

AQ 2

~~AQ 4: Book National Forum~~

Before we go into the research area itself I would like to make a few comments..

(a) It was difficult to get much information from the churches, themselves, because

- 1) Perhaps they don't have all the information themselves
- 2) They don't want to give the information.
- 3) They did not get authority from church leaders themselves to reveal this information.

(b) Because of the time factor I was not able to make use of primary sources, but secondary sources.

### INTRODUCTION:

The history of land in Southern Africa is equal to a history of dispossession.

Something both African and Non Africans understood for the last 3 centuries is "To be without land is not to be." Talking about land history, we talk about daylight robbery whether intentionally or unintentionally.

One factor we need to take particular note of this issue was that the drama which took place within Southern Africa, took place between

(a) Pre-Capitalist Society: In this I am referring to the indigenous people of African and

(b) Capitalist Society: Here I am referring to the foreigners the European people who came to settle in Africa.

Take note that these European communities were not invited to Africa by the Africans. Therefore it can be true to say that most of the relationship between African and European, was an unnatural forced relationship. They were therefore on the continent illegally, therefore even to this present day they are trying to legalise their presence.

We need to take note that most of the people who came to South Africa, were not of the cream of European society. We can safely say that some of them was extremely undesirable.

(a) Sailors were not the most refined people.

(b) People who were not able to make it in European society.

(c) Fortune Hunters.

(d) And also uneducated and uncultured people.

"Die Europeers wat na 'Dese Afrikaanse Uithoek' gekom het, hier gebly het of net hier aangedoen het, slegs by uitsondering geletterd en opgevoed was" (Dr Joubert Dian Tafelberg Publishers' 1974: Cape Town and Johannesburg: page 15)

The Super-herdents  
in Township  
- enforce the law  
- precedents ->

These people therefore did not respect the social structures society, social hierachy of the African Society which they were to invade.

e) These people had more sophisticated modern and effective weapons even though the indigenous people had more strength in terms of numbers.

f) The Native Africans tried to treat them as neighbours as they treated their other neighbours. eg. The Xhosa if they did not want to be hostile with another tribe, allowed their women from the royal house to marry from the royal house of ther other tribe. And if they conquered other lesser or smaller tribes, those tribes became Xhosa, with all the right's a Xhosa person had within the tribe. This was not how whites viewed or wanted to view black society.

They did not want to become part of the society but wanted to rule and dominate the people of this land.

We may be quite right in say those Europeans whe came here were  
(a) Power hungry  
(b) Land hungry and  
(c) Had a hunger to live as the ruling classes of Europe at that time.

PRESENT LAND SITUATION:

We know that at present black people are treated and believed to be foreighners in the land of their birth.

not own land  
but houses

Black people are not allowed to own land in any part of "white" South Africa. Even in the black townships creates by the Apartheid regime black people are not allowed to own land. The closest they can come to owning land is the 99 year lease system- this particular syssem is the governments coming to terms that whatever they do black people are here to stay in South Africa even in the "socalled white" South Africa.

The only place where black people may be able to buy land is in the Home lands.. In some 'Independent States', there is the freemarket system on land. The land market is therefore open to all.(including white people.) It is then quite logical to conclude that in the final analysis black people will own even less then the 13% of South Africa which was set aside for her by 'white' South Africa.

PRE-1913 NATIVES LAND ACT:

The questions we need to ask now is, "how did we get to where we are at this point in time?" 'how is it that 'white governments' had the authority to inaugurate such laws as the 1913 and 1936 land acts ?'What is the process that led up to these events ?"

Below we will be looking at some of events that led up to 1913.

- (a) THE FREE STATE.
- (b) ZULU LAND -NATAL.
- (c) XHOSALAND.

You will find that all the information that will follow will create more and more questions in your mind eg. How did the Colonialists actually taken the land from the indegeounes people, before Natal was Natal.

#### THE FREE STATE -PRE- .1913

This will be a general outline of the pre-1913 events. During 1833 the Baralong people (Stwana group) arrived in Thaba'Nchu. (Black Mountain). They were led by treir chief, Moroka. At his arrival he was accompanied by some missionaries. At their arrival in Thaba'Nchu-there was already people living in the area,the Basuthu people,because the Basuthu under the leadership of Mosheshe were small in number,they tye were easily defeated and driven to the land beyond the mountain,present day Lesotho.

Chief Moroka had two sons,Samual and Sipinary. After the death of Chief Moroka,friction grew between the two sons, because they both claimed that the land belonged to them,respectively Sipinary was defeated and killed by his brother. Sameul did not like the Boers,he was chased away by the Boers, (Iwas not able to from my informants how this happened.)He,Samual fled to Lesotho,where he lived as a refugee.

The Boers took Sipinary's son and installed him as Chief. It is believed by the Stwana people that this was the beginnings of all the wrong. The new chief was advised by the missionaries to devide his land into farms.This the chief did promptly and gave farms to whoever he wished to. Most of the farms he gave to his people but he also gave some farms to the missionaries and some to a few Boers.(Please note that the farms which was given to the missionaries was given for mission purposes only.

After this event the banks in the Freestate brought it to the knowledge of the farmers that they will be able to borrow money from the banks,but this could only be done if the farmers bonded their farms.(The banks were in the hands of whites) This system was brought to a people who was not sofisticated from the Western perspective. Many Native farmers flocked to the banks to take out loans and in the process bonding their land

Dr. Moroka one of the Grandsons of Chief Moroka said

" The Africans did not understand this complex loan system, they thought the fact of their owning land allowed them to get money from the bank."

It is quite significant to note that at the: same time the Boers opened bottle stores in Thaba'Nchu-" The farmers sold their cattle to buy the white man 's wine."

Later it became impossible for the farmers to pay their monthly instalment to the banks(instalment on the loans). Being unable to pay off their loans,they had to sell their farms for next to

nothing to be able to pay the banks.  
We can see then that the farms were actually 'bought' by the Boers.

One other way that way land was taken from the black people in the Freestate was the changing of the borders of Thaba'Nchu (Thaba'Nchu becoming smaller and the Freestate bigger.) This was happening until quite recently, 1974 as a matter of fact.

Mrs Blanche Tsimatsima, owned a farm of more than 2000 morgen up till 1974. This farm was in her family for a few generations. It belonged to the family since the land was divided by chief Moroka. She did not want to sell the land, proof of this can be seen as she was still in the process to build herself a bigger and more comfortable farmhouse. The government wanted to buy the farm at R48 per morgen, but she refused to sell it at such a low price. She later sold it to a neighbouring farmer for double the amount the government offered.

From the information given by her it seemed obvious that she had no say in the matter about how this deal was going to be clinched.

It may be worthwhile to take note that this group of people have never been concoured by any army.

99 yrs. land is it owing of land or houses?

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