

ESTABLISHMENT OF BOER REPUBLICS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A. NATAL (NATALIA)

Qn. Describe the founding of the Republic of Natal by 1843.

Natal was established by Boer Trekkers from the cape.

It was founded by the third group which was led by Piet Retief (Creation of the great trek).

This republic traces its origin from the efforts of Piet Retief, but the work of this creation was completed/finished by Andries Pretorius.

At the age of 57, Piet Retief had been appointed as leader of the United laagers, armed with power, Retief was determined to find a new home in Natal.

Reports from earlier accounts had indicated that Natal had rich fertile lands which inspired Retief to occupy them.

Retief even wrote and read a boer manifesto outlining the need for a mass trek among the frontier Boers.

At the end of 1837, Retief led the third group out of the cape. He started his journey from Graaf Reinet and moved north eastwards through Drakensburg and finally reached Natal and Zululand.

At Port Natal, Retief received a warm welcome from the English traders.

On reaching Zululand, Retief asked permission to settle the migrating Boers.

The arrival of the migrating Boers in Zululand threatened King Dingane of the Zulu.

King Dingane already had problems with English traders for undermining his authority. He had also realised the power of the Boer weapons and their hunger for land would disorganise his kingdom.

In order to have time to plan, Dingane sent Retief's party to recover some stolen cattle from a hostile neighbour, Sekonyera of the Tlokwa.

Surprisingly, Retief duly tricked Sekonyera into returning the stolen cattle and other property.

The recovery and return of Zulu cattle greatly upset King Dingane. The situation was worsened by the earlier warning from the Xhosa chief Marasabit on the dangers of the whites.

After all, traditionally, all Bantu mistook all whites for Mlungu/sea monsters.

The flooding of the Boers in Zululand without Dingane's permission caused more fears.

Traditionally, the Zulu regarded the whites' behaviour as unacceptable, aggressive and insulting.

Then King Dingane invited the Boers/Retief's group to his loyal palace to attend a traditional ceremony (beer party).

As part of traditional protocol, they were asked to leave their weapons outside.

During the party, Dingane then stood and called out "kill the wizard". Retief and his group were then killed by the Zulu warriors.

The killing of Piet Retief was the first attempted stage of Boer settlement in Natal.

The Boers then appointed a new leader, Andries Pretorius.

He organised an army between 470 and 600 Boers to revenge and by December 1838 the Boers had advanced into the Zulu territory and by 15th December 1838 the Boers had camped on the banks of Blood River and Dunga River and created a defensive strategy - the unique fighting tactics. Later war broke between the Boers against the Zulu at Blood River, which led to the defeat of the Zulu and the death of King Dingane, who had to flee to Swaziland and the Boers established the Natal Republic.

WHY DID THE BOERS ESTABLISH THEIR REPUBLIC IN NATAL?

- ✓ The Boers wanted to extend their Nationalism into the interior of South Africa.
- ✓ Search for freedom and independence from the British and even their fellow Dutch (D.E.L,co)
- ✓ The Boers wanted to uphold racial segregation
- ✓ The effects of great trek made the Boers to establish their Republic in Natal.
- ✓ Boers were dissatisfied with the British rule at the cape.
- ✓ The abolition of slavery at the cape colony hence the need to acquire labour in the interior.
- ✓ Reports about the fertile lands which were needed for Agriculture.
- ✓ Population pressure at the cape colony hence the need to acquire land for settlement.
- ✓ Lack of security at the cape against the Africans.
- ✓ The existence of Port Natal and harbour facilities such as Port Durban.

BRITISH ANNEXATION OF NATAL REPUBLIC.

Qn. Why did the British take over the Boer Republic of Natal in 1843 (Annexation).

British Annexation of the Boer Republic of Natal 1843.

Qn. Why did the British take over Natal in 1843?

- ✓ The British never wanted the Boers to be independent.
- ✓ The British continued to regard the Boers as their subjects and followed them up in Natal.
- ✓ The British wanted to destroy Port Natal's commercial rivalry with the cape
- ✓ The British wanted to use Port Natal to challenge Commercial rivals e.g France, Portugal and Germany.
- ✓ Reports that the Boers were enslaving Africans attracted the British to annex Natal.
- ✓ Unfounded rumours that natal was very rich in minerals.
- ✓ The British wished to exploit the fertile Soils of Natal (agriculture).
- ✓ The British wanted to prevent further extension of Racism into the interior.
- ✓ The long term enmity between the Boers and the British since their settlement and their Reforms at the cape.
- ✓ British fear that Natal would Ally with powerful African leaders against them e.g Mpande of the Zulu.
- ✓ The British wanted to use Natal as a base to create Peace in the Eastern Frontier.
- ✓ The British wanted to discourage further Boer migration into the interior.
- ✓ They wanted to prevent revenge against them.
- ✓ The Boers were few in number to fight against the British.
- ✓ The British claimed that Natal was very poor to have a practical government (Bankruptcy of Natal governments).
- ✓ Disagreements among the Boers due to Power struggle created discontent.
- ✓ The British wanted to protect their Nationals i.e traders, farmers already staying at Natal.
- ✓ The fighting between the Boers and Africans in Natal alarmed the British and in order to Protect the Africans, Natal had to be annexed.

- ✓ The British claimed that the Boers were militarily weak and therefore needed Protection.
- ✓ The British wished to prevent the Boers from acquiring any sea contact as they would easily Ally with their enemies like the French.
- ✓ The Boers failed to establish a secure and stable form of government.
- ✓ The Boer Parliament (Volksrand) had been weak and could no longer control Natal.
- ✓ The British wanted to use Natal to extend their influence/imperialism into the interior.
- ✓ The immediate cause was the stealing of the land of the Pondo by the Boers Displacement of Africans.
- ✓ The British claimed that part of Natal (Port Durban) had been earlier given to them by Shaka.
- ✓ The British who had settled at Durban felt threatened and insecure by the existence of rival Boer state in Natal.
- ✓ The British hated the existence of a rival European state at the coast of the Indian ocean.
- ✓ The British took Natal because after the death of Piet Retief, there was no permanent leader who could have United the Boers.
- ✓ The Boer settlers were also divided as members of the Volksrand were against the supporters of Pretorious.
- ✓ Failure of the negotiations between the Boers and the British led to the Annexation.
- ✓ The landing of the British forces in Natal in under captain Smith set the stage for the Annexation.

EFFECTS OF THE ANNEXATION OF NATAL.

- ✓ The Boer Republic came to an end and the Boers lost independence.
- ✓ Natal become part of the British cape colony.
- ✓ The British were forced to extend their rule to orange free state and Transvaal.
- ✓ Annexation led to clashes between trekking Boers and Africans
- ✓ Africans lost their land to the British.
- ✓ Property was lost by both the Boers and Africans leading to poverty.
- ✓ Wars between the Boers and British become necessary.
- ✓ Africans were displaced from their land.
- ✓ The Annexation also led to the establishment of a sugar factory in Natal.
- ✓ It led to the signing of treaties of Sand river and Bloem fountain between the British and Boers.
- ✓ These treaties gave the Boer Republics of Orange free state and Transvaal their independence.
- ✓ Boer racial segregation was spread into the interior.
- ✓ Africans lost their cattle to the Boers.

QN. Sample questions.

- a. Explain the origins of the Boer Republic of Natal.
- b. Why did the British annex Natal in 1843.