

Zulu History

Einleitung

Today we will tell you something about the Zulu and their history.

The Zulu

The Bantu are natives from South- and Middle Africa. Every sub-group of them speak a similiary language.

One of this sub-groub are the Zulu. Zulu means "heaven" or "sky".

This group of people counts today about 10 million people. The most of them live in the province of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. The Zulu Kingdom played a major role in South Africa History during the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Beginning of the Zulu history

In the late 17th century the Nugu-people went from Kongo Area to Natal. Natal is a province from South Africa. First they lived in small federations. Because the population increased (nahm zu) and the agriculture became more important, the federations united (vereinigen). Then there were two special successfully federations. The Zulu were a sub-group of one of these. Both groups foughted together but the Zulu didn't. So the Zulu came to power.

Development (Entwicklung) and continuation of the kingdom

One of the first kings of the Zulu was Shaka. Under his rulership the Zululand became bigger and the population increased.

That's because Shaka integrated the defeated (besiegt) people in his own group.

Shaka organized the military thoroughly (von Grund auf) new. The boys had to go with 14 years in the military, he changed the fighting technology.

He was a king who reached a lot of things.

Shaka's half brother murdered him. So he came to power. He was called Dingane.

After Dingane had came to power the conflicts began with the Boer.

There was a fight between the Boer and him. This fight had called "Battle of the Blood River". The Boer won and four days later they destroyed the capital.

Dingane's brother Mpande and the Boer overthrew (stürzen) Dingane from the throne. The new monarch was now Mpande.

In the Middle of the 19th century began a war between the Boer and the British. This war ended with a victory for the British. After this victory Mpande turned to (zuwenden) the British.

His sons Cetshwayo and Mbuyazi foughted for the rulership. It came to a battle in witch Cetshwayo won and Mbuyazi died. As Mpande died with 74 years in 1872, Cetshwayo became the king of the Zulu.

Fall of the kingdom

The British territorium was around the Zululand and so the Zululand was an obstacle (Hindernis) for the British. This was the reason why the British attackted the Zulu in 1879.

There were several battles and in the end the British won.

The British divided up the Zulu Kingdom into 13 kinglets, each with his own subkingdom. Conflicts soon erupted between these subkingdom and after Cetshwayo visited the Queen Victoria. She reinstated him as king again.

After Cetshwayo died, his son Dinuzulu inherited (übernahm) the throne.

Dinuzulu became involved in later conflicts with rivals and then the British accused (beschuldigt) him to be behind the Bambatha Rebellion. So they banned him.

Every of the next king of Zululand was only a local chief, because the white South Africans had the power. So they could decide over the Zulu people and when the local chief didn't cooperate, they could removed him from office.

Apartheid years

From the 70ies there was a really strong separation between white and black people, how we have already read in our books.

Now

Today the Zulu still live in KwaZulu-Natal. Their language is the most spoken language in the province. The Zulu play also an important part in the politic of South Africa.