First Boer War – Zulu Committee
Chair: Sarah Dinovelli
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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello delegates!

Welcome to the Zulu Committee for PMUNC’s Joint Crisis Simulation! First, a little bit about me. My name is Sarah Dinovelli and I am a senior in Princeton’s History Department. I specialize in American media history, with my thesis focusing on how news coverage of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots affected political discourse in the 1990s. In college I have competed in several MUN conferences around the world, served as the MUN club’s Vice President and then President, and staffed PMUNC three times (twice as a chair). I always talk to my delegates about college and college MUN, so come prepared with questions!!

As a chair, I would like for delegates to **participate in every aspect of the crisis simulation**, including discussions, crisis notes, and directive writing. Keeping this in mind, here are some preparation tips. First, research outside of the background guide. If it is hard to find information about your character, infer what your official might think based upon historical events and policies. Second, come to committee with crisis arcs for your character. Based on your research, decide what your character would want by the end of committee - money, a private army etc. - and think of reasonable steps to accomplish that goal. Think of two arcs in case one gets derailed. Third, come to committee with ideas for directives and initial talking points. You always want to have something to say. And finally, **please do not pre-write directives or crisis notes!**

Again, I look forward to meeting you all in November. Prepare well, and be ready for serious discussion and lots of fun! If you have questions please contact me at sarahmd@princeton.edu.

All the best,

Sarah Dinovelli ‘18
Introduction

This is a The year is 1878, and the Africa you all once knew is in the process of being turned upside down. In just the past 100 years, the continent has witnessed countless conflicts and wars due to the expansion of the British Empire. A number of groups have been ousted from their homes, borders have been drawn and redrawn, and currently Zululand is one of the last remaining autonomous territories in southern Africa. However, in its current state the Zulu Kingdom will not be able to withstand the British and other powers’ advances for long.

You have all been called to personally advise the Zulu Kingdom’s king on how he should handle the increasingly precarious situation. Each of you has been selected to attend these special counselling sessions because of your unique knowledge and skill sets. The King will entertain limited amounts of advice given by individuals. However, the recommendations given by several members of a council will appear more convincing than those given by one person, and the advice of a unified council will seem the most convincing. And it would be wise to make as compelling of an argument as possible; even though the King greatly trusts all of you to guide him well, he still has the authority to do whatever he thinks is best for his people.
History of the Topic

Once nomadic, Zulu society now centers around homesteads made up of extended families. The men are generally in charge of defense, construction, and animal husbandry. Women handle agriculture and duties within the home, including economics.\(^1\) Each homestead owns property that the group’s patriarch or chief controls with the assistance of several headmen.\(^2\) Over the decades, some clans have grown more prominent than others due to their superior warriors and more plentiful supplies of grains and cattle. These powerful regional leaders are in turn subservient to the Zulu kingdom’s monarch but do, along with other prominent Zulu, advise the king.\(^3\)

The Zulu Under King Shaka

When Shaka became king in 1816, he organized the chieftaincy into an efficient military force that conquered all of present-day Natal by 1823.\(^4\) Shaka established amakhanda, which were enormous city-like settlements, all over the kingdom to assert royal power.\(^5\)

Meanwhile, he reorganized the army into specialized regiments that used standard tactics and deadly assegais weapons.\(^6\)

Instead of grouping soldiers based on home village, Zulus used an age-based regimentation system that grouped similarly-aged soldiers together into units. They lived in their own villages, and rarely returned home, which promoted the centralization of power and loyalty around the king.

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2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
instead of local leaders. Regiments cultivated strong morale and associated honor and status with killing, which created soldiers eager to wage Shaka’s countless military campaigns. However, the soldiers’ desire for war also made it difficult to control them for long periods of peace.

Shaka’s most famous innovation was the chest and horns battle formation. In this formation, the attacking force would stay clumped together until close to the enemy. Then, the experienced warriors acted as the “chest”, engaging the trapped enemy in a frontal assault. Meanwhile the younger warriors would act as the “horns”, flanking and surrounding the opponent. A reserve of experienced warriors, “the loins” provided support for the formation’s chest. The goal of the chest and horns formation and other Zulu techniques was to force the enemy into close combat.

Source: Zulu Culture - Zulu Combat, www.zulu-culture.co.za/combat_zulu_culture.php#.WaBCLJOGPAc

Shaka also introduced new weapons to the Zulu army, like the iXhwa spear. It was much shorter than its predecessors, making it easier to maneuver and better suited for close combat. He also taught warriors how to use their cow hide shields as offensive weapons. A warrior would slam the shield into his enemy before goring them with their spear.

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8 Wallace G. Mills, "The Zulu Kingdom and Shaka," Wallace Mills History Course Page.
10 Ibid.
British Colonization of Southern Africa

In 1651, the Dutch East Company chartered a small settlement on the Cape of Good Hope. The post would resupply Dutch ships heading to the East Indies. Over time, the Dutch expanded into surrounding land taken from tribes and the outpost began to resemble a town. But the Company did not move to establish a permanent settlement on the Cape until the 1670s, when the British and French schemed to infiltrate trade in the Indian Ocean.¹¹

After the French occupation of the Netherlands in 1795, the British occupied the Dutch Cape Colony. After transferring control several times, the British finally took full control of the colony in 1814 at the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. British settlers founded Port Elizabeth in 1820, and British immigration continued from there on out. By 1853, the Cape Colony became a crown colony, giving it its own government. The parliament was elected on the basis of “Cape Qualified Franchise,” which was multi-racial and only based on a minimum level of property ownership. However, executive power still rested in the British appointed Governor.¹²

Over the years, the British annexed a number of Boer and African states. Some states, like Basutoland and Thembuland, requested to be annexed in order to receive British protection.¹³ Others, like the Boer state of Natal, became British threats and were annexed in order to manage them better.¹⁴ As Britain’s sphere of influence grew in Southern Africa, it would aspire to unite all of its territories under one confederation.

Shaka Assassination, Boer Infiltration of Zululand

Shaka was assassinated and succeeded by one of his half-brothers, Dingane, in 1828.\(^{15}\) During Dingane’s reign, a white group of colonists known as the Boers became a notable threat.

A lack of economic opportunities and disapproval of British policies had led many colonists to leave the Cape Colony. The mixed-race emigrants, known as Griqua, went north to areas on the western end of the habitable lengths of the Orange River. Meanwhile about 13,000 Dutch-speaking Boers crossed the Orange River. From there, some trekkers established independent Boer Republics such as the Transvaal (also known as the South African Republic) and the Orange Free State.\(^{16}\) Other Boers infiltrated the Zulu Empire by allying with Dingane’s brother, Mpande, who overthrew Dingane and became king in 1840.\(^{17}\) In return for their loyalty, Mpande turned a blind eye towards Boers who claimed southern Zulu land. By 1843, Boers controlled massive amounts of land in the South, which they were compelled to return to the Zulu when the British annexed their home state of Natal.\(^{18}\)

\(^{15}\) Ibid.
\(^{18}\) Ibid.
The European Threat - Annexation

Mpande’s son, Cetshwayo, wrested power from his father in the 1860s and, as you know, reigns as your king today. Under Cetshwayo tensions have increased between the Kingdom and its European neighbors.

In the past few years, the British have claimed a lot of territory surrounding Zululand. Last year, in 1877, the British added the Boer republic of Transvaal to its collection of annexes. Then, the same year the British completed the conquest of the Xhosa people at the behest of British “High Commissioner of South Africa”, Bartle Frere. \(^{19}\) Now, all of the territory surrounding Zululand, with the exception of the Orange Free State, are under some form of British control.

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Our intelligence indicates that the man named Henry Howard Molyneux Herbert, the 4th Earl of Carnarvon, is largely responsible for the change in British foreign policy. A decade ago, he successfully federalized the remaining British territories in North America. Now, he seems to want to repeat his success with Southern Africa.\(^{20}\)

Many might argue that it would be beneficial for Zululand to become a British territory. By joining the British, the kingdom would have protection from the Boers. Also, closer relations with the British would discourage other would-be European invaders, like the Germans and the French. If we do not cultivate favorable relations with someone, it may not be long until we are fending off multiple invaders at once. Britain's colony is also quite rich. Most notably, its territories contain the recently discovered Kimberley Diamond Fields.\(^{21}\) The mining and exportation of the diamonds guarantees a steady flow of income into that territory that, in theory, could be used to benefit our people.

But integrating with the colony and its annexes could endanger our way of life. In general, the British have been skeptical or intolerant of the cultures they have encountered in their other colonies and territories. And while British policies could suppress Zulu practices, the immigrants that would inevitably settle in a conquered Zululand would attempt to convert our people to their way of life. Meanwhile, accepting British rule would also mean changing our King's currently stated policy. Last year, another group of councilors met with the Briton Theophilus Shepstone on behalf of our King. There, they refused to discuss the possibility of surrendering any territory.\(^{22}\)

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We shall have to continue monitoring the Cape Colony’s activities to determine our future course of action.

Continued Territory Disputes with the Boers

Tensions between our kingdom and the Boers never eased, and we have battled the Boers several times when they attempted to claim our lands. The latest fighting broke out in 1875-76, when a fresh wave of Boers crossed into Zululand’s borders. In the south, they claimed land south of the Phongola River. In the north, they attempted to impose taxes on our homesteads. Of course we repelled them, but it took British intervention (albeit for a reason unrelated to the border dispute) for the Boers to finally desist.\(^\text{23}\) We cannot rely on the British to keep the Boers at bay indefinitely.

Already, there are rumors circulating that the Boers further aggravated our meeting with the British in 1877 in order to sour Anglo-Zulu relations. They clearly are trying to turn their two rivals, the British and the Zulu, against one another. If we allow ourselves to become too distracted by the British, we may be opening ourselves up to an attack by the Boers.

We could also use our common rival to convince the Boers to work more closely with us against the British. Having friendlier relations with Boers in the bordering territories could be especially helpful. However, at some point we would still need to address the Boers’ past behavior and guarantee the future security of our lands.

The Zulu Army

King Cetshwayo has prepared the Zulu army to defend against any Boer or British threats. There is a sizable army assembled around the capital of Ulundi. Meanwhile, Cetshwayo has called upon the leading chiefs of Zululand’s four major regions to also prepare their barracks. Like during Shaka’s time, the units are organized by age, and most warriors are armed with clubs and fighting sticks in addition to the weapons invented by Shaka. We also acquired a small but growing supply of firearms from European traders, which we are stocking with gunpowder produced in the southeast. By now, we have integrated these new weapons into our army units, which we understand to have given our rivals pause (for now). However, our warriors are still skeptical of their use, and are still not properly trained to use them. At this time, it is predicted that the armies could hold their own against a European invasion, but would be hard pressed to completely repel or to launch a counterattack against the enemy.

24 Zulu Culture - Zulu Combat, www.zulu-culture.co.za/combat_zulu_culture.php#.WaBCLJOGPAc
Regional Blocs

The Zulu clans closest to Zululand’s shared-borders and supporters of other threatened tribes are anxious for Zululand to choose a course of action. If the kingdom waits too long, they fear that they will be the first ones to suffer the consequences. Yet, those Zulu who are far-removed from the action are less supportive of immediate action. Some of them see a preemptive strike as a hasty decision based on assumptions and incomplete information. Others might also see a minor border invasion as an opportunity to weaken rival homesteads.

A large part of what will determine Zululand’s course of action will be its stance on the importance of its culture and way of life. King Cetshwayo staunchly believes that Zululand should remain the same as it has always been, and so is extremely wary of both the British and the Boers. Allowing either party an increased influence over the nation could lead to the westernization. Even with the current limited exposure to Europeans, a number of prominent Zulu have already adopted western dress and customs. However, the King’s critics and some political advisors are concerned that the possible loss of life would be too great. To them, it might be more prudent to negotiate some kind of compromise with the British, even if it means some changes within Zululand.

Meanwhile, other Zulu see economic opportunity in friendlier relations with Europe and the adoption of its culture. Going forward, the Zulu will need to decide how it wishes to interact with other cultures.
Keywords

Bartle Frere
Basutoland
Cetshwayo
Chest and Horns Battle Formation
Federalization
Gordon Sprigg
Johannes Henricus Brand
Kimberley Diamond Fields
Natal
The Free Orange State
Thembuland
Theophilus Shepstone
Transvaal
Westernization
Xhosa
Questions

Are there any conditions under which the council should recommend that the Zulu give up land to Britain or that the Zulu annex themselves to the Cape Colony? Why or why not?

How important is it to preserve one’s culture?

Should the Zulu attempt to modernize and adopt more aspects of European culture? Why or why not?

Are there potential allies that the Zulu could contact for support?

How will the different regions of Zululand coordinate their efforts during nation-wide operations?

How is our proposed solution affecting and/or affected by the other JCC committees?

What do you want your character to accomplish by the end of the simulation?

Given your character’s position, what are some reasonable “portfolio powers” they might have? (ie. What actions do they have the authority or skills to take on their own, without committee approval? A banker, for instance, could move public funds into private accounts and to sabotage other delegates’ finances.)

Who are some potential allies you as a delegate may have in the different committees of the JCC?
Positions

- Ntshingwayo Khoza - Commander of the Capital’s Army Marthinus
- Wessel Pretorius- former president of the Orange Free State and former president of the SAR
- Dabulamanzi kaMpane - Royal military adviser and bodyguard.
- Johannes Henricus Brand- State President of the Orange Free State
- Zibebhu kaMaphitha - Dominant Chief of the South Eastern Clans
- Paul Kruger- former Commandant-General of the SAR
- Hamu kaNzibe - Dominant Chief of the North West Clans. Piet Joubert- former Attorney-General of the SAR
- Somkhele kaMalanda - Dominant Chief of the North East Clans
- Thomas François Burgers- former President of the SAR
- Godide Kandlela - Dominant Chief of the South West Clans
- Francis William Reitz- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Orange Free State
- Somopho KaZhikala - Head of the Royal Armory
- Jan Hendrik Hofmeyr- editor of Die Zuid-Afrikaan and President of the South African Farmers’ Protection Association in the Cape Colony
- Mehlokuza kaSihayo - Commander of Zulu Espionage
- Nicolaas Smit- Lieutenant General of the Eastern Transvaal Commando
- Mnyamana Buthelezi - Royal Political Adviser
- Pieter Arnoldus Cronjé- Lieutenant General of the Western Transvaal Commando
- John Dunn, Foreign Minister Reverend Stephanus
• Jacobus du Toit- editor of Die Afrikaanse Patriot and President of the Society of True Afrikaaners in the Cape Colony

• Sihayo kaXongo Ngobese - Trader of European Goods Ambassador to the Swazi,

• Sekukuni, Paramount Chief of the Pedi Ambassador to the Portuguese (at Delgoa Bay & Lourenço Marques), Gaza Empire under Mzila, and Matabeleland under Lobengula,

• Sarili kaHintsa, exiled Paramount Chief of the Xhosa Gerrit

• Jacobus van Niekerk- leader of Boer settlers in Bechuanaland

• Mbilini waMswati, exiled Prince of the Swazi, State Secretary of the SAR

• Dinuzulu keCetshwayo - Prince Eduard Johan

• Pieter Jorissen - former Attorney-General of the SAR,