

INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION PAPER, MAY 2013

TITLE OF PAPER: TEXT ANALYSIS IN HISTORY

COURSE CODE: H626

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS: Choose and Analyse ONE Text ONLY.
Underline where necessary for purposes of analysis.

DO NOT OPEN PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION

TEXT ONE

British Colonization of Swaziland and the Troubles of the Swazi Monarchy

Contact with the British came early in Mswati's reign, when he asked British authorities in South Africa for assistance against Zulu raids into Swaziland. It was also during Mswati's reign that the first whites, Transvaal Boers, settled in the country. Following Mswati's death, the Swazis reached agreements with British and South African Republic authorities over a range of issues, including independence, claims on resources by Europeans, administrative authority, and security, though the white parties later reneged on those agreements. Over Swazi protests, the South African Republic with British concurrence established incomplete colonial rule over Swaziland from 1894 to 1899, when they withdrew their administration with the start of the Anglo-Boer War. In 1902 British forces entered the territory, proclaiming British overrule and jurisdiction in 1903, initially as part of the Transvaal. In 1906 Swaziland was separated administratively when the Transvaal Colony was granted responsible government.

Swaziland was indirectly involved in the Second Boer War (1899–1902). The beginning of the conflict found the territory administrated by the South African Republic, with the colonial headquarters set at Bremersdorp. In September, 1899, with war considered imminent, the colonists started evacuating the area. Ngwane V of Swaziland (Bhunu) was informed that the area would be left in his care during the absence of the white residents. The Swaziland Police under Sgt Opperman started practicing for war while issuing rifles and ammunition to remaining burghers. On 4 October 1899, Special Commissioner Krogh issued an official notice of evacuation for "all white inhabitants" with the exception of burghers eligible for active service. Most of the British subjects were escorted towards the

border with Mozambique, women and other South African civilians were left heading for various destinations.

It was not long before skirmishes involved the Swaziland forces. On 28 October 1899, the newly formed Swaziland Commando unit moved against a British police post at Kwaliweni. The South African unit counted about 200 burghers, while the outpost only had 20 men. Bhunu managed to warn the police post of the approaching attack. The police retreated towards Ingwavuma, seat of a magistrate. The Commando burned the abandoned post and a nearby shop to the ground. Then Joaquim Ferreira led them towards Ingwavuma. The village was not better guarded and had to also be evacuated. The Swaziland Commando burned it to the ground, while the magistrate and his people escaped to Nongoma.

Meanwhile, the Swazi people had been warned by Piet Joubert to remain calm and not involve themselves in the conflict. Bhunu instead found himself unrestricted from colonial authorities for the first time. He soon felt free to settle old scores with political enemies...Indeed, spies reported that Bhunu feared he had been bewitched. He was striking against whomever he suspected of the deed. On 10 December 1899, Bhunu died due to a serious illness. He had blamed it on sorcery, though contemporaries suspect it was alcohol-induced. His mother Labotsibeni Mdluli became regent. She set about eliminating the surviving advisors and favourites of Bhunu....

Queen-regent Labotsibeni was however attempting to maintain neutrality in the wider conflict, pre-occupied with securing the throne. Her grandson Sobhuza II of Swaziland was underage and there were other viable candidates for the throne among the House of Dlamini. In particular, Prince Masumphe. Masumphe was a cousin of Bhunu and a rival candidate for the throne since 1889. His line of the family maintained close relations with the Boers, the Prince himself educated at Pretoria. By May, 1900, the Queen was worried that the Boers would intervene

against her in case of a succession dispute. She opened communications with the restored magistrate of Ingwavuma, arranging to flee to his area if needed.

Her messages were passed to the government of Natal and from there to Cape Town, the capital of the Cape Colony.... But Frederick Roberts, a high-ranking military officer, was also convinced to start diplomatic contacts with the Queen. His representatives were to persuade the queen-regent of three things. First, the need to prevent the Boers from occupying the mountains of the area. Second, the necessity of formally appealing for British protection. Third, to make clear that the indiscriminate murders in Swaziland would have to end.

Source: Culled from Bonner, Philip (1983). *Kings, Commoners and Concessionaires: The Evolution and Dissolution of the Nineteenth-Century Swazi State*. Cambridge: Cambridge U. Press, pp. 60,85, *passim*.

TEXT TWO

Dr A.P. Zwane. MP; President N.N. L.C. Parliamentary Speech in the House of Assembly, 13 June 1972 and the Land Question.

Dr. A.P. Zwane, M.P:

My Speaker, speaking on behalf of the opposition of which I am a leader, I am standing up, Sir, to move the Motion that the house rejects this budget made by Hon. Mr. Stephens. I am sure my colleague here, Mr Masilela, on my left, will second me. In which case I will at the moment sit down and only stand up to speak to my motion.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members, there is a motion before the House and there can be no amendment to such a motion. The Honorable member has every right to speak against the motion but if the Hon. Member wishes to proceed with it in any other way, then he must follow the right procedure.

Dr A.P. Zwane: In the circumstances, I will speak to what has been said. I could tell the House what I feel about this Budget. I could put it in these few words: this is colonialism all over. There is nothing different in this budget from what could have been produced by Sir Francis Lloyd or Briand Marwick as Resident Commissioner. What I find most interesting is the complaint about over grazed land.

Chief Dlangamandla: On point of order, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Members say the word 'colonialism' has not been interpreted and I don't think the Hon. Member's colleague, Mr. Masilela, has understood what the speaker means....

The Minister for Local Administration: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member Chief Ndlanamandla, wanted the word 'colonialism' to be interpreted. It is surprising that it still remains uninterpreted. And that would be in order.

Mr Speaker: Hon. Minister the Hon. Member stood up on a point of interpretation. And that would be in order.

Dr. A.P. Zwana: I am very sorry that the members of Parliament for the Imbokodvo are so keen to interrupt my speech. In future I hope the Hon. Members of the other Party should sit on the other side so that the people in the Gallery don't get the impression that my members are interrupting my speech.

The first point I wanted to raise in criticizing the budget was the language used in connection with overgrazing of land in the African areas. The impression is created that the Swazi owns more cattle than he deserves, whereas in fact the problem is the landlessness of the Swazi. Now, this brings me to the next point, the Land Question. There is reference in the Budget Speech to the land question. Certain sums of money allocated by Great Britain will be used to purchase land. This is a matter of great interest to the Swazi. My Party, for instance, on the land question feels that land was misappropriated by the British and therefore land must be restored to the Swazi and when I speak of land that was misappropriated I don't mean land that goes as far as Oshoek or as far as Gollel. I mean land within the original boundaries of Swaziland. But the Imbokodvo Party has spoiled the case of the Swazi that it has bowed, belly crawled as it were, to the British to ask for funds to buy a few farms that are within Swaziland. And we are not told how many of these farms will be returned to the Swazi. My Party questions the boundaries that were made by the 1902 Boundaries Commission. I can go further, Sir, and say that the Imbokodvo is busy deporting people who, for instance, were born at Mbhuleni which was the Royal Kraal of King Mswati....

Writing about the land question, the scholar, Richard Levin (1990: 46) noted that:

in the late 1970s, when Swaziland's third sugar mill was established at Simunye, 550 families comprising some 5000 people were moved off their land. During the 1980s, the pattern continued, with several incidences of removal and eviction of rural people reported in the local press. What is noteworthy, however, is that these actions have never been met by popular resistance. In contrast to the periodic militant action of workers since the beginnings of the decolonisation period, peasants have never been mobilized into popular uprisings against the state.

Source: *Ngwane Forum*, Vol. 2, No.II, November, 1972; 13 (1990); Richard Levin, "State, Democracy and the Land Question in Swaziland", *Transformation*, 13, 1990, pp. 40-80.