

THE ZULU STATE

The causes of Mfecane in Nguniland

Growth of population and pressure on land

Desire to control trade especially with the Portuguese at Delagoa bay

Desire to extend political influence over a wider area

Importance of cattle in society and desire to acquire more

Source of food e.g. meat, skins and to pay lobola

Desire to control the hunting grounds especially where ivory was concerned.

Desire to control the grazing lands for the increasing number of cattle

Development of advanced military tactics which proved aggression

The emergence of ambitious African leaders who desired to destroy other

Famine in Nguni land that which caused rivalry as food shortage spread. Creation of large powerful kingdoms supported by smaller ones e.g. Mtetwa, Ndwandwe

The fighting that took place between the ethnic groups in Nguniland during the Mfecane

In 1816 rivalry of Ndwandwe (Zwide) and Ngwane (Sobhuza) began over land then latter were defeated and pushed away north.

In 1818 Ndwandwe under Zwide attacked the Mtetwa

Dingiswayo was captured and killed and the Mthethwa were defeated and scattered.

Ndwandwe attacked the other groups in the area east Drakensburg.

Some ruminants of the Mthethwa fled giving Zwide reign in the area of Nguniland

Zwide then decided to fight the small Zulu that now under Tshaka

The Military Tactics which Tshaka developed in the early of the Mfecane gave Tshaka a decisive advantage over the Ndwandwe. Tshaka then assembled the Mthethwa and the Zulus into a powerful military machine

Weaker tribes ethnic groups who could not flee to seek refuge under Tshaka and become part of the empire.

Threat of the whites from the South also made people to rally behind the most powerful leader becoming part of an enlarged state.

Tshaka adopted new fighting methods, like horn formation and began to attack his neighbours. His small Zulu kingdom began to expand and be a challenge to the Ndwandwe.

In 1818 Zwide decided to crush the emerging Zulu Kingdom. In the first battle the Ndwandwe were defeated and driven off by Tshaka

By the end of 1818 Zwide sent a full army across the Mffdozi river. Tshaka at first withdrew his whole population and wealth. Zwide followed across deserted country with no food. Ndwandwe army became weakened and began to retreat. Tshaka then attacked and drove the Ndwandwe back to their capital which he sacked this the Ndwandwe were defeated

Tshaka drove the Ndwandwe generals Zwangendaba Soshangane away. They fled northwards after Zwide was defeated.

Zwide fled to the region of the upper Nkomali river

Soshangane left in 1821 attacking the tribes to the north and ended up in Gazaland near modern – day Chipinge

Other small tribes fled to the west into the Sotho and Tswana area in terror and in turn spread the terror on their way

Tshaka proceeded to attack tribes between 1822 and subdued them and incorporated to form a large Zulu Kingdom.

Military Changes

Tshaka used ideas from Dingiswayo

Use short stabbing spears called assegai

They fought bare feated for greater speed

Young boys – baggage carriers

They used long shield and cow horn formation

Food for warriors was beef.

Made use of age regiments according to their age

Warriors who tried to run away were killed

Made uses of spies

Political Organization

Tshaka consulted councilors but the final decision came form him

He was in charge of the army

The entire army assembled at the royal barracks

This was known as the first fruit ceremony

Political Reforms

He used existing ruling lineages encouraged and exploited rivalries between them

Lineages based close to the center of the Zulu state were not absorbed but were exploited a subject of the king

Tshaka introduced national ceremonies and using national symbols such as Inkhata

All religious ceremonies had the King at the top apex
Independent rain maker were destroyed
Tshaka took control of the economy which enabled him to accumulate

The role of woman

Tshaka place a female member of his own family in the military settlement
She had equal power with those of the military commander
From this Tshaka got a source of information and indirect control
Unmarried girls in the Zulu state formed regiment similar to those of the man
They took part in dance and did agricultural work
Women regarded as providers of food they had to submit to men at all times
Zulu girls were trained in submission.

The death of Tshaka and the decline of Zulu state

Tshaka like all the dictators became drunk by his power Plots
made to get rid of him
Succeeded in assassinating him in 1828
Mkabayi was Tshaka's sister
Dingane and Mhlangana were his half brothers
Tshaka was killed when they were trying to defeat a rebel chief called Soshangane
Was murdered in broad day light
Dingane succeeded Tsaka
Tshaka's army was weak to defeat Dingane

Decline of the Zulu

There was civil war after the death of Cehtswayo
The Zulu state being
British finally annexed the Zululand in June 1887
The Governor of Natal became the Supreme Chief over the Zulu people
He was assisted by the Resident Commissioner and Chief magistrate
By 1887 most chiefs of the Zulu Kingdom had died in jail or exile.