A HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649750917

A History of South Africa by Dorothea Fairbridge

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DOROTHEA FAIRBRIDGE

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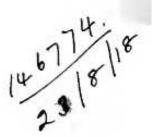
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DOROTHEA FAIRBRIDGE



OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

LONDON EDINBURGH GLASGOW NEW YORK

TORONTO MELBOURNE CAPE TOWN BOMBAY

HUMPHREY MILFORD

PREFACE

SINCE the passing of the Act of Union which welded into one country the four South African States, great events have shaken the world to its foundations. In the clash of arms the Youngest of the Nations has been called to bear her part, not only in standing shoulder to shoulder with her sister states of the Empire on the battle-fields of Europe, but in dealing with that Empire's enemies at her own gates.

German South-West Africa is to-day the South-Western Protectorate, brought under the British flag by South African troops led by General Botha. In German East Africa General Smuts has achieved great success at the head of troops drawn from England, India, and South Africa. Side by side the men of South Africa have fought and died, and not one of them has paused to say to his neighbour, 'Are you English or Dutch?' for all alike have fought for the honour of the land in which they have a common heritage.

Far away, under the withered trees of Delville Wood, and in many another spot in France and Flanders, sleep the men of South Africa who have given their lives to uphold the great ideals of liberty and justice, the men whose fathers fought each other at Magersfontein and Diamond Hill, whose ancestors came from that France and Flanders in which their sons have died, or from the Motherland in the North Sea. The history of South Africa up to the Union is but the prelude to the great events in which she has been called to play her part almost before the ink was dry upon the charter which has bound in one her people, be they of British, Dutch, French, or any other ancestry. Her future lies in the hands of her children. It is due to her that they should know what has gone to the making of her past, in order that that future may be firmly built on knowledge, equity, and a common love for the land and loyalty to the Empire of which it is a part.

D. F.

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