

THE VEREENIGING TREATY OF 1902

The treaty was between the victorious British and the defeated Boers especially those in Transvaal. The treaty was signed on May 21st 1902. The treaty took place in the city of Vereening, south of Johannesburg in the Transvaal state near the small town of Moyton. The Boers were represented by Gen. Smuts, Botha and Hertzog. The British were represented by Alfred Milner and Lord Kitchener.

AIMS/ REASONS WHY THE TREATY WAS SIGNED.

- The treaty was primarily aimed at ending the second Anglo-Boer war
- It was to end the hostility and rivalry between the two powers
- It was aimed at forming white superiority in South Africa
- The whites wanted to fix the African problem once and for all South Africa under one government.
- The need to prepare the way for the formation of South African Union.
- It was decided on the issue of citizenship and voting rights of South Africa.
- The need to find a solution over the official language to be used in South Africa.
- The need to find a solution on how to put back the economy of South Africa now that how it had been destroyed and damaged by the war.
- The treaty was to pave way for the making of the draft constitution for South Africa.
- The treaty was also to find the way of the whites to control the economy of South Africa.
- The treaty was also signed to end the possible Boer- German and Boer Portuguese alliance against the British.
- The increased imperialism of the British forced them into signing the treaty with the Boers.
- The desire for a federation by the British as it was initiated by sir Carnavan, George Grey etc forced them meet the Boers.

TERMS OF THE VEREENIGING TREATY

(I LOVE HER DAD FAHAD C)

The independence of Transvaal and Orange Free State was to be lost immediately.

Laying down of weapons by the Boers was to be done following their defeat.

Orange Free State was to change the name to Orange River colony.

Voting rights of Africans were to be removed and denied in South Africa.

Equal trading opportunities were to be granted to both the British and the Boers in South Africa.

Hosting of the British flag was to be done in Transvaal.

Equal status of Boer language [Dutch] and English was to be granted in South African.

Releasing of Boer prisoners of war was to be done by the British.

Development loan of 30million pounds was to be given to the Boers to develop their economy destroyed by the war.

Arms were to be kept by Boers for protection against the African attacks.

Disarming of Africans was to be done championed by Burden Paul.

Future independence was to be granted to Transvaal and Orange Free State.

African rights protected by the British were to be violated and denied by the whites in South Africa.

Her majesty the queen of England was to be the head of the colony.

Africans were to remain in concentration camps even after the war.

Discrimination of British goods by the Boers was to be stopped with immediate effect.

Compensation fee of 30million pounds was to be given to the Boers as compensation.

NB; All the terms of this treaty are effects of the treaty in the past tense.

EFFECTS OF THE VEREENIGING TREATY.

- The only two independent Boer republics of Orange Free State and Transvaal lost their independence.
- The treaty laid a foundation on which the British and the Boers united.
- The treaty placed South Africa in the hands of the whites since they alone were declared true citizens of the country.
- It led to the rise of new Boer leaders i.e. Smuts, Hertzog and Botha.
- The treaty increased Boer nationalism and by 1908 many Boer parties Helkvolk [the people] had been formed both in Transvaal and Orange Free State.
- The treaty made the British equal to the Boers setting the state for the white superiority.
- The British stopped championing African rights and sided with Boers in persecuting Africans.
- The treaty created peace among the whites and ended the Anglo- Boer conflicts.
- The treaty laid a foundation for the union of South Africa which was done by 1910.
- It destroyed a possible German and Portuguese intrusion into South African politics.
- The Boer economy was boosted by the British who gave them 30million pounds as development and compensation.

- The treaty promoted the English and Dutch languages at the expense of the native languages.
- Boers won a great deal of what they had been fighting for i.e. hostility towards Africans.
- The treaty led to the National Convention meeting in 1908 which drafted the new white constitution.
- The treaty led to the end of Paul Kruger since he was exiled.

AFRICANS

- The Africans were racially segregated since the ground was laid for passing apartheid.
- Africans lost independence since the British stopped protecting their rights.
- The treaty led to the rise of African nationalism since the treaty increased white hostility.
- Africans were made second rate citizens in South Africa.
- Africans were disfranchised [denied voting rights].
- It led to death among Africans especially those who remained in the concentration camps.
- Over 100000 Africans were forced to remain in very poor concentration camps.
- Africans were completely disarmed by Burden Paul and it became illegal for them to own arms.
- It increased African military raisings against the whites e.g. Bambatha rebellion of 1906.
- Africans lost their land to the whites in South Africa.
- Africans were made very poor since no financial help was extended to them.
- It led to the formation of African National Congress and other political parties later.
- The treaty also led to African depopulation because many were distressed and others died.

QUESTIONS

1. What were the effects of the Vereeniging treaty on the following, A) Africans
B) Whites
2. Explain the terms of the treaty of 1902 on both whites and Africans.
3. What were the aims of the Vereeniging treaty as it was signed by 1902.

