

## The Colonization of Southern Africa

### Economic reasons for scramble for territory in Southern Africa

Need for raw materials e.g. gold and diamond

They wanted to take land

Needed markets to sell their manufactured goods.

Need for investment areas.

### Political reasons

Strategic reason e.g. Cape Town

Power to influence events in Europe

The influence of political and imperialists like

Rhodes.

The National prestige

Political control of new lands

Mzilikazi and concluding the Moffat treaty of 1836. This facilitated the signing the Moffat treat in 1888 between Moffat and Lobengula

Rev Charles Helm persuaded Lobengula to grant the Rudd concession. He was an imperialist agent stationed at Lobengula's court and was being paid by Rhodes for his role

### Other factors

Lobengula's Indunas Lotshe and Sikhombo were bribed and persuaded the king to sign the treaty.

Lobengula might have willingly signed the treaty to reap benefits promised.

Lobengula was illiterate and was taken advantage of  
Lobengula knew that he was dealing with a powerful force and so had to yield.  
Perhaps Lobengula wanted to play one group of whites against another.

### B.S.A.C (British South African Company)

Was a company which would give Rhodes the authority to colonize and administer Zimbabwe on behalf of Britain.

It was formed in early 1889

It took a deal of time to obtain a charter.

Christian groups, tax payers and philanthropic circles both in Africa and Britain oppressed it

The opponents wanted Britain herself to colonize and administer Central Africa under a system of protectorates

Rhodes argued that if his company was granted a Royal Charter it would colonize and develop Zimbabwe on behalf of Britain but without requiring the British tax payers to pay for these things

All expenses would be met by taxes from shareholders of the BSAC i.e. Rothschild, De Beers and Consolidated Goldfields.

Lord Salisbury, the British Prime Minister accepted and in October 1889 a royal Charter was granted

The Charter also allowed Rhodes to occupy not only Zimbabwe but Malawi and Zambia

The Charter also authorized the company to raise a powerful police force to maintain law and order in the region.

In October 1880 Rhodes sent his representatives to Bulawayo i.e. there was Dr Leander Star Jameson, Maxwell and Doyle to ask Lobengula to let the BSAC go into Mashonaland

If Lobengula had refused the whites were prepared to use force

### **The Concession Seekers:**

The wave of mineral discoveries in South Africa also inspired by the reports of hunter – explorers, individual fortune hunters and prospectors entered the area seeking concessions especially from Lobengula and Khama.

The rumour grew rapidly that there must be a Second Rand in the area between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. Among the later concession seekers, there were government officials from Germany and the Transvaal Boers as well as agents of very rich capitalists who also had imperialist aims (for example capitalists like Rhodes, Alfred Maguire and Rudd). The capitalist urged Britain to colonise the Transvaal so that Britain could be in a position to take over the gold fields.

They urged Britain to annex Bechuanaland. These people were not just individuals. They were agents of imperialism. Lobengula, for as long as he could, avoided granting any concessions whatsoever, but as pressure mounted, he was forced into coming to terms with the imperialists.

In 1887, the agent of the Transvaal Boers, Pett Grobler claimed that Lobengula had signed a treaty of friendship with the Transvaal Republic. This greatly alarmed Cecil John Rhodes and the South Africa British mining capitalist.

### **Cecil John Rhodes and Fellow Capitalists:**

He wanted to invest money since one of the features of imperialism is the security of investment. He was both a capitalist and politician. He made a fortune in Kimberly. As an imperialist he believed in extending British imperialism throughout Africa.

Historians have tended to emphasise the imperialist aspect that is the fact that Rhodes used his private fortune to extend the British Empire. Recent research displays that Rhodes with imperialist leanings saw the element of empire building as a means of creating new investment opportunities for himself and his colleagues. For instance, he invested much of his diamond profits in a company, the Gold Fields of South Africa.

In the 1880s, the company proved to be a fiasco. As a result, Rhodes and his friend Rudd began to look north of the Limpopo as a possible way of compensating for their loss. They believed that the type of capitalist development they wanted was impossible without bringing the area under British rule. Consequently, he tried to persuade the British government to colonise Central Africa using both economic and imperialist arguments, but the British government refused.

Britain had no proof, whatsoever, that there were actual rich diamonds and gold beyond the Limpopo. British aim at the time was to maintain a strong Ndebele State to repel other European powers and hence British trading interests carried out. This was to be followed by concession with Lobengula if there was a threat from other European powers.

### **The Moffat Treaty:**

In 1887, the British governor at the Cape learnt about the Grobler Treaty. In 1889, encouraged by Rhodes and his partners he sent John Smith Moffat, a missionary to Matebeleland to persuade Lobengula to renounce the Grobler Treaty and undertake not to sign any other treaties without British permission. Moffat took advantage of the special trust that Lobengula had in

him to deceive the King into signing the Moffat Treaty, in this treaty, it is believed that Lobengula agreed to what Moffat proposed.

The Moffat Treaty was a fraud. Lobengula could not read and Moffat's interpretation was not what was written hence Lobengula refused to recognize it. Rhodes used the treaty to have the region under Lobengula's jurisdiction as a British sphere of influence.

The British government was satisfied with this but Rhodes was not. While Moffat was still in Matebeleland, Rhodes sent his agents Rudd, Maguire and Thompson. It is possible that a treaty with Britain would have led to the exclusion of the European powers. Lobengula may have signed the Treaty for his own interest, but not at the cost of giving up a right of an independent foreign policy.

### **Rudd concession:**

Rhodes's agents were able to get the support of Senior British officials in Southern Africa. They also got the support of missionaries like Reverend Charles Helm. They were even able to bribe senior indunas like Lotshe to speak in their favour.

A combination of these factors pressurized Lobengula to grant a concession to Rhodes's agents rather than other concession seekers waiting at the capital. This was done with the consultation with the councilors and Umphakathi. The King signed the treaty and yet again he had been tricked. Lobengula might have been acting in the interest of his state but again not at the expense of signing away actually all his authority.

### **Terms of the Treaty:**

Lobengula was promised £100 per month, a steam gun boat to operate along the Zambezi, 1 000 rifles and 100 000 rounds of ammunition.

They were to be granted in return for Lobengula's giving Rhodes and friends the complete and exclusive right to all minerals of the state together with the power of procure the same (minerals) by means they deemed necessary. Furthermore, they were also granted permission to do anything to exclude all other concession seekers.

All in all therefore, Lobengula effectively signed away all minerals and lots of his own power to the Whites.

### **What then did Lobengula agree to do?**

It seems from various reports that Lobengula had agreed only to allow ten men to mine for a limited period of time. These reports assert that Britain was therefore going to agree to stop other concession seekers from worrying him.

Lobengula immediately denied the Rudd Concession. Consequently, he sent two Indunas to London so as to complain about the concept of the concession and also sent a repudiation letter to Queen Victoria. Rhodes, being what he was, made sure that the letter was not delivered on time. He delayed the Indunas until it was too late.

Rhodes and some powerful friends for example, Beit a millionaire and Charles Rudd joined forces to form the British South Africa Company (B.S.A.C.) in 1889. The last two were members of Parliament (in South Africa) at the Cape. The powerful supporters of the B.S.A.C. persuaded the British government to grant a Royal Charter. The British interests were best served through Rhodes and B.S.A.C.

Lobengula's protests were ignored and the Charter was even more than the Rudd Concession had contained. The Chartered Company was a device which enabled the colonial power to claim a colony and exploit its resources with a mineral commitment to the mother country. If the colony was a success, it could be formally taken over and if a fiasco the government could wash itself off the whole affair without any loss to the tax powers. "If the results are good, then Rhodesian could become a property for the state, if it fails, it would be the company's look out."

#### The Pioneer Column

It included English and Afrikaner elements. About 200 people were selected to move into Zimbabwe.

They represented a wide variety of trades which would be needed in the country, e.g. blacksmith, carpenters, builders, printers, bakers, miners, farmers and traders.

Each of the 200 men were promised 3 000 acres of land and up to 15 gold claims. The colonizing party was led by Major Frank Johnson with Heaney and Barrow as his seconds in company.

About 400 mounted men and a thousand auxiliaries provided by Khama, was organized to occupy Zimbabwe.

The hunter and Scout F.C Selous was to be the guide.

#### Reasons for the occupation of Zimbabwe

They wanted raw materials i.e. minerals, rubber palm oil, cotton.

They wanted to invest their capital

To civilize local people

Needed new markets

### The pioneer grouped in Botswana to start their journey at the beginning of 1890

They got help from Khama

The Pioneer column crossed Matloutsie river in June 1890 and Shashe river in July 1890

They avoided the Ndebele regiments wanted to attack them.

### Anglo-Ndebele war (1893)

#### Causes

1. The failure of the BSAC to find gold in Mashonaland made to believe that the second Rand was to be found in Matebeleland.
2. the attitude towards the Shona. The Ndebele viewed Mashonaland as a hunting ground whilst the white settlers viewed Mashonaland as a source of cheap labour thus the two groups clashes over the Shona
3. The Victoria incident  
Gomalla – state 500 yards for telegraph wires make snares  
Bere – stole Lobengula's cattle and Lobengula armies to punish Gomalla and Bere and they killed Shona People
4. Tribute Question  
Chief Nemacondi (Lamagundi) and Chief Chive (Chibi) had to pay tribute to Lobengula and they stopped paying it.  
When Lobengula realized that they were not paying he sent armies to punish them.
5. Boundary Question (issue)  
The whites were not happy the Ndebele did not respect the boundary between the Ndebele and the Shona which they had brought and they kept on raiding the Ndebele.
6. Killing of Lobengula's peace envoys in S. Africa  
Lobengula started preparing for the war and both the other side the white settlers were also preparing for the war

#### Six treaties signed between Lobengula and the Concession seekers

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|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| i). Tait Concession | ii) Baines Treaty  | iii) Globler Treaty    |
| iv) Moffart Treaty  | v) Rudd concession | vi) Lippert Concession |

#### Problems Lobengula faced in dealing with the Concession Seekers

Opposition from his army who wanted all foreigners kicked out.

Language problem in communication

Poor advice from his councilors

Dishonest advice from white acquaintances e.g. missionary (Helm)

#### Preparation of the war

Volunteers who joined the white settlers were promised gold claims in the attack

6 000 acre of land

The compact forces were divided into three groups

The first one was at fort Victoria (Masvingo) led by Allan Wilson and this was based by

27 ponder guns and 8 maxim machine guns

The third group was at Fort Tuli under captain Raaf  
This group has auxiliaries for chief Lakama  
Lobengula called his army from Botchwanaland  
It started preparing for this war.

#### The first Battle

The settlers dashed with the Ndebele at Shangani River  
The Ndebele were defeated  
The whites used machine guns and seven pounder guns  
So the Ndebele were easily defeated

#### Second Battle

The whites camped at Bembesi and during night  
They were attacked by the Ndebele during night whilst they were asleep  
The machine guns were brought into operation and the Ndebele were defeated  
The whites advanced to Bulawayo and by the time they got there they found the town in flames  
Lobengula had fled to Zambezi  
The Southern Column reached Bulawayo on 15 November 1883  
On its way it had dashed with the Ndebele at the place known as Dingueni river  
On 2 November the Matabele force under the Izinduna Gano had attacked the settlers and the Ndebele were again defeated  
They retired to the Matopo hills  
James sent Forbes and Raaf to capture Lobengula  
They came across a big camp which had been abandoned hurriedly  
Lobengula sent two men with a bag of gold asking that peace be made and a message showing to surrender before their troops kept it  
Captain Barrow and Wilson tried to capture Lobengula but were overpowered and the whole group was defeated and Lobengula died at the Zambezi valley

#### Why the Ndebele were defeated

Ndebele used inferior weapons e.g. axes, arrows, spears  
Settlers used Maxim guns, cannons, seven pounder and they fought on horse backs  
The white settlers assisted by chief Khama

#### Results of the Anglo – Ndebele War

The Ndebele lost their land and all white volunteers were given a large piece / tracks of land  
Two reserves were created Guni and Shangani where the Ndebele were living  
The Ndebele lost their cattle  
The whites shared Lobengula's cattle among themselves some were taken to South Africa and the few which remained were given to few Izinduna  
Zimbabwe came under colonial rule  
White occupation brought forced labour, taxes racism.