

# The Great Trek

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this the first volume of a projected trilogy is a collection with explanatory and critical comments of 140 key documents letters speeches manifestos reports petitions diary entries and newspaper editorials of afrikaners over the period 1780 1850

the battle of blood river or ncome on 16 december 1838 has long been regarded as a critical moment in the history of south africa it is the culminating victory by the land hungry boers who had migrated out of the british ruled cape and invaded the zulu kingdom in 1837 many afrikaners long acclaimed their triumph as the god given justification for their subsequent dominion over africans by contrast africans celebrate the war with pride for its significance in their valiant struggle against colonial aggression in this account john laband deals as even handedly as possible with the warring sides in the conflict in contrasting their military systems he explains both victory and defeat in the many battles that marked the war crucially he also presents the less familiar zulu perspective explaining the political motivation strategic military objectives and fissures in the royal house this is the first book in english that engages with the war between the boers and the zulu in its entire context or takes the zulu evidence into proper account

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

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