

# **COLONIAL AFRICA—TIMELINE**

## **BRITISH EMPIRE—1770 TO 1910**

### **DISCOVERY OF BLUE NILE TO UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA**

#### **DUTCH SOUTH AFRICA**

- 1652** Dutch East India company establishes colony at Cape Town under [Jan van Riebeck](#).  
**1691** [Van der Stel](#) appointed first Dutch governor of Cape Colony.

#### **BRITISH SOUTH AFRICA**

- 1795** British gain control of Cape Colony during [French Revolutionary Wars](#).  
**1815-35** The Zulus, under [Chaka](#), become the predominant tribe in Southeast Africa.  
**1833** Slavery prohibited in English colonies. Boers forced to give up slaves.  
**1835-45** Great Boer Trek, from Cape Colony to Natal; then to the Transvaal.  
**1837** Zulus, under [Dingaan](#), murders 400 Boers; later defeated at the *Battle of Blood River*.  
**1843** British annexes Natal, makes Boer settlement of Pietermaritzburg their capital.  
**1867** Discovery of diamond mines in Kimberly, disputed territory between Boers and British.  
**1879** After suffering a horrendous massacre at *Isandhlwana*, Britain [subdues the Zulus](#).  
**1880** [First Boer War](#) ends in victory for the Boers after *Battle of Majuba hill*.  
**1880** [Cecil Rhodes](#) opens De Beers mining company and corners the diamond market.  
**1885** Discovery of gold in the Boer Republic; Johannesburg grows around mines.  
**1885** Rhodes establishes a British Protectorate for Bechuanaland.  
**1895** Jameson raid on Johannesburg fails to incite an anti-Boer uprising.  
**1899-1902** [Second Boer War](#)—hard fought struggle ends in a British victory and loss of the Boer republics.  
**1910** Union of South Africa.

#### **EXPLORATION OF CENTRAL AFRICA**

- 1770** [James Bruce](#) discovers the source of the Blue Nile in Ethiopia.  
**1796** [Mungo Park](#) discovers the source of the Niger, and explores the Niger basin.  
**1852** [Dr. Livingstone's](#) first Journey across southern Africa  
**1855** [Paul du Chaillu](#) embarks on his first independent journey into Gabon and Congo.  
**1858** [John Hanning Speke](#) and [Richard Burton](#) discover Lake Victoria  
**1859** Livingstone's Zambezi expedition, discovery of Victoria Falls.  
**1874** [H. M. Stanley](#) starts his expedition down the Congo River.

#### **BRITISH WEST AFRICA**

- 1864** Third Anglo-Ashanti War, fought for control of trade in the Gold Coast.  
**1896** Fourth Anglo-Ashanti War.