There are also some points of criticism. The artistic layout could have been better. The attempt to base the artwork on the original Gededenboek of the company (issued in 1895), is, to a large extent, a failure. More attention should have been given to a functional layout which might have saved considerable costs.

Furthermore, it may have been easier for the reader if the illustrations had been numbered, with suitable references in the text where they are visually relevant. In Chapter 1 there are a number of illustrations of steam locomotives which might have been discussed more comprehensively in a separate section elsewhere in the book.

The policy of supplying additional information in footnotes is impractical and clumsy. A lot of excellent information is lost to the average reader who does not consult footnotes. Blocks of information could have been fitted into the text without disturbing the artistic character. The conventional usage of a footnote implies that it is a device of reference to sources consulted.

Finally, it is a pity that the publisher — as a result of current printing costs and the prevailing demands of the market place — did not deem it fit to publish NZASM 100 in Afrikaans too, or maybe even the Dutch language. Perhaps a fund-raising campaign could be launched by the South African Transport Services to finance a translated version for which there might well exist a demand.

JOHANN W. N. TEMPELHOF University of Venda


Jackie Grobler's aim was to provide a short, balanced account 'for the uninformed reader' of the politics of modern black protest from its beginnings in the Eastern Cape last century to the Soweto uprising. This was a worthwhile project, for much detailed work has been done on particular aspects of that protest. A short general account can, besides educating the uninformed, also show connections and — through periodization and reflective comment — advance understanding of the field as a whole. Grobler does synthesize much of the relevant literature; his bibliography reflects wide reading in primary as well as secondary sources. He furthermore adds useful biographical notes on 28 key black leaders.

A decisive clash? does not, however, make any substantial contribution to an understanding of the history of black protest, despite the 93 footnote references to a remarkable range of original archival material in various collections in the United States, Britain and South Africa. Not only are the complexities of the politics of black protest frequently lost in this sketchy history, but the framework into which the author has chosen to set his book is unfortunate, while in other ways the result is flamed.

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The title — an extremely odd one for a work of history — is taken from the last sentence in the book, in which the question is posed: 'Are the leaders of Black and Afrikaner nationalism currently looking for a solution or will the situation inevitably result in a decisive clash?'? The idea that there might be such a clash goes back at least to the 1870s, when many whites predicted a 'war of the races', which would either lead to the establishment of white domination for all time or, less likely, to the whites being swept into the sea. Grobler not only fails to believe that there will be a 'decisive clash' of 'nationalisms' in the future, he writes of a 'never-ending confrontation' (p. 174) between black and white, suggesting that black protest has in the past been essentially racial and that black and white have, as blocs, been antagonistic to each other through history. Evidence in his own book, let alone elsewhere, challenges such an interpretation.

Black' politics is here almost entirely African politics, with coloureds and Indians getting only occasional mention. Grobler can however not ignore the fact that whites have, both in South Africa and outside, associated themselves with the cause for which blacks were fighting. As is now well known, Africans long struggled for the most modest concessions from their white rulers, and vainly used constitutional and legal forms of protest. Grobler's account shows why, after repeated rebuffs, protest took violent forms, in response to violence by the authorities. But much of his conclusion is highly problematic, such as the assertion (p. 175) that 'Black political protest after 1976 was a fully-fledged nationalist movement.' Despite his own evidence to the contrary, Grobler stresses the 'solidarity' forged among blacks by the late 1970s, and plays down the issues that divided them. For many blacks, of course, the goal of protest remained the establishment of a non-racial, democratic system of government, a goal which even the ruling National Party came round to professing in 1989.

A decisive clash? not only displays a lack of analytical rigour at key points, but also contains many oddities and errors. We are told in the preface that 'Because of security legislation no direct references could be made to banned documents', but various banned items, including the ANC periodical Sesbaha (e.g. p. 142), are cited. What is one to make of Grobler's statement that by the late 1970s 'Every Black individual in South Africa was, as far as possible, being forced to take part in the struggle - in the same way that every single White male was forced to defend the system' (p. 175)?

It is hardly true that overseas organizations and countries 'openly declared their full support for South Africa's Blacks' (ibid.). What such organizations and countries did want to see was a more democratic dispensation. It is misleading to say that Odendaal points out that the South African Native Congress 'had its origin in the ethnical [sic] entity between the Mfengu and other Xhosa-speaking groups in the Eastern Cape' (p. 20); the ethnical factor was one among many. Grobler also fails to note the role of the squatter movements, and especially Mpanza's Sofasonke Party, in pushing the ANC towards more direct action in the 1940s.

There are a number of typographical errors: the title of the second part of the book is correct on p. v, for example, but incorrect on the contents page and again on p. 77. More seriously, Grobler's remarks on the Robben Island prison with its 'healthy, moderate climate' (p. 137), pretend to be objective, but appear apologetic. A decisive clash? may inform some readers, but as a reliable short survey of the history of black politics it is an opportunity missed.

CHRISTOPHER SAUNDERS University of Cape Town


The Battle of Ulundi is a fascinating account told by a trained historian and author of history books and several articles on Zulu history.

The reader is made aware of the determination of the British troops to avenge the Isandlwana disaster, and the killing of the disabled Zulu is blamed on the Natal Native Contingent (p. 40). What is not told is that this contingent was led by white officers. The question is: who ordered the contingent to kill the disabled? During the British invasion it was common knowledge that the British troops did kill the wounded. This fact was accepted by Governor H. McCallum during the 1896 Bhambatha uprising. He stressed that 'at the battle of Isandlwana it was reported both by Europeans and Natives that the greater proportion of the wounded had been killed and that very few if any prisoners were taken.' In Laband's book the reader is given the incorrect impression that the Zulu king's word was final (p. 5). The Zulu kingdom was semi-federal in nature, with all the amakhosi (chiefs) having full jurisdiction in their areas, subject to allegiance to the iziso (king). They were members of the izangwunje or federal parliament and could refuse to co-operate without punishment forthcoming from the king. A good example is the refusal of Prince Hhama and his followers to defend the Zulu kingdom against the invaders.

Laband correctly states that 'By June all the major coastal chiefs were negotiating with Crealock, and many were to submit even before the battle of Ulundi was fought' (p. 4). This shows the degree of independence the amakhosi had from the king. It was thus not all the amakhosho who defended the obhidi homestead, since it was the amakhosho's duty to supply them. It is incorrect to state that the amakhosho ignored the king's orders and 'stayed at home' (p. 47).

What should be stressed is the breakdown in communication between the king and the amakhosho. The Zulu kings, except Shaka, solicited and encouraged dissenting or alternative viewpoints since by custom they must rule by consensus. They were the arbiters of disputes and as such they were supposed to be impartial.

The use of the words isKhanda and amakhosha is wrong. The amakhosha (military householders) were, strictly speaking, referred to as the amadlangala (temporary shelters). Those homesteads where the king had stationed his wives, grandparents or the siphozipho were not the amakhosha in the sense
of the word. These were, inter alia, oNdini, eMlambongwinya and Kwa-Gqikazi to name but a few.

J. LABAND and R. HASWELL (eds). Pieterma-
ritzburg: 1838-1988, a new portrait of an Afri-

The attractive dustcover and numerous pho-
tonographs and illustrations place this publica-
tion in the same class as a number of other centenary publica-
tions, notably those for Stellenbosch and the Paarl Valley.

First of all this is a book commemorating the
150 years of existence of the city of Pietermaritz-
burg. Situated in the Natal Midlands, it began as a Voortrekker village, became the capital of colonial Natal and
is now acknowledged as an 'African city'. This is a distinction also emphasized by the contents of this book, which follow broad subject definitions, but are not strictly chronological.

In total, 73 authors contributed short pieces on a wide variety of subjects. These contributors range from professional historians to citizens remembering about their past experiences in specific areas of interest. The result is more of a 'potted' history which deals with the myriad of influences which have shaped Pietermaritzburg into what it has become today. While illustrating the city's diversity, the book lacks a certain amount of continuity.

The introduction comprehensively discusses existing literature on Pieter-
maritzburg. Chapter One provides information on the physical setting, en-
vironment and location of the city. The second chapter covers the history of the area before the coming of the whites. Chapter Three gives an overview of the development of the city with sections on the Voortrekker dorps, the early decades of white settlement, the colonial town, the apartheid city, Pietermaritzburg today, and the post-apartheid city. In Chapter Four the architectural development of its buildings and the growth of parks and gardens are discussed. Two contrasting sections of the city are dealt with in Chapter Five: the outer city as embodied in the black township of Eden-
dale, the Vulindela district (the old Swartkop Location) and Sobantu Village; and the inner city as encompassed by life in the Loop Street area. The more formal history of Pietermaritzburg as a colonial capital city, and later a pro-
vincial capital, is presented in Chapter Six. Included are sections on the Natal parliament, the city as a legal centre, royal visits and information on Langalibalele's trial and M.K. Gandhi's admission as an advocate. The influence of the military presence on city life is the subject of Chapter Seven, while Chapter Eight outlines Pietermaritzburg's development as the econ-
omic centre of the Natal Midlands. Simply entitled 'Educational capital', Chapter Nine traces the city's growth as a centre for all levels of education, including its various museums. The diversity of the city's religious heritage is covered in Chapter Ten. Hospitals and health care feature in Chapter Eleven; politics and protest in Chapter Twelve; the arts and entertainment in Chapter Thirteen; and sport and recreation in Chapter Fourteen. The result is a conclud-
ing chapter entitled 'Building the future'. The book also has boxed inserts providing interesting snippets of additional information. Although there are no footnotes, a select list of sources gives the works consulted for each chapter.

Although the chapter divisions are according to subject, the sub-divisions within these chapters do not necessarily flow on from one another, nor are they connected in terms of contents. No doubt this is partly due to a desire to cover all facets of the city's history. The tendency has been to record the lesser-known history of the city, which makes the book interesting and highly readable.

Featured are not only the city's white inhabitants, but also those of other race groups. Despite living on the peripheries of the city, they have over the years played an integral part in its history, growth, and development. This book also attempts to deal with the disparities encountered by the citizens in terms of opportunities, facilities and services. No longer will histori-
ans be able to write histories of South African towns concentrating only on the contributions of the whites. Cognisance will have to be taken of the contribution of other groups.

The editors have succeeded admirably in fulfilling their hope of creating a 'lasting tribute' and have realised in having the opportunity to give back to the people of the city 'their past and to interpret the present'. The result is a complete picture, and while being a celebration of the city's past this book also looks to the future with an overwhelming message of optimism.

A. DE V. MINNAAR
Human Sciences Research Council

Dr. P. van Breeda, Pietermaritzburg 1838-1988.


The Drakenstein Valley is not only known for its scenic beauty, good wines and delicious fruit. It was here that the Afrikaans language, the wagon industries and the wagon-Road of southern Africa were established. Furthermore, the valley was also the home of the Huguenots, as well as personalities like the Revs S.J. du Toit and Andrew Murray, and C.P. Hoogenhout. These are only some of the many interesting facts to be found in this beautiful work on the history and development of the Paarl Valley over the past three centuries.

Arie Oberholster, editor, and Pieter van Breeda, both from the HSRSC's Institute for Historical Research, must be congratulated on this excellent work, the publication of which must have been a tremendous task.

Not many historical works of this nature have been published in South Africa. Similar publications include Stellenbosch 300, Pieterburg: die eerste eeu 1886-1986, and Pietermaritzburg 1838-1988. Paarl Valley 1867-1987 is however the first of its kind. The history and development of three (four when Pniel is added) towns in this region are discussed, and in this respect it differs in principle from the other publications mentioned. This fact, and also the involvement of thirteen co-authors, made the task of the editor that much more difficult.

From the source references and the list of sources it is clear that thorough research was done by all who made a contribution. The publication gives a historical background of nearly every aspect of the region, viz. evolution of the landscape; white settlement up to 1700; local government institutions; communication; economics; history of the church and education; cultural development; faces of the community such as interesting personalities, famous visitors, medical services, service organizations, sport and recreation; defence, law and order, and finally political developments since 1795. This thematic approach gives a clear and well-structured picture of the development of over the past three centuries.

Significant, too, is the macro-approach which links the economic, geographic and other aspects of the various towns mentioned. In fact, the history and development of the entire region is discussed, and not compared with one another. In this respect, Chapter Five gives a clear indica-
tion that agriculture played a prominent role right from the beginning. The production of wine, and later fresh fruit, became the most important substantial agricultural activities of the Drakenstein Valley. Obviously, industries, trade and finance developed later as a result of agriculture. No doubt the economy of the region is, still today, based on the well-established agricultural development.

Much effort was made with the presentation and layout of the publication itself. The attractive dustcover shows a photograph of the Paarlberg with Table Mountain in the background. The letter type was a good choice whilst the language reads easily. 'Something has been done right' and the book can be held in well with so many co-authors. The illustrations, maps and photographs have been well chosen and well placed. The reader can enjoy the insightful reading of the past. The statistical figures are used in such a way that they do not disturb the reader but, in fact, help to create a historical perspective. Lastly, the index, the references and bibliography mentioned at the back of the book will help the reader to easily refer to a particular source.

The year 1867 saw the allocation of the first farms along the Berg River to a number of free burghers by Simon van der Stel. The allocation of these farms represents the establishment of the first permanent settlement in this region. This kind of view is given in the preface by the editor himself: "It is clear from historical evidence that Khoi were already visiting this region. The little that can be said about them is given in, for example, Chapter Two, in connection with the first inhabitants. This could have given a better perspective of the region. The index, the references and bibliography mentioned at the back of the book will help the reader to easily refer to a particular source.

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