

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
INSTITUTE OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2017

TITLE OF PAPER: TEXT ANALYSIS IN HISTORY

COURSE CODE: HIS608/H626

TIME ALLOWED: THREE (3) HOURS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- **ANSWER ONE (1) QUESTION ONLY.**
- **Make sure that the text you are analysing is well compartmentalised and the selected issues for analysis are underlined.**
- **Stick strictly to the methodology of text analysis.**

DO NOT OPEN THIS PAPER UNTIL THE INVIGILATOR HAS GRANTED PERMISSION

TEXT 1

Question: Analyse this text following the methodology of text analysis.

Land issues and Reform in Swaziland

...The concession rush occurred largely during the era of King Mbandzeni in the 1870s when Europeans flocked to Swaziland with different gifts including liquor, money and other implement.

The Europeans were given vast rights to settle on vast portions of Swazi land. In 1899 the anglo-boer war broke out and the British took control of Swaziland in 1902 from the South African Republic. Swaziland remained under British control until September 198 when she gained independence. The land Proclamation Act was enacted in 1907 by the British as an Act to address the concession problem Swaziland remained under British control until September 1968 when she gained independence.

The Land Proclamation Act was enacted in 1907 by the British as an Act to address the concession problem. This legislation reserved 1/3 of the land, 37.6% of the total land area for the exclusive use and occupation by the Swazi people. This land came to be known as the Swazi Nation Land. The 63% of land with good soil and best land, very good for grazing was expropriated from the Swazis for settler use and become title land and crown land. About 58% of the Swazi population were situated in the reserves whilst 42% were on the settler's land.

The Swazi in the settler's land were given five years to move voluntary to the reserved

areas after which they could be allowed to stay on the title land at the discretion of the land owners. Since then conflict between Swazis(called squatters) and landowners became the order of the day. The 1907 Concessions Partition Proclamation brought into being three tenurial systems namely, freehold title, communal tenure and crown land. The communal tenure was to apply within the so-called Swazi areas in accordance with Swazi law and custom, while the crown land and title land were regulated by the Roman Dutch Law. The private tenurial and crown lands were obviously held by the white settler population and colonial government.

The Swazis protested over the seizure of their land and strongly opposed the private land ownership concept. The Swazi areas became overstocked and land degradation started to emerge, not to mention the growing problem of Swazi's who became landless. The protest over foreign occupation failed and the Swazis then resorted to buy back their land.

To this day Swazis are still buying back their land. The buy-back programme started in 1913 and was further revived in the 1940 under King Sobhuza 11. Land shortage became acute for Swazis by 1939 when the second World War broke out. Most people lived in reserves. This meant that these people could not have permanent homes or farming land.

After 1940, the British government started to sought ways of increasing land available to Swazis. Policies were put in place giving a substantial amount of land back to the Swazi population. Crown land was earmarked; however, it became apparent that crown land alone would not be adequate to solve the crisis of land shortage for the Swazis. An initiative for a full-scale land purchase needed to be launched, to buy back land from the White freehold and concession landholders and transfer to the Swazis.

Source: Alfred Mndzebele, "A Presentation on Land Issues and Land Reform in Swaziland" , Paper presented at the SARPN conference on Land Reform and Poverty Alleviation in Southern Africa, 4th and 5th June 2011.

TEXT 2

The History of Swaziland from Mswati II to the Establishment of the British Protectorate

Question: Analyse this text following the methodology of text analysis.

Contact with the British came early in Mswati II'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..... 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.

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, [white] 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 since he has an unrestrained appetite for spirits. 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 particularly 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 was 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 in case of danger.

Her messages were passed to the government of Natal and from there to Cape Town, the capital of the Cape Colony. A reply by Johannes Smuts assured her that the British had not forgotten about the Swazi and British representatives would reliably return to Swaziland at an early date.... But Frederick Roberts, a high-ranking British 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.

The Boer lost the war and in 1902 British forces entered the territory. In 1903, the British proclaimed British overrule and jurisdiction over Swaziland, initially as part of the Transvaal. In 1906 Swaziland was separated administratively when the Transvaal Colony was granted responsible government.

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*.