

GLOSSARY

Agterryers: an Afrikaans term which means men who rode 'agter' (behind or at the back of) the soldiers. These were black and coloured people who served on the Boer side during the Second Anglo-Boer (South African) War, 1899-1902.

Amabutho: male age based regiments in the Zulu army. These regiments were used for labour as well as warfare; in some instances there were also female age regiments – for example during the reign of the Zulu king, Cetshwayo

Apartheid - which means literally 'apartness', was the term first coined by the Bureau of Race Relations in 1929 to replace the previous term, separate development. Both terms were used to explain a policy of segregation, discrimination and separate development of the races in South Africa. The policy of *apartheid* was more rigid than its predecessor. It was implemented and extended by the white National Party government after its election to power in 1948. The policy was adapted and changed over the next four decades, and the last vestiges of it were only removed in the 1990s.

Afrikaans: This is the language spoken by a large number of white and coloured (mixed race) South Africans. It evolved from the Dutch spoken by the first white settlers at the Cape with the addition of some Portuguese, Malay and Khoikhoi words.

Examples of Portuguese words in the Afrikaans language include *aia* (a servant woman), *kraal* (an African village of huts or an enclosure for cattle), *bredie* (a meat stew with tomatoes) and *mielie* (corn). Malay words in the Afrikaans language are, for example *piesang* (banana) *blatjang* (chutney, a kind of curried or pickled preserve), *baadjie* (jacket) and *baaie* (many).

Khoikhoi (or Hottentot) words are apparent particularly in the names of plants, animals and rivers – for example *dagga* (a weed used in drugs), *koedoe* (a species of buck), *gogga* (insect) and names of rivers ending in *ka* (which means river) or *kamma* (meaning water) – for example the Gamka, Tarka, Keiskamma and Sitsikamma rivers. Words like *abba* (pick up, especially when referred to picking up a small child) and *eina* (to express pain) are also Khoikhoi words.

Afrikaners: white people (descendants of the original Dutch settlers) whose home language is Afrikaans.

Bantu - the term used by linguists to identify a language group which includes hundreds of related languages spoken throughout Africa.

Bonhomie: good-natured sociability

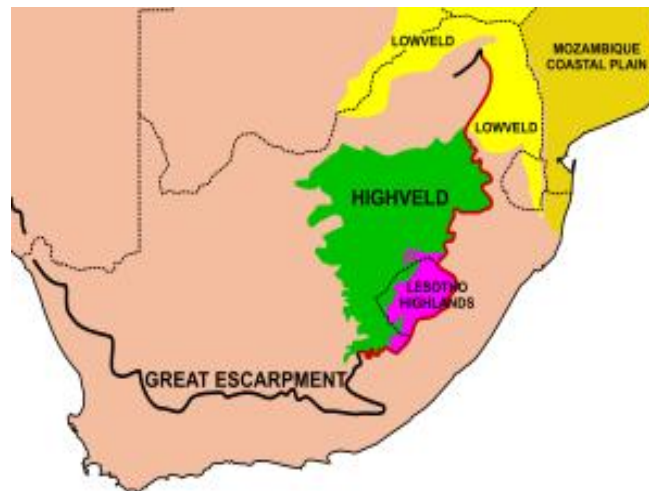
Boers: The word, boer, means farmer in Afrikaans. Most of the original Dutch settlers were farmers. The terms Boers, trekkers and Afrikaners are used interchangeably in the 19th Century

Braai: A typically South African word meaning to cook meat outside over a fire. In other countries it is called a barbecue.

Eish: A word which originally came from the Xhosa language but is also heard in Afrikaans and English. It is used to express exasperation or disbelief – for example ‘So, there's been ANOTHER power outage, Eish.’

Freeburgher: This term applied to early Dutch settlers at the Cape who were freed from their duties with the Dutch East India Company and allowed to become farmers or do trades.

Highveld: This is area which has an altitude above approximately 1500 m, but below 2100 m, and it is where some of the country's most important commercial farming projects take place. The highveld includes almost all of Gauteng and the Free State and portions of surrounding areas. See also **veld** and **Louveld** and the map below.



Inboekseling: This means ‘booked in’ and was a term used by Boer farmers in the Boer republics between 1850-1870 for African children who were indentured to them for a certain period. These children did labour on the farms. They were not paid anything but given food and clothes. They were meant to be released at a certain age but this did not always happen.

Inkosi: a Zulu word meaning person in high position, a chief or king

Laager: The way the Voortrekkers arranged their wagons in an oval shape. Branches of trees and other reinforcements would be put between them. Animals would be put in the middle. It was done for protection when they trekked (moved) into the interior. Still today one hears about a ‘laager’ mentality when people who are criticised withdraw into a protective mode

Landdrost: the chief administrator and magistrate of a district

Lobola: the money or goods (sometimes cattle) also known as ‘bride wealth’ or ‘bride price’, paid by a man to the family of the girl he wishes to marry; this is still a custom among black people, especially rural black people.

Lowveld: This is land below about 500 m (1,640 ft) altitude. It includes parts of Mpumalanga and the Limpopo Province. It is known for the abundance of wild life that roam there. The Kruger National Park is located in the eastern lowveld areas of Mpumalanga and Limpopo Province and along almost the entire border of Mozambique.

The lowveld used to be known as "fever country" because [malaria](#), carried by mosquitoes, was prevalent there, and also the tsetse fly which caused sleeping sickness to humans and *nagana* to animals. Early travellers and traders coming into the country from Lourenco Marques (Maputo) travelled through the lowveld on their way to the gold fields in Pilgrim's Rest, Barberton and the Witwatersrand and were struck down by these diseases.

Mfecane (a Zulu word) or the **Difaqane** (a Sotho word). These are words which mean, in English, hammering or crushing, and refer to a time of warfare, migration, disruption, consolidation and change in the 1820s and 1830s. The wars started in KwaZulu/Natal and spread southwards and northwards into the interior. They caused the destruction of many smaller African communities and changed the demographic map of southern Africa, but some powerful black kingdoms emerged in the process, notably the Zulu, Sotho and Ndebele.

Nguni: During the 20th century, the majority of black people came to be classified under one of two broad generic labels, Nguni or Sotho. Nguni is a broad generic term used to describe black people of differing tribes but who share some common linguistic (language) and cultural links.

The Nguni have been further classified under two broad headings: the northern Nguni, basically the Mthetwa, Ndwandwe, Zulu, Ngwane, Qwabe, Thembu, Swazi and the Xhosa – and a southern group, including the Xhosa, Thembu, Mfengu and Mpondo.

Historically, the Nguni people occupied the land between the interior plateau and the Indian Ocean, stretching from the present-day Eastern Cape to Swaziland. They were cattle-keeping people.



Sangoma: A **sangoma** is a traditional healer in some black cultures. Sangomas are usually women but there are some men, as well. Their practice of healing is based on belief in ancestral spirits whom they call on to help them heal the sick, sort out social problems and protect the living. The sacrifice of an animal is often part of the process. The spilling of the animal's blood is meant to seal the bond between the ancestors and the sangoma.

Five sangomas in KwaZulu-Natal, picture from Wikipedia

Segregation: A term borrowed from the American south and which referred to a policy of separation of the races

Sotho: The term, Sotho, is another broad generic term. It refers to a large group of people who have linguistic and cultural similarities. Historically they occupied the land in the interior of South Africa.

For convenience, the Sotho have also been divided into three main groups: the western Sotho (or Sotho-Tswana) people, the northern Sotho, who comprise the Pedi and Lobedu, and the southern Sotho who occupy present-day Lesotho and nearby areas. The historian, Paul Maylam makes the point that Nguni and Sotho are labels of recent origin. Their wide-ranging use is due to white intervention and white history writers.

Toyi-toying: this is a dance form which is thought to have originated in Zimbabwe but has become familiar in South Africa. It is usually associated with protest and takes place in the streets. The men and women move forward, lifting their legs and stamping down, while chanting songs, either familiar or improvised.

In the 1980s, it was a psychological means of achieving solidarity and it is still used during strikes, protests against poor service delivery and other grievances.

Tsetse flies: These are flies found in much of central Africa, between the Sahara and Kalahari deserts. They live by feeding on the blood of animals and cause sleeping sickness in humans; people with sleeping sickness develop a fever and swollen lymph glands which can lead to brain damage and even death.

Ubuntu: Ubuntu is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It also means 'I am what I am because of who we all are'. *Ubuntu* is an ancient African word meaning 'humanity to others'. It also means 'I am what I am because of who we all are'. A person with ubuntu cares about others.

Veld: also spelled **veldt**, is flat open land covered with grass or scrub. There are few trees in typical veld land because of the numbers of animals that graze there. The term, veld can be loosely compared to the Australian terms "[outback](#)" or "[bush](#)", to the "[prairie](#)" of North America.

See, also, **highveld** and **lowveld** above

Uitlanders: people from another land

Verkrampes (reactionaries): The right wing of the Afrikaner National Party in the 1960s; their policies were rigid and they wanted strict apartheid to continue

Verligtes (enlightened): the less radical group within the Afrikaner National Party; like the Verkramptes they also subscribed to Afrikaner and general white domination but were beginning to identify more with the multi-racial nature of South Africa and to resist hurtful aspects of apartheid.

VOC: These were the initials of the Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie or Dutch East India Company

Volksraad: The Parliament of the Transvaal Republic between 1852 and 1910, when the republics, colonies and chiefdoms all became part of the Union of South Africa

Voortrekkers (or trekkers): The term means moving forward and refers to farmers of Dutch descent who moved out of the Cape colony in search of lands of their own. Most of them came from the eastern Cape areas around Graaff-Reinet and the Fish River