

University of Wisconsin  
Department of History  
Spring 1999-2000

History 861  
3:30-5:30, Thursday  
5245 Humanities  
office hours: 3:30-4:30 MW or by apmt.

Thomas Spear  
5118 Humanities  
263-1784/233-6867  
tspear@facstaff.wisc.edu

### **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 preceeding 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

+\* Hamilton, C., Terrific Majesty, 1-167, 206-215.

2/10 The Debate over the Mfecane

+ Garson, Y., 'Bibliography' in Hamilton, Mfecane Aftermath (1995), 439-478.  
Westley, D., The Mfecane: An Annotated Bibliography (1999)

Gluckman, M., 'The Rise of the Zulu Empire,' Scientific American, 202(1960), 157-168.

+\* Omer-Cooper, J., The Zulu Aftermath (1966), 1-48, 168-182.

\* denotes class reading

+ denotes books on reserve in H.C. White

journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks

1/6/0

- + Wilson, M. & L. Thompson (eds.), The Oxford History of South Africa (1969), I:75-130, 334-364.
- Walter, E., Terror and Resistance (1969).
- Guy, J., Destruction of the Zulu Kingdom (1979).
- + Peires, J. (ed.), Before and After Shaka (1981).
- \* Cobbing, J., 'The Mfecane as Alabi,' JAH, 29(1988), 487-519.
- + Edgecombe, D., et al.(eds.), The Debate on Zulu Origins (1992).
- Peires, J.B., 'Paradigm Deleted: The Materialist Interpretation of the Mfecane,' JSAS, 19(1993), 295-313.
- Eldridge, E., 'Migration, Conflict and Leadership in Early 19th c Southern Africa: The Case of Matiwane' in R. Harms, et al (eds.), Paths Toward the Past (1994), 39-75.
- +\* Hamilton, C. (ed.), Mfecane Aftermath (1995), arts. by Hamilton (1-9), Sanders (21-34), Eldredge (123-161), Wright (163-181), Peires (213-239), Omer-Cooper (277-298).
- + 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)
- +\* Webb, C. & J. Wright (eds.), The James Stuart Archives (1976-86), 4 vols.
- + Cope, T. (ed.), Izibongo: Zulu Praise Poems (1968).
- + Rycroft, D., & A. Ngcobe, The Praises of Dingana: Izibongo zikaDingana (1988).  
[see also Fynn, 12-14; Isaacs, I:262-267; Ritter, ch. 1-5; Bird, I:64-65 next week]
- Marks, S., 'The Traditions of the Natal Nguni: A Second Look at the Work of A.T. Bryant' in L. Thompson(eds.), African Societies in Southern Africa (1969), 126-144.
- Gunner, E., 'Forgotten Men: Zulu Bards and Praising at the Time of the Zulu Kings,' African Languages, 2(1976), 71-90.
- Scheub, H., The Xhosa Ntsomi (1976)
- Worger, W., 'Clothing Dry Bones: The Myth of Shaka,' J. of African Studies, 6(1979), 144-158.
- Cobbing, J., 'A Tainted Well: The Objectives, Historical Fantasies and Working Methods of James Stuart,' J. of Natal and Zulu Hist., 11(1988), 115-154.
- +\* Wright, J. & C. Hamilton, 'Traditions and Transformations: The Phongolo-Mzimkhulu Region in the late 18th & early 19th c' in A. Duminy & B. Guest (eds.), Natal and Zululand from the Earliest Times to 1910 (1989), 49-57.
- Wright, J., 'A.T. Bryant and the 'Wars of Shaka',' HA, 18(1991), 409-425 (reprinted in D. Edgecombe, The Debate on Zulu Origins).
- Golan, D., Inventing Shaka (1994).
- Wright, J., 'Making the James Stuart Archive,' HA, 23(1996), 333-350.
- + Hamilton, C., Terrific Majesty (1998), ch. 2.
- Hamilton, C., 'Ideology and Oral Traditions: Listening to Voices 'from Below',' Africa, 14(1987), 67-86.
- + Vansina, J., Oral Traditions as History (1985)
- + Vail, L. & L. White, Power and the Praise Poem (1991), 1-111, 319-324.

\* denotes class reading

1/6/0

+ denotes books on reserve in H.C. White

journal articles are available in Memorial Library stacks

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)
- +\* Isaacs, N., Travels and Adventures in Eastern Africa (1836), 2 vols.
- +\* Owen, F., The Diary of the Rev. Francis Owen (1926)
  
- + Smith, A., Andrew Smith & Natal (1955)
- + Smith, A., The Diary of Dr. Andrew Smith (1939), 2 vols.
  
- +\* Wright, J., "Politics, Ideology and the Invention of 'Nguni'" in T. Lodge (ed.), Resistance and Ideology in Settler Societies (1986), 96-118.
- + Pridemore, J., 'The Production of H.F. Fynn' in D. Edgecombe, et. al. (eds.), The Debate on Zulu Origins (1992).
- +\* Wylie, D., 'Utilizing Isaacs: One Thread in the Development of the Shaka Myth' in D. Edgecombe, et. al. (eds.), The Debate on Zulu Origins (1992).
- \* Wylie, D., "Proprietor of Natal": H.F. Fynn and the Mythology of Shaka,' HA, 22 (1995), 359-368.
- + Hamilton, C., Terrific Majesty (1998), ch. 2.

3/2 Pre-History

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

(1) archaeology

- Hall, M., Settlement Patterns in the Iron Age of Zululand (BAR, 1981).
  - +\* Hall, M., Traders, Peasants and Kings (1990), 1-73, 124-128, 143-147.
  - Maggs, T. & G. Whitelaw, 'A Review of Recent Archaeological Research on Food-Producing Communities in Southern Africa,' JAH, 32(1991), 3-24.
  - +\* Hamilton, C. (ed.), The Mfecane Aftermath (1995), arts. by Dowson (51-70), Parsons (323-349).
- see Bibliography for site studies

(2) ecology

- Daniel, J., 'A Geographical Study of Pre-Shakan Zululand,' S. Af. Geog. J., 15(1973), 23-31.
- Hall, M. 'Dendroclimatology, Rainfall and Human Adaption in the Later Iron Age of Natal & Zululand,' Annals of the Natal Museum, 22(1976), 693-703.
- +\* Guy, J., 'Ecological Factors in the Rise of Shaka and the Zulu Kingdom' in S. Marks & A. Atmore(eds.), Economy & Society in Pre-Industrial South Africa (1980), 102-119.
- \* Ballard, C., 'Drought and Economic Distress: South Africa in the 1800s,' J. of Interdisciplinary Hist., 17(1986), 359-378.
- Eldredge, E., 'Drought, Famine & Disease in Nineteenth Century Lesotho,' AEH, 16(1987), 61-93.
- Newitt, M., 'Drought in Mozambique, 1823-31,' JSAS, 15(1988), 14-35.
- \* Gump, J., 'Ecological Change and Pre-Shakan State Formation,' AEH, 18(1989), 57-71.

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- Peires, J., The Dead Will Arise (1989).  
 Landau, P., 'When Rain Falls: Rainmaking and Community in a Tswana Village,' IJAHS, 26(1993), 1-30.  
 +\* Hamilton, C. (ed.), The Mfecane Aftermath (1995), art. by Hall (307-321).
- (3) historical linguistics  
 Huffman, T., 'The Early Iron Age and the Spread of the Bantu,' S. Af. Arch. Bull., 25(1970), 3-21.  
 Vansina, J., 'Bantu in the Crystal Ball,' HA, 6(1979), 287-333, 7(1980), 293-325.  
 Ownby, C., 'Early Nguni History: The Linguistic Evidence and its Correlation with Archaeology and Oral Traditions' (Ph.D., UCLA, 1985).  
 \* Vansina, J., 'New Linguistic Evidence and 'the Bantu Expansion',' JAH, 36(1995), 173-195.  
 + Schoenbrun, D., A Green Place, A Good Place: Agrarian Change, Gender, and Social Identity in the Great Lakes Region to the 15th Century (1998), 3-90.

### 3/9 Political Economy, Trade, and Gender

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

- (1) political economy  
 +\* Guy, J., 'Production and Exchange in the Zulu Kingdom' in J. Peires (ed.), Before and After Shaka, 33-48).  
 \* Ballard, C., 'John Dunn and Cetshwayo: The Material Foundations of Political Power in the Zulu Kingdom,' JAH, 21(1980), 75-92.  
 + Beinart, W., 'Production and the Material Basis of Chieftainship: Pondoland c. 1830-1880' in S. Marks & A. Atmore(eds.), Economy and Society in Pre-Industrial South Africa (1980), 120-147.  
 +\* Bonner, P., 'Classes, the Mode of Production and the State in Pre-colonial Swaiziland' in S. Marks & A. Atmore (eds.), Economy & Society in Pre-Industrial South Africa, (1980), 80-102.  
 + Slater, H., 'The Changing Pattern of Economic Relationships in Rural Natal' in S. Marks & A. Atmore(eds.), Economy and Society in Pre-Industrial South Africa (1980), 148-170.  
 + Bonner, P., 'The Dynamics of late 18th, early 19th c. N. Nguni Society,' in J. Peires (eds.) Before and After Shaka (1981), 74-81.  
 +\* Peires, J., 'Chiefs and Commoners in Pre-colonial Xhosa Society' in J. Peires (eds.), Before and After Shaka (1981), 125-144.  
 + Harries, P., 'Slavery, Social Incorporation and Surplus Extraction,' JAH, 22(1981), 309-30 (reprinted in J. Peires (ed.) Before and After Shaka (1981), 210-229 ).  
 + Kuper, A., Wives for Cattle (1982).  
 Hall, M., & K. Mack, 'The Outline of an 18th c Economic System in South-east Africa,' Annals of the S. Af. Museum, 91(1983), 163-194.  
 Hall, M., 'The Role of Cattle in Southern African Agropastoral Societies,' S. Af. Arch. Society, 5(1986), 83-87.  
 \* Guy, J., 'Analysing Pre-Capitalist Societies in S. Africa,' JSAS, 14(1987), 18-37.  
 \* Hamilton, C. & J. Wright, 'The Making of the Amalala: Ethnicity, Ideology and Relations of Subordination in a Precolonial Context,' SAHJ, 22(1990), 3-23.  
 \* Peires, J., 'Paradigm Delected: The Materialist Interpretation of the Mfecane,' JSAS, 19(1993), 295-313.

\* denotes class reading

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(2) trade

- +\* Smith, A., 'The Trade of Delagoa Bay as a Factor in Nguni Politics' in L. Thompson(eds.), African Societies of Southern Africa (1969), 171-189.
- Smith, A., 'Delagoa Bay and the Trade of South-Eastern Africa' in R. Gray & D. Birmingham (eds.), Precolonial African Trade (1970), 265-290.
- Smith, A., 'Struggle for Control of Southern Mozambique,' (Ph.D., UCLA, 1970).
- + Ballard, C., 'Trade, Tribute and Migrant Labour: Zulu and Colonial Exploitation of the Delagoa Bay Hinterland, 1818-1879' in J. Peires (ed.), Before and After Shaka (1981), 100-124.
- Liesegang, G., 'A First Look at the Import and Export Trade of Mozambique, 1800-1914' in G. Liesegang, et al (eds.), Figuring African Trade (1986), 451-523.
- Eldredge, E., 'Sources of Conflict in Southern Africa,' JAH, 33(1992), 1-36.
- +\* Cobbing, J., 'Grasping the Nettle: The Slave Trade and the Early Zulu' in D. Edgecombe, et. al. (eds.), The Debate on Zulu Origins (1992) .
- van Zyl, M., 'The Quest for Cattle, the Firearm Frontier, and the Difaqane,' Acta Academica, 24(1992), 58-73.
- Eldridge, E., 'Delagoa Bay and the Hinterland in the Early Nineteenth Century: Politics, Trade, Slaves and Slave Raiding' in E. Eldredge & F. Morton (eds.), Slavery in South Africa (1994), 127-165.

(3) gender

- Preston-Whyte, E., 'Kinship and Marriage' in W. Hammond-Tooke (ed.), The Bantu-speaking Peoples of Southern Africa (1974).
- Ngubane, H., "Some Notions of 'Purity' & 'Impurity' among the Zulu," Africa, 46(1976), 274-284.
- + Wright, J. 'Control of Women's Labour in the Zulu Kingdom' in J. Peires (ed.), Before and After Shaka (1981), 82-99.
- Berger, I., "'Beasts of Burden' Revisited: Interpretations of Women and Gender in S. African Societies' in J. Miller, et al. (eds.), Paths Towards the Past (1984), 123-141.
- Guy, J., 'Gender Oppression in Southern Afrika's Precapitalist Societies' in C. Walker (ed.), Women and Gender in S.Africa to 1945 (1990), 33-47.
- Eldridge, E., 'Women in Production: The Economic Role of Women in 19th c Lesotho,' Signs, 16(1991), 707-731.
- Manicom, L., 'Ruling Relations: Rethinking State and Gender in South African History,' JAH, 33(1992), 441-465.
- \* Hanretta, S., 'Women, Marginality, and the Zulu State: Women's Institutions and Power in the Early Nineteenth Century,' JAH, 39(1998), 389-415.

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

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

(1) house structures

- Holleman, J., 'The Structure of the Zulu Ward,' African Studies, 14(1986), 109-133 (orig. published 1941).
- Parkington, J. & M. Cronin, 'The Size and Layout of Mgungundlovu, 1829-38,' S. Af. Arch. Soc., 3(1979), 133-148.
- + Kuper, A., 'Symbolic Dimensions of the Southern Bantu Homestead,' Africa, 50(1980), 8-23 (reprinted in A. Kuper, Wives for Cattle, Chapt. 10).
- \* Hall, M., 'The Myth of the Zulu Homestead: Archaeology and Ethnography,' Africa, 54(1984), 65-79.

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- Huffman, T., 'Iron Age Settlement Patterns and the Origins of Class Distinction in S. Africa,' Advances in World Arch., 5(1986), 291-338.
- Huffman, T., 'Archaeological Evidence and Conventional Explanations of Southern Bantu Settlement Patterns,' Africa, 56(1986), 280-296.
- \* Kuper, A., 'The 'House' and Zulu Political Structure,' JAH, 34(1993), 469-487.
- (2) lineage structures
- Krige, E., The Social System of the Zulus (1936).
- Gluckman, M., 'The Kingdom of the Zulu of South Africa' in M. Fortes & E.E. Evans-Pritchard(eds.), African Political Systems (1940), 25-55.
- Gluckman, M., 'Kingship and Marriage among the... Zulu' in A.R. Radcliffe-Brown & D. Forde (eds.), African Systems of Kinship and Marriage (1950), 166-206.
- Schapera, I. (ed.), The Bantu-Speaking Tribes of South Africa (1962).
- Hammond-Tooke, W., 'Segmentation and Fission in Cape Nguni Political Units,' Africa, 35(1965), 143-167.
- Reader, D.H., The Zulu Tribe in Transition (1966).
- Hammond-Tooke, W., 'The 'Other Side' of Frontier History: A Model of Cape Nguni Political Process' in L. Thompson(ed.), African Societies in Southern Africa (1969), 230-258.
- Hammond-Tooke, W., The Bantu-Speaking Peoples of Southern Africa (1974)
- +\* Guy, J., The Destruction of the Zulu Kingdom (1979), 21-40.
- +\* Bonner, P., 'The Dynamics of Late 18th c, early 19th c Northern Nguni Society,' in J. Peires (ed.), Before and After Shaka (1981), 74-81.
- Kuper, A., Wives for Cattle (1982), 1-58, 140-170.
- Hammond-Tooke, W., 'In Search of the Lineage: The Cape Nguni Case,' Man, 19(1984), 77-93.
- \* Hammond-Tooke, W., 'Descent Groups, Chiefdoms and South African Historiography,' JSAS, 11(1985), 305-319.
- (3) age-sets/regiments
- Ferguson, W., 'The Zulus and the Spartans: A Comparison of their Military Systems,' Harvard African Studies, 2(1918), 197-234.
- Beemer, H., 'The Development of Military Organization in Swaziland,' Africa, 10(1937), 54-75, 176-205.
- Cobbing, J., 'The Evolution of the Ndebele Amabutho,' JAH, 15(1974), 607-631.
- Parkinson, D., 'Tategulu Mahlangu and the Inyoka Regiment,' Native Affairs Dept. Annual, 11(1976), 289-294.
- Wright, J., 'Pre-Shakan Age-Group Formation among the Northern Nguni,' Natalia, 8(1978), 22-30.
- Parkinson, D., 'Interviews with Members of Dingane's uDukuloni Regiment,' NADA, 14(1979).
- Knight, I., 'Traditional Zulu Warfare,' J. of Military History, 56(1991), 345-372.
- Knight, I., The Anatomy of the Zulu Army (1995)

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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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