

Colonial conquest and African resistance in east, north-central and west Africa

Further reading list

A good readable account of the period, full of plenty of detail, from the European viewpoint:

- T. Pakenham, *The Scramble for Africa, 1876-1912* (Random House, New York, 1991)



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As regards the European ‘[explorers](#)’, they nearly all wrote their own, self-publicising accounts of their travels, some of them deliberately exaggerated. The classic work on the ‘heroic explorers’ is:

- Moorhead, *The White Nile* (Hamish Hamilton, London, 1960, & numerous other editions)

Also worth reading is:

- J. Fabian, *Out of Our Minds: Reason and Madness in the Exploration of Central Africa* (UCPress, Berkeley, 2000)

And of the numerous biographies of [Livingstone](#), who combined within himself both missionary and ‘explorer’, one of the best remains:

- J. Jeal, *Livingstone* (Heinemann, London, 1973)

Industrialisation, colonial conquest and African resistance in south-central and southern Africa

Further reading list

For the impact of the [mineral revolution](#) see:

- R. V. Turrell, *Capital and Labour on the Kimberley Diamond Fields* (CUP, Cambridge, 1987), on the formation of South Africa's early industrial relations during the founding of the diamond mining industry that set the pattern for the gold mining industry that was to come.
- C. van Onselen, *Studies in the Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand, 1886-1914: New Nineveh* (Longman, London, 1982), a classic study which set a new trend in 'people's history'.
- J. S. Galbraith, *Crown and Charter: the early years of the British South Africa Company* (UC Press, Berkeley, 1975), still the best account of the founding of the BSA Company.
- J. Hanna, *The Beginnings of Nyasaland and North-Eastern Rhodesia, 1859-95* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1956), meticulously researched and detailed: still the most thorough book on the subject, despite its age.

For the detailed stories of [colonisation and resistance](#), see:

- G. L. Caplan, *The Elites of Barotseland, 1878-1969* (Hurst, London, 1970)
- T. O. Ranger, *Revolt in Southern Rhodesia* (2nd edition, Heinemann, London, 1979) – a classic of African resistance, with particular attention on the role of African indigenous religion in the rebellion.

- Isaacman, *The Tradition of Resistance in Mozambique: anti-colonial activity in the Zambezi valley, 1850-1921* (UC Press, Berkeley and Heinemann, London, 1976), another classic of African resistance by a leading scholar of Mozambique's colonial history.
- J. Guy, *The Destruction of the Zulu Kingdom: the Civil War in Zululand, 1879-1884* (Longman, London, 1979), a highly-influential analysis, largely from the Zulu standpoint.

For the best detail of the famous battles of 1879, see:

- Knight, *Zulu Rising: The Epic Story of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift* (Macmillan, Basingstoke, 2010 and Pan Books, 2011)
- W. Beinart, *The political economy of Pondoland, 1860-1930* (CUP, Cambridge and Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1982)
- P. Bonner, *Kings, Commoners and Concessionaires: the evolution and dissolution of the nineteenth-century Swazi state* (CUP, Cambridge and Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1983)
- P. Delius, *The Land Belongs to Us: the Pedi polity, the Boers and the British in nineteenth-century Transvaal* (Heinemann, London and Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1984)
- K. Shillington, *The Colonisation of the Southern Tswana, 1870-1900* (Ravan Press, Johannesburg, 1985), for the impact of Kimberley's diamond mining on its rural hinterland.
- C. Bundy, *The Rise and Fall of the South African Peasantry* (2nd edition, Heinemann, London, 1988), a classic study which argued that under early colonisation an independent African peasantry initially thrived in the eastern Cape, but was subsequently deliberately destroyed because it clashed with colonial economic interests.
- J-B Gewald, *Herero Heroes: A Socio-Political history of the Herero of Namibia, 1890-1923* (James Currey, Oxford, 1999), an excellent analysis that should be read in

conjunction with: M. Wallace, *A History of Namibia: from the beginning to 1990* (Hurst, London, and Jacana, Johannesburg, 2011) for the wider Namibian picture.

- N. Parsons, *King Khama, Emperor Joe and the Great White Queen* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago and London, 1998) – for the Batswana defeat of Cecil Rhodes.
- R. Rotberg, *The Founder: Cecil Rhodes and the pursuit of power* (OUP, Oxford, 1988), remains the best biography of southern Africa's arch-imperialist.

The [South African War](#):

- T. Pakenham, *The Boer War* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London, 1979, with numerous subsequent editions), easy reading, plenty of detail, though short on analysis.
- Atmore and S. Marks, 'The Imperial Factor in South Africa in the Nineteenth century: Towards a Reassessment', *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, Volume III, No.1 (1974) – a highly influential article which challenged the then prevailing interpretation of the South African war that Britain was bounced into it by the jingoism of the men on the spot. Shula Marks and Anthony Atmore lay the underlying motivation clearly on Britain's economic and strategic interests, which had been transformed by the discovery and mining of the world's largest gold deposits, in the Boer republic of the Transvaal.
- N. Porter, *The Origins of the South African War: Joseph Chamberlain and the diplomacy of imperialism, 1895-99* (Manchester UP, Manchester, 1980), a work which insists that the war was not about gold, because there is no mention of gold as a motive in the official record. Marks, however, has argued that the strategic importance of gold to the world's premier trading nation was so fundamental that it *did not need* to be openly stated. It is a bit like saying that the Gulf War of 1991, that freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation, had nothing to do with oil because the West's public pronouncements claimed it was waged in the name of 'freedom and democracy'.
- B. Nasson, *The South African War, 1899-1902* (Arnold, London, 1999), one of the best single-volume histories of the war, well-balanced and good on both analysis and narrative.