

# The Great Trek

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the black populations in the interior following the emergence of a new zulu kingdom as a major military force in the early 19th century offers an equally powerful symbol of the making of a nation with their parallel visions of populations on the move to establish new states these two stories became part of divided south africa s separate mythologies treated as unconnected events taking place in separate universes for the first time in this groundbreaking book accounts of both migrations are brought together and examined in uniting these separate visions of african and afrikaaner history norman etherington provides a fascinating picture of a major turning point in south african history and points the way for future work on the period

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it is impossible to separate the great trek from events which took place as far back as the portuguese explorers because those events shaped the backdrop to the causes of the great trek most writers have specialized in the trek itself whereas binckes has adopted a broader approach that studies the impact of the earlier white incursions and migrations on southern africa to create a better understanding of the trek and its causes

essay from the year 2014 in the subject history africa grade 2 1 university of central lancashire course modern world history language english abstract the great trek of the dutch descended afrikaner population which began in 1838 has been described by historians such as j du plessis as being one of the strangest and most moving spectacles in history with well to do farmers packing their families and household goods into an unwieldy ox wagon driving their flocks and herds before them and

trekking away to the unknown narratives of this period of history as depicted by afrikaner historians tend to portray the voortrekkers as united protagonists placed in a just and misfortunate situation an exemplary figure of this form of historiography was gustav schoeman preller and his works provided recognition of afrikaner historical importance he continued on and made the plea of let us be serious about accepting a written afrikaans his works particularly the 1920 book piet retief depicted the voortrekker leader retief and the voortrekkers as heroes and raised the great trek as a definitive moment in nineteenth century nationalism this draws upon the theory that the great trek was used as a means to preserve afrikaner culture and was set upon as a form of cultural nationalism this essay will discuss the extent to which this was the cause for the great trek along with raising other reasons for why the trek began

consists of five lectures delivered to the literary society of pietermartzburg in 1852 5

an holistic exploration of of south africa s growing white exodus this text includes an examination of the historical origins of migration to and from south africa

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