

HISTORY : GRADE 10

THE RISE OF THE ZULU NATION UNDER SHAKA

1. The Zulu were part of the Mthethwa Kingdom but under Shaka the Zulu state grew into a powerful state between the Umfolozi and Thukela rivers
 - Shaka was a fearless soldier who transformed the amabutho into a well disciplined and motivated army
 - He also established military alliances with his neighbouring chiefdoms
 - Defeated the Ndwandwe and extended his kingdom (Phonglo- Thugela region)
2. Shaka and the Military
 - Shaka was in command of a large army who used new tactics in war . Often referred to as the “Black Napoleon of Africa”
 - Zulu soldiers used a short-handed , broad –bladed spear to engage in close combat
 - Body – lengh
 - Gth cowhide shields protected the Zulu soldiers from spears thrown at them
 - Shaka made soldiers run barefoot over thorny ground to toughen their feet
 - Soldiers were fit and could run long distances
 - Travelled lightly
 - Attack was the best form of defence
 - The chest and horns battle formation ... Veterans head on attack with young soldiers attacked and surrounded the enemy from the sides
 - Shaka is seen as having no redeeming qualities” In war he was an insatiable and exterminating savage, and in peace an unrelenting and ferocious despot, who kept his subjects in awe by his monstrous executions..
 - Death of his mother saw Skaka : declare one rear mourning/ mothers coukldnot breast feed babies/ starvation and hardships on his people
2. Reorganisation of Kingdom
 - Shaka was an effective ruler who used his diplomatic skills to encourage groups to join him voluntarily. This was often done by military alliances.
 - The IZIGODLA or kings establishments of women were introduced
 - Women who had been presented to Shaka as tribute lived in the Izigodla and were married to wealthy or powerful men
 - A large part of the kingdom consisted of conquered people
 - All young men had to join the amabutho and became soldiers in the Zulu army
 - Soldiers could only marry if they proved themselves in battle
 - Umkhosi Wokweshwana.. ther first fruit ceremony united the nation
3. Shaka was powerful but had many plots against him :
 - Killed over 7000 after death of mother
 - Became more and more autocratic
 - Gradually lost control of his army
 - Finally k killed and replaced by Diannwane