

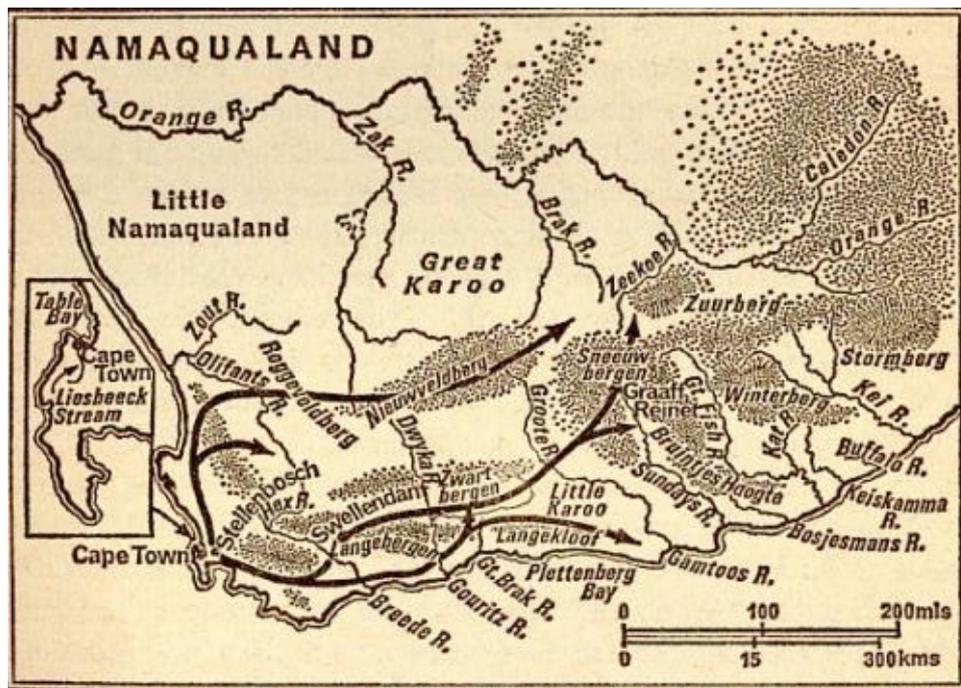
HISTORY & BACKGROUND of the KHOISAN DISPOSSESSION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Important note when reading: Place names provided in this accounting are the present day names, to facilitate easier understanding by our readers.

PART 3 The Great Trek up to 1890 Cecil John Rhodes

1836 The Great Trek begins

Around 6,000 Dutch people (about 20% of the Cape Colony's total population, excluding the Khoi), for various reasons, packed up their belongings and livestock, and left for the North-East in wagons drawn by oxen, to seek new territories and aspire to their national mission.



The British government were concerned that the migrating Boers would face conflicts in the far interior of southern Africa with the Bantu-speaking peoples they encountered on their mission to find new lands. The British government mostly feared that this would embroil them in expensive military intervention to placate the Bantu or rescue the Boers. Officials were concerned for the tribes the Boers were certain to encounter, and whether they would be enslaved or inhumanely treated.

1836 The annexed land from the Sixth War of Dispossession is restored to the AmaXhosa on instruction from Britain.

Stockenstram, Lieutenant Governor of the Eastern Districts, institutes a "treaty" system that recognises the independence and authority of the AmaXhosa chiefs.

Passing of the Cape of Good Hope Punishment Act, which attempts to control the movement of the trekboers and the Voortrekkers.

1838 The "apprenticeship" of slaves, formally emancipated in 1834, ends. This marks the factual end of slavery in the Cape, as the "apprentices" are officially no longer slaves.

Civil war of a kind breaks out in the strife-ridden Griqua confederacy as the various leaders and their followings, each aided by a missionary, fight each other to establish who should be the most senior leader of the confederacy. A treat is concluded between the two, Adam Kok III and Andries Waterboer, which provided for a joint council to act as Supreme Court for the two captaincies.

- 1840 Continued slaving operations which carried in more slaves from Asia, brought smallpox to Cape Town again, taking the lives of 2,500 people.
- 1841 Cape Colony: Passing of the Cape Masters and Servants Ordinance which supersedes Ordinance 50 of 1828 by disqualifying racial distinction between servants. White and coloured servants as well as ex-slaves are placed on equal legal footing in terms of criminal sanctions for breach of contract.
- 1842 Cape Governor George Napier issues a proclamation against the incursions by the Boers of the territories of the Basotho and the Griqua. This is the result of interventions by Adam Kok III and Dr John Philip of the London Missionary Society, to both the imperial and colonial governments about Boer aggression against the indigenous populations.

A severe drought breaks out in the eastern region of the Cape Colony. This leads to cattle theft by both settlers and the AmaXhosa. It marks the decline of the treaty system introduced in 1836, and sets the scene for yet another war on the frontier.

- 1843 British forces annex the Republic of Natalia, which becomes a British colony.

Merino sheep farming becomes entrenched in the eastern regions of the Cape Colony, which changes its socio-economic as well as political arena. As Boer merino sheep farmer contingents push to expand their grazing areas through violent means, and marauding Griqua groups raiding the region, Moshoeshoe's claim to his territory is threatened by these groups. The Governor, Sir George Napier, supports Moshoeshoe's claim and a treaty secures for the Basotho the land between the Orange River and the Caledon River.

The Governor also signs an agreement with the Griqua leader, Adam Kok III, to maintain order in his territory in return for an annual salary of One Hundred pounds. Unlike the treaty with Moshoeshoe and the Basotho, Kok's treaty does not define the limits of Khoi territory.

- 1845 Fighting breaks out between the Boers and the Griqua because the Boers refuse to accept Kok's jurisdiction over them.

The new Governor of the Cape Colony, Sir Peregrine Maitland, sends troops into the area to counter Boer attacks on the Griqua in compliance with the treaties which Napier had signed with the Griqua and the Basotho. The Boers are defeated by the British with their Griqua allies, in the Battle of Zwartkoppies. The skirmish marks the first open shooting exchange between the British and the Boers.

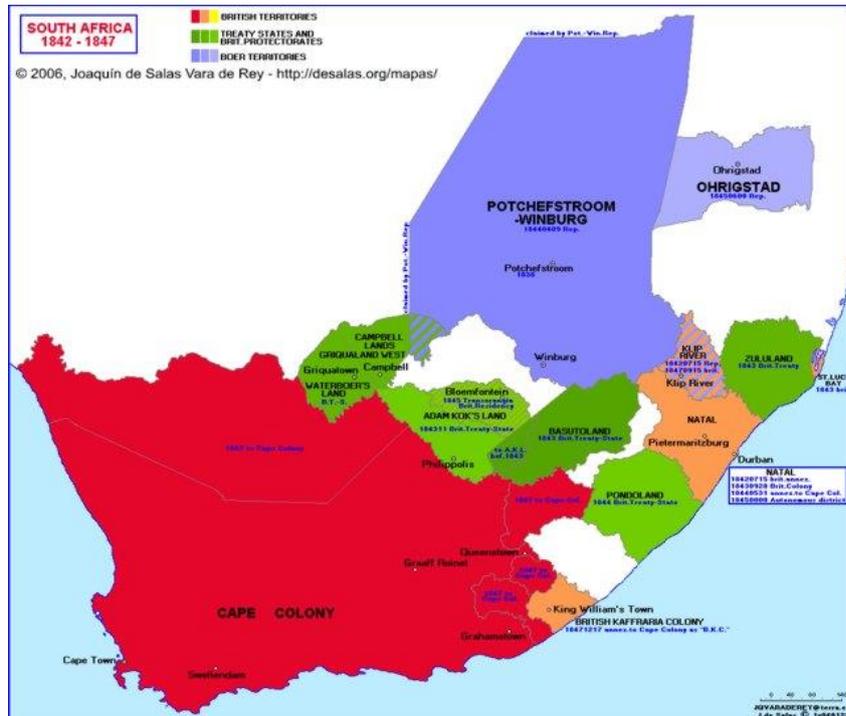
Cape Governor Sir Peregrine Maitland concludes a treaty with Adam Kok III. In terms of this "Maitland Treaty" the land of the Griqua is divided into "alienable" and "inalienable" areas. The Griqua are permitted to hire farmland in the alienable areas to Boers who are British subjects, for a period of no more than forty years. A British Resident is placed in the region to oversee the implementation of the conditions of the treaty.

- 1846 The Seventh War of Dispossession breaks out against the AmaXhosa. The conflict is a full-scale war with the AmaXhosa being the more victorious side. However, the British realised that the Amaxhosa were running low on supplies, so instead of agreeing to end hostilities, the British demanded that the AmaXhosa yield to an unconditional surrender and vacate all lands west of the Kei River. The AmaXhosa resisted this surrender, upon which the British troops destroyed the homes, remaining cattle and grain bins of these people, thereby defeating the AmaXhosa.

- 1847 Cape Governor Sir Harry Smith meets with the Griqua leader, Adam Kok III. He rescinds the land tenure system that Maitland had negotiated with the Griqua in 1846. The new agreement is loaded to the advantage of the British Crown and the white farmers in the region. Smith demands that all rent accrued from the white tenant farmers on Griqua land north of the Riet River be paid to the Crown. Smith also decrees that white farmers be allowed to settle on Griqua land south of the Riet River, which Maitland had forbidden.

The British colonial administration displaces the Korana and /Xam people from their lands, to increase grazing pastures for sheep. This results in the raid of the farmers' livestock by the Korana and other San groups whose lives have been disrupted.

Sir Harry Smith meets with King Moshoeshoe and the chiefs of the Basotho in Winburg. He proclaims the sovereignty of the British Crown over all the land between the Orange and the Vaal Rivers, which includes the land of the Basotho. White farmers are not allowed to acquire new land in the region except for in Adam Kok's territory, Griqualand. With Smith's support, Moshoeshoe is able to unify the scattered chiefdoms and consolidate these under his sole rule. He is also able to gain British protection against claims by white farmers to his land.



Southern African states map 1842 to 1847

- 1848 Cape Governor, Sir Harry Smith, expands British authority by annexing the area north of the Orange River (Gariep). The annexed land becomes known as the Orange River Sovereignty. The annexation is met with hostility by the Boers, and the Voortrekkers lead a commando against Smith. The British, with the assistance of the Griquas, defeat the Voortrekkers at the Battle of Boomplaats. The region comes under full British control. Through Smith's instruction for setting up of new boundaries known as the "Warden Line" which was duly promulgated in 1849, Moshoeshoe loses large areas of his territory.
- 1849 The inhabitants of the Kat River Settlement, the Khoi and the coloureds, come under great pressure when Governor Sir Harry Smith recommends to his Legislative Council the promulgation of "vagrancy" legislation to evict "idlers" from the settlement. His intention is to satisfy the white settlers' demand that the inhabitants of the Kat River Settlement be forced to work for them. The hostile reaction of the Kat River Settlement inhabitants forces Smith to abandon his scheme.
- 1851 The Kat River Settlement rises up in rebellion. Willem Uithalder, the leader of the rebel groups, launches attacks in the Fort Beaufort district and occupies Fort Armstrong. The rebellion is crushed by colonial artillery troops. Rebels who survive are found guilty of high treason. They are put to hard labour building roads. The settlement rapidly slides into economic decline. Rebel land is appropriated and given to white farmers who buy up the remaining arable land.
- 1852 As a result of their defeat during the Eighth War of Dispossession thousands of AmaXhosa and Coloureds are rendered landless, and impoverished, their political and social systems largely destroyed. Thus dislocated, they are forced to work on white farms as grossly underpaid labourers and at conditions set by white settlers and farmers

1854 The Cape Colony elected its first parliament, and moved towards greater independence from Britain. The parliament was formed on the basis of Cape Qualified Franchise, whereby suffrage qualifications applied universally regardless of race.

British Under-Secretary of State, Sir George Clerk, enters into negotiations with the Voortrekker leaders of the Orange River Sovereignty and whites loyal to the British Crown in the region. The agreement reached leads to the establishment of another Boer republic, the Orange Free State. The agreement called the Bloemfontein Convention, transfers the government of the Orange River Territory to the signatories of the Convention. The Convention document declares that no alliances with black political entities, except with Adam Kok of the Griquas, is permitted. Kok would be forced to abrogate his treaty with the British. The Convention makes no mention of the boundaries of the new state, and together with forcing Kok to abrogate his right to land in East Griqualand, the way is paved for more conflict.

The establishment of the republican Orange Free State marks the beginning of the disintegration of East Griqualand, which had depended on the presence of the British in that region for their right to holding land.

1856 Promulgation of the Masters and Servants Act by the Cape Government. This Act was designed to regulate labour relations and conditions of labour to the advantage of the white moneyed settlers but to the detriment of their black labour force.

Natal separates from the Cape Colony.

1868 to 1869: The first Korana rebellion breaks out after /Xam-speaking San groups joined forces with the Korana to halt the advance of the white settler farmers, who were increasingly taking over their land and pastures.

1869 Diamonds are discovered in Kimberley.

1870 Ruiters and 25 followers are captured, bringing an end the active operations against the Korana. All three captured chiefs – Kivido, Rooy and Ruiters – are tried, convicted and imprisoned on Robben Island.

1871 The servant of a prospector, who had been nosing around for diamonds at nearby Du Toit's Pan, sparks the greatest diamond rush in history when he arrives at his master's tent in the evening with three diamonds that he had picked up at Colesburg Koppie.

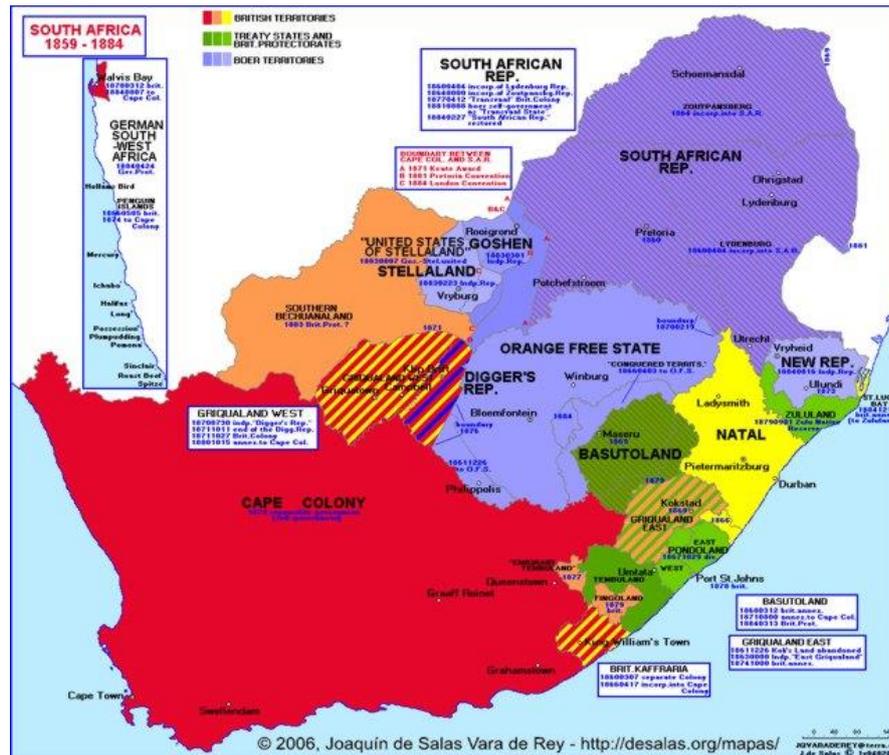
1872 After a long political struggle, in 1872 the Cape wins the right to elect its own locally-accountable executive and Prime Minister. A period of strong economic and social growth ensues, with rapid expansion of the Cape Government Railways and infrastructure connecting Cape Town to the Cape Colony's vast interior. The Cape had a full government, with the vote being based on income and property rather than on race.

1877 The second Korana War, which lasts until 1878, breaks out around the Orange River after the Korana and San launch livestock raids on settler farms. Subsequently, more Korana chiefs are arrested and imprisoned on Robben Island, and the British propose to enlist the landless communities as servants.

Under the pretext of protecting the Boers from the Zulus, and to financially repairing the South African Republic (Transvaal, and that the majority of Boers favour British rule, and the British annex the Republic.

1878 Xhosa people who had settled in the Prieska region south of the Orange River, ally with the Kora and San to launch an attack on white farms in the southern districts of Griqualand. As the attacks spread they are joined by the Griqua and Tlhaping. Loss of land to white settlement and loss of authority by chiefs over their own people were primary causes of the rebellion. The colonial forces launch an attack in July and quell the Xhosa, Kora and San rebellion.

1879 The Cape Government annexes Mfenguland and Griqualand West.



Southern Africa states 1858 to 1880

1880s The Cape vineyards were devastated by a phylloxera epidemic. The diseased vineyards were dug up and replanted, and farmers were looking for alternatives to wine. Cecil John Rhodes financed the Pioneer Fruit Growing Company, brought in experienced fruit-growers from overseas, as well as systems for refrigerated shipping to Europe. The successful operation expanded into Rhodes Fruit Farms, which formed a cornerstone of the current Cape fruit industry.

1884 Otto von Bismarck chairs the Berlin Conference to stem the scramble for Africa. Only Morocco, Ethiopia and Liberia are recognised as independent entities. Partitioning of West Africa and East Africa.

1885 Gcalekaland and Thembuland are incorporated into the Cape Colony.

1886 Gold is discovered on the Witwatersrand, in Boer territory.

1890 On becoming the Cape's new Prime Minister, Cecil John Rhodes' fierce colonialist ambitions caused great instability in the Cape. He advocated vigorous settler colonialism and ultimately a reformation of the British Empire so that each Colony would be self-governing. His disdain for the indigenous peoples led him to declare that their governance should be as a "subject race". He introduced the Glen Grey Act in order to push indigenous and Black people off their land and make way for industrial development. Rhodes succeeded in disenfranchising the non-White population by dramatically changing the terms of qualification in the Cape Qualified Franchise, making it impossible for them to qualify. In addition, Rhodes was an early architect of the Natives Land Act of 1913, which would limit the areas of the country that Africans were allowed to reside in, to less than 10% of the territories.

Rhodes is considered to be White Supremacist and the architect of Apartheid. He restricted the multiracial Cape franchise, and instigated a rapid expansion of British influence into the hinterland. A rise in inter-ethnic tensions ensued, followed by the Anglo-Boer war.