

reëlings (1835), Andries Stockenström se verdragstelsel (1836-44), die Agte Grensoorlog (1850), die anneksasie van die Transkei-gebied en die konsolidasie van die Ciskei en Transkei in die twintigste eeu. Hoewel die Oosgrens as die bakemat van die Groot Trek-beweging beskou word, word geen besonder aandag egter aan trekroetes gegee nie.

*The eastern Cape frontier zone* is 'n netjiese publikasie, maar tegnies tog in baie opsigte onbevredigend. Die uitgewer het die hele werk dwars in plaas van regop uitgelê, wat onnodig was omdat die meeste kaarte hulle leen vir regopuitleg. Die dwarsuitleg bring eerstens mee dat die teks — waarsonder die kaarte nie werklik benut kan word nie — so "ver" van die gebruiker is dat dit met moeite leesbaar is en, tweedens, dat die regopkaarte "onderstebo" geplaas moes word. Vir 'n boek van hierdie formaat wat na verwagting baie gehanteer sal word, moes die materiaal van die buiteblad stewiger gewees het.

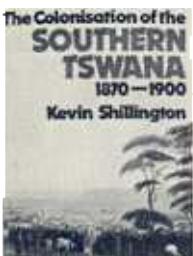
Die gebruiker-navorsers sal ongetwyfeld groot waardering hê vir die omvattende bronnelys en nuttige register. Alles in ag genome is dit 'n werk wat vir lank met groot vrug gebruik sal word en hopelik ander opstellers sal inspireer.

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Raad vir Geesteswetenskaplike Navorsing

K. SHILLINGTON. *The colonisation of the Southern Tswana 1870-1900*. Ravan Press: Braamfontein, 1985. 311 pp. Illus. R18,00 (exclusive). ISBN 0 86975 270 7.

The Ravan Press' "new history series" on the black peoples of South Africa is fast becoming an unique and valuable contribution to local historiography. Shillington's study of the Southern Tswana (that is the Tswana of the present-day Northern Cape) is also a pioneering one in so far as the history of this area



had been seriously neglected by historians in the past. In describing the colonisation process of the Tswana he identifies some nineteenth century roots of the present system of separate development, and aims at providing a framework that could inspire Tswana historians to write their own history.

Shillington deserves credit for drawing attention in the introductory part (a review of the pre-colonial area) to the natural environment of the Northern Cape and how the Tswana overcame these ecological limitations. Writing the history of a period of 30 years during which the Northern Cape to some extent dominated the South African scene obviously necessitated being selective, resulting in an emphasis on certain factors concerning colonisation. Yet the economic basis and related social issues — set in a wider South African context — are never far from the surface.

In the second part, "The colonisation of Griqualand West", it emerges that the role of the Tswana on the early diggings was initially that of pioneering prospectors, while the whites only fulfilled the role of speculating traders. The impact of the discovery of diamonds (and subsequent conflict) on the depressed Tswana economy was far-reaching and eventually culminated in the loss of both the diamond fields and indispensable grazing land. The author argues that without Imperial involvement the Tswana could have maintained their rights. Capitalistic interests, however, tipped the balance against them. Few options were left after resistance in 1878 had failed: they could either emigrate to Bechuanaland or try and come to terms with the colonial system. Within two decades after Griqualand West was incorporated into the Cape Colony (1880), the Tswana had become impoverished to the brink of bankruptcy, the last blow being delivered by the rinderpest of 1896-97 which forced them into the labour market.

In "The colonisation of British Bechuanaland" — the final part of the book — it is striking that the Bechuanaland Wars (1881-84) are set more in the wider context of industrialisation rather than the traditional "Road to the North" slogan. The economic basis for conflict was competition for arable agricultural land and water resources in the case of the Molopo region (Rolong), and grazing land and wood at Taung (Thaping and Korana). This resulted in cattle theft becoming the main economic activity towards the end of the wars. Botlasitse and Motlabane's involvement in the wars are, however, not clear.

Following the well-known history of British annexation — which served capitalistic interests — the system of native reserves are dealt with. Here Shillington attempts to trace the nineteenth century roots of this system which served the demand for labour in the white capitalistic state of the twentieth century. Impoverished by the loss of land, colonial taxes and the dismantling of chiefly authority, the economy of the Tswana of British Bechuanaland was no longer viable even before the rinderpest. In this way self-existence was replaced by wage-labour outside the reserves. Resistance against colonisation gradually grew and rumour became the barometer for intensive rebellion, which finally came in 1896-97. The conquest of the

Langeberg stronghold by government troops signified the end of Tswana autonomy. They lost about a fifth of their land through the government's determination to wipe out all resistance to colonial rule and the consequent confiscation of reserves. Nearly 2 000 ended up in the Western Province as indentured labourers. By the end of the nineteenth century the Tswana had in all respects become part of the colonial system.

Although the book provides an excellent framework of the history of the colonisation of the Tswana, a number of issues remain partly untouched, for example the influence of foreign elements like the Xhosa on Tswana society, and the impact of the cattle-disease "lamsiekte" (bovine botulism) on the rural economy (hitherto totally ignored by historians). Except for their part in the Langeberg Rebellion the Tlharo remain, in this study, in the background — even their part in the Griqualand West War is not looked at. Subsequently their genealogy in one of the appendices is incomplete. Regarding the Langeberg Rebellion, the implications of the Tlharo's murder of a rinderpest constable are not discussed, while it should have been mentioned that the government did in some cases recognize loyalty in the Langeberg Reserve. These people became victims of an early example of forced removals in South Africa. The author acknowledges, however, that some might find his approach and emphasis misplaced.

Fourteen maps and 36 photographs (number 26 wrongly identified) illustrate the book. The impressive bibliography (32 pages) is fairly complete, although the magisterial records of the districts of Kuruman, Taung, Hay and Vryburg, the Donovan Papers, as well as some Afrikaans secondary sources like those of J.J. Oberholster and W.J. de Kock were apparently not used.

Although the study leaves some questions unanswered, it is a valuable contribution to the South African historiography and will remain a key reference work regarding Tswana history for many years to come.

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P.H.R. SNYMAN. *Olifantsboek: oase van die Langberg*. RGN: Pretoria, 1986. 157 pp. Geill. R9,10 (eksklusief). ISBN 0 7969 0281 X.

Hierdie boek is die derde publikasie in die reeks oor plaaslike geskiedenis wat uitgebring word deur die Instituut vir Geskiedenisnavorsing van die RGN. Dit is 'n prysenswaardige poging om 'n leemte in die Suid-Afrikaanse geskiedskrywing te vul. Uit die bronnelys en bronneverwysings blyk dit dat die outeur omvattende navorsing oor die Langberggebied gedoen het, nie net in die tradisionele staatsargiefbewaarplekke nie, maar ook in ander dokumentbewaarplekke op plaaslike en streekvlak. Regerings- en periodieke publikasies is ook geraadpleeg, terwyl mondelinge bronne goed benut is. Die outeur verantwoord sy inligting besonder goed met 'n duidelike en omvattende verwysingsstegniek.

Die werk behandel 'n verskeidenheid aspekte, soos weerspieël in die inhoudsopgawe: geskiedenis voor die koms van die blankes; oopstelling van die gebied; vestiging en dorpsstigting; dorpsadministrasie en -ontwikkeling; ekonomiese ontwikkeling; kommunikasie; wet, orde en verdediging; politiek; godsdiensoontwikkeling; onderwys; gesondheid en welsyn; kulturele bedrywighede, sport en ontspanning.

Die sinvolheid van 'n navorsingsprojek en -publikasie oor 'n enkele dorp en sy onmiddellike omgewing sal egter deur sommige akademici bevestig word. Hoewel daar in die boek gepoog word om die weerklank van nasionale gebeure op Olifantsboek aan te toon (byvoorbeeld die Anglo-Boereoorlog, die 1914-Rebellie, ekonomiese depressies en droogtes), bly dit steeds 'n vraag of dit nie onnatuurlik op mikrovlak geïsoleer word nie. Dit bring die gevaar mee dat daar vervall word in die blote aaneenryging van fyn besonderhede. Kontraste, verskille en gemeenskaplikhede tussen dorpe in die betrokke streek sowel as ekonomiese en geografiese interaksies kon nie in 'n studie soos hierdie sinvol uitgelig word nie.

'n Leemte wat die leser dadelik opmerk, is die afwesigheid van 'n kaart of reeks kaarte om die dorpsontwikkeling voor te stel en om demografiese en ekonomiese tendense uit te beeld. Plek-plek is saamgestelde sinne moeilik leesbaar en die enkelvoud en meervoud van etniese benamings word inkonsekwent gebruik, bv. Thaping en Tlharo (altyd ekv.), Namakwas en Griekwas (altyd mv.), teenoor Xhosa (ekv., p. 10)/Xhosas (mv., p. 11) en Korana (ekv., p. 2)/Koranas (mv., p. 3).

Ten spyte van die besware wat daar moontlik teen die benadering en keuse van publikasie ingebring kan word, is hierdie werk 'n waardevolle bron vir diegene wat meer inligting oor die Langbergstreek verlang.

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