallen in value.

The British government reduced the salaries of the government officials and it stood at £10,000 annually as one of the measures of reducing government expenditure.

The expenditure on public works reduced to control the inflation rate in the Cape colony in order to maintain better standard of living.

The British introduced free trade and trade restrictions were abolished and the Boer farmers free to sell their produce to any buyers at the Cape.

The policy of giving financial assistance to the immigrants stopped as a way of regulating government expenditure.

Changes in the Church /Religion:

Freedom of worship extended to all religious groups and even the Roman Catholic Church allowed to worship.

The British government also became responsible for the payment of salaries to religious leaders and all civil servants from 1826.

Government officials stopped from attending meetings with church members especially the council of the Dutch Reformed Church.

The Africans allowed attending any church of their choice or even practicing their own religion in the public at the Cape.

Changes in the Judiciary:

The British introduced a policy of justice in 1828, which contained judicial reforms and a supreme courts set up under the judicial policy.

The judges appointed by the British Crown and they were to be independent and they could hold offices for as long as they were morally upright.

The Judges were paid salaries by the British Crown government, which appointed them to judicial affairs at the Cape.

The British law replaced the Old Roman Dutch law, which led to the adoption of the British legal system at the Cape.

The Roman Dutch Law (RDL) allowed operating but the English Criminal Law replaced the harsher version of Roman Dutch Criminal Law (RDCL).

Court sessions were made public and trial by the Jury was established in 1828 and made public i.e. people were free to attend court proceedings.

In 1836, only professional lawyers and judges allowed to preside over cases and work in the courts of Law.

Changes in Administration:

Under administrative reforms, between 1806-1825, the British Cape colony was ruled by the governor who had a lot of powers.

In 1826, **an advisory council** set up comprising of the governor, the chief judge and the colonial secretary.

The work of the council was to advise the governor on how to rule the Cape based on the British legal system.

In 1827, the Dutch farmers given two seats on the advisory council and the British government at the Cape nominated these members.

In 1834, **the legislative council**, consisting of the governor, senior officials and seven nominated citizens formed to debate and pass laws.

The governor had the power to pass the laws without the knowledge of the legislative council.

Black Circuit courts (mobile courts) introduced to deal with harsh Dutch masters and the Africans acted as interpreters in these courts.

Slave working hours were also reduced and Sunday was declared a resting day for the people at the Cape and the slaves were free to worship.

African slaves allowed marriage freely without consulting their Dutch masters and form a family at the Cape under the British administration.

The Africans were encouraged to take up paid jobs and this enabled them to raise income to improve on their standards of living.

Land reforms were carried out i.e. all land within the Cape colony was marked (surveyed) and fenced to avoid land grabbing by the settlers. The land documented and land titles issued to the rightful owners and the Africans given the right to buy and sell land.

The Africans got back their land grabbed by the Dutch farmers through the land act of 1828 introduced by the British government at the Cape.

The labour reforms put in place and slave masters not allowed giving excess punishments to the slaves who were working for them.

The Africans were encouraged to take up paid employment whenever they wanted and whenever the opportunity arose.

The British encouraged African labour to stop using the passbooks and instead signed contract for their service at least for one year.

English language replaced Dutch language as the official language used in all public places and in administration at the Cape colony in South Africa.

The British encouraged the teaching of English language in schools and English used as the medium of instruction in schools.

The Changes in the Press:

The British put an end to the press censorship practiced by the Dutch administration at the Cape in South Africa.

By 1828, the freedom press instituted at the Cape and newspapers and magazines published without any form of censorship.

General Changes introduced by the British at the Cape:

In 1825 new paper money based on the English currency known as the English silver introduced to replace the Dutch Rix dollar, which had fallen in value.

The British government also reduced the salaries of government officials and it stood at £10,000 annually to reduce expenditure by the government.

The expenditure on public works reduced to control the inflation rate in Cape colony under the administration of the British.

The British government introduced free trade and the Dutch farmers were free to sell their produce to any buyers at the Cape without any form of restrictions.

The policy of giving financial assistance to the prospective immigrants stopped by the British government at the Cape.

Freedom of worship extended to all the different religious groups including the Roman Catholics and the Africans at the Cape.

The government officials were stopped from attending the Church Council meetings.

The Africans allowed to attend any church service and to practice their religion in public without any form of restriction.

The British government introduced the policy of justice in 1828 and it contained the judicial reforms.

The Supreme Court was set up and the judges appointed by the British Crown and the British government at the Cape.

The judges appointed at the Cape were required to be independent and would stay in the office as long as they were morally upright.

The British law replaced the old Roman law and the British legal system adopted at the Cape.

Court sessions at the Cape made public, and trial by Jury was established and people were free to attend the court sessions or proceedings.

In 1826, an advisory council set up and the council was supposed to advise the governor on all the legal matters of the colony.

In 1834, a Legislative Council was established and it consisted of the Governor, four senior officials and seven nominated citizens by the Governor.

The British government charged the Legislative Council with the power to

debate and pass laws governing the people of the Cape in South Africa.

Black Circuit courts (Mobile courts) introduced to deal with harsh Dutch masters and the Africans acted as interpreters in these courts.

The African slaves working hours reduced and Sunday was declared a resting day for the people at the Cape and the slaves were free to worship.

The African slaves were allowed to marry freely without consulting their Dutch masters and forming a family at the cape in South Africa.

Africans were encouraged to take up paid jobs whenever they wanted and whenever the opportunity arose and this enabled them to raise income to improve on their standards of living.

Land reforms were carried out i.e. all land within the Cape colony was marked (surveyed) and fenced to avoid land grabbing by the settlers.

Land documented and land titles issued to the rightful owners and the Africans given the right to buy and sell land.

The Africans got back their land grabbed by the Dutch farmers through the land act of 1828 issued by the British government at the Cape.

The labour reforms put in place and slave masters not allowed giving excess punishments to the slaves who were working for them.

The British encouraged African labour to stop using the passbooks and signed contracts for their labour service at least for one year.

English language replaced the Dutch language as the official language, and used in all public places and official functions.

In conclusion, the above are some of the reforms introduced by the British administration at the Cape.

The Effects Of The British Changes (Reforms) On The Africans:

Qn: How did the British reforms affected the Africans affected at the Cape?

The Africans gained more liberty and freedom since the Africans treated equally like any other races in South Africa.

The Africans got back their land from the Dutch farmers and these were mainly the Khoi-Khoi whose land grabbed by the settlers.

The Africans got more time to rest as the working hours reduced by the British government at the Cape.

Africans got paid employment and many of them left the Boer farms where their Dutch masters who paid them low salaries harshly treated them.

The Africans acquired education especially from the missionary schools and this promoted literacy among the Africans at the Cape.

The children of the slaves given chance to attend formal education and special schools established to encourage education of the Africans.

Especially the missionaries gave Africans good accommodation and it became expensive to retain the African slaves by the Dutch farmers.

The African slaves registered at the registry office with the slave protector and by 1834 many of them were freed.

The African slaves formed families and started to have children since Africans given freedom to marry without informing their Dutch masters.

The Africans got freedom of worship and allowed to attend the Sunday services and practice their own religion in the public.

The 50th ordinance passed in 1828 restored the Africans rights and Africans declared equal to the whites at the Cape under the British administration.

The Africans given chance to own property like land just like their masters the whites in Cape colony by the British administration.

The Africans freedom of movement restored as the pass laws abolished by

the British government at the Cape and therefor the Africans moved freely.

The Africans became interpreters in the courts of law and they were free to report their Dutch masters for mistreatment.

However the Africans were eventually hated by the Boers and this led to the famous Great Trek.

The Boers started running away from the Cape into the interior of South Africa in order to set their own government.

Effects of the British changes Reforms to the Boers:

The Boers lost land, which they had grabbed from the Africans as the land act of 1828 gave back land to their rightful owners the Africans.

The Boers decided to organize demonstrations in Graafrinet and Swellendam as a way of expressing their dissatisfaction to the British reforms at the Cape.

The Boers raided by the Africans as the British stopped protecting the Dutch farmers in South Africa.

The Dutch farmers opposed the abolition of the pass system and the banning of apprenticeships contracted without parents' consent.

The Boers lost labour in their farms as Africans were free to get paid employment from anywhere according to their choices.

The Boers hated the introduction of the yearly contracts between the African labour and their Dutch masters.

The English language replaced the Dutch language as the official language at the Cape and this made the Boers to hate the British reforms.

The African slaves reported the Boer masters to the courts of law and this reduced the superiority complex of the Boers at the Cape.

The Boers lost control over education at the Cape as the missionaries offered formal education to the children of the slaves.

The British legal system replaced the Old Dutch legal system of justice at

the Cape and the British laws put in place under professional judges.

The English Currency (English silver) replaced the *Old Dutch Rix dollar* as currency at the Cape since the Dutch Rix dollar had lost its value.

The Boers lost domination in religious affairs at the Cape as the Presbyterian missionaries were imported to replace the Dutch Church ministers.

The Boers decided to trek from the Cape into the interior of South Africa where they hoped to be free from such hostile British reforms.

The Boers' Reactions To The British Reforms At The Cape:

Qn:

1. Describe the relationships between the British and the Boer after 1826.
2. How did the British changes between 1806 and 1833 affect the Boers?

The Boers were not happy at all about the reforms since it disrupted their way of life, thus rejecting the British presence at the Cape.

The Boers of the eastern and northern borders were dissatisfied with the British administration.

The Boers organized several rebellions at Graafrinet and Swellendam claiming their independence from the British Administration.

The Boers disliked the British government for demanding many taxes yet they gave fewer services to the Boers in return.

The Boers hated the English laws, which gave equality to all races i.e. they hated the 50th ordinance, which restored the civil rights of Africans.

The Boers also rebelled after the **Slachters' Nek incident** where the British Administration hanged Bezuidenhout and four other rebellious Boers.

These Boers were hanged because they defied the Black Circuit courts order and the five men killed became Martyrs of the Boers for fighting the British.

The slave abolition of 1834 caused hatred towards the British by the Dutch since the compensation given to the slave owners was little.

The Boers hated the abolition of slavery in 1834 because they lost the African labour in their farms, which affected the level of agricultural output badly.

The Boers hated the British missionaries because of forcing slave labour away from the Dutch farms by offering them education and accommodation.

The Boers opposed the introduction of the British legal system, which replaced their Old Dutch legal system at the Cape.

The Boers rejected the idea of taking them to the courts of law by the African slaves and accusing against by their slaves.

The Boers rejected the abolition of the Dutch Rix dollar and replacing it with the English Currency (English Silver) as the new currency at the Cape.

The Boers rejected the use of English as the official language and therefore preferred their Dutch language in schools, public offices and functions.

The Boers reacted by treating the Africans harshly than before the coming of the British Administration at the Cape i.e. Africans were more enslaved.

The Boers opposed the new education system, which offered education to the Africans and the use of English as the medium of instruction in schools.

The Boers generally hated the British reforms and decided to move into the interior of South Africa with all their movable property.

The British Governors at the Cape:

Qn. Describe the reforms made by the following British governors at the Cape.
How did Governor Charles Somerset treat African slaves?

Lord Charles Somerset (1814-1826):

Lord Charles Somerset was the governor of the Cape Colony from 1814 up to 1826.

He was a sympathetic administrator towards the African slaves and the Coloured slaves at the Cape.

By 1816, Charles ordered for the registration of all slaves at the registry office at the Cape.

He made it illegal for one to acquire a mature slave at the Cape and this rule affected more the Dutch farmers.

Charles left the Boers to continue acquiring slaves especially the children produced by the already registered slaves.

All those slaves who were not registered as slaves by their Dutch masters, declared free men by Lord Charles Somerset.

In every district, Charles put up a registrar for slaves to register the existing slaves at the Cape.

He put up a protector for slaves in every district to supervise the registration and treatment of slaves.

In 1816, Lord Somerset ordered the Slachter's Nek incident where a Boer farmer (Bezuidenhout) and four other Boers were hanged for defying the Circuit courts.

Lord Somerset was able to stop a possible rebellion from the Boers over the Slachter's Nek incident on the eastern frontier.

Lord Somerset was able to end the Kaffir wars (wars of dispossession) between the Boers and the Xhosa.

In 1817, Charles established a school for all slave children so as to promote literacy among the children of the slaves both African and Coloured slaves.

In 1824, Lord Charles Somerset issued the famous declaration, which had the following terms (i.e. the 50th ordinance);

He reduced the working hours for the slaves, which were not in existence before at the Cape.

Charles also gave the African slaves a resting day on Sunday and the African slaves allowed attending churches of their own choices.

The African slaves given protection, from the harsh Boer masters at the Cape in South Africa by Lord Charles Somerset.

Charles also set up Black Circuit Courts, which were to investigate the African complaints against their Dutch masters at the Cape.

The Black Circuit Courts were facilitated to visit the interior districts to register the African complaints.

The 50th Ordinance:

Reasons for the Passing of the 50th Ordinance:

Qn: Why did the British try to improve the position of slaves at the Cape?

The 50th ordinance passed in 1828 by Governor Bourke although the idea started by Lord Charles Somerset another British Governor at the Cape.

The ordinance aimed at giving the Africans and other free persons the same rights as the whites.

The 50th ordinance aimed at restoring the civil rights of the Africans.

The British passed the 50th ordinance in order to restore the civil rights of the Africans at the Cape.

The desire to abolish slavery and slave trade in the British Empire forced the British to pass the 50th ordinance.

The pressure from the missionaries especially the London Missionary Society (LMS) under Dr. John Philip forced the British to pass the ordinance.

The humanitarian groups who wanted to abolish slavery and enslavement like William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson, Granville Sharp, among others forced the British.

The British wanted to make the slaves happy and contented for the work they were doing for their masters.

There was need to end racial segregation and tension between the Africans and the Boers at the Cape colony hence the passing of the 50th ordinance.

The British wanted to improve on the standard of living of the slaves and this forced them to pass the 50th ordinance.

The British wanted to spread Christianity among the Africans that is why the Christian missionaries who wanted to end slavery supported them.

They wanted to give Africans western education through the missionaries hence the passing of the 50th ordinance.

The desire to promote equality before the courts of law by all races partly led to the passing of the 50th ordinance by the British.

The desire to give the Africans freedom of movement that had been restricted by the pass law put in place by the Dutch government at the Cape.

The British wanted to give Africans access to land as the Boers denied them the right of owning land at the Cape hence the ordinance.

The British wanted to find ways of paying Africans good wages for their services and this encouraged them to pass the 50th ordinance.

The British wanted to end the exploitation of African labour by their masters hence led to the passing of the 50th ordinance.

The need to stop the unfair apprentice laws of acquiring African infants as laborers by the white masters hence the passing of the 50th ordinance.

The British wanted to provide fair treatment to the Africans at the Cape and this forced them to pass the 50th ordinance.

The Black Circuit Courts:

These were African mobile courts, created to deal with the Boers' mistreatment of the Africans at the Cape.

They were mobile courts because they move from one village to another addressing the injustices of the Boers towards the Africans at the Cape.

The Black circuit courts passed in 1812 but became more functional in 1816 at the Cape colony.

Governor Charles Somerset at the Cape between 1814 to 1826 popularized these mobile courts.

They aimed at ending the unfair treatment of the Africans by their Dutch masters at the Cape hence the passing of the Black Circuit courts.

The need to end Africans exploitation led to the passing of the Black circuit courts at the Cape by the British administration.

The desire to promote equality of all races led to the establishment of the Black circuit courts at the Cape by the British administration.

The need to give Africans and other races the same rights like the whites led to the setting up of the Black circuit courts at the Cape.

The desire to end the racial conflicts and tension between the Africans and the whites at the Cape led to the establishment of the Black circuit courts.

The British wanted to punish the Boer masters who mistreated the Africans at the Cape hence the establishment of the Black circuit courts.

Consequently, the Africans became interpreters and court assessors, they got their liberty back, and their exploitation ended.

Sir Benjamin Durban:

Qn: Describe the achievements and career of Sir Benjamin Durban.

Sir Benjamin Durban was a Governor of the Cape from 1834 up to 1838.

After his arrival in 1834, he started organizing the security to stop the Kaffir wars (the wars on the eastern frontier).

Sir Benjamin Durban sent a missionary Dr. John Philip to the Xhosa to arrange for a meeting him and the Xhosa to solve their problems.

In 1834, Sir Benjamin supervised the abolition of slavery and slave trade at the Cape, which was being practiced by the Boers.

Sir Benjamin Durban also agreed with the Boers to keep the slaves as human beings to reduce on the tension between the slaves and their masters.

Sir Benjamin Durban set up the apprentice period not exceeding six years and thereafter the slaves were to be freed by their Boer masters.

Benjamin Durban also arranged for the compensation to the Boers for the loss of their slaves after the abolition of the slavery and slave trade at the Cape.

Under Sir Benjamin Durban, a strong constitutional foundation was laid at the Cape setting a period of democracy.

Sir Benjamin did a lot on reducing government expenditure thus reducing on dependency burden of the government at the Cape.

He introduced local government the municipal council that made administration very easy at the Cape.

He tried to end the Kaffir wars between the Boers and the Xhosa when he created a neutral boundary of 160kms northwards.

He pushed the Xhosa beyond the river Keiskama and gave the land to the Boers as compensation which made him popular among the Dutch farmers.

This made a missionary (Allen Gardiner) to rename the local Natal port after him (Durban).

THE GREAT TREK /AFRIKAANER EXODUS/BOERS MIGRATION (1835-1852):

What was the Great Trek? (Origin of great trek)

The Great trek was massive movement or exodus of the Boers from the Cape colony into the interior of South Africa.

The Great trek was a large-scale migration of the Boers from the Cape colony and well organized under disciplined leadership.

The key leaders of the Great trek included; Piet Retief, Andries Hendrik Potgieter, Louis Trigardt, Andries Pretorius, Sarel Cilliers.

The Boer trekkers moved and used ox-wagons to transport their movable property and they moved with their cattle into the interior.

The Boers were running away from the British authority at the Cape colony, it started near Graafruit, and Gerrit Maritz led this group.

The Boers wanted to establish their own government free from the control of the British administration in South Africa and in Britain.

This large-scale movement of the Great trekkers started in 1836 under different leaders, groups and times as indicated above.

Causes of the Great Trek:

The Boers wanted to get freedom and independence from British rule since they had been under the British control right from 1795 when the British took over Cape colony from the Dutch administration.

The presence of large and unoccupied pieces of land in the interior of South Africa for settlement and commercial farming encouraged the Boers to migrate into the interior of South Africa.

The Boers also moved in search for fertile soils in the interior of South Africa that could promote agricultural production.

The nomadic way of life of the Boers that forced them to move in search for water and pasture for their livestock since the Boers were basically pastoralists.

The imposition of English language by the British that replaced the Dutch language as the official language annoyed the Boers hence the Great trek by the Boers into the interior of South Africa.

The population increase at the Cape following the influx of the British settlers at the Cape created pressure on services led to great trek.

The British policy of Anglicization i.e. the idea of turning the Cape colony into British Cape regarded as an inconvenience to the Boers hence Great trek.

The British judicial reforms of replacing the Old Dutch Roman criminal law by the British legal system forced the Boers to migrate into the interior of South Africa running away from the British legal system at the Cape.

The long-term hatred between the British and Boers at the Cape forced the Boers move into the interior of South Africa led to the Great trek.

The spirit of adventure among the Boers who wanted discovers new areas into the interior of South Africa led to the massive migration by the Boers.

The good reports from the Boers' scouts who had moved into the interior South Africa, also excited the remaining Boers thus led to the Great trek.

The reduction of the Dutch official salaries by the British which angered the Boers forcing them to try their luck elsewhere.

The introduction of the Black Circuit courts, which granted rights to the Africans to complain against their cruel masters angered the Boers hence the Great trek.

The Slachters' Nek incident of 1815 i.e. the hanging of the rebellious Boers at the Cape greatly annoyed the Boers forcing them to leave the Cape colony.

The rebellious nature of the Boers who were also defiant especially to the British legal reforms thus they had moved away in order to be free from the British rule.

The Hottentots code of 1809 hurt the Boers because it gave the Khoi-Khoi back their land, which the Boers had acquired and this led to the Great trek.

The Dutch Reformed Church had limited influence in South Africa and this annoyed the Boers forcing them to move into the interior.

The Boers rejected the freedom of Worship granted by the British to the Africans through the British religious groups reforms made at the Cape.

The Boers were also annoyed that freedom of press granted to the Africans forcing them to migrate into the interior of South Africa.

The Boers migrated into the interior of South Africa because missionaries were marrying Africans something that annoyed them and this led to the great trek.

The Boers moved due to the missionary act of preaching liberty, equality and fraternity yet the Boers supported discrimination of the non-whites.

The racial segregation of the Boers against the Africans as they believed that they were God chosen people and therefore could not mix with other races especially the non-whites hence caused the Great trek.

The Boers hated replacement of the Dutch Rix dollar by the English Currency (English silver) as currency at the Cape and they therefore decided to move into the interior of South Africa.

The Boers also moved due to the Boers racial prejudice i.e. the desire by the Dutch to promote their culture and supremacy in the interior of South Africa.

The Boers also hated the missionaries for providing education to the Africans yet they had denied them for a long time and this led to the Great trek.

The 1828 50th ordinance, which restored civil rights of the non-whites, alarmed the Boers because it abolished pass laws and granted equality to all races.

The loss of cheap labor by the Boers as the result of emancipation of the slaves through the 50th ordinance forced the Boers to move into the interior of South Africa away from the British influence.

The emancipation of slaves by Britain in 1833 applied to all parts of the British Empire South Africa inclusive forced the disgruntled Boers to move into the interior of South Africa.

The British failure to compensate the Boers after the liberation of slaves and even then some hated less compensation given was £1.25 million for slaves valued at £3million and forced the Boers to move into the interior of South Africa.

The four unfounded rumours circulating in the Cape colony intensified the urge for the Boers to move away e.g. that the Boers' land were to be given to the Khoi-Khoi and that the Boers were to intermarry with the Africans.

The rumours that there was to be forced military conscription on the Boers by the British, this made the Boers to migrate into the interior of South Africa to avoid it.

The nullification and cancellation of the Boers annexation of the province of Queen Adelaide and Natal, by the British annoyed the Boers hence their movement into the interior of South Africa.

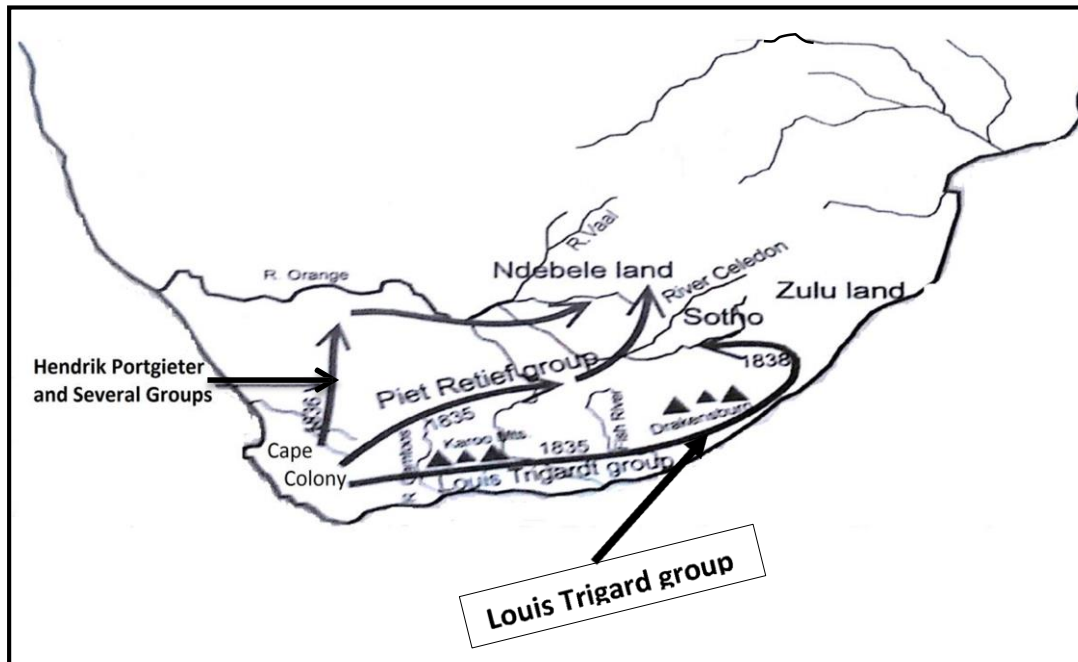
The British secretary of State Lord Glenelg cancelled Governor Benjamin Durban's proposal of territorial adjustments for the fear of increased administrative and financial responsibilities for the government.

The new British reform which required the mapping and fencing and possession of a title deed for one to have land which the Boers did not support.

The Course of the Great Trek:

Qn: Describe the course of the Great Trek

Fig. 8: A Map Showing the Routes taken by the Great Trekkers (1830-1845)



The Great Trek occurred in three phases and the main leaders were Piet Retief, Andries Hendrik Potgieter, Louis Trigardt;

And other leaders were Andries Pretorius, Jacob Uyses, Gerrit Maritz and Sarel Cilliers.

The Great Trek started at the Cape colony by 1835 and the Boers moved into the interior using ox-wagons that carried their movable property.

The trekkers avoided the crowded coastal areas of the Cape colony and only followed the middle grassland within the Drakensberg Mountains.

The first group led by Trigardt and Jan Van Rensburg left the Cape colony before 1835 near the Graafreinet.

This group moved Eastwards then northwards crossing Vaal and Orange Rivers.

This group was not well prepared before moving a long journey and most of them died on the way because of starvation.

This group first settled at Zoutpansberg where the hostile Africans attacked them killed many of them in the process.

By the time, the Portuguese rescued them only 27 out of 100 members had reached Laurencio Marques present day Maputo in Mozambique.

Potgieter and Cilliers later joined by Gerrit Maritz who led a group of the trekkers from Graaffreinet.

They moved eastwards and then northwards crossing Vaal and Orange Rivers before they established Orange Free State.

In 1836, the Ndebele under their leader Mzilikazi attacked the Boer trekkers in their territory of the Ndebele land.

In a circle formation of their wagons which were chained together (known as laager), they set up a defensive walls which the Ndebele could not penetrate.

The Boers later assembled at Vegkop in October 1836 and defeated the Ndebele in a fierce battle of Vegkop.

Although the Ndebele defeated by the Boers at Vegkop but they were able to grab the cattle and sheep of the Boers.

By November 1836, the Boers were able to defeat the Ndebele who were under the leadership of Mzilikazi completely and they ran into the present day Zimbabwe.

Piet Retief left the Cape colony led the third group of the Boers in April 1837 they had reached the Zululand.

Piet Retief appointed the president of the 'United Laager' and his aim was to establish a settlement in Natal.

He had heard rumours about the fertile coastal plains of Natal and the hunters and the traders brought these rumours to him.

He moved across Drakensberg Mountains, Orange River and finally he reached

Zulu land, which was under Dingane as the king of the Zulu.

He asked Dingane for land but Dingane's response was tricky.

Dingane told Piet Retief's group that they had to rescue the Zulu cattle that had been lost to Sekonyela the chief of the Tlokwa.

Piet Retief recovered the lost cattle without much struggle and disturbance from the chief Sekonyela.

When Dingane found out that they had recovered the cattle, he became more nervous and suspicious and he tricked them again.

Dingane called for a beer party and invited Piet's group where he planned to kill Piet Retief and other Boers.

During the party Dingane sent a signal to his men, "kill the wizards" and killed Piet Retief and his group.

On 06th February 1838, Andries Pretorius succeeded him.

When Andries Pretorius appointed the commander of the Boers, he organized a group of unhappy Boers to fight the Zulu in a war of revenge.

This war of revenge was carried out on the banks of Ncome River or Blood River on 16th December 1838 when they attacked the Zulu under the leadership of Dingane.

After the defeat of the Zulu warriors, Dingane agreed to return the property of the Boers, which included sheep and the cattle.

Six months later Dingane returned a large part of the District of Natal to the trekkers as part of terms of surrender.

After his defeat, Dingane exiled to Swaziland where the Swazi people later killed him eventually this marked the end of his rule.

Dingane's successor, Mpande enjoyed the support of the Boers under the leadership of Andries Pretorius.

Mpande offered half of the Zululand to the Boer Trekkers in appreciation for the work done for his coming to power and by 1840; half of the Zulu land given to the Boers.

The Boers established their independence in **Natal Republic** after the death of Dingane although their independence did not last long.

The British were determined to bring the Natal Republic under the control of the Cape colony and they carried out an **offensive attack on Natal in 1842**.

The Natal Republic surrendered to the British in 1843 and by 1845 Natal put under the Cape colony administration.

The British took over Natal from the Boers due to the disorder within the administration of Natal and the desire to establish trade contact with the Boers.

In other words, the British feared the growing commercial competition from the Natal with Cape Town and they wanted to reduce such trade rivalry.

Finally, Andries Pretorius led the unhappy Boers out of Natal in 1843 and crossed Drakensberg into the highlands Velds of Transvaal in 1852 and this marked the end of the Great trek.

Problems Faced By the Boer Trekkers:

Qn: What problems did the Boer trekkers encounter?

The local people like Chief Dingane of the Zulu killed Piet Retief and some of his members and the leaders of the Boer trekkers.

The Boers trekkers ran short of food and other consumer goods and this caused starvation among the trekkers in the interior of South Africa.

The trekkers were also attacked by diseases like malaria, small pox, etc. which killed some of the people who were travelling to the interior of South Africa.

The animal diseases like foot and mouth diseases, which killed a good number of them, attacked their cattle and other domestic animals like sheep.

The Boer trekkers attacked by wild animals, which left many of them dead while on their way into the interior of South Africa.

The Boers also had the problem of geographical barriers i.e. they faced difficulty in crossing rivers and climbing Mountains like Mountains Drakensberg.

Communication was also a problem because this made it difficult for the Boer trekkers to communicate with other trekkers in the interior of South Africa.

The Boers also ran short of gun powder and other necessities, which made their lives insecure, as they could not easily defend themselves against their enemies.

The Boers were militarily weak and as a result they continued suffering from attacks from the Africans like the Xhosa, Zulu, among others.

The Boers ran short of work force and this was because most of the trekkers had lost their lives due to the continuous attacks from their enemies.

The Boers also quarreled (disagreed) among themselves and this caused disunity thus affected their movement e.g. Jan Van Rensburg quarreled with Trigardt.

Most of the Boer trekkers were not prepared for the long journey and thus they faced many hardships, which resulted in the death of many on the way.

The British were a problem to the trekkers as they continued following them wherever the Boers went.

The trekkers lacked social amenities like schools and health centres where they could receive social services like education for their children and healthcare.

The Boer Republic lost their independence after the British annexed their Natal republic in 1843.

Effects of the Great Trek:

Qn: How did the movement of the Boers into the interior of South Africa affect the people of South Africa?

The Great trek marked the beginning of Europeans settlement and occupation in the interior of South Africa.

The Great trek increased on the whites' population in the interior of South Africa i.e., both the Boers and the British population increased in the interior.

The Great trek led to the establishment of the Boers republics in the interiors like the Transvaal, Orange Free State and Natal respectively.

The Great trek also increased on the hatred between the Boers and the British especially over the control of the interior of South Africa, which led to future Anglo-Boers wars.

The Great trek led to increased mistreatment of the Africans by the Boers in the interior of South Africa since they treated them as second-class citizens.

The Great trek led to increased British imperialism, which led to the annexation of Natal in 1848, Orange River Sovereignty of 1852 and Transvaal in 1877.

The Bloemfontein Convention of 1854 granted full independence to the colonists of the Orange River Sovereignty and it was renamed Orange Free State.

The Great trek led to the wars between the trekking Boers and the Africans e.g. battle of Vegkop, battle of Blood River, Moshoeshoe and the Boers.

The Great trek led to discovery of minerals in the interior of South Africa like Diamond in 1867 at Kimberley and Gold in 1886 at Witwatersrand by the whites in the Boers republics.

The Great trek also led to increased Boers nationalism i.e. 16th December 1838 was considered a memorable day among the Boers after their defeat of the Zulu.

Both the Africans and the Boers lost their lives during the conflicts e.g. between the Boers and Dingane's people of Zulu.

There was depopulation, which occurred due to the wars fought between the Boer trekkers and Zulu people under Dingane.

The Ndebele lost land to the Boers after their defeat at the battle of Vegkop in 1836 by the Boer trekkers who established their control in the Ndebele land.

The Bapedi also lost their land to the Boers after their defeat in the Pedi resistance of 1861 against the Boers where they were defeated.

The Boer trekkers displaced many Africans from their original homeland like the Ndebele and the Basotho people chased away from their homeland.

Dingane lost about 17,000 herds of cattle to the Boers, this left them in a state of absolute poverty, and misery since their source of livelihood was no more.

Africans lost their independence to the Boers like the Ndebele after the battle of Vegkop, the Zulu after the battle of Blood River.

There was increased exploitation of the Africans labour by the Boers who paid little or nothing for the labour offered by the Africans.

There was decline in agriculture production because the Africans were not concentrating on agriculture activities, which led to famine in the interior.

The whites brought the Africans lost their traditional culture since they adopted the western culture like western religion, dressing, and education.

Traditional African chiefs lost their political powers and authority as their positions were now taken by the whites who became the new rulers.

The Great trek also led to the increased general insecurity because of the constant wars between the Africans and the whites.

The Great trek intensified internal conflicts among the Africans like Dingane and his brother Mpande and this caused disunity among the Africans.

The Africans acquired the venereal western diseases through their contact with the whites who had entered into the interior of South.

The Great trek made Africans to acquire guns through their contact with the whites and this acquisition of guns increased on the insecurity interior of South Africa.

The Great trek to some extent made African languages put in writing and this promoted African literature in the interior of South Africa.

The British legal policies exported into the interior of South Africa, which improved on the position of Africans.

Many African states weakened economically following the dominance of the white communities in the interior of South Africa.

Some Africans began to collaborate with the trekking Boers against the fellow Africans which weakened the strength of the African nationalism e.g. chief Moroka.

The Boers established commercialized farming in the interior of South Africa and this boasted agricultural production and income of the Boers.

Because of the establishment of the commercialized farming, Africans provided cheap labour on the Boers farms, thus created master slave situation.

Racial discrimination and segregation extended into the interior and promoted by the Boers living many Africans in a state of misery.

The Effects of the Great Trek on the Africans and Whites in South Africa:

Qn: What were the effects of the Great trek on the following?

i) Africans ii) Whites (Boers and British)

The Effects on Africans:

The Great trek increased on the whites' population into the interior of South Africa i.e. both the British and the Boers.

The Great trek led to the establishment of the Boers republic in the interior of South Africa like Transvaal, Orange Free State and Natal.

The Great trek led to the mistreatment of the Africans since they treated them as second-class citizens by the whites more especially the Boers.

The Great trek led to increased wars between the trekking Boers and the Africans e.g. the battle of Vegkop, battle of Blood River, Moshoeshoe and the Boers.

The Africans lost their lives during the conflicts with the whites like the conflicts between the Boers and Dingane resulted into many Africans left dead.

There was depopulation was caused by the constant wars fought between the Boers and Dingane the leader of the Zulu people.

The Ndebele lost land to the Boers after their defeat at the battle of Vegkop by the Boers who later took over the Ndebele land.

The Bapedi lost land to the Boers after their defeat in the Pedi resistance of 1861 against the Boer trekkers.

There was displacement of many Africans from their original land by the Boers and later the British like the Ndebele and the Basotho people.

The Zulu under the leadership of Dingane lost 17,000 herds of cattle to the Boers and this left them in a state of absolute poverty.

Africans lost their independence to the Boers in the interior of South Africa like the Ndebele after the battle of Vegkop, the Zulu after the battle of Blood River.

There was increased exploitation of African labour by the Boers who paid them little or nothing for the labour offered on their farms by the Africans.

There was decline in agriculture production since Africans were not concentrating on agriculture activities, which led to famine in the interior.

The Africans lost their traditional culture since they adopted the western culture like western religion, dressing, education, etc. introduced by the whites.

The African traditional chiefs lost their powers and authority to the whites who became the rulers in the interior of South Africa.

The Great trek also led to the increased general insecurity because of the constant wars between the Africans and the whites who had come in the interior.

The Great trek intensified internal conflicts among the Africans like Dingane and his brother Mpande and this caused disunity among Africans.

The Great trek made Africans to acquire venereal western diseases through their contact with the whites.

The Great trek made Africans to acquire guns through their contact and this increased on the insecurity within the interior of South Africa.

The Great trek made African languages put in writing and this promoted African literature in the interior of South Africa.

The white communities in the interior of South Africa weakened many African states economically following their dominations.

Some Africans began to collaborate with the trekking Boers against the fellow Africans and this undermined the development of nationalism e.g. chief Moroka.

Because of the establishment of commercialized farms by the whites, Africans provided cheap labour on the Boers farms thus created a master slave situation.

Racial discrimination and segregation extended into the interior and promoted by the Boers living many Africans in a state of misery.

The Effects on the Whites (Boers and British):

The Great trek marked the beginning of Europeans settlement and occupation in the interior of South Africa as the whites.

The Great trek increased the hatred between the Boers and the British especially over the control of the interior of South Africa.

The great trek led to the Anglo-Boers wars which were fought between the Boers and the British in South Africa for example the First and Second Anglo-Boer Wars.

The Great trek led to increased British imperialism, which led to the annexation of the Natal 1843, Orange River sovereignty of 1852 and Transvaal in 1877.

The Great trek led to the discovery of minerals in the interior of South Africa like Diamond in 1867 at Kimberley and Gold in 1886 at Witwatersrand by the whites in the Boers republics.

The Great trek led to increased Boers nationalism i.e. *16th December 1838 was considered a memorable day for the Boers.*

The British legal policies exported into the interior of South Africa, which improved on the positions of Africans

The Boers established commercialized farming in the interior of South Africa and this boasted agricultural production and income of the Boers.

The Afro-Boer Conflicts during the Great Trek:

During the course of the Great Trek, Africans clashed with the Boer trekkers and in the process; they fought a number of battles.

There were two major battles fought between Africans and the Boer trekkers and these include;

The Battle of Vegkop in 1836:

Causes of the Battle of Vegkop in 1836:

Qn:

1. Explain the causes of the conflicts between the Africans and the Europeans in 1836.
2. Why did the Boers clash with the Ndebele in 1836? 3. Why did the Boer trekkers clash with Mzilikazi in 1836?

The Battle of Vegkop was fought between the Boer trekkers under their leader Potgieter and the Ndebele under their leader Mzilikazi on 9th Oct 1836.

The Battle of Vegkop took place south of Vaal between Vaal and Orange rivers especially at Marico valley.

It was Potgieter and Maritz, Cilliers who engineered the hostilities against the Ndebele and the causes of this battle include the following;

The increasing number of the Boers who had flooded the interior of South Africa made the Africans to get more worried and they developed the idea of fighting against the Boers hence the battle of Vegkop.

The determination of the Ndebele to protect their independence, threatened by the Boers imperialists, led to the battle of Vegkop in the interior of South Africa against the Boers.

The occurrence of Great trek that had brought the Boers into the interior of South Africa increased the clashes between the Boers and the Ndebele people under the leadership of Mzilikazi hence led to the battle of Vegkop.

The desire by both the Boers and the Ndebele to prevent raids and counter raids which had been the order of the day in the interior of South Africa, partly led to the battle of Vegkop in 1836.

The hatred and enmity between the Ndebele and the Rolong, the Gaikas who had agreed to support the Boers against the Ndebele people caused the Battle of Vegkop in 1836.

The support given to the Boer trekkers by the Barolong chief Moroka who encouraged the Boers to fight the Ndebele hence led to the battle of Vegkop.

The desire by the Ndebele people under Mzilikazi to eliminate the whites from their land whom they believed to be witches and wizards and this caused the conflicts which led to the battle of the Vegkop.

Both the Boers and the Ndebele were hungry for land and this laid the foundation for the conflicts of Vegkop in 1836, i.e. the Boers needed land for grazing which forced them to clash with the Ndebele people.

The early victory of Mzilikazi against the Boer trekkers under the leadership of Erasmus and Liebenberg encouraged Mzilikazi to fight against the Potgieter's group hence the battle of Vegkop.

The Boers under Potgieter wanted to revenge for the death of Liebenberg and many other Boers killed by the Ndebele chief Mzilikazi and this made the Vegkop battle inevitable in 1836.

The Boers were also confident of an obvious victory since they possessed superior weapons as compared to their counterpart the Ndebele people and ended in the battle of Vegkop of 1836.

The Ndebele always resisted intruders in their land and they had warrior mentality that made them despise the Boers and consequently attacked them hence led to the battle of Vegkop in 1836.

The Boers wanted to rescue the three American missionaries kidnapped by the Ndebele by the warriors and this contributed to the conflicts, which led to the battle of Vegkop.

Both the Boers and the Ndebele wanted to regain their cattle that had been

raided by either sides and this resulted into the conflicts between the two hence led to the battle of the Vegkop in 1836.

The determination by the Boer trekkers never to go back to the Cape forced them to conflicts with the Ndebele people, which led to the battle of Vegkop.

The Course of the Battle of Vegkop of 1836:

By the end of 1836, fighting had been between the Boers and the Ndebele people under their leader Mzilikazi.

Mzilikazi had successfully destroyed early Boer trekkers led by Liebenberg and Erasmus who attempted to cross Ndebele land.

However, Potgieter, an outstanding leader of the Boer trekkers considered it sensible to bring all the fifty wagons in the locality to a protected camp.

The Battle of Vegkop started on 19th October 1836, between the Boer trekkers and the Ndebele under Chief Mzilikazi.

The Boers' wagons were chained together, and the gaps in between were filled with thorn bushes.

The circle of the wagons called a 'lager' by the Boer trekkers used as defence against the Ndebele fighters.

The lager made it difficult for the Ndebele to breakthrough as the Boers had enough gunpowder and soldiers to fight against the Ndebele forces.

The Boer fighters seriously defended all the parts of the circle of the wagons from the Ndebele forces.

The Ndebele were not able to destroy the lager, but they were able to drive off all the Boer sheep and cattle.

The Boer, later joined up with an early group led by Maritz and decided to revenge against the Ndebele.

The Boer Commando group led by Potgieter carried out a surprise attack on the Ndebele kraal.

The Boer commando successful in their operation against the Ndebele and they captured 7,000 cattle and recovered the lost wagons and the three American missionaries.

The defeated Mzilikazi forced to migrate northwards where he set up his capital at Bulawayo lived there until his death in 1868 and left the Orange Free State for the Boer Settlement.

In conclusion, the brief description of the course of the Battle of Vegkop between the Ndebele and the Boer trekkers.

The Effects of the Battle of Vegkop of 1836:

The battle of Vegkop resulted into massive loss lives on both sides of the Boers and the Africans due to the intensive and frequent battles and wars.

The war resulted into the death of some leaders of the Boers in the hands of the Ndebele warriors like Erasmus and Liebenberg killed in the course of the war.

There was depopulation in the interior of South Africa as many people killed on the Ndebele side during the battle.

There was the displacement of people from the war prone areas as many people flee for their dear lives to other places, which were relatively peaceful.

The Ndebele under their leader Mzilikazi were defeated at Mosega in 1837 by the Boer forces since his warriors were weak to defend themselves.

The war led to destruction of property, which eventually caused suffering to the Ndebele people, and eventually forced to migrate to other area.

Mzilikazi after his defeat decided to move with his people and they travelled northwards across Vaal into the Highlands of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Mzilikazi set up his capital at Bulawayo where he stayed until the time of his death in 1868.

The three American missionaries eventually killed by the Ndebele warriors and this signified success on the Ndebele troops against the Boers.

The battle of Vegkop led to the disruption of agriculture thus worsening the economic conditions of the Ndebele people.

Trade and commerce disrupted in the area due to the conflicts between the Ndebele and the Boers in the interior of South Africa.

The battle of the Vegkop caused poverty, misery and suffering to the Ndebele people especially those who had lost their family members and property.

The battle of Vegkop led to loss of cattle on both sides to the tune of 10,000 herds of cattle due to the cattle raids and counter raids.

The Boers also gained confidence in using the laager system of fighting against the Africans since it was an efficient method of attacking their enemies.

The Boers regained some of their lost cattle and ox-wagons from the defeated Ndebele people at the battle of Vegkop.

The battle of Vegkop caused a state of general insecurity within and around Transvaal due to the continuous wars between the Ndebele and the Boers.

The battle of Vegkop caused famine, starvation since agriculture ignored, and the Boers destroyed gardens.

The loss by the Ndebele in the battle of Vegkop paved way for future wars like the battle of Blood River of 1838 where many people were killed.

The battle of Vegkop led to the creation of Orange Free State by the Boers after defeating the Ndebele people.

Mzilikazi lost his traditional authority over the Ndebele land since his land and territory taken over by the Boers after his defeat in 1837.

In conclusion, the effects were both positive and negative and short term and long term, political, social and economic in nature.

Reasons for the Defeat of the Ndebele by the Boers:

Qn: Why were the Africans (Ndebele) defeated the battle of Vegkop?

The severe famine occurred because of the crops destruction by the Boers and the ignoring of the agriculture by the Africans, led to the defeat of the Africans.

Determination by the Boers to defeat the Africans who had earlier defeated them partly led to the defeat of the Ndebele people by the Boers.

The Ndebele people (Africans) were attacked by tropical diseases like malaria, small pox, etc. which weakened them thus led to their defeat by the Boers.

The strong leadership of the Boers who were well trained and more skilled than the African leader Mzilikazi properly mobilized their people against the Ndebele.

The Boers defeated the Africans because the Ndebele had no support from other tribes since they were aggressive and used to attacks their neighbours.

The Africans had inferior weapons that they used in the battle of Vegkop hence easily defeated by the Boers who had modern weapons like the guns.

The Africans were economically and financially poor, and therefore they could not handle the Boers who were financially strong.

The African fighters were not properly organized (disunited) at the battle of Vegkop and this partly led to their defeat by the Boer forces.

The Ndebele fighters were few in number as compared to the Boer troops and this made it easy for the Boers to crush the Africans at the battle of Vegkop.

In conclusion, the Ndebele fighters were defeated due to political, social and economic reasons which were both short term and long term; internal and external in nature.

The Battle of Blood River in 1838

The causes of the Battle of Blood River in 1838

Qns:

1. Explain the causes of battle of Blood River.
2. Why were the Boers at war with the Zulu in 1838?
3. Why did Piet Retief clash with Dingane in 1838?
4. Why did Pretorius stage a war of revenge against the Zulu?

The Battle of Blood River was fought on 16th December 1838 and it took place around the banks of Blood River (Ncome River).

In the battle, Piet Retief and Jacob Uyses killed earlier led the Boer trekkers and later Andries Pretorius led the Boer trekkers against the Zulu.

While Chief Dingane led, the Zulu warriors and they were badly defeated at the battle of the Blood River by the Boer troops.

Six months later Dingane gave a large part of Natal to the Boer trekkers as part of his terms of surrender.

The causes of the battle of Blood River of 1838 included the following:

The increased influx of the Boers into the interior of South Africa following the Great trek that brought the two enemies (the Zulu and the Boers) together created conflicts, which led to the battle of Blood River.

The Africans never trusted the whites especially after the Xhosa refugees Msimbiti had warn Dingane not to trust the Boers encouraged the Zulu to fight the Boers at the battle of the Blood River.

The Boers were determined not to go back to the Cape at any cost and therefore they had to clash with the Zulu, which resulted into the battle of Blood River.

The Boers wanted to get grazing land from chief Dingane but they failed to get the land through peaceful means hence war became the only way to solve the problem.

The Zulu determination to protect their ancestral land from being taken by the

hungry whites who were aggressively searching for land hence the battle of the Blood River inevitable.

The Zulu wanted to protect their cattle from the Boer raids since they knew that the Boers were pastoralists and therefore cattle rustlers hence caused the conflicts.

The warrior mentality of the Boers made them believe that no race can defeat them and this forced them to wage a war of revenge against the Zulu hence the battle of the Blood River.

The acquisition of guns by the Zulu warriors made them develop the courage and confidence to fight the Boers, which ended in the battle of the Blood River.

The desire by the Boers to set up their own independent republic that was free from British interference forced them to fight the Zulu in their own land in Natal hence the battle of the Blood River.

The killing of Piet Retief and his members by Chief Dingane at the beer party created the war mood on the side of the Boers who wanted to organize a war of revenge against Chief Dingane and his Zulu warriors.

The Increased number of the Boers in Zulu land also scared Dingane forcing him to declare a war to remove these many foreigners from his land.

The appointment of Andries Pretorius in 1838 as the new leader of the Boers, gave the Boers courage and determination to fight against the Africans at the banks of the Blood River (Ncome River).

The camping of the Boer commando units at the banks of Blood River also created a war mood which forced the Zulu warriors to prepare for a war which in the battle of the Blood River.

The defeat of the Ndebele warriors under Mzilikazi encouraged the Boers to wage war on the Zulu thus led to the battle of the Blood River in 1838.

The successful return of Dingane's cattle from Sekonyela the chief of Tlokwa, made the Boers to accuse Dingane of dishonesty and disloyalty after he had failed to give them land upon the recovery of his cattle.

The constant raids by the Boers on the Zulu cattle created conflicts between the two parties, which led to the battle of the Blood River in 1838.

The Zulu people under the leadership of Chief Dingane hated the Boers because of their bad practice of rapping the African women and girls thus they were ready to fight against them hence led to the battle of the Blood River.

The collaboration of the Dingane's brother Mpande with the Boers against Dingane forced the Zulu warriors fight the Boers at the banks of the Blood River in 1838.

The Nomadic way of life of the Boers caused conflicts since they kept on moving from one location to another caused conflicts between them and the Africans hence the Blood River battle in 1838.

The early victory of Zulu against Piet Retief and his members at the beer party on 16th February 1836 also boosted the moral of the Africans i.e. the Zulu were encouraged to raid the Boers after the death of Piet Retief.

The Course of the Blood River of 1838:

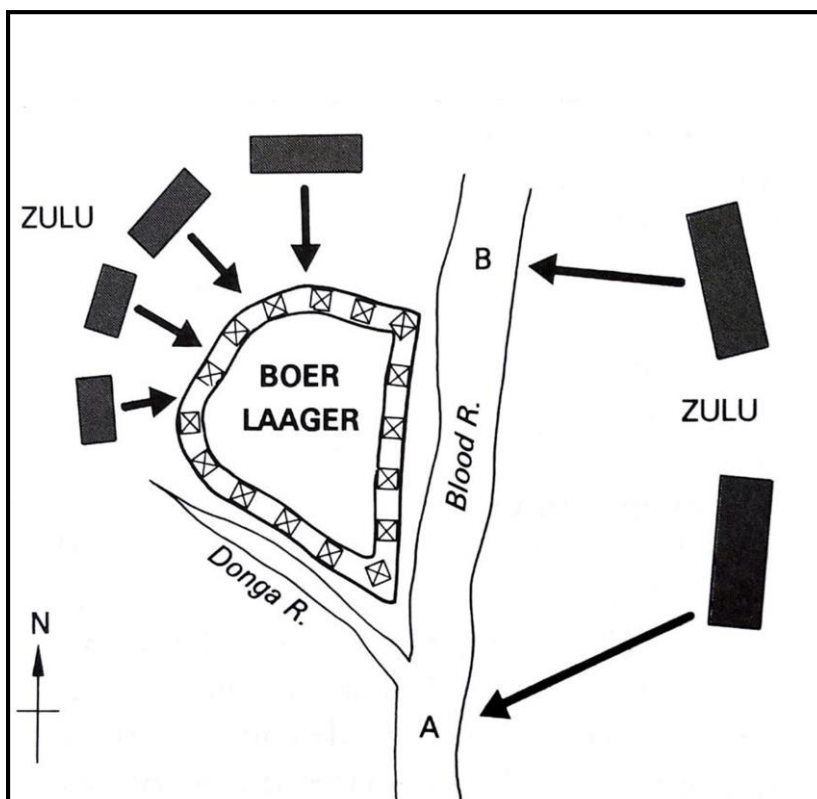


Fig.8: A Map showing the Battle of the Blood River (1838):

By 1837, Piet Retief was invited to become the Governor of the United Laagers of the Boer trekkers which initially led by Maritz, Potgieter and Uyses.

Piet Retief at the age of 57, had much more experience than his younger colleagues, although he had few supporters.

Piet Retief had intention of setting up some form of political organization before his people could settle in the area.

Piet Retief was opportunistic of taking the laager to Natal province the land of the Zulu people.

However, before settling in the Zulu land he thought that it was necessary for them to make an agreement with the Zulu leader Dingane since Zulu land was in their territory.

Dingane asked Retief to return the Zulu cattle stolen by the Sekonyela the chief of Tlokwa in order to settle in Natal.

Retief quickly did the work without much difficulty and the Dingane's cattle recovered and returned to the royal kraal by the Retief group.

On 6th February 1838, a final draught of beer was served to the visitors i.e. the Boers and immediately Dingane signaled to his warriors '*kill the wizards*' and the warriors killed the Boers including Retief and his members.

In the middle of February, the Zulu destroyed almost all the eastern Boer camps, but they did not follow up their success in the west the Boers waited for revenge until November.

Andries Pretorius appointed Commandant General of the united laagers.

On 15th December, 1838 Pretorius and his commando band camped on the banks of the Blood River (Ncome River).

On the following day, the Zulu attacked the Boers and the fighters had some few guns and musket but defeated by the superior Boer commandos. Then Pretorius moved onto the royal kraal and found the place deserted by the Zulu.

Pretorius and his party then buried Retief and his party and eventually returned to their camp where the Boers celebrated their victory over the Zulu.

The Boers always **celebrate this day of victory 16th December** annually in South Africa.

In March 1839, Dingane agreed to return all the captured equipment and 19,000 herds of cattle and agreed not to cross Tugela River without permission.

Then later, his brother Mpande supported by the Boers overthrew Dingane and Dingane went into exile to Swaziland.

In conclusion, the brief description of the course of the Battle of the Blood River between the Boers and the Zulu under their leader Dingane.

Effects of the Battle of Blood River of 1838: Qn: How were the Zulu affected by this War?

Dingane lost power to his half-brother Mpande after his successful defeat by the Boers at the banks of the Blood River on 16th December 1838.

The battle of the Blood River led to the establishment of Boer Republic of Natal after the defeat of the Zulu warriors by the Boers.

The war between the Zulu and the Boers encouraged the British to interfere with the affairs of the region due to the insecurity created.

The battle of the Blood River led to the popularity of Andries Pretorius who played a bigger role in the defeat of the Zulu and politic of South Africa.

There was loss of lives especially at the Beer party where the Dingane's warriors killed Piet Retief and his members.

There was the destruction of property especially in Natal and Weenen by the Zulu warriors who destroyed the Boers property.

The Zulu people displaced from their land, which Andries Pretorius took away and gave to the Boers to establish farms.

The Zulu lost their independence to the Boers who became the leaders in the Zulu land and the Zulu people became subjects of the Boers.

The battle led to depopulation, because many people especially the Zulu lost their lives during the fighting i.e. about 3000 Africans killed.

The battle made Chief Dingane to flee into exile to Swaziland where his own people eventually killed him.

Trade and commerce disrupted due to the conflicts between the Zulu and the Boers in the interior of South Africa.

The battle of the Blood River caused poverty, misery and suffering to the Zulu people especially those who had lost their family members and property.

The battle of Blood River led to loss of cattle on both sides to the tune of 10,000 herds of cattle due to the cattle raids and counter raids.

The battle of Blood River caused famine, starvation, since agriculture ignored and gardens seriously destroyed by the Boers

The battle of Blood River led to the creation of Orange Free State by the Boers after defeating the Africans.

In conclusion, the effects were positive and negative, short term and long term; political, social and economic in nature.

Why the Zulu were Defeated at the Battle of Blood River:

The weak economy of the Zulu could not allow them to sustain the war against the Boers and this led to their defeat.

The Zulu were disunited and therefore they could not fight and win the battle against the more united and organized Boers.

The occurrence of natural calamities like famine, which killed many of the Zulu people, weakened them thus led to their defeat by the Boers.

The poor leadership of the Zulu warriors as provided by Chief Dingane who could not mobilize his warriors properly to fight the Boers hence their defeat.

The Boers had superior weapons during the war for example they had guns that the Zulu did not have and this made it possible for the Boers to defeat them.

The Boers were determined to take over the Zulu land at all cost that is why they fought a winning battle against the Zulu at the banks of the Blood River.

The Boers were more organized and it was easy for them to fight the Zulu who seem to be disorganized hence their defeat by the Boers.

The Zulu people attacked by diseases like malaria, small pox, sleeping sickness, which weakened them thus led to their defeat by the Boers at the battle of the Blood River.

The flight and the subsequent death of their leader Dingane in Swaziland greatly demoralized many of the Zulu warriors hence their defeat by the Boers.

The coming of the British in the Zulu land interfered with the affairs of the Zulu and this made it easy for the Boers to defeat them.

(NB: Play your part by writing down these notes in your note books for History of South Africa).