

South African History

Transformations

1750 - 1850



Expansion of Southern Tswana Kingdoms

- S. Tswana Chiefdoms between Vaal & Kalahari
- Comprised → Bafokeng, Bahurutshe, Bakgatla and Baroleng
- Evidence conflict ↑ between these Chiefdoms

Why? → Cause of much debate.

1. Changes in Rainfall patterns
2. Increase in trade with outside regions
3. Raids from the South



Changes in Rainfall patterns

- Interior once received very good rain
- Thus good for farming (maize)
- Resulted in increase in population
- But at some point rainfall ↓
- Food shortages
- Competition for fertile land
- Conflict



Increase in trade with outside regions

- Archaeologists → cowrie shells & beads
- Evidence they traded with Muslims & Portuguese (Mozambique & Angola)
- Also fire arms & horses bought from Khoi
- Sold ivory, copper & animal skins
- Some Chiefdoms thus became more powerful and joined by others



Raids from the South

- As Cape Colony expands → Khoi, San & runaway slaves move to interior.
- Raid for food → disruption, conflict
- Also raided by Kora & Griqua
- Settlers raided to capture workers for their farms





Act p.108

- Do this activity now.

Examples of powerful Chiefdoms

➤ Bangakwetse

- Led by Mokaba
- Controlled trade in upper Marico region

➤ Bathlapeng

- South West
- Controlled trade route to the Cape

➤ Bahurutshe

- Most powerful (Tswana)
- Situated near Pretoria/Tshwane
- Central town (Kaditshwene) had 15 000 in 1820
- Fortified to protect people and trade



Tswana ruins



Archaeological digs



The Ndwandwe Kingdom under Zwide

- There was also competition between chiefdoms between the Drakensberg and the east coast because of:
- Growing population > pressure on resources (land, cattle, food)
- Severe drought > greater competition for food and cattle
- Competition to control ivory trade with Portuguese at Delagoa Bay > some kingdoms became powerful
- Competition to supply meat to American ships in Delagoa Bay > kingdoms on trading routes grew more powerful.

- **Larger states developed to defend themselves against slave raiders from Delagoa Bay.**
- **2 most powerful states were the Ndwandwe & Mthethwa kingdoms.**
- **Their chiefs used amabutho as hunters and soldiers.**
- **They served their chiefs in return for land, wives and the right to set up their own homesteads.**
- **The Ndwandwe under Zwide defeated smaller chiefdoms in region.**
- **Around 1817 they attacked and defeated the Mthethwa and killed their chief, Dingiswayo.**
- **They were then the strongest state in the region.**

The rise of the Ndebele kingdom under Mzilikazi

- The Ndebele state was founded by Mzilikazi.
- He moved away to escape the wars of the Ndwandwe, Mthethwa and Zulu.
- 1819: After the Ndwandwe defeat by the Zulu, a group of chiefdoms called the Khumalo moved away to the interior.
- They were led by Mzilikazi and were called the Matubile in Sotho (amaNdebele in Nguni languages).
- The Ndebele attacked and raided other chiefdoms and caused disruption all over the interior.

- This is what people associate with the violence of the Mfecane.
- Many people sought safety in the Drakensberg to escape the violence.
- The Ndebele moved north and attacked the Tswana chiefdoms, causing major disruption.
- By the mid-1830s the Ndebele state dominated most of the Highveld.
- But after their defeat by the Boers, they moved northwards into present-day Zimbabwe

Other states that emerged :

The Gaza kingdom

- It was the biggest state in southern Africa at this time, mainly situated in Mozambique.
- It became powerful under Shoshangane, a military leader under /wide.
- It traded in ivory and slaves with the Portuguese at Delagoa Bay and Inhambane.
- It defeated Zulu forces sent by Shaka & Dingane.
- After defeating Portuguese forces from Inhambane, it dominated the whole region.

Activity 2 p. 117

- Do this activity on Mzilikazi now

The expansion of the Zulu empire

- Zulu → small chiefdom under Mthethwa control
- Dingiswayo placed Shaka as leader of the Zulu
- Zwide defeats Mthethwa
- Kills Dingiswayo
- Raided Zulu for cattle
- Zulu retaliate
- 1819 destroy Zwide's capital



Shaka builds the Zulu empire

- Shaka used divisions within Mthethwa kingdom to his advantage.
- Once in control of Mthethwa, raids neighbours, expands empire
- Not only through military means
- Diplomacy used as well
- Offered protection in return for loyalty.



Militarisation of the Zulu

- Strict military regime imposed
- Uses amabutho system
 - based on age and gender
 - Shaka controlled right to marry
 - entire chiefdom supplied soldiers
 - each regiment had own shield design
 - specific names given to each regiment



Trade

- Sold ivory & cattle
- Bought guns and manufactured goods
- 2 centres of trade
 - ❖ Portuguese at Delagoa bay
 - ❖ British at Port Natal

Social structure

King



Izikhulu (Aristocracy)



Amabutho



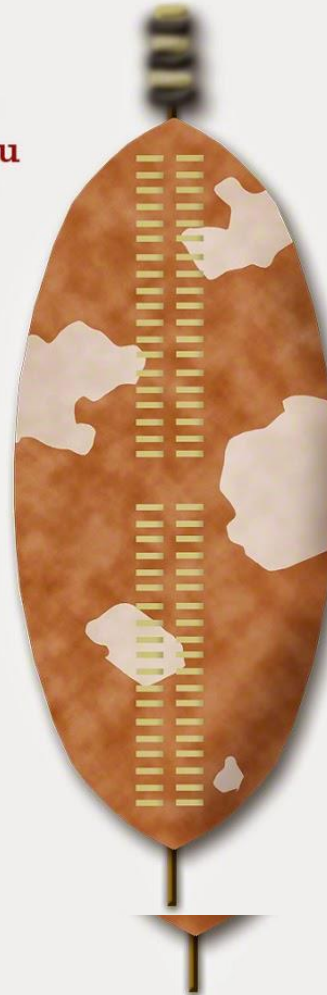
Low status herders etc.

Zulu Weapons

iKlwa (Stabbing Assegai)



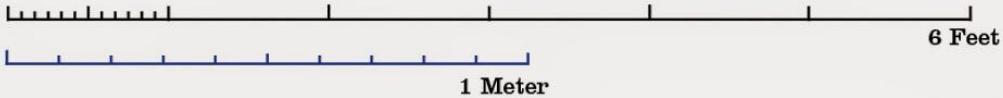
isiHlangu
(War Shield)



isiJula (Throwing Assegai)



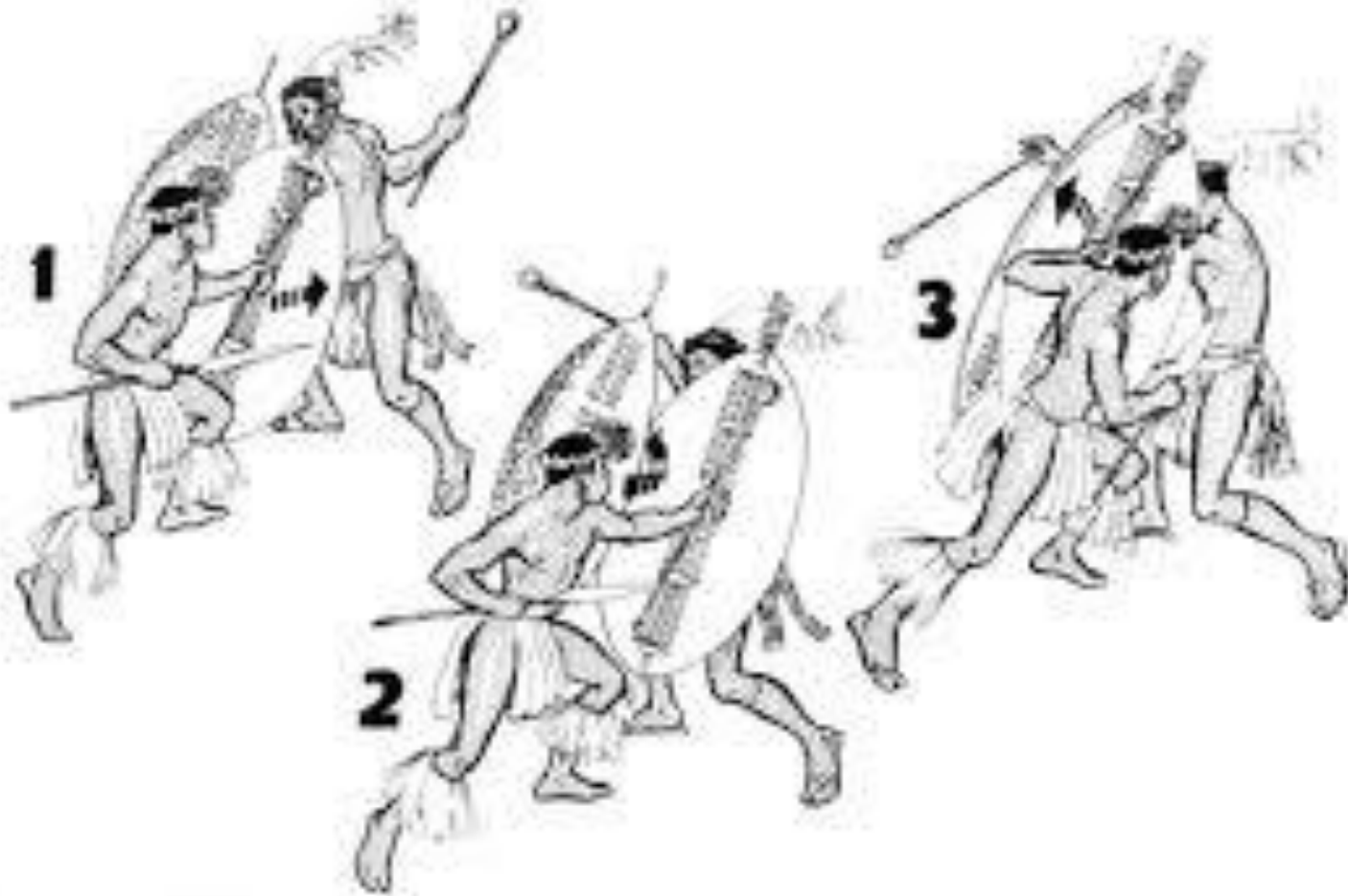
iWisa (Knobkerrie, War Club)



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Tactics



Illustrating use of shield.



LOINS	LOINS
LOINS	LOINS
CHEST	CHEST
CHEST	CHEST
SKIRMISHERS	



Shaka's changes

- Shaka is credited with introducing the "iklwa," a short stabbing spear with a long, broad, and indeed sword-like, spearhead.
- Shaka introduced a larger, heavier version of the Nguni shield.
- Sandals were discarded to toughen the feet of Zulu warriors
- Boys and girls aged six and over joined Shaka's force as apprentice warriors (udibi) and served as carriers
- The famous "bull horn" formation

End of Shaka

- **Once all external threats removed Shaka focuses on internal threats**
- **Thus becomes more ruthless**
- **On his mother's death Shaka becomes dangerous and excessive.**
- **Created own demise**
- **1828 killed by Dingane & Mhlangane.**
- **Dingane takes over**
- **Gains support by allowing more to marry**
- **Attacks Delagoa bay, gains control of its trade**
- **By 1835 Zulu strongest Chiefdom in Southern Africa**

Shaka's legacy

- Do the following activity on Shaka's legacy
- Act 2 p.128