



2016 CSS MUN V Conference Background Guide



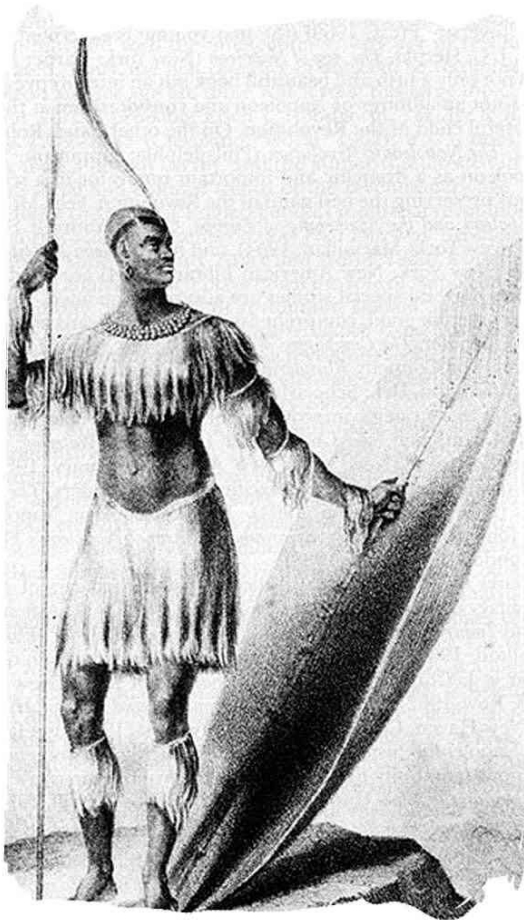
Encounter at UmGungundlovu: The Aftermath of Shaka Zulu's Conquests in South Africa

Written by: Sarah Weidman and Tyler Brown



NOTE TO REPRESENTATIVES: At the beginning of this council, each delegation will give a 30 second to 1 minute speech outlining their position to the council. Please prepare accordingly. This council takes place in the capital of Dingane's kingdom, UmGungundlovu. Exact dates are listed next to the topic title; council members should not have information past these dates. Kings and chieftains of major African tribes will meet in this fictional council to discuss and vote upon collaborative courses of action. The representatives from the British colonies and the Voortrekkers are non-voting participants. The goal of this historical council is to discuss potential policies that will solve problems they are facing: the power void left by Shaka Zulu's death and the imminent arrival of the Europeans.

RULING OF SHAKA ZULU'S EMPIRE (1828)



Shaka Zulu was the leader of the Zulu nation in southern Africa, at the time known as Natal. He was the son of the leader of the original Zulu tribe Sensangakhona. As a boy, he faced constant ridicule from the children of the Langeni tribes, which created an initial hatred towards the tribe. As he was being raised, there was conflict between two major tribes in the region, the Mthethwa and the Ndwandwe (both having split from the Nguni ethnic group). The Mthethwa, under the command of Dingiswayo, overtook the Zulu. Dingiswayo took a liking to Shaka and raised him in the court, teaching him the military tactics of the Mthethwa. When Shaka was older, Dingiswayo was killed by Zwide and Shaka assumed power over the Mthethwa. From his new position of power, he persuaded many of the tribes in the region to join his tribe, effectively creating a nation of tribes under his control. Zwide wanted to end the Mthethwa nation (now identified as Zulu) and thus waged war on them. Seeing that Shaka had a vastly superior military force, Zwide and the Ndwandwe lost the battle and the remaining members of the tribe fled

north. From here they tried to attack again, this time planning a full-scale invasion of Zululand.

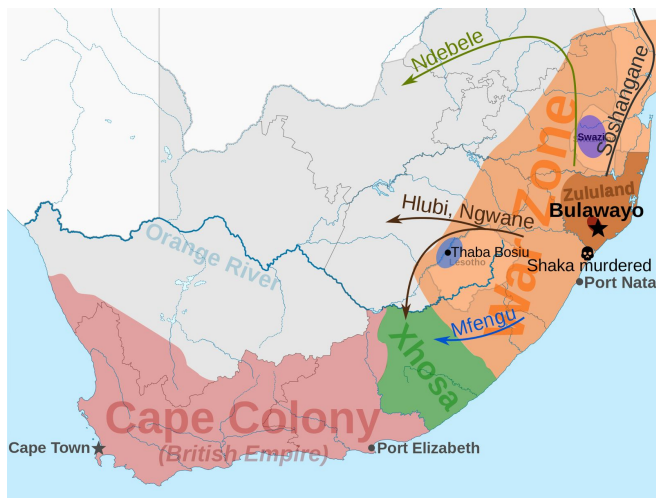


Shaka allowed them to enter the borders, faking a retreat into the heart of his city. Once they were deep in his territory, he ambushed them from all sides and slaughtered their soldiers.

After the Ndwandwe were defeated, Shaka had no competition left in the region. He established his military empire even further and created the capital city of Bulawayo (not to be confused with Bulawayo in Zimbabwe). Because of his effective leadership and the centralization of government, he was able to create a strong economy throughout his empire because of the unity he brought. However, his rule also drastically changed the previous political system of interactions between different African groups. Before Shaka Zulu, most tribes were scattered and independent of one another, a system of disunity and constant conflict. Shaka created a more unified system with larger empires such as the Zulu Empire, mainly controlled with force.

To perpetuate the Zulu economy, Shaka was forced to continue his military expansion in the hope of extracting cattle and land from neighboring tribes. This expansion had enormous consequences on the rest of southern African development because often, the tribes Shaka tried to conquer fled to other parts of Africa, creating their own destruction along the way. This period of violence and displacement in southern Africa is called the *mfecane*.

Shaka's militaristic rule created many other militant tribes that further spread displacement and violence. This caused a turning point in history for tribes from all over southern and eastern Africa. Often, people were killed without cause and simply for enhanced



power. As a result, Shaka's half-brother Dingane and his bodyguard Mbopha assassinated Shaka Zulu in 1828, leaving a power void; who would rule the Zulu empire after Shaka's death?

All tribes were affected by Shaka's rule in different ways, and will have different responses on what to do with the power void left by his death. The goal of this council is to discuss what to do with the Zulu kingdom after the death of Shaka Zulu, brought about by Dingane and Umthlangana. **The goal of this council is to determine how distribute power after Shaka's death.**



THE IMMINENT ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS (1836)

The ownership of the Cape colonies in southern Africa changed hands several times before 1836. After being a predominantly Dutch colony for many years the British took the Cape in 1795. The Dutch regained power in 1803 until the British took control again in 1806. This transfer of power created strong social discord between British colonists and the descendants of Dutch colonists, known as Afrikaners. In general, the Dutch were pre-industrial people while the British colonists were in the early stages of industrialization, bringing that mindset to the Cape colonies with them. The British tried to bridge this gap by attempting to anglicize the Afrikaners, which only created further resentment.

These colonies began mainly as port cities for trade between Europe and Asia, with only a small percent of trade coming to and from Africa itself. The most profitable commodity traded was wine. Some colonists attempted to set up banks and insurance firms, but these companies typically failed. The majority of colonists were Afrikaners but there was a large British colony of 5,000 people in the Eastern Cape, near the Xhosa and some of the southern Nguni people. This settlement was part of Xhosa territory, but in 1812, the colonists drove the African tribes out of



their previous territory and back to the Keiskamma river, and replaced them as settlers in their new land.

These British settlers and Dutch farmers were meant to be a barrier between the Xhosa and European settlements. By law, these groups were supposed to have minimal contact, but they began to trade more and more.

Finally, by 1833, all trade

restrictions were appealed. However, there was conflict between the two groups over farmable land, causing Xhosa raiders to steal cows from the Europeans, inciting the Afrikaners. The Afrikaners also had a history of owning African (Khoisan) slaves, but the British wanted to end this tradition. In 1833, slavery in the Cape colonies was outlawed, making the Afrikaners feel cheated by the British.

Because of these disparities between the Dutch, British, and Afrikaner's desire for land, in 1834 about 6,000 Dutch colonists moved out of the Cape colonies and into the land of African tribes. This group of immigrants was called the Voortrekkers. Their goal in the beginning of their



journey was to negotiate with the tribes to get more land, but later on, diplomacy was replaced by violence.

The first groups encountered by the Voortrekkers were the Ndebele, led by Mzilikazi, and the Zulu, led by Dingane. Zululand was located between the Cape colonies to the west, now expanding east toward them, and Portuguese colonies to the east. The Portuguese were located in Delago Bay, and for many years kept the African slave trade thriving in this area. African tribes who had fled this trade and the militancy of Shaka Zulu left the area depopulated. The Voortrekkers were easily able to move into the area with minimal resistance because of their superior weaponry. Piet Retief led a party near the end of the Voortrekker exodus, hoping to negotiate with Mzilikazi and Dingane for land.

Tribes reacted to the imminent arrival of the Europeans in different ways. Some tribes welcomed European cultures and religions, allying with the Voortrekkers and British to attack their rival tribes. Others refused to negotiate with the Europeans and tried to violently drive them away. **The goal of this council is to issue directives and resolutions about how tribes wish to respond to the incoming threat of the voortrekkers searching for ownership of African land.**



REPRESENTATIVES:

DINGANE: Dingane was the half-brother of Shaka Zulu. He came into power in 1828 after murdering Shaka with another brother, Umthlangana, and Shaka's bodyguard, Mbope.

UMTHLANGANA: Umthlangana was a brother of Shaka, and a half brother of Dingane. He was also involved in the assassination of Shaka.

MPANDE KASENZANGAKHONA: Mpande was the half brother of Dingane and Shaka. Although he seemed to have little interest in Zulu politics in early life, he was seen by Dingane as a potential successor to the throne.



ZIHLANDLO OF THE MKHIZE: Zihlandlo was a contemporary of Shaka who ruled the Embo (Mkhize) people. Shaka knew him as “little brother” and treated him and his people as good friends.

MZILIKAZI OF THE MATABELE: Mzilikazi was, in the beginning, the heir of a small chiefdom that was defeated by Shaka. Mzilikazi then became a Zulu general. After being sent on an expedition by Shaka, he deserted his command, started to roam nomadically, and became known as the founder of the Ndebele kingdom. During this time, he attacked other Highveld tribes such as Tswana, Sotho, Pedi, and Shona people, becoming one of the key reasons for the *mfecane* theory of southern African history. Despite a more nomadic attitude, Mzilikazi was still able to build a rich kingdom. He was later forced to move north into modern-day Zimbabwe because of conflict with the Boers.

SOSHANGANE KAZIKODE OF THE GAZANKULU: Soshangane was the first of Zwide’s generals to leave the Ndwandwe people. With Ndwandwe refugees, he established himself on the Tsonga region in Mozambique, easily overpowering the local smaller groups and beginning to build his own kingdom called “The Gaza”. The economic power of the Gaza nation was based upon the control of trade and tributes from Tsonga groups and Portuguese coastal settlements.

MOSHOESHOE OF THE BASOTHO: MoShoeShoe created an easily defensible kingdom with Sotho and Nguni refugees in Basutoland. By readily accepting refugees, he created a



structured kingdom that was able to repel attacks from Africans and Europeans. He also had diplomatic relationship with European missionaries and traders, who intended to help him against other hostile tribes and Voortrekkers searching for land.

ZWANGENDABA OF THE NGONI: Like Soshangane, Zwangendaba abandoned his post as a Ndwandwe ruler. His military kingdom was then taken over by Soshangane, so he traveled north to Tanzania and took over the Shona, Rozwi, Malawi, and Zambian people. His followers were called the Ngoni.



MATIWANE OF THE NGANWE: The Nganwe were displaced during the *mfecane* by Shaka and then proceeded to become nomadic marauders. Matiwane and the Nganwe were at the mercy of Dingane and the Zulus because they were nomads.

MTHIMKHULU OF THE HLUBI: Mthimkhulu was part of the Zulu group. Shaka had a battalion of Hlubi forces before he died. After the fall of Shaka, Mthimkhulu had a clan named after him. They were conquered by the British in the 1820s and incorporated into the port of Natal.

MJANJI OF THE BABELU: Queen of the BaBelu clan, also known as the Queen of Locusts. After Zwide was defeated by Shaka at Bulawayo, he retreated to gather strength in BaBelu territory, where he then met his death. Mjanji claimed to have given him a potion, and soon afterwards, Zwide died.

KING SOBHUZA OF THE SWAZI: Sobhuza expanded the rule of the Swazi people and settled in the Ezulwini Valley, which would become the political and social center of the Zulu people. Before Shaka's death, he fled to upper Pongda River and used Zulu military tactics to take over Sotho and Nguni groups and create Swaziland.

MAQOMA OF THE XHOSA: The Xhosa were closest to the Cape Colonies and were attacked by the Cape government in 1834. Maqoma, a military commander, then chieftain in 1822, led an army into the Cape Colony and pillaged the area, especially affecting and displacing the freed Khoikhoi slaves.



REVEREND FRANCIS OWEN: He was the founder of a mission station in Zululand. He was the secretary of Dingane, and was British, thus in conflict with the Boers.

PIET RETIEF: Piet Retief was a Voortrekker who wanted to negotiate with Dingane for land. He also allied with Dingane against Mzilikazi. However, after defeating Mzilikazi, he refused to give up the cattle like he promised, so Dingane was suspicious of him.



Works Cited

Currey, James. *African in the 19th Century until the 1880s*. Ed. Leade Aiayi. Vol. VI. California:

UNESCO, n.d. Print. General History of Africa.

Curtin, Philip D., Stephen Feierman, Leonard Thompson, and Jan Vansina. *African History*.

Boston: Little Brown, 1978. Print.

Eldredge, Elizabeth A. "Shaka's Military Expeditions: Survival and Mortality from Shaka's

Impis." *African Studies*. Power of Doubt, n.d. Web. 2015.

"King Shaka Zulu." *SAHO*. South African History Online, 2015. Web. 17 Dec. 2015.

Reader, John. *Africa: A Biography of the Continent*. New York: Vintage, 1997. Print.