The Zulu State & the Mfecane

An unusual wealth of information exists for studying processes of state formation in Southern Africa in the early 19th century, and a fierce debate rages over their interpretation. The seminar is an exercise in historical reconstruction of pre-colonial African history, drawing on contemporary accounts, oral traditions, and archaeological, linguistic, geographic, and anthropological studies to reconstruct the formation of the Zulu state.

Requirements: Students will be expected to write two formal papers during the course of the seminar: the first an extensive critical review of the literature on one of the topics listed for weeks 4-8, and the second a major research paper on a related topic. In each case, students should distribute copies of their paper to the other seminar participants (with two copies to me) by Tuesday noon preceding the relevant class. Research papers will first be presented in class, and then revised for final submission at the end of the seminar. Students will also be expected to write and present a critique of one of the research papers during weeks 10-14.

The most important books are available on 3 day reserve at H.C. White; journal articles are in the Memorial Library stacks. The following are also available at the University Bookstore or, in the case of Westley, the African Studies Program:

M. Hall, Farmers, Kings and Traders
T. Mofolo, Chaka
C. Hamilton (ed.), The Mfecane Aftermath
C. Hamilton, Terrific Majesty
D. Westley, The Mfecane: An Annotated Bibliography (avail. from ASP)

Schedule

1/27 Introduction --

2/3 The Making of Zulu History

2/10 The Debate over the Mfecane

* denotes class reading
+ denotes books on reserve in H.C. White
journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks
Zulu State/Syllabus

+ Hamilton, C., Terrific Majesty.

2/17 Traditions

Critical literature review: traditions

read Mofolo; explore Bryant and/or Webb & Wright
+* Bryant, A., Olden Times in Zululand and Natal (1929), chs. 4-9, 13-15.
+* Mofolo, T., Chaka (1931)
[see also Fynn, 12-14; Isaacs, 1:262-267; Ritter, ch. 1-5; Bird, 1:64-65 next week]

Scheub, H., The Xhosa Ntsomi (1976)

+ Vansina, J., Oral Traditions as History (1985)
2/24 Contemporary Accounts

Critical literature review: contemporary accounts

read and critique one of the following:
++ Fynn, H., *The Diary of Henry Francis Fynn* (1950)
++ Gardiner, A., *Narrative of a Journey to the Zoolu Country* (1836)

3/2 Pre-History

Critical literature reviews: (1) archaeology, (2) ecology, or (3) historical linguistics

(1) archaeology
see Bibliography for site studies

(2) ecology
- Eldredge, E., Drought, Famine & Disease in Nineteenth Century Lesotho,' *AEH*, 16(1987), 61-93.

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journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks


(3) historical linguistics

3/9 Political Economy, Trade, and Gender

Critical literature reviews: (1) political economy & cattle, (2) trade, or (3) gender

(1) political economy

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journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks

1/6/0
(2) trade


* Smith, A., 'Struggle for Control of Southern Mozambique,' (Ph.D., UCLA, 1970).


Eldredge, E., 'Sources of Conflict in Southern Africa,' *JAH*, 33(1992), 1-36.


(3) gender


3/23 Social Dynamics: House, Lineage and Age Structures

Critical literature reviews: (1) house structures, (2) lineage structures, (3) age-sets

(1) house structures


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journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks

(2) lineage structures
Hammond-Tooke, W., 'In Search of the Lineage: The Cape Nguni Case,' Man, 19(1984), 77-93.

(3) age-sets/regiments
Beemer, H., 'The Development of Military Organization in Swaziland,' Africa, 10(1937), 54-75, 176-205.
Wright, J., 'Pre-Shakan Age-Group Formation among the Northern Nguni,' Natalia, 8(1978), 22-30.
3/30    no class -- work on research papers

4/6     research paper presentations

4/13    research paper presentations

4/20    research paper presentations

4/27    research paper presentations

5/4     research paper presentations

5/11    Final Papers Due

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journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks