

MFECANE PERIOD AND NATION BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

(1820-1834)

Mfecane simply meant a period of massive suffering, misery, chaos, anarchy, devastation, crushing among the Eastern Bantu tribes of South Africa.

The word Mfecane has been described variously by different communities.

To the Nguni /Zuluspeakers, it was a time of trouble and suffering.

While the Sotho-speakers called it "Detiqane" to mean a period of crushing, scattering and forced migration to communities across their lands (High Veld)

Other tribes called it "Lificane" still meaning a period of trouble.

This period involved Eastern Bantu tribes like the Zulu, Ndwandwe, Mthethwa, Ngwane (Swazi), Quabe among others.

It has also been defined as a period of rapid and violent change, crises and devastations among the eastern Bantu tribes of South Africa between 1820 to 1834.

The crisis started in Zululand and spread to other Bantu tribes in central Africa before spreading to other parts of East Africa.

The key leaders who are blamed for causing this period were Dingiswayo, Zwibe, and Sobhuza and later worsened by Shaka.

CAUSES OF MFECANE PERIOD

The causes of Mfecane were many, some were long term and others were immediate and they included:-

1. It was caused by Shaka's aggressive policy, through military engagement
2. Exhaustion of land that needed more fresh land hence communities crushed with one another for land which led to the Mfecane.
3. The high population increase in Zululand that resulted in competition for land, increased rivalry and hostility.
4. Expansion of Boers from the Cape colony into the interior as early as 1830 caused a shortage of land in the interior.
5. The rise of ambitious war-like military leaders like Dingiswayo, Shaka and others who were aggressive, e.g. Dingiswayo Vs Sobhuza, Dingiswayo Vs Zwibe etc

6. Need to control trade along Delagoa Bay area among the Bantu caused competition that led to Mfecane.
7. Increased slavery activities within the region made many people resent it leading to many displaced people.
8. Death of Shaka's mother made worse the situation i.e. Shaka lost his patience, carried out murders, declared a period of forced mourning to people etc.
9. Shaka's personal background i.e. as an unwanted boy, this made him to prove his manhood by fighting wars with others.
10. The need and competition for fertile areas with favorable conditions by Bantu communities in this area increased warfare.
11. The increase in animal population in Natal caused the race for grazing land.
12. The competition and greed for cattle and other forms of wealth hence constant raids.
13. The competition and struggle for power and successions also caused the Mfecane.
14. The need to create large political units by militant leaders like Dingiswayo, Zwide and later Shaka.
15. The need to preserve independence by the weaker communities.
16. Pressure caused by the expansion of the Boers that checked Nguni's expansion, this forced Nguni tribes to turn to their fellow Africans.
17. The meeting of Dingiswayo with a European man Robert Cowen who taught Dingiswayo military skills like how to use a gun.
18. Cattle raiding among the Bantu societies which led to serious struggle thus leading to Mfecane.
19. Presence of hard conditions like drought that caused famine and starvation hence increasing the struggle for food and raids.
20. The presence of desperate groups of refugees who could even resort to cannibalism like the Fingos and Matantee.
21. The killing of Dingiswayo and later Zwide increased the fighting among the Bantu.
22. The introduction of guns among the indigenous Bantu tribes also increased warfare.
23. The rise to power of Shaka and his reforms in the kingdom intensified the Mfecane.
24. Shaka's early experience with Dingiswayo made him to learn political and military skills which he later transformed into Mfecane.
25. Shaka introduced the idea of total warfare increasing fighting in Zululands.

26. The introduction of new fighting weapons like the Short stubbing spears (Assegai) increased death rate.
27. Shaka's expansionist policy forced him to attack his neighbors like the Ndwedwe leading to Mfecane.
28. Shaka's harsh military training practices like training his soldiers barefooted, forced recruitment and refusing them to marry up to 40 years.
29. The introduction of new fighting methods by Shaka like cow horn formation and surprise attacks also increased war fare.
30. The military nature of the Zulu kingdom that was full of warriors who only knew fighting worsened the Mfecane.

EFFECTS OF THE MFECANE PERIOD

- ✓ Increased insecurity and fear among the people of Southern Africa.
- ✓ Destruction of plantations and other property which led to starvation.
- ✓ Famine resulted as agriculture was cameto as standstill during the Mfecane.
- ✓ Human misery and suffering resulted among the indigenous tribes of South Africa.
- ✓ Depopulation came in as many people were killed and displaced.
- ✓ The period resulted into Empire building e.g. Zulu Kingdom, Ndebele and others.
- ✓ Led to development of defensive Kingdoms e.g. Basotho, Pedi and Swazi that were constructed on top of mountains.
- ✓ Displacement of people as people were running from their areas for survival e.g. the Ngoni to east Africa
- ✓ It facilitated the Great Trek as the Bantu left several land pieces in the interior vacant.
- ✓ It spread Zulu's militarism into other areas, this caused more insecurity i.e. societies copied Zulu military tactics.
- ✓ It led to migration e.g. Ngoni had to migrate into E. Africa.
- ✓ There was a shift of power from mere chief to true dictator e.g. Shaka took over power from Dingiswayo.
- ✓ It facilitated European penetration into the interior of S. Africa as Africans were weakened by the period.

- ✓ Led to decline in trade because people could not trade during wars.
- ✓ Social, economic and political organizations of societies were destroyed.
- ✓ Some powerful groups like Hlubi and Ngwane disintegrated due to Mfecane that exhausted them.
- ✓ Some groups split due to the Mfecane over land disputes e.g. Makochane who split from the Kwena.
- ✓ Some groups emerged out of Mfecane much stronger e.g. the Tlokwa; Ndebele, Zulu.
- ✓ It aided slave trade and raiding.
- ✓ It created war refugees and beggars as the "Fingo" who acquired their name due to begging a lot. They came from "Mfengu" i.e. begging for food.
- ✓ Whole districts became practically empty for example the present Natal area where several Africans left the region.
- ✓ Many people resorted to inhuman practices like cannibalism in order to survive.
- ✓ The war exhausted the Africans who fought over very long periods of time.
- ✓ Many societies responded to this bad situation by re-organizing themselves e.g. the Basotho and the Swazi.
- ✓ Resulted into a new type of leadership of brave, intelligent, adventurous and very steady leadership.
- ✓ The period led to rise of new leaders like Mosheshe, Shaka, Sobhuza among others.
- ✓ There was loss of property like houses, gardens due to long periods of unrest.
- ✓ Fighting was improved as new methods of fighting were introduced and spread to wider areas.
- ✓ Due to Mfecane, many societies were prepared to resist the European rule like the Xhosa, Zulu and Ndebele.
- ✓ Trade at Delagoa Bay came to a standstill causing poverty in the region.
- ✓ There was population distribution of the Bantu in South Africa e.g. to Swazi land, Basuto areas where people ran for safety.
- ✓ There was an increase in slave raiding in Zululand that led to more suffering.

Reference question

What were the causes of the period of suffering in South Africa between 1820 to 1834?

How did this period affect the indigenous Bantu tribes of South Africa?

THE NATION BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

DINGISWAYO AND THE MTHETHWA STATE/ABATETWA.

The Mthethwa lived along River Tugera in Natal and led all the nation builders in the 19th century in South Africa.

Dingiswayo, the wonderer, was a son of Jobethe chief of Mthethwa.

He was one of the greatest rulers in the region before the new age of Shaka.

He grew up at his father's palace as a Mtetwa.

He was more powerful than either Sobhuza of the Ngwane or Zwede of the Ndwandwe.

Dingiswayo planned to assassinate (kill) his father and, when the plot failed, he fled from home to the land of Hlubi where he spent most of his youthful life.

While in exile, he gained a lot of military experience from a European called Robert Cowen.

He was trained how to use a gun and to ride a horse by his friend Cowen.

However his friend with whom they were wandering, Cowen was killed by the Quabe chief Pakatwayo, and his horse, Umbrella and gun taken by Dingiswayo which he used to acquire power once back among his Mthethwa people.

In about 1797, he returned after his father's death, and he ousted his brother Mawawe and declared himself the king of Mthethwa.

Mawawe fled but he was tricked to return and later put to death by Dingiswayo.

As a king of Mthethwa, he concentrated on protecting his people against Zwede of the Ndwandwe.

Dingiswayo's period is important because it was under him that Shaka got his military training and experience.

ACHIEVEMENTS/ ROLE OF DINGISWAYO FOR THE MTHETHWA NATION.

- Under his rule, the traditional ceremonies of initiation were abolished and instead young men of initiation age were recruited into army.
- He made army/military regiments and because they were based on age, they were known as age regiments.
- The age-regiment encouraged tribal unity since age regiments fought together and shared common experiences.

- Indeed the age regiment also greatly led to military efficiency whereas it also strengthened tribal loyalty (obedience) to the ruler.
- Age-regiments were headed by men who were all appointed by Dingiswayo.
- Dingiswayo defeated his neighbors and made them accept his rule e.g. the Ndwandwe.
- However, Dingiswayo was lenient to his enemies to the extent of giving them back their captured cows.
- He had no standing army but a temporary one whom he could call whenever need arose.
- Dingiswayo's soldiers used the large shields for protection which were somehow heavy for the warriors.
- He introduced the long-handled spears, however these spears had a disadvantage because they were usually thrown hence leaving the fighter defenseless.
- Dingiswayo made friendship (alliances) with the conquered tribes and eventually, they could be absorbed into his army.
- He did a great work of extending the boundaries of Mthethwa up to 200 miles.
- He developed clan unity in Mthethwa by marrying from different clans hence unity even in his Mthethwa Kingdom.
- The defeated states used to be made to pay tribute to Dingiswayo e.g. the Zulu under Sezankona.
- He associated with the whites who were living around Delagoa, engaged in trade with them etc.
- He promoted a young man Shaka to the position of commander of his regiment on merit (hence he promoted people into army strictly on their merit).
- He developed Shaka's military ability which latter aided him tremendously to develop his Zulustate.
- He increased regimental loyalty towards him by donating to them the oxen captured during raids, and returned the rest to the absorbed tribes.
- He laid the foundation of the Zulustates by aiding Shaka.
- He mainly relied on the advice of both traditional leaders and the military idunas.
- He transformed the Mthethwa state into a large confederacy, extending from River Mfolozi in the north to River Tugera in the South.
- Unfortunately in around 1818, he was ambushed by Zwide's soldiers who took him to Zwide and personally killed him and took his skull to decorate the Hut of his mother.

CHALLENGES/ PROBLEMS FACED BY DINGISWAYO

Most problems faced by Dingiswayo came from him as presented below.

- ❖ His rebellious character made him hated by the royal family and thus detested him.
 - ❖ He was opposed by his family especially after killing his brother Mawawethetheir.
 - ❖ He was almost killed when he attempted to kill his father chief Jobe.
 - ❖ He also survived death when the Quabene nearly killed him together with Robert Cowen.
 - ❖ His life was dominated by wars against his father, contemporaries and even his people.
 - ❖ He lacked a standing army and took long to adopt permanent regiments.
 - ❖ His refusal to help Sobhuza left him to face Zwibe alone leading to his death.
 - ❖ He helped a wrong person Shaka to come to power because Shaka never helped him when Zwibe attacked Dingiswayo.
 - ❖ He didn't instill strict discipline into his soldiers e.g. Shaka refused to come to his aid when he needed it most.
 - ❖ His method of allowing conquered people to keep their chiefs weakened loyalty to the center.
 - ❖ The heterogeneous nature of his kingdom made it hard to enforce unity.
 - ❖ His spears with long handles were a liability since they were adopted by Mthethwa enemies who used them against Dingiswayo.
 - ❖ His spears were long and heavy and required soldiers to move with many which affected their fighting level.
 - ❖ The sharp population increase among the Nguni who lived in a narrow corridor between Drakensberg and the Indian Ocean increasing land tension.
 - ❖ Zwibe's constant attacks led to loss of cows and lives among his people and disrupted agriculture.
 - ❖ He was always moving from one place to another hence the name "wonderer".
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- ❖ He faced conflicts between youthful warriors and elderly ones over fighting techniques.

SHAKA AND THE CREATION OF THE ZULU STATE.

Who was Shaka?

1. Shaka was born in Sababaland around 1783

2. HewasasontoSezangakona, achiefofasmall chiefdomcalledZuluchiefdom.
3. Hismother wasNandi whocamefromtheLangeni people.
4. ThenameShakacomesfromthewordI-tshakameaning“looseintestines”, adisease that could causeswellingofthestomach.
5. Nandi, whowasShaka’smother, hadthisdiseasebeforeproducinghim.
6. Shakagrewwithhismother’sscareandmaternal unclesbecausehewasrejectedbyhisfather.
7. Shaka’schildhoodawayfromhisfather’shomewasfull ofdifficultyandmisery.
8. Hewasharassedandunder lookedbyhispeers.
9. Helater grewupwithafiercedetermination, courage, intelligence, together withastrongambition.
10. Shakawasalsoenergetic, adventurousandmerciless, indeedhewasamanwhowasabletoShape societyandmakeanamefor himself.
11. Hestartedhiscareer asacourageous, intelligent soldier ofDingiswayo.
12. Later, Dingiswayopromotedhimasacommander ofawholeregiment.
13. Inaround1816, Shaka’sfather diedandShakawent andkilledhisbrother Segujanewhowasthe successor andbecamethechiefofZulu.
14. After thedeathofDingiswayo, ShakaannexedtheMthethwatoZuluandbecamekingofanewZulu Empire.

REFORMSMADEBYSHAKAFOR THEZULUSTATE

Question:

HowwasShakaabletobuildandruleapowerful Zulustate?

1. Hecreatedastandingor permanent forceofwarriorscalledregiments.
2. Shakaintroducedtheshort stabbingspear i.e. “assegai” it hadashort handleandit couldnot be thrownawaylikethelongspear.
3. ShakaabolishedtheputtingonofSandalsbyhiswarrior toincreasetheir mobilityinwar.
4. Traditional leaderswereabolishedandmilitaryleadersappointedonmerit instead.
5. Hissoldiersreceivedconstant highlydisciplinedtraining.
6. Theconqueredyouthswereabsorbedintohisarmy.

7. He made his soldiers not to marry until the age of 40 years.
8. He introduced the idea of total war i.e. scorched earth policy through burning everything down that belonged to the enemy.
9. He gave his soldiers very big but light shields for protection called cowhide shields.
10. He re-organized the old age-regiments and made them more efficient for large scale wars.
11. Regiments were fed by him i.e. he gave them cows which were killed after his permission.
12. He introduced the idea of killing the conquered old people, to him they were useless and dangerous.
13. He introduced the bull's horn formation of attack.
14. He also created women regiments to provide labour in the garden.
15. His female relatives were married by big officers just to spy on them.
16. He made sure that he controlled all economic activities in the state.
17. He made himself the high priest in the kingdom and led most of the major ceremonies.
18. He abolished useless ceremonies e.g. circumcision.
19. No Induna was to hold any meeting without his permission.
20. He introduced scout boys who had to carry shields and spears for the fighting warriors.
21. Each regiment was given its own colour of shields and head-gear.
22. The warriors lived in special military settlements or towns.
23. The Induna had a number of junior officers under him, who were in charge of smaller units.
24. The army commanders were usually appointed from the commoner families or clans, indeed these were as dependable to Shaka as they owed their position to Shaka alone.
25. Each military town contained a royal household, cattle enclosures, dwelling huts for warriors etc.
26. The warriors were fed, clothed at the king's expense rather than public expense.
27. While in their enclosures, soldiers sang the praises of Shaka their lord and master.
28. Warfare under Shaka's time became a real career i.e. soldiers became full time warriors who earned their living solely by fighting.
29. The army was the source of all power and army commanders became the King's advisers.

30. Shaka stopped circumcision of men to make them ready for war anytime
31. Succession to the throne was made hereditary hence less succession disputes.
32. Shaka was the commander in chief of the armed forces.
33. Conquered people were absorbed into the Zulu nation and adopted the Zulu cultures and traditions.
34. Retired soldiers formed a reserved army, this was based at different places like Mbelembele, Dinkuza, Bulabwayo and Nabanda etc.
35. He befriended the British who supplied him with guns.
36. He encouraged the use of surprise attacks to the enemies.
37. He encouraged an expansion policy e.g. defeated the Nguni, Zwide and Tlokwa.
38. Shaka was killed by his brother Dingane & Mhlangane with the help of Shaka's chief Induna Mbahopa on 22nd Sept. 1828.

N.B. The above points can assist students to explain the methods used by Shaka to create the Zulu State. The points also can explain Shaka's military innovations.

IMPACT/EFFECTS OF SHAKA'S MILITARY REFORMS AND WARS OF EXPANSION ON NEIGHBOURS AND ZULU PEOPLE.

- There was expansion of the Zulu state, this was because Shaka fought and defeated all his weak neighbors.
- Shaka terrorized his state and neighbors due to his strong militarism, this led to constant fear.
- The reforms caused the Mfecane i.e. period of wars i.e. 1820–1834 as each state was fighting for its own survival.
- The Zulu State defeated and incorporated its weak neighbors. Including the Mthethwa.
- Shaka killed some chiefs e.g. Mndisathe chief of Mthethwa
- Resulted in great loss of lives due to the constant fighting that were organized.
- Spreading of military innovations to the neighbors and within Zululand which increased warfare.
- Insecurity increased due to Shaka's military reforms that had been copied by many communities that in the end led to Mfecane.
- Destruction of property like plantations.
- Widespread famine due to the war.

- Depopulation resulted into several neighboring states.
- Defeated his neighbors and conquered them e.g. the Tlokwa and Mthethwa.
- Loss of land by neighbors especially those who were weak.
- Loss of cattle that was raided by Shaka's men which led to poverty.
- States neighboring Shaka's Zulu lost their independence to the stronger and mighty Zulu warriors.
- Cultural customs were stopped e.g. circumcision of warriors was stopped by Shaka.
- Shaka increased discipline of his subjects.
- New fighting styles spread to other areas like Ndebele e.g. the scorched earth policy of fighting.
- Serious displacement of people was realized.
- Detribalization was done to all the neighboring communities.
- Conquered tribes who had to take on Zulu customs.
- Misery, starvation and general suffering were extended to the people of Zulu and their neighbors due to intensive fighting.
- After Shaka, new Kingdoms were formed e.g. Basotho, Ndebele, Swazi among others.
- African societies e.g. the Xhosa and the Zulu were prepared to resist future European rule.
- Family life was broken due to the total warfare of Shaka.
- Mass migrations occurred e.g. the Ngoni under Zwangendaba and Ndebele under Mzilikazi left South Africa.
- There was loss of land by weaker societies.
- There was creation of refugees and wanderers e.g. the Fingos and Hlubi.
- New leadership emerged which depended on military might.
- Slaver raiding increased and many Africans were sold into slavery.
- People were forced to live in special areas like mountain tops for survival.

THE WAY OF LIFE OF THE ZULU BEFORE 1860

1. The Zulu Kingdom emerged as the biggest Kingdom in the 19th century.
2. The Zulu was one of those many other states that were part of Mthethwa community.

3. The Kingdom of Zulu was purely a military state.
4. The state was indeed born in war and through war, it was maintained.
5. Hundreds of Zulu chiefdoms were reunited by their King.
6. Apart from their common language, the Zulu were held together politically by their military background and warriors.
7. The top army commanders/ officials were King's major advisers who were obedient to him at all times.
8. The Zulu Kingdom was highly centralized with the King as the head but however having *Induna* and traditional chiefs under him.
9. The King had an advisory council which had some power to speak to the King on matters of national importance.
10. But still the King had the final power on important matters of the state.
11. The Zulu State had a strong standing army which was under the King as the top commander in chief.
12. The army was kept in military settlements such as Dinkuza, Mbelebele etc.
13. The military settlements formed the central military machinery of the state and each was put under a chief known as "an *Induna*".
14. Each military settlement had a section of royal women under a senior woman, these acted as spies within the military settlement.
15. The *Indunas* were not allowed to hold unauthorized meetings, this ensured that there was no coup d'état etc.
16. Succession to the throne was hereditary and patrilineal in which the King's son inherited the throne.
17. The chiefs and the *Indunas* regularly visited the King as a sign of allegiance to him.
18. The King took part in religious obligations and performed ritual acts on behalf of his people.
19. Traditionally, the King owned each and everything in society.
20. Ceremonies like marriage, first fruit ceremony were presided over by the King.
21. Warriors however during Shaka's time married after 40 years.
22. Female corresponding age groups would be dissolved at the same time like males and thereafter given to the freed warriors as wives.
23. Captured people were absorbed into the Zulu cultures.

24. During Shaka's time, circumcision was abolished to enable warrior be extra ready for any war.
25. Initiation ceremonies were too important and here boys could be transformed from childhood to manhood.
26. Economically, agriculture was important where several crops were cultivated.
27. Raiding of smaller neighbors was also too important.
28. Some conquered states paid tribute to the Zulu State.
29. The economy too like other sectors was centralized and as such, the king controlled and owned everything.
30. N.B. Religion was of tremendous importance, the Zulu had knowledge about the Supreme Being.

Question:

Explain the social, political and economic organization of the Zulu state before 1880?

How was Shaka able to build a powerful Zulu state before 1860?

THE ZULU STATE AFTER SHAKA.

DINGANE.

Qn. Explain Dingane's leadership of Zulu up to 1840?

1. Dingane was son of Senzangakhona and he was a brother to Shaka.
2. He collaborated with his brother Mhlangane together with Shaka's chief Induna Mbahopa to kill Shaka.
3. For a short time after the assassination of Shaka, Dingane and his brother Mhlangane shared power with support of Mbahopa.
4. Then jealousy, greed and hatred led Dingane to assassinate his brother Mhlangane and Mbahopa and assumed full power of the kingship.
5. Therefore, after the murder of all political opponents, Dingane was left as the sole leader.
6. Dingane tried to please people by relaxing the war policy as against Shaka's war policy.

7. Warriors were freed from the regiments and allowed to marry earlier than under the previous regulations.
8. At the same time Dingane put an end to military expeditions.
9. However, Dingane later was forced to revive the Zulu militarism, he once again tried to keep the army busy.
10. Zulu warriors carried attacks against the Pondo, the Ndebele under Mzilikazi and the Ngwane led by Sobhuza and the Swazi capturing many cattle.
11. He also allowed the regiment to amass cattle and other forms of wealth.
12. He also tried to acquire firearms from the whites based at Natal.
13. Dingane had friendly but unhappy friendship with the whites.
14. The British in Natal refused to repatriate the Zulu regiments creating fear on Dingane's part.
15. Dingane signed an agreement with an Englishman called Captain Allen Gardiner by which the Natal government was to send back all the Zulu to Zululand.
16. By the above treaty still, missionaries were free to do their evangelical work in Zululand. i.e. in 1836, one English and 3 American missionaries started preaching.
17. Relations with the Boers were too hard due to their greedy for land.
18. In November 1835, Piet – Retief arrived at Dingane's home in Natal where he asked that Natal's fertile lands be given to the Boers.
19. In 1838, a serious battle occurred between the Zulu and Boers. i.e. (battle of Blood River) in which Boers defeated Zulu under Dingane.
20. The defeat of Zulu led to the forcing of Zulu to vacate/ leave the entire district of Natal which went to the Boers.
21. In Feb. 1840, Dingane was deposed by his brother Mpande with the help of Boers, in return for which Mpande gave them several herds of cattle.

WHY DINGANE LOST POWER / PROBLEMS FACED BY DINGANE

1. His major problem was himself, though some came from the Zulu, his African neighbors and from the Europeans.
2. Dingane relaxed the militarism of Zulu kingdom, which was the foundation of the kingdom thus being a problem and leading to his downfall.
3. Increasing Boer influence, in fact it were the Boers who gave guns and moral support to Mpande over

Dingane.

4. Dingane failed to completely unite the Zulu tribes by 1840.
5. Dingane's extra peaceful way earned him hatred making him unpopular among the warriors.
6. His brutality i.e. the way he eliminated his brother's e.g. Shaka and Mhlangane led to his collapse.
7. The Boers were too determined to end Dingane's rule because he had proved stubborn by organizing the beer party where he killed the Boers.
8. The role of Zulu refugees who had gone to Natal province worked towards the collapse of Dingane.
9. By 1840, Dingane had lost the support of the royal family in Zululand hence his collapse.
10. Dingane had failed to unite his people militarily behind him as their leader.
11. The land problem in Zululand especially against the Boers made the Zulu hate Dingane.
12. Increased population due to his peaceful ways led to scarcity of land.
13. He was hated by his neighbor the Swazi because of his earlier attacks on them.
14. His greatest problem came from the Boers who started pouring into his country in 1838.
15. He loved feasting and women more than attending to government duties causing administrative weakness.
16. Dingane was defeated at the battle of Blood River by the Boers who took away a lot of land thereafter.
17. In 1840, the Zulu royal family overthrew Dingane and imposed his brother Mpande on the throne.
18. The British officer Gardiner refused to send back all the Zulu soldiers who were hiding in Natal.
19. Gardiner also fooled him into giving the British land in exchange for the soldiers in Natal, yet he didn't release all of them back to Zululand.

MPANDE'S LEADERSHIP IN ZULULAND (1840-1872).

1. He was a son of Sezankona and half brother to both Shaka and Dingane.
2. He had a dull youthful time until Dingane started messing up the Zulu politics.
3. Mpande's coming to power was a majorly a result of Boer assistance.
4. Because Mpande had come to power in collaboration with the Boers he maintained a peaceful policy with the Boers.
5. There was population growth in Zululand due to the peaceful reign of Mpande.

6. The long period of peace in Zulul had a negative impact especially with the discipline of the regiments whose primary purpose was war.
7. He failed to build on the strong Zulu military foundations and many hated his weak character.
8. He was worse than Dingane and hated war that even his sons Cetewayo and Mbulazi longed for his death.
9. His favorable pastime became feasting and seeking the pleasure from women entertainers at his palace.
10. He was too lazy that he enjoyed being carried out in the cart because he had become so huge to walk by himself comfortably.
11. He gave away the bloodriver territory to the Boers for having helped him overthrow his brother Dingane in the civil war of 1840.
12. Disputes between Mpande's sons over leadership later made the situation more worse.
13. At the battle of Ndongakusuka, in Magongoin 1856, Cetewayo soundly defeated his brother Mbulazi and even killed him.
14. Mpande was however not totally weak as he led at least one attack against the Swazi to loot cattle even though the battle was bloodless.
15. He also kept friendly ties with the British at the cape and Natal.
16. Mpande died in 1872 and was succeeded by his son Cetewayo.

PROBLEMS FACED BY MPANDE/ REASONS WHY HE LOST POWER.

- He failed to control his sons Cetewayo and Mbulazi whose civil war caused insecurity in the country.
- The Dutch kept on asking him for land especially around the bloodriver.
- The Zulu hated him because he had made them landless because by the time he died he had given almost half of Zulu fertile land to Boers.
- He encouraged the Boer interference into Zulu politics dividing up the state.
- He was not a serious leader and preferred women and food to state duties.
- The civil war with Dingane nearly led to his death.
- British citizens like Shepstone started taking deep interest in the affairs of the kingdom.
- He faced the problem of increased population in the Zulul state due to his peaceful ways.

- He feared war to the extent that he created lack of adventure among the Zulu regiments.

WHY MPANDE DEAFETED DINGANE IN 1840

- Dingane failed to maintain tribal unity in the kingdom.
- Traditional rulers began advising soldiers to defect to Mpande's side.
- Dingane's hatred for war made him unpopular among the war-like soldiers of Shaka.
- His relaxation of military discipline and disbanding some of the regiments.
- Dingane's failure to defeat the Boer invasion following the great trek.
- His failure to convince Gardiner to return all the Zulu refugees.
- His preference for feasting, dancing and the women made him unpopular among the Zulu.
- His brutal rule made him hated as he had killed his brothers Shaka and Mhlangane.
- The royal family stopped supporting him in 1840.
- The increasing scarcity of land as he gave away more land to the whites led to dissensions.
- Lack of allies e.g. the Swazi were only relieved when he was overthrown
- Mpande's collaboration with the Boers won him more support to defeat Dingane.
- The great trek increased the land and political tension.
- Dingane's death in Swazi land sealed his fate making his return impossible.

CETEWAYO 1873– 1884.

Qn. Explain the achievements of Cetewayo in the history of Zululand.

1. Cetewayo was the son of Mpande and a nephew to Shaka.
2. He was intelligent and ambitious like his uncle Shaka.
3. He started gaining popularity and fame in 1856 after defeating his brother Mbulazi at the battle of Magongo.
4. He rose to power in 1873 after his father's death. _____
5. Cetewayo was put to power by Sir Theophilus Shepstone who was Natal's secretary for native affairs.

6. Cetewayo made the army strong once again.
7. He developed Zulu nationalism by reforming age-regiments.
8. He tried hard to avoid war and confrontation with the Boers and the British.
9. He tried to maintain the independence of Zululand at every tough time.
10. He associated with the Portuguese well hence enabling him to get firearms from them to re-equip the Zulu army.
11. He is remembered for creating a period of peace in Zululand and being a fair ruler.
12. He also started encouraging raids against the neighbors to activate the Zulu warriors.
13. He encouraged trade with the Portuguese in Mozambique.
14. He managed to keep the independence of Zululand between 1872-1879.
15. In 1879, Cetewayo defeated the British forces at the battle of Isandhlwana which won him honor among the Zulu.
16. However Cetewayo in July 1879 was defeated by the British at the battle of Ulundi.
17. He was exiled to London in 1882.
18. Later he was brought back as a ruler but he was unhappy with the limited power that he was given.
19. Cetewayo later sought refuge in a reserve where he died in 1884.
20. He was succeeded by his son Dinizulu.

PROBLEMS FACED BY CETEWAYO/ REASONS WHY HE LOST POWER.

- ✓ He had little time to sort out the mess of over 40 years of misrule since Zululand was already disorganized.
- ✓ The British forced him into a reserve where he died a very miserable man.
- ✓ He faced attacks from the British especially in 1879 at Isandhlwana and Ulundi.
- ✓ The British forced him into exile after the defeat at Ulundi and just returned on Zulu people demands.
- ✓ The Boer expansion from the north and south threatened him politically.
- ✓ He had a very unhappy relationship with the British officer Sir Bartle Frere who was determined to destroy his state.
- ✓ He was faced with fierce youths who wanted to attack the whites who were stealing Zululand.
- ✓ The Zulu army and regiments were no longer functioning.

- ✓ His army was equipped by mainly spears at the time all his enemies were holding guns.
- ✓ Sir Bartle Frere kept on fooling him over the issue of bloodriver territory that he will help him against Boers. In fact he just sided with the Boers.
- ✓ He ruled at a wrong time of scramble and partitioning of South Africa.
- ✓ His defeat at Ulundi marked the end of his short career as a king and later his kingdom was divided up.
- ✓ He failed to contain the two youths who chased the two adulterous women into British Natal and killed them there.
- ✓ The Zulu population had increased to the highest ever yet the land was not enough.
- ✓ His people were killed in two great battles and a lot of property destroyed.
- ✓ He was captured and imprisoned after Ulundi.
- ✓ The increasing missionary influence in Zululand was dividing up the people.

FACTORS FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE ZULU STATE BY 1879

QN: what were the problems faced by the Zulu state by 1879?

- ❖ The oppressive rule under Shaka, in fact it made some people escape to new places like Swaziland and how they went to East Africa.
 - ❖ The death of Shaka, i.e. Shaka had constructed the empire using his effort and it could hardly survive after him.
 - ❖ Succession disputes within the Kingdom, e.g. Mpande's sons Cetewayo and Mbulazi.
 - ❖ Weak leaders after Shaka, i.e. Mpande who seriously feared war and the Europeans.
 - ❖ Influence of missionaries who preached against Zulu customs, disunited the Zulu.
 - ❖ Breaking away of some territories from the Zulu empire, e.g. Ngwane.
 - ❖ The state had a lot of external pressure from neighboring states, e.g. Ndebele.
 - ❖ Serious raiding from other tribes like the Tlokwa who raided the Zulu cattle.
 - ❖ Natural calamities like famine and drought leading to the death of many Zulu.
 - ❖ Epidemics and disease outbreaks, e.g. Rinderpest for cattle and fever around Zululand.
 - ❖ Mineral discovery from 1860's encouraged the British to take over Zululand and to interfere in their politics
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- ❖ Zulu leaders after allied with the Europeans, e.g. Mpande which killed the strength of Zulu.

- ❖ The Empire had become too big for effective administration.
- ❖ The state had been born out of fear, conquest etc. hence several subject people lacked true love for the state.
- ❖ Even Shaka himself caused the collapse of his kingdom, he was ruthless, a dictator, executed enemies etc., these policies worked against Zulustate.
- ❖ At a later stage Shaka lacked political reasoning i.e. just after the death of his mother, the whole kingdom was ordered to mourn, no man had to meet his wife sexually, more than 7000 died, as it was claimed they never mourned!
- ❖ Political weakness of Dingane who killed his brothers and also opened war on Boers who defeated him.
- ❖ The Mfecane period exhausted the Kingdom and it's wonder it collapsed.
- ❖ The Zulu neighbors like the Shangaane and Swazi copied the Zulu military tactics which they used against the Zulu in return.
- ❖ European intrusion/ imperialism gave a death blow to the survival of Zulustate.
- ❖ The Zulu never had good relations with their neighbors.
- ❖ The alliance between Zulu leaders and Boers brought in foreigners into Zulu politics.
- ❖ The defeat of the Zulu at Bloodriver battle led to loss of land and cows.
- ❖ The coming of trek Boers created chaos since they had better weapons and their aim was to destroy the state.
- ❖ The Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 i.e. Isandhlwana and at Ulundi marked the end of Zulustate.
- ❖ The division of Zulustate into 13 principalities and two of which were ruled by whites.