

- Even Sunday was made a resting day for the slaves.
- The slaves were given the right to complain against exploitation by the Boers.
- They were also allowed to ask for paid employment.
- They were given the right to choose their bosses for whom to work.
- They were given the right even to sue their boer masters in courts of law in case of mistreatment.
- The slaves were allowed to give evidence in the courts of law against their masters and appeal to the courts of law if they were not paid.
- In 1817, a school for the slave children was established and it helped to reduce illiteracy among the africans.
- In 1812, the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance was put in place by the british which restored the civil rights of the slaves (africans).
- In the same year, the apprenticeship code or law was also passed and it stated that all slave children born on the boer farms were to be catered for by their masters for ten years.
- In 1834, there was liberation of slaves or slavery was abolished and therefore became illegal which returned joy and happiness among the slaves.
- The slave masters were also promised compensation after abolishing slavery.
- The slaves who wished to remain working for their masters were allowed but they had to be paid.
- The slaves were therefore given more freedom and liberty in the cape colony by the British.
- **In regard to settlement**, the British encouraged urban settlement and development of retail shops
- **In games and sports**, games such as cricket, horse racing and hunting were encouraged or introduced.
- In conclusion therefore, the British reforms affected the Boers negatively and were political, social and economic in outlook.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ Describe the changes introduced by the British at the cape between 1806 and 1834?
- ✓ Describe the reforms introduced by the British at the cape up to 1834.

### **Effects of the British reforms on:**

#### **The Africans:**

- The Africans gained more freedom and liberty since they were treated as human beings.
- The Africans got back their land from the Boers.
- There was reduction in the working hours and therefore the Africans got a chance to rest.
- The Africans gained paid employment and improved upon their standards of living.
- The Africans left the Boer farms where they were harshly treated and opened up their own farms.
- The Africans (slave children) acquired western education from the public schools that were established by the British.

- The Africans were given accommodation and it became expensive for the Boers to retain the Africans as slaves
- Freedom of worship was given to the Africans. For example, the slaves were allowed to attend Sunday services.
- The African slaves got registered after 1816 and were freed after 1834.
- The 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance restored civil rights and they were declared equal to the Boers or whites.
- The African freedom of movement was restored as the pass laws were abolished.
- The Africans became interpreters in the courts of law and were free to report their Dutch masters for any form of mistreatment.
- The Africans were able to form families and have children since they were given freedom to anything without consulting their Dutch masters.
- Many Africans moved to live in towns like Cape Town where they took up new life styles and better standards of living.
- Intermarriages between the whites and the Africans took place which led to an increase in the coloured race.
- The natives and the coloured people at the cape were brought under the British influence.
- The Africans were allowed to practice farming and also carry out trade with the whites, hence reducing poverty.
- The Africans were given representation in the legislative council and the house of assembly. This enabled them to speak out their own problems.
- The Africans were hated more by the Boers and this eventually led to the famous Great Trek in 1835 as the Boers started running away from the cape colony into the interior of South Africa so as to set up their own governments.

### **Effects on the Boers:**

- The Boers lost their independence and freedom to the British.
- The Boers lost their land that they had grabbed from the Africans due to the new British land regulations.
- It led to the growing enmity between the Boers and the British.
- The reforms led to increased Boer nationalism in South Africa.
- There was undermining of the Boer language after it was replaced by the English language.
- The Boers lost control over their economic activities in south Africa like trade, commerce and agriculture as the British took control of the economy.
- There was loss of revenue, thus leading to poverty among the Boers.
- The Boer currency (Dutch Rix dollar) lost value and was replaced by the paper money (British pound).
- The Boers lost their privileged position and superiority as they were made equal to the Africans by the British.
- The Boers lost slave labour on their farms as the Africans were free to get paid employment anywhere.
- The Boers lost money due to the unfair compensation for the loss of slave labour.
- The Boers were raided by the Africans since the British stopped protecting them against the Africans. Therefore the Boers fought many wars with the Africans.

- The Dutch legal system was replaced by the British legal system where everyone was equal before the law.
- There was loss of valuable property like cattle on the side of the Boers.
- The influence of the Dutch reformed church at the cape declined as it was replaced by the British missionaries.
- The Boers lost control over education since it was given to the missionaries by the British government at the cape. This made the Dutch to remain backward in terms of education.

### **The Boer reaction to the British reforms at the cape.**

- The reaction of the Boers was negative ie they did not welcome the new British reforms.
- The Boers disliked the British legal system which gave equality to all people including the non-whites before the law.
- The Boers disliked the provision of education to the Africans by the British missionaries.
- The Boers opposed the policy of promoting equality between the whites and the Africans.
- The Boers hated the introduction of English as an official language because it undermined the Dutch language.
- The Boers were not happy with the introduction of the black circuit courts because they wanted to continue mistreating the Africans.
- They opposed the introduction of work contracts between the masters and African servants since it prevented them from exploiting cheap labour.
- They opposed the British administrators for demanding a lot of taxes yet they were not providing adequate services.
- They complained about the Dutch Rix dollar and its replacement with the British pound.
- The Boers opposed the freedom of worship granted to all the people at the cape including the Africans.
- The Boers opposed the British land policies which prevented them from acquiring more land while enabling the Africans to recover their stolen land.
- The Boers opposed the abolition of pass documents put on the Africans since they never wanted them to move without permission.
- The abolition of slavery in 1834 annoyed the Boers who had lost their slaves, thus denying them chance to get free labour.
- The Boers hated the missionary teachings of brotherhood and equality which had made them to be equal to the Africans.
- The Boers lost their economic status since they could no longer exploit the African resources freely.
- Finally, the Boers resolved to migrate to the interior of South Africa in protest against the British reforms in a mass exodus that came to be known as the ***GREAT TREK***.

### **The Black Circuit Courts.**

- These were mobile African courts set up in 1816 to control the Boer mistreatment of the blacks.
- The black circuit courts moved from village to village handling cases raised by the African slaves who were mistreated.
- The charge sheets were always drafted with the assistance of missionaries especially Van der Kemp.

- Some Africans served as interpreters in these courts which helped them to serve the interests of the Africans.

### **Reasons for the establishment of the black circuit courts.**

- They were put in place to deal with the Boer injustice (unfairness) towards African slaves.
- To empower the African slaves with more freedom.
- They were formed to listen and answer African complaints against the harsh Boer masters.
- To end the racial conflicts or tension between the Boers and the Africans and enable them to accommodate one another.
- They were formed to fight for equality of all people before the law.
- They were formed to end the Boer exploitation of the African slaves.
- They were set up to ensure that the African labourers were paid better salaries.
- They were set up to promote African dignity and respect.
- They were formed to enable the African slaves choose their masters or employers to work for.
- They were formed to provide equal trade opportunities between the whites and the Africans.
- They were formed to assist the Africans get back their land that had been stolen by the Boers.
- They were formed to ensure that the slave children got education.
- They were formed to protect and accommodate the freed slaves.
- They were formed to give the Africans freedom of movement by removing the pass laws.

### **Effects of the black circuit courts.**

- The slave working hours were reduced and Sunday was recognized as a day for resting.
- The Africans were able to select their masters/employers.
- The Africans enjoyed better working conditions which improved their status.
- The Africans were given freedom of worship.
- The Africans managed to obtain paid jobs on the white man's farms.
- The African rights and freedoms were restored as they were considered equal to the whites.
- The African children were able to join schools and obtain education.
- There was rural-urban migration of the Africans as they wanted to acquire better paid jobs in towns.
- Registration of slaves was arranged and encouraged by the Africans.
- The Africans got back their dignity (respect).
- The Africans were able to regain their land which had been taken away by the boers.
- Slavery was abolished in 1834 and the Africans were liberated from suffering.
- The boers were greatly affected after losing African labour and they decided to organize the great trek in the 1830s.

### **The 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance of 1828.**

- The 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance was passed by Governor Bourke in 1828 in the influence of the missionaries as a law aimed at changing the life of the slaves at the cape.
- It was also strongly supported by Dr. John Philip, a missionary and defender of African rights.
- It was to give the hottentots and other free persons at the cape the same rights as the whites.

#### **Reasons for the passing of the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance.**

- The pressure from the missionaries especially from the London missionary society led by Dr. John Philip and Van der Kemp. These condemned the slavery attitudes of the whites.
- The growth of the humanitarian bodies which campaigned for equality among races.
- The role of people like Clarkson and William Wilberforce who campaigned for the respect of human rights was also important.
- The stopping of slave trade in the British empire put the British at the forefront of fighting for African rights.
- The role played by the *Aborigines committee* which was formed by the liberal British parliament to handle African affairs.
- The passing of the 49<sup>th</sup> ordinance earlier on by the British that had allowed the Africans East of Keiskama to come in the cape as contract workers was another reason.
- The British wanted to restore full rights to the Africans in South Africa for example,
- To allow African freedom of movement that had been taken away by the Boers.
- It was passed to allow the Africans to own land.
- To provide justice to all people including the Africans.
- It was passed to provide equal trade opportunities to all people including the Africans.
- The British wanted to end Boer exploitation of the African labour.
- It was meant to provide protection to the African slaves.
- It was intended to end the Boer harshness towards the Africans and to create brotherhood between the Boers and the Africans.

#### **Effects of the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance.**

- The Africans were protected from the Boer masters.
- They were given equal trade opportunities
- The Africans acquired their land back
- The Africans became happy after gaining their land back.
- The Africans were given freedom of movement.
- The Africans were given a chance to choose the people they wanted to work for.
- The Africans were given equal rights with the whites (Boers)
- The Africans enjoyed better working conditions.
- The Africans got paid jobs for example as court interpreters.
- The African working hours were reduced.

### 2.2.3 BRITISH GOVERNORS BEFORE THE GREAT TREK

#### **Governor/Lord Charles Somerset (1814-1826).**

- Charles Somerset was born in 1767 in England in the town of Badminton to Henry Somerset the 5<sup>th</sup> Duke of Beaufort.

- He started his career as a soldier and later he became the British cape Governor or administrator from 1814 -1826.
- He was a sympathetic administrator towards the slaves at the cape especially the coloureds and the khoi khoi.
- He decided to introduce a number of reforms in order to make their lives better.
- He first ordered for the registration of all slaves at the cape in 1816.
- He also proposed that all slaves that had not been registered be left free
- He put a register for slaves in every district to document all the existing slaves in the district and the slaves who had not been registered were declared free men.
- In 1817, Somerset established a school for the African slave children to enable them acquire formal education.
- He also reduced the working hours for the slaves.
- The African slaves were granted a resting day on Sunday to enable them attend prayers.
- He also established black circuit courts to investigate African complaints against their Dutch masters.
- He influenced the Dutch farmers to provide better working conditions to the slaves at the cape.
- He restored hope to the freed slaves and made arrangements for them to obtain protection.
- He promised compensation to the Dutch masters for the loss of cheap labour.
- He encouraged mixed marriages between the Africans and whites especially the Boers who had rejected it for a long time.
- He asked the Boers to return the African land which they had grabbed at the beginning.
- He encouraged liberty and brotherhood among the African communities.
- He abolished the pass system to enable the African slaves move freely wherever they wanted
- He encouraged the Africans to seek for paid employment and he promised them protection against the cruel and harsh Dutch masters.
- He supported the passing of the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance which gave the Africans freedom by restoring their civil rights.
- He attempted to solve the conflicts on the Eastern border between the Boers and the Xhosa through peaceful means. For example he separated the Xhosa from the Boers through a clear boundary.
- He ordered for the hanging of a Boer farmer and four other Dutch masters after they had refused to appear before a black circuit court. This incident was described as the *'slatcher' s nek incident of 1816*.
- In 1826, Lord Somerset was recalled to London and by 1834, Sir Benjamin Durban was appointed governor of the cape up to 1838.
- He also suppressed a rebellion organized by the Boers over the killing of their people.

#### **Governor Benjamin Durban (1834-1838).**

- He governed the cape from 1834 to 1838.
- He was mainly concerned with organizing the Eastern frontier security to stop the kaffir wars.
- He sent a missionary Dr. John Philip to the Xhosa to arrange the Durban meeting with them.
- He supervised the abolition of slavery in 1834.

- To reduce on the tension in the colony, he allowed the Boers to keep the freed slaves as apprentices (trainers ) and allowed the apprenticeship period not to exceed six years.
- He also arranged for the compensation of the Boers for the loss of their slaves.
- He got so much devoted to the abolition of slavery to the extent that he almost forgot about the frontier wars, thus making the Xhosa to feel abandoned which forced them to attack the Boers.
- Benjamin then thought of chasing the Africans beyond River Keiskama and compensate the Boers the land between rivers Keiskama and Kei.
- This land was only given back to the Xhosa after efforts made by Dr. John Phillip when he appealed to the british government back in London for the African plea.
- Earlier on, a missionary in the names of *Allen Gardner* had been very instrumental in helping the settlers engage the Xhosa in the sixth kaffir war.
- Hence in recognition to Gardner’s efforts, Benjamin Durban named the port of Southern Natal as Durban.
- Benjamin Durban was at the front of grabbing African land and rewarded it to the colonists and this alone elevated his position in the face of the settlers.
- He pioneered local government institutions also called municipal councils at the cape.
- He was very instrumental in ridding the government of the burden of extravagant expenditure especially by reducing the high dependence on the colony.
- He established a strong constitutional base upon which the colony depended.

#### 2.2.4 THE GREAT AFRIKANER EXODUS/ GREAT TREK.

- The Great trek was a *massive movement* of the dis-satisfied Boers from the cape colony to the interior of South Africa.
- It was as a result of the British interference in the Dutch affairs in South Africa.
- In fact, the Boers were running away from the British bad policies which were affecting them in all spheres of life and had become unbearable.
- The Trek was also known as the *Afrikaner white Revolution* that occurred in the 1830s
- The trekkers in the initial 10 years that originally left the cape colony by 1835 were about 14,000 people.
- Originally, the Boers used to move into the interior of South Africa in small numbers and would go back to the cape.
- However in 1835, the situation was so ugly that they could no longer tolerate it.
- Hence, they decided to move to the interior using ox-wagons/chariots, with all their belongings never to come back to the cape.
- They moved in three large groups under different leaders such as, *Louis Trigadt, Jan Van Rensberg, Hendrick Portigieter, Maritz Celliers and Piet Retief* among others.

#### Causes of the Great Trek.

- The Boers wanted to preserve their traditions and cultures which forced them to migrate to the interior.
- The long term enmity between the Dutch and the British forced the Boers to migrate to the interior.
- The rebellious nature of the Boers forced them to migrate into the interior of South Africa.

- The anglicisation of the cape annoyed the Boers. This was basically making the cape Anglican leading to a reduction in the influence of the Dutch reformed church.
- The introduction of the British legal system at the cape ie the English laws replaced the Dutch laws which annoyed them, hence forcing them to migrate to the interior.
- The introduction of English as the official language which replaced the Dutch language annoyed the Boers, hence the Great trek.
- The introduction of the British or English pound which replaced the Dutch Rix dollar annoyed the Boers, hence forcing them into the interior.
- The British liberal policies that emphasized equality, brotherhood and liberties annoyed the Boers, thus leading to the great trek.
- The Boers hated the English education system and hence they moved away from the cape.
- They were so unhappy with the apprenticeship code that allowed the African children that were born on the Boer farms to be educated by the Boer masters.
- The British had also failed to provide protection to the Boers against attacks from the Africans, which forced them to migrate to the interior.
- The freedom of press introduced by the British whereby the new reporters wrote many bad things about the Boers which also annoyed them, hence leading to the trek.
- The registration of all slaves at the cape that was introduced by the British greatly annoyed the Boers, hence leading to the great trek.
- The Boers hated the British policy of allowing the Africans (slaves) to get paid jobs or employment.
- The Boers hated the removal of the passes by the British which gave the Africans freedom of movement.
- The introduction of the black circuit courts in 1812 which gave the Africans powers to report or sue their cruel Boer masters annoyed the Boers, hence the Great trek.
- The slatcher's nek incident of 1815-1816 in which the ring leaders of the Boers who were rebelling were hanged by the British caused the trek because the remaining Boers could not wait to be hanged.
- The passing of the 50<sup>th</sup> ordinance of 1828 which restored the civil rights of the non-whites was hated by the Boers.
- The decision taken by the British at the cape to reduce the salaries of the Dutch officials annoyed the Boers, hence leading to the Great trek.
- The influence of the British missionaries in South Africa caused the Great trek. For example, they preached equality of all races as well as brotherhood.
- The missionaries also provided education to the blacks or Africans which annoyed the Boers because it made the Africans stubborn and arrogant, hence forcing them into the exodus.
- The missionaries also provided protection or accommodation to the runaway slaves as their mission stations became homes for the freed slaves which also annoyed the Boers.
- The act of the missionaries marrying the Africans also annoyed the Boers. For example, Van der Kemp married a fourteen year old Malagasy slave girl.
- The Boers also hated the policy of giving the Africans freedom of worship. For example, the Africans were free to attend church services on Sunday.
- The British new land reforms like mapping, surveying, fencing, renting and documentation of the land greatly annoyed the Boers hence forcing them to move.
- The failure by the British to provide adequate social services to the Boers like transport, education and security annoyed them, hence forcing them to migrate.



- The removal of trade restrictions or trade liberalization by the British greatly hurt the Boers since the Africans were now free to sell their products to any company or any one.
- The abolition of slavery in South Africa in 1834 by the British annoyed the Boers since they lost cheap labour and yet they were not adequately compensated by the British.
- The false rumours that prevailed about the British plans to force the Boers to intermarry with the Africans, serve in the army forcefully, abandon their Dutch reformed church and lose all the land to the khoikhoi scared them, hence forcing them to migrate.
- The role played by the able leaders like Louis Trigadt, Jan Van Rensburg, Hendrick Portgieter, Piet Retief and Gerrit Maritz among others inspired many trekkers to move, hence the Great trek.
- The loss of land by the Boers around the province of Queen Adelaide (between Keiskama and Fish Rivers) which was returned to the Xhosa during the Kaffir wars annoyed the Boers, hence te Great Trek.

### **The Course of the Great Trek.**

(sketch map)

- The Great Trek started in the cape colony and it took place between the 1830s and 1840s.
- The Boers migrated from the cape colony into the interior of South Africa in three major groups led by different leaders in different years.
- Among the Great Trek leaders were Louis Trigardt, Jan Van Rensburg, Hendrick Portgieter, Sarel celliers, Piet Retief and Gerrit Maritz.
- The Boers left the cape using ox-wagons to carry all their property into the interior.
- The trekkers avoided the coastal overcrowded areas and followed the middle grassland (Veld) West of the Drakensburg mountains.
- The first group to leave the cape colony was led by *Louis trigadt* and *Jan Van Rensburg*.
- They left the cape in November 1834 from the district of Graaf Reinet.
- They moved Eastwards and then northwards crossing River Orange and Vaal.
- The members of this group were few in number and left the cape unprepared for the difficulties ahead of them. As a result most of them died on the way.
- They proceeded to *Zontpansberg* in Northern Transvaal and tried to settle along River Limpompo where the Africans killed most of them.
- Other members lacked food and others were claimed by the tropical African diseases
- It is therefore not surprising that out of the 100 trekkers who left the cape in the first group, only 27 survived.
- The survivors decided to continue with their journey until they reached Maputo port (Laurenco marques) in Mozambique.
- **The second group** which was the largest, left the cape colony in 1836. This group was led by Hendrick Portgieter and Sarel Celliers, and they continued their journey Northwards.
- They were later joined by Gerrit Maritz from Graaf Reinet and they moved East wards towards the Ndebele kingdom which was headed by Mzilikazi.
- Before entering the Ndebele kingdom, they tried to settle along River Orange but failed due to the African hostile tribes.

- When they entered the Ndebele kingdom, Mzilikazi organized his fighters and attacked this group in the village of Vegkop and many of the Boers were killed
- The Boer trekkers were also prepared for war and therefore in October 1836, the Boers fought with the Ndebele in the battle of Vegkop of 1836.
- The Boers were able to defeat the Ndebele by 1837 and Mzilikazi and his people fled Northwards into the present day Zimbabwe.
- The victorious Boers decided to establish a new republic in the area which they named *Orange Freestate*.
- **The third group** was led by Piet Retief and was the last group of the Boer trekkers out of the cape colony.
- They moved North-East wards and in 1837, they reached Zululand where they asked for land from the Zulu leader called Dingane.
- Dingane promised to give them land on condition that the Boers recovered the Zulu cattle that had been stolen by his neighbor Sekonyera, chief of the Tlokwa kingdom.
- Piet Retief managed to trick Sekonyera and easily recovered the stolen cattle.
- This action greatly surprised Dingane and therefore he made plans for Piet Retief to be killed.
- Dingane organized a beer party at his capital and invited Piet Retief and some of his colleagues as a way of thanking them.
- While at the party, Dingane killed Piet Retief and all his colleagues after ordering his men to 'kill the wizards'
- The remaining Boers appointed Andries Pretorious as the new Boer leader after the death of Piet Retief.
- Andries Pretorious organized a war of revenge for the death of Piet Retief and in October 1838, they attacked and defeated the Zulu warriors on the banks of *River Ncome*.
- Many Zulu warriors were killed and dumped in River Ncome which made the waters of the river to turn red because of the blood.
- This battle was later named the *Battle of Blood River of 1838*.
- The Zulu lost the battle to the Boers with the help of Mpande who was Dingane's brother.
- Dingane was overthrown and fled to Swaziland where he was killed by the Swazi warriors and therefore his brother Mpande became the new king of the Zulu kingdom.
- After defeating the Zulu, the Boers decided to establish their new republic or state called Natal and they ordered the Africans to leave.

#### A summary of the course of the Great trek.

Group & Date	Leaders	Areas occupied	Battles fought	Africans	African leaders.
1 <sup>st</sup> group, Nov 1834	Louis Trigadt, Jan Van Rensburg	Northern Transvaal, R.vaal, Limpompo valley and Port Maputo	None	Africans living in Limpompo valley.	None
2 <sup>nd</sup> group, July 1835	Hendrick Potgieter, Gerrit Maritz, Sarel Celliers	R.Orange, Vaal, Orange Free state.	Vegkop	Ndebele	Mzilikazi
3 <sup>rd</sup> group,	Piet Retief,	Natal, Tugela, R.	Blood	Zulu	Dingane

Oct.1836	Andries Pretorius	Ncome, R. Donga, Umzimbubu	river		
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### Revision questions:

- ✓ Describe the course of the Great Trek up to 1840s
- ✓ Explain the movement of the Boers between 1835 and 1845.
- ✓ Describe the migration and settlement of the Boers from the cape into the interior of South Africa.

### Problems faced by the Boer Trekkers.

- Diseases like malaria and sleeping sickness attacked and killed many Boer trekkers and this slowed down their movement.
- They faced a problem of geographical barriers like mountains, rivers and lakes which could not easily be crossed.
- There was shortage of food which resulted into the death of many Boer trekkers.
- They faced resistances from the hostile African tribes like the Ndebele and Zulu. This resulted into wars like the battle of Vegkop of October 1836 and the battle of Blood river of December 1838.
- They were attacked by wild animals which either injured or killed them. Lions and hyenas also killed their livestock or animals.
- Communication especially with those at the cape became difficult as the Boers moved into the interior.
- The Boers had inadequate weapons and gun powder especially after fighting the battle of Vegkop.
- The Boers also lost their prominent leaders like Piet Retief who was killed by Dingane.
- There was shortage of supplies like medicines by the Boer trekkers which made them to lose their lives.
- The unfavourable climate in the interior especially during heavy rains and drought season affected the Boers since they were not used to such climatic conditions.
- Language barrier was another problem because many Boer trekkers did not understand the African languages.
- The Boers lost their property like cattle and sheep during the trek due to the African raids in the interior.
- The Boer trekkers suffered from homesickness because they were far away from their country Netherlands.
- The Boers lacked geographical knowledge of the interior of South Africa. For example, they did not know what crops grew well on the soils of the new lands.
- They lacked enough funds to facilitate their day to day activities as they moved into the interior.
- There was disunity among the Boer trekkers which was brought about by internal quarrels.

- The long tiring journeys made their movement difficult as the Boers always travelled eight kilometers per day.
- Their children lacked good education because there were no schools in the interior of South Africa.
- They suffered at the hands of the British who kept on following them into the interior, leading to further conflicts. For example, they later annexed the republics of Natal and Transvaal from the Boers.

#### Revision question:

- ✓ What problems did the Boer trekkers face during their journey to the interior?

#### Effects of the great trek on:

##### **The Boers,**

- It resulted into the formation of new Boer republics in the interior of South Africa which were independent like Natal, Orange free state and Transvaal.
- It increased the enmity between the British and the Boers which later led to wars between the British and the Boers like the first Anglo-Boer war of 1880-1881, the Jameson raid of 1895 and the second Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902.
- The Boers lost their property in the course of the Great trek like wagons, tents and cattle.
- The Boers lost their lives during the trek especially due to the wars that were fought by the Boers and the Africans. For example the battle of Vegkop of 1836.
- The British kept on following up the Boers from the cape up to the interior of South Africa.
- There was introduction of modern or commercialized farming in the interior. For example, plantation crops like coffee, sugarcane and cotton were grown at the cape
- The Boers lost contact with their friends at the cape since they all migrated to the interior of South Africa without going back.
- The British later annexed the Boer republics like Natal in 1843, Orange free state in 1848 and Transvaal in 1877 which greatly annoyed the Boers.
- The number of whites increased in the interior of South Africa after the Boer migration.
- It resulted into increased Boer nationalism (desire for independence) after their migration into the interior of South Africa.
- Some of the Boer leaders lost their lives during the trek. For example, Piet Retief was killed by Dingane, the zulu leader.
- It led to the discovery of minerals in the interior of South Africa by the Boer trekkers. For example, Diamond was discovered in 1867 and Gold in 1885 in the Boer republic of Transvaal.
- It enabled the Boers to get cheap labour from the Africans in the interior that they used to develop their farms.
- It led to the rise of strong Boer leaders like Andries Pretorius and Paul Kruger who helped to promote the Boer interests in South Africa.
- **On the Africans,** it led to endless wars between the Africans and the Boers like the blood River battle of 1838 and the battle of Vegkop of 1836.
- The Africans lost their lives in the Great trek wars.
- There was depopulation as many Africans were killed due to the wars fought by the Boer trekkers.

- The Africans lost their property like cattle and crops due to the wars fought by the trekkers. For example, Dingane lost 19000 heads of cattle.
- Some African leaders were exiled and subsequently lost their lives in the process of the Great trek. For example Dingane the Zulu leader.
- The Africans lost their lands to the Boers for example the Zulu, the Ndebele, the Pedi and the Swazi.
- It led to the spread of European diseases like sexually transmitted diseases and tuberculosis to the Africans due to the forced intermarriages between the Boers and the Africans.
- The Africans became dependent on the Boers for employment after losing their land.
- There was widespread of poverty as the Africans were paid little or nothing for their labour by the Boers.
- The Africans acquired guns from the Boer trekkers after collaborating with the Boers. For example Mosheshe of the Sotho, Mpande of the Zulu and the Tlokwa chiefs.
- African traditional cultures were destroyed by the Boers after introducing their western cultures like religion, language and dressing.
- The Africans were displaced by the Boer trekkers for example the Ndebele, the Sotho and the Zulu.
- The Africans were sent to reserves. In such areas, they lived a miserable life full of diseases, starvation, overcrowding and death.
- The African technology declined or disappeared as they learnt western technology from the Boers like carpentry.
- The Boers started interfering in the politics of the Africans.
- There was decline in agriculture since the Africans spent much of their time fighting with the Boers.
- The African languages were put into writing by the Boers.
- The African chiefs lost their traditional powers and authority to the Boers. For example, Dingane of the Zulu and Mzilikazi of the Ndebele.
- The Africans lost their independence to the whites.
- The Africans became second class citizens in their own country.
- The Boers started enslaving the Africans in the interior on the farms and homes.
- It led to racial segregation in the interior by the Boers which laid a foundation for the apartheid policy in South Africa which affected the Africans greatly.
- It led to insecurity in the interior of South Africa because of the wars between Africans and the Boers.
- It opened up the interior of South Africa for European settlement and exploitation of African resources like minerals.
- The Africans learnt new methods of farming like commercial farming from the Boers which later improved their economy.
- In conclusion therefore, the Great trek influenced more Europeans to enter the interior of South Africa who later contributed to the development of South Africa.

#### GREAT TREK WARS/ BATTLES.

##### 1) **The Battle of Vegkop of 1836.**

- The battle of Vegkop was one of the Great trek battles fought between the Boer trekkers of the second group and the Ndebele (Africans)
- It was fought on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1836.
- The Ndebele were led by their leader Mzilikazi while the Boers were led by Hendrick Portgieter, Sarel Celliers and Gerrit Maritz.
- The war was started by the Boers after the Ndebele refused to give them land for settlement.
- The war happened at Merico valley between Rivers Vaal and Orange (Vegkop village).

### **Causes of the Vegkop Battle of 1836.**

- The determination of the Ndebele to defend or maintain their independence forced them to fight the Boers in 1836.
- The Ndebele were naturally warriors and this encouraged them to resist the Boers.
- The Boers were struggling to acquire land which forced them to attack the Ndebele, hence causing the battle.
- The two groups (Boers and Ndebele) had large numbers of cattle which attracted them to raid each other, hence the war.
- The leaders of the Ndebele had registered earlier success in fighting the foreigners which encouraged them to fight with the Boers.
- The killing of the earlier Boer missionaries forced the Boers to fight a war of revenge, for example, Erasmus, a Boer missionary who had been killed by the Ndebele.
- The Ndebele called the boers wizards which annoyed them, hence causing the war.
- The Boers were confident of defeating the Ndebele because they had enough weapons.
- The support given to the Boer trekkers by the Barolong chief called Moroka encouraged the Boers to fight the Ndebele under Mzilikazi.
- The Ndebele had arrested and kidnapped three American missionaries and some Boers, whom the Boers wanted to rescue through the use of force, hence leading to the war.
- The Boers were confident with their military tactic of the ‘laager’ which they thought could enable them defeat the Ndebele easily.
- The Great trek which made many Boers to go close to the Ndebele caused the war.
- The act of assembling the boer commandos in Ndebele land threatened Mzilikazi, hence forcing him to fight them.

### **Effects of the Battle of Vegkop.**

- The Ndebele were defeated which led to loss of independence of the Africans to the Boers.
- There was loss of lives among the Ndebele since many of their warriors were killed during the war.
- There was destruction of property among the Ndebele especially gardens and houses.
- The Ndebele lost over 10,000 heads of cattle to the Boers.
- The Ndebele were displaced from their cradle land and pushed up to the present Zimbabwe.
- It led to the decline of economic activities such as trade and commerce.

- There was decline in agriculture which led to famine since the crops were destroyed during the war.
- The war caused a lot of suffering to the Africans who were defeated.
- The war led to poverty among the Ndebele due to the destruction of property that it caused .
- The three American missionaries were eventually released by the Ndebele after the war.
- The Boers were able to recover some of their lost cattle and ox-wagons from the Ndebele.
- The Boers gained confidence in using the ‘laager’ system in fighting against the Africans and they were later to use it against the Zulu.
- The battle increased the Boer nationalism or desire to be independent after defeating the Ndebele.
- Some of the Boers lost their lives since they were killed by the Ndebele for example, Erasmus and Jan Van Rensburg.
- It led to the creation of a new boer republic or state of Orange Freestate.
- It increased the hatred between the Boers and the Ndebele since the Ndebele were not happy with the Boer settlement in their land.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ What were the causes of the battle of Vegkop of 1836?
- ✓ Why did the Boers conflict with the Ndebele in 1836?
- ✓ What were the causes of the conflict between Mzilikazi and Hendrick Potgieter in 1836?
- ✓ What were the effects of the battle of Vegkop of 1836?

### **2) The Battle of Blood River of 1838.**

- It was the second Great trek battle fought between the Zulu and the Boers.
- It was fought on 16<sup>th</sup> December 1838 between River Donga and River Ncome (blood river).
- The Zulu were under their leader Dingane while the Boers were led by Andries Pretorius.
- The battle was fought by the third group of the Boer trekkers who were revenging the death of their leader Piet Retief.

### **Causes of the battle of blood river of 1838.**

- The Zulu wanted to protect their ancestral land which was threatened by the Boers.
- The determination of the boers not to go back to the cape colony and suffer again. Therefore, they had to fight the Zulu so as to establish a home or state in Zulu land which led to war.
- The Zulu were naturally warriors who always fought foreigners, hence leading to war.
- The Africans never trusted the whites after a Xhosa refugee called Jacob Msimbiti had warned Dingane about the danger of trusting the whites.
- The failure of land negotiations between the Boers and the Zulu meant that only war would solve the problem of land ownership between the two parties.
- The Zulu believed that the Boers represented the British and therefore, Dingane wanted to send a clear warning to the British not to involve in the Zulu wars.
- The Zulu wanted to raid the Boer cattle in order to boost their economy which forced them to fight the Boers.

- Dingane was also warned that many Boers were coming to occupy his territory and yet many more were to follow. He therefore had to act immediately.
- The Boers desire to create an independent republic free from the British interference made them to fight with the Zulu who seemed to be an obstacle.
- The killing of Piet Retief by Dingane in 1838 annoyed the Boer trekkers, hence forcing them to fight a war of revenge against the Zulu.
- The election of Andries Pretorius in 1838 to replace Piet Retief who had been killed gave the Boers courage and determination to fight the Zulu.
- The Boers were arrogant and confident of defeating the Zulu since they had strong guns. This explains why they decided without fear to attack the Zulu on the banks of the blood River.
- The unfaithfulness of King Dingane who refused to hand over land as earlier promised annoyed the Boers, hence leading to war.
- The Zulu believed that they would easily gain victory after the killing of Piet Retief who was a Boer leader on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1838.
- The return of Dingane's stolen cattle by Piet Retief created an excuse for the Boers to attack Dingane since they wanted to force him pay for the work done.
- The destruction of almost all the Boer camps in Eastern Natal in mid February 1838 and the killing of many Boers encouraged the survivors in Western Natal to fight for their lives.
- The camping of the Boer commandos (fighters) along River Ncome (blood river) on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1838 scared the Zulu, hence forcing them to attack the Boers which led to war.

#### **Effects of the battle of Blood River.**

- The Zulu were defeated by the Boers by 1838.
- Dingane was forced to leave his throne and he was replaced by his brother Mpande.
- Dingane fled or escaped to Swaziland where he was captured and killed by the Swazi people under king Mswati
- It led to the establishment of the new Boer republic of Natal in 1839 in Zululand.
- It marked the beginning of the Zulu loss of independence since the kingdom was weakened and reduced in size.
- It led to the rise of Andries pretorius who was elected as the new president and army commander of Natal republic and he later played a big role in the history of South Africa.
- The whites started interfering in the Zulu politics. For example, they appointed Mpande to become the king and therefore destroyed the hereditary leadership.
- The battle led to the loss of lives of both the Africans and the Boers. About 20,000 people were believed to have died.
- There was depopulation in Zulu land and Natal due to the loss of lives.
- The battle led to the destruction of property like houses and gardens.
- It laid foundation for the Apartheid policy in South Africa since the Boers started discriminating the Africans.
- There was a lot of suffering and misery among the Zulu people.
- The Zulu were displaced from their original homeland since the boers migrated in large numbers.
- It led to decline in agriculture since the Africans spent much of their time fighting, thus leading to famine in Zululand.



- There was decline in trade and commerce since the Africans never had time to engage in serious trade.
- The Zulu royal family was divided, thus leading to conflicts between Dingane and Mpande.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ What were the causes of the battle of Blood River of 1838?
- ✓ Why did Dingane conflict with the Boers in 1838?
- ✓ What led to the Boer-Zulu war of 1838?
- ✓ Explain the effects of this war on the people of South Africa?

### **Reasons for the defeat of the Africans in the Great Trek wars.**

- The Africans were defeated because they had inferior weapons like spears, arrows and stones.
- The Africans had a weak economy or they were poor to finance a major war against the Boers.
- The disunity of the Africans yet the whites co-operated during the wars.
- The outbreak of natural calamities like drought and famine weakened the Africans, hence leading to their defeat.
- The Africans had poor leadership which could not enable them defeat the Boers who had strong leaders.
- The Africans had poor military training which exposed them to defeat.
- Some Africans were betrayed by their fellow Africans who collaborated with the Boers.
- The Africans had poor military tactics compared to the Boers who used the 'laager system'.
- The death of some African leaders like Dingane weakened the African fighters, hence leading to their defeat.
- The Africans especially the Zulu lacked support from their African neighbours since they were unfriendly to them.
- The Africans were strongly attached to their traditional beliefs and magic which betrayed them.
- The outbreak of diseases like sexually transmitted diseases killed many Africans, hence leading to their defeat.
- The influence of the Christian missionaries who divided up the Africans between the believers and non-believers led to their defeat.
- The low levels of African nationalism among the Africans made them unable to put up a strong resistance against the Boers, leading to their defeat.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ Why did the Boers defeat the Ndebele during the battle of Vegkop of 1836?
- ✓ Why did the Boers defeat the zulu in the battle of Blood River of 1838?

### **THE FORMATION OF THE BOER REPUBLICS AFTER THE GREAT TREK**

#### **❖ Natal/Natalia.**

- Natal was established by the Boer trekkers from the cape colony into the interior of South Africa.
- It was founded by the third group of the Boer trekkers which was led by Piet Retief and later Andries Pretorius.
- In 1837, Piet Retief reached Zululand with his group and asked for land from the zulu king Dingane.
- Dingane promised land to Piet Retief on condition that he recovered his stolen cattle from Sekonyela who was the king of the Tlokwa.
- Retief easily recovered the stolen cattle and gave them back to Dingane.
- Dingane became suspicious and thought that Piet Retief and his followers had a plan of joining Sekonyela to fight him.
- He therefore started planning on how to do away with them.
- He organized a beer party where Retief and some of his people were invited.
- While the dance was at the climax, Dingane ordered his warriors to “**kill the wizards**” and therefore Retief and all his followers were murdered.
- The remaining Boer trekkers elected Andries Pretorius who took over leadership after the death of Piet Retief.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> December 1838, the Boers under Pretorius attacked and defeated the zulu at the ‘**battle of blood river**’.
- The Boers forced the Zulu army to give up the territory across River Tugela and in 1839, they set up the republic of Natal.
- The capital of the republic was established at **Pietmaritzberg**.
- Dingane decided to escape to the neighbouring swazi nation where he was later killed by the swazi warriors.
- Mpande who was Dingane’s brother, with the support of the Boers became th new king of the Zulu.
- The Boers later established a new administrative government structure with a parliament which consisted of twenty four (24) members known as the **Volksraad** (people’s council).
- They also established an army council called **Krygraad** with Andries Pretorius as the commandant-General.
- The Volksraad (parliament) served as the court of appeal and it would elect the president whenever it was found necessary.
- The republic was however short lived as the British annexed it to the cape colony in 1843.

#### THE BRITISH ANNEXATION AND OCCUPATION OF NATAL.

- By 1844, the new Boer republic of Natal had been annexed to the cape colony as one of its provinces.
- The struggle between the Boers and the British started in 1842, and by 1843, the Boer authorities had been forced to surrender and Natal therefore fell under the British might.

#### **Reasons for the British annexation of Natal in 1843.**

- The desire by the British to extend their imperialism further into the interior of South Africa.
- The British never wanted the Boers to be independent, hence annexing their republic of Natal in 1843.
- The British continued to regard the Boers as their subjects whenever they were. This influenced them to take over Natal in 1843.
- They wanted to discourage further Boer migrations into the interior.
- The British had received reports that the Boers were enslaving the Africans and therefore they took over Natal to stop the Boers from enslaving the Africans.
- The British wanted to destroy port Natal (Durban) which had started threatening Cape Town i.e. it was likely to outcompete the Cape in terms of trade.
- The British claimed that the Boers in Natal were very weak and therefore needed protection from the hostile Africans.
- The Boers had internal conflicts especially among the leaders which forced the British to intervene and settle the conflicts.
- The British never wanted the Boers to have any sea contact as they would easily connect with their enemies especially France.
- The British had a policy of following up the Boers wherever they went, hence their annexation of Natal.
- The rumors that Natal was rich in mineral resources increased the British determination to annex the republic with hopes of getting minerals there.
- The British wanted to take over the fertile soils of Natal so as to establish plantation farming in Natal.
- The Boers had failed to establish a stable form of administration and therefore the British took advantage of their weakness to annex Natal in 1843.
- The death of Piet Retief gave the British a chance to occupy Natal because there was no courageous Boer leader to unite the Boers after Retief.
- The government of Natal had become bankrupt. It gave out land to the settlers without paying rent and therefore it became economically weak which forced the British to occupy it so as to save it from further economic collapse.
- The too many wars on the Eastern frontier (border) of the Cape Colony between the Boers and the Africans (Kaffir wars) encouraged the British to occupy the area.
- The British hated the existence of rival European settlers on the shores of the Indian Ocean. They wanted to dominate the economic advantages of the Indian Ocean which could only be achieved if Natal was under their control.
- The British never wanted the Boers to be in control of Natal because their sea route to India and the far East trade would be disturbed.
- The Boers were divided. For example, the Volksraad (people's council) was against the supporters of Andries Pretorius which made it easy for the British to take over Natal.
- The British feared that the Boers would collaborate with the powerful African leaders against them. For example, Mosheshe of the Basuto nation.
- The British wanted to prevent the extension of Boer racism into the interior of South Africa.

### **Effects of the British annexation of Natal.**

- The Boer republic of Natal came to an end and therefore the Boers lost their independence.
- Natal became part of the British colony and therefore it was put under the British Cape Governor.
- The annexation made the Boers to leave Natal and settle in other areas beyond River Vaal.
- It led to depopulation of both Africans and the whites as they killed themselves during the wars.
- Both the Africans and the Boers lost their land to the British.
- It laid foundation for the British annexation of other Boer republics like Orange Free state and Transvaal.
- Both the Africans and the Boers lost their property such as cattle to the British.
- The enmity and hatred between the Boers and the British increased as a result of the annexation of Natal.
- It led to the establishment of sugarcane plantations in Natal by the British in order to strengthen their economy.
- The Boer racial discrimination was spread into the interior of South Africa where they eventually went.
- The British were affected economically due to the financial costs involved in the administration of Natal.
- The Boers became divided whereby some decided to stay under British rule while others decided to migrate away.
- It laid foundation for future wars between the Boers and the British like the first Anglo-Boer war of 1880-1881 and the second Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902.
- The migrating Boers displaced the Africans from their fertile land to infertile areas
- The British introduced their language and culture in the area (Natal).

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ Describe the formation of the republic of Natal by 1843.
- ✓ How was the republic of Natal established by 1843?
- ✓ Describe the origins of the republic of Natal.

### **❖ The formation of Orange Freestate**

- Orange free state was the second boer republic to be established and it was formed by the second group of the Boer trekkers led by Hendrick Portgieter, Gerrit Maritz and Sarel Celliers.
- It was established between River Orange and River Vaal.
- It was formed after clashes between the Boers and the Ndebele under Mzilikazi in 1836.
- When the second group of Boer trekkers reached Ndebele kingdom in 1836, the Ndebele King Mzilikazi tried to prevent them from occupying his kingdom.
- The Boers later fought the Ndebele in the battle of Vegkop of 1836 where the Ndebele were defeated.
- They were forced northwards across River Limpopo, thus leaving their homeland to the Boer trekkers.
- The Boers decided to establish a new state of Orange Free state in the Ndebele area.

- They were later joined by the Boer trekkers from Natal after it was annexed by the British in 1843.
- In 1844, the Boers drafted a constitution and elected a legislative council or parliament to govern the state.
- Hendrick Portgieter was elected the first president of Orange Free state and the commander of the armed forces.
- Unfortunately, Orange Free state was annexed by the British in 1848 under the British governor Sir Harry Smith.
- He changed the name of Orange Free state to Orange River Colony (ORC).
- The Boers tried to resist the annexation, but they were finally defeated by the British.
- In 1849, the British commissioner called Warden tried to solve the land conflicts between the Basuto and the Boers, hence drawing the '*Warden line*' to act as the boundary
- Mosheshe the basuto king used this opportunity to attack the Boers in Orange river colony and chased many of them out of his land.
- In 1854, the Bloemfontein convention or treaty was signed which gave back Orange Freestate its independence.
- After regaining their independence, the Boers renamed Orange River colony back to Orange Free state and Hoff Mayer was elected the first president of the newly created Orange Freestate.

#### **Reasons for the British annexation of Orange Freestate.**

- The British regarded the Boers as their subjects (servants) and therefore they wanted to extend their authority over them.
- The long term hatred and suspicion between the British and the Boers forced the British to occupy Orange Freestate.
- The British wanted to “kill” the Boer nationalism and independence by annexing Orange Freestate.
- The rise of the British imperialism and desire to control the whole of South Africa made them to occupy Orange Free state.
- The British wanted to use Orange Free state to extend their influence into the interior of South Africa.
- The earlier occupation (annexation) of Natal in 1843 encouraged the British to occupy Orange Free state so as to regulate the Boer activities.
- The population of the Boers had scattered all over South Africa which encouraged the British to occupy Orange Free state in order to avoid the spread of the Boer racism (segregation) in the interior of South Africa.
- The failure of the Boers to establish a strong and stable government in Orange Free state influenced the British to occupy the area so as to create a strong administration.
- The existence of the land conflicts between the Boers and the Basuto attracted the British to conquer and intervene in order to maintain peace and security in the area.
- The leader of the Basuto nation-Mosheshe had also requested the British to provide him with protection against the Boers, hence forcing the British to occupy the Orange Freestate.
- The British wanted to stop the boer mistreatment of the Africans in Orange Freestate through enslaving them.

- The Boers had been weakened by the constant conflicts with the Africans like the Ndebele and the Basuto. Therefore they could not resist the British occupation of Orange Freestate.
- The disunity among the Boers encouraged the British to occupy Orange Freestate. The Boers had internal conflicts among themselves and with the Africans.
- The British hoped to find minerals in Orange Freestate, hence leading to its annexation in order to exploit them.
- The British were interested in the fertile soils of Orange Freestate in order to extend their farming into the interior, hence leading to its annexation.
- The British were not satisfied with the Great trek of the Boers which forced them to continue following up the Boers wherever they went.

### **Effects of the British annexation of Orange Freestate.**

- The Boers lost their independence to the British after the annexation.
- It increased the hatred and enmity between the British and the Boers because the Boers really opposed the annexation.
- It created a class of rebellious Boers who resisted the British annexation and they decided to fight with the British at the battle of the *Boomplatus* but they were defeated.
- Some of the Boers decided to migrate again under the leadership of Andries Pretorius and formed the Boer state of Transvaal.
- The Boers lost their land to the British who took over the administration of Orange Freestate.
- It increased the Boer nationalism as they realized the need to struggle for their independence.
- It laid foundation for the outbreak of future wars between the Boers and the British. For example, the first Anglo-Boer war of 1880-1881 and the second Anglo-Boer war of 1899-1902.
- The British influence was extended into the interior of South Africa which enabled them to control a larger part of South Africa.
- The British interfered in the political affairs of the Africans in order to solve the conflicts between the Boers and the Africans.
- It led to the increase in the population of the whites in the interior of South Africa.
- The Boers entered into agreement with the British in 1854 which came to be known as the *Bloemfontein convention* or agreement.
- The British decided to relax their policies over the Boers and therefore they granted semi-independence to Orange Freestate.
- It increased the British imperialism and the need to control the whole of South Africa.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ Describe the foundation of the Boer republic of Orange Freestate.
- ✓ Explain the origin of Orange Freestate.
- ✓ How was the Boer republic of Orange Freestate established?
- ✓ How did the British annexation of Orange Freestate affect the people of South Africa?
- ✓ What were the effects of the British annexation of Orange Freestate in 1848?

### **The formation of Transvaal Republic.**

- Transvaal republic was first established near the banks of River Limpopo and later shifted across River Vaal hence the name Transvaal.
- The founders of this republic were militant Boer trekkers who had engaged in power struggles with the British.
- Some of the leaders who formed Transvaal republic included Andries Pretorius, Celliers and Gerrit Maritz.
- The republic was formed after the British annexation of Natal and Orange freestate in 1843 and 1848 respectively.
- It was decided that the boer commandos should migrate and look for a peaceful area to resettle the Boers who had lost independence in both Natal and Orange Freestate .
- Andries Pretorius together with Willem Joubert identified Transvaal republic and called upon other Boer leaders like Sarel Celliers and Maritz to join them.
- They formulated a constitution to govern them and later elected a parliamentary council with judicial powers.
- In November 1851, a british officer in the names of Owen was sent to solve administrative conflicts in the area.
- The Boers were not happy with the idea as they looked at the British with an intention of attempting to take over their Transvaal republic.
- In 1852, they concluded the *Sand River convention* in order to avoid war between the British and the Boers.
- The British abandoned their plans of annexing Transvaal republic and therefore they granted it independence.
- Andries Pretorius became the first elected president of Transvaal republic and he was succeeded by *Thomas Burgers* who was also later succeeded by *Paul Kruger*.
- In 1855, Pretorius persuaded the Boers to establish a government which would be responsible for reviewing the constitution of Transvaal.
- The constitution was finally adopted and Pretorius was given a lot of power as the president and he named the capital city of Transvaal as *Pretoria*.
- The British later on decided to come back and annexed Transvaal in 1877.

### **Revision questions:**

- ✓ Explain the origins of the Boer republic of Transvaal.
- ✓ How was Transvaal republic established?
- ✓ Describe the formation of the Transvaal republic.

### **Problems faced by the Boers in their new republics.**

- Disunity among the Boers caused by divisions and quarrels.
- There was struggle for power among the Boer leaders like Hendrick Portigieter and Andries Pretorius.
- There were weak and inexperienced governments created by the Boers in their new republics.
- They faced financial problems that forced them to borrow money from the British.
- There were boundary conflicts between them and the Africans which always caused wars and constant attacks from the hostile African tribes.
- They sometimes lost their lives during the wars between the Africans and the British.
- They lost property especially through cattle raiding by the African tribes.

- At first they lacked land for settlement.
- They suffered in the face of British imperialism or influence.
- The British later annexed their republics like Natal (1843), Orange Freestate (1848) and Transvaal (1877).
- The British kept on following them which denied them independence.
- The British refused them to contact with other whites like the Germans in Namibia.
- They conflicted with the African communities leading to wars like the battle of Vegkop of 1836 and the Blood River battle of 1838.
- The mineral wealth in the boer republics increased enmity between them and the British.
- There were poor transport and communication networks in the Boer republics.
- The increasing number of Uitlanders in Boer republics especially Transvaal threatened the Boer interests.

**Revision questions:**

- ✓ What problems were faced by the Boer republics in South Africa?
- ✓ What hindered the Boers in their new states of Natal, Orange Freestate and Transvaal?

To be continued after 2 weeks.