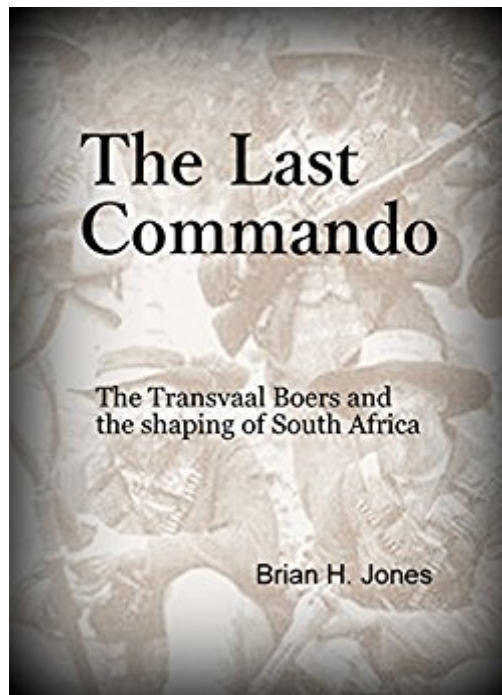


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The Last Commando: The Transvaal Boers And The Shaping Of South Africa



Synopsis

Cruel, backward, isolationist, and fanatically religiousâ ”or independent, resourceful, principled, and courageous? This book is about the Boers of the Transvaal; it is about how they were formed, their relentless territorial expansion at the expense of indigenous groups in both the Cape Colony and the Transvaal, their struggle for distinctiveness and independence against Imperial and African pressures, the state that they carved out for themselves, and their abject defeat in the Anglo-Boer War. It is also about how the experiences and world view of the Transvaal Boers laid the platform for â ^Boerdom resurgentâ ™ (or the Afrikaner ascent) in apartheid South Africaâ ”although I deal with that aspect quite quickly, because it is a coda to the main focus of this book. However, at another level, this book is about the times in which I grew up and which had such a profound influence on me. In other words, it is a journey of exploration and understanding.

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