

Myth Of Iron Shaka In History

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over the decades we have heard a great deal about shaka the famous or infamous of zulu leaders it may come as a surprise therefore that we do not know when he was born nor what he looked like nor precisely when or why he was assassinated this book lays out the available evidence mainly hitherto under utilised zulu oral testimonies

since his assassination in 1828 king shaka zulu founder of the powerful zulu kingdom and leader of the army that nearly toppled british colonial rule in south africa has made his empire in popular imaginations throughout africa and the west shaka is today the hero of zulu nationalism the centerpiece of inkatha ideology a demon of apartheid the namesake of a south african theme park even the subject of a major tv film terrific majestyexplores the reasons for the potency of shaka s image examining the ways it has changed over time from colonial legend through africanist idealization to modern cultural icon this study suggests that tradition cannot be freely invented either by european observers who recorded it or by subsequent african ideologues there are particular historical limits and constraints that operate on the activities of invention and imagination and give the various images of shaka their power these insights are illustrated with subtlety and authority in a series of highly original analyses terrific majesty is an exceptional work whose special contribution lies in the methodological lessons it delivers above all its sophisticated rehabilitation of colonial sources for the precolonial period through the demonstration that colonial texts were critically shaped by indigenous african discourse with its sensitivity to recent critical studies the book will also have a wider resonance in the fields of history anthropology cultural studies and post colonial literature

in this riveting new book john laband pre eminent historian of the zulu kingdom tackles some of the questions that swirl around the assassination in 1828 of king shaka the celebrated founder of the zulu

kingdom and war leader of legendary brilliance why did prominent members of the royal house conspire to kill him just how significant a part did the white hunter traders settled at port natal play in their royal patron's downfall why were shaka's relations with the british cape colony key to his survival and why did the powerful army he had created acquiesce so tamely in the usurpation of the throne by dingane his half brother and assassin in his search for answers laband turns to the zulu voice heard through recorded oral testimony and praise poems and to the written accounts and reminiscences of the port natal trader hunters and the despatches of cape officials in the course of probing and assessing this evidence the author vividly brings the early zulu kingdom and its inhabitants to life he throws light on this elusive character of and his own unpredictable intentions while illuminating the fears and ambitions of those attempting to prosper and survive in his hazardous kingdom a kingdom that nevertheless endured in all its essential characteristics particularly militarily until its destruction fifty one years later in 1879 by the british and whose fate legend has it shaka predicted with his dying breath

john laband tackles the questions that swirl about the assassination in 1828 of king shaka the celebrated founder of the zulu kingdom what was it about the nature of his kingdom that it produced so many intransigent opponents to his rule including prominent members of the royal house why were shaka's relations with the british cape colony apparently key to his survival and why did the powerful army he had created acquiesce so tamely in the usurpation of the throne by dingane his half brother and assassin back cover

filled with colorful characters dramatic battles like isandhlwana and rorke's drift and an inexorable narrative momentum this unsurpassed history details the sixty year existence of the world's mightiest african empire from its brutal formation and zenith under the military genius shaka 1787 1828 through its inevitable collision with white expansionism to its dissolution under cetshwayo in the zulu war of 1879

history is an encounter with the past and the past is a history of encounters encounters in world history is designed to introduce students to both of these sorts of encounters using primary and visual sources the authors employ the encounter theme as a fundamental organizing principle by nesting sources in thematically integrated chapters comparison and analysis of sources can be more substantive while also providing more internal structure for instructors at the same time this is a world history reader and it follows a chronological format the material has been presented in such a way that instructors can craft their own courses emphasizing the aspects they think most important chapters are organized so that the general theme is presented in a chapter introduction and then revisited in the separate introductions to specific readings the readers can be used to highlight preferred eras cultural zones or themes or a unique mixture of all three

the encyclopedia of women in world history captures the experiences of women throughout world history in a comprehensive 4 volume work although there has been extensive research on women in history by region no text or reference work has comprehensively covered the role women have played throughout world history the past thirty years have seen an explosion of research and effort to present the experiences and contributions of women not only in the western world but across the globe historians have investigated women's daily lives in virtually every region and have researched the leadership roles women have filled across time and region they have found and demonstrated that there is virtually no historical social or demographic change in which women have not been involved and by which their lives have not been affected the oxford encyclopedia of women in world history benefits greatly from these efforts and experiences and illuminates how women worldwide have influenced and been influenced by these historical social and demographic changes the encyclopedia contains over 1 250 signed articles arranged in an a z format for ease of use the entries cover six main areas biographies geography and history comparative culture and society including adoption abortion performing arts organizations and movements such as the egyptian uprising and

the paris commune womens and gender studies and topics in world history that include slave trade globalization and disease with its rich and insightful entries by leading scholars and experts this reference work is sure to be a valued go to resource for scholars college and high school students and general readers alike

the violent struggle in south africa between supporters of inkatha and the anc focusing on the distribution of power and resources in the new south africa is accompanied by another lesser known battle over symbols representations of the past and the reconstruction of history this book looks at an image at the center of many of these struggles that of king shaka the renowned nineteenth century zulu emperor an image used by inkatha to assert its authentic right to shape south africa s future

the classic of african history a biography of shaka zulu founder of the zulu nation born leader and brilliant general e a ritter grew up with the zulus earning their respect and accumulating a rich store of material during his long association with them shaka s life and deeds had been handed down by word of mouth from generation to generation and they are here evoked with a sense of drama and an eye for detail back cover

covering the entire continent from morocco libya and egypt in the north to the cape of good hope in the south and the surrounding islands from cape verde in the west to madagascar mauritius and seychelles in the east this a z reference examines the history of the entire african continent with entries ranging from the earliest evolution of human beings in africa to the beginning of the twenty first century this comprehensive three volume encyclopedia is the first reference of this scale and scope in nearly 1 100 entries the encyclopedia not only examines the well established topics in african history but also looks at the social economic linguistic anthropological and political subjects that are being re evaluated or newly opened for historical analysis by recent research and publication

this scholarly account traces the emergence of the zulu kingdom in south africa in the early nineteenth century under the rule of the ambitious and iconic king shaka in contrast to recent literary analyses of myths of shaka this book uses the richness of zulu oral traditions and a comprehensive body of written sources to provide a compelling narrative and analysis of the events and people of the era of shaka s rule the oral traditions portray shaka as rewarding courage and loyalty and punishing failure as ordering the targeted killing of his own subjects both warriors and civilians to ensure compliance to his rule and as arrogant and shrewd but kind to the poor and mentally disabled the rich and diverse oral traditions transmitted from generation to generation reveal the important roles and fates of men and women royal and subject from the perspectives of those who experienced shaka s rule and the dramatic emergence of the zulu kingdom

in 1879 armed only with their spears their rawhide shields and their incredible courage the zulus challenged the might of victorian england and initially inflicted on the british the worst defeat a modern army has ever suffered at the hands of men without guns this is the definitive account of the rise of the zulu nation under the great ruler shaka and its fall under cetshwayo the story is studded with tales of drama and heroism the battle of isandhlwana where the zulu army wiped out the major british column and rorke s drift where a handful of british troops beat off thousands of zulu warriors and won eleven victoria crosses acclaimed for its scholarship its monumental range and its spellbinding readability the washing of the spears is a gripping portrait of not just the zulu war of 1879 but also of britain s colonial policy at this moment

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