

subscribe to such an Opinion, I do however feel an obligation to warn you to exercise greater circumspection regarding such bold claims. Not too long ago there were quite a number of highly placed persons on the other bank of the Limpopo who were given equally ill-considered and rash pronouncements. I am certain that too will be forced by events to revise your Opinion.

The tragedy of our country, Mr Malan, is that there are so many of our 'White' countrymen who think like yourself. Absolutely convinced of the rectitude of your Opinions, you are prepared to resist change no matter what the price. Consider well: Can our country and its people afford the price you are demanding? What is it in the present system that you find so precious that you are not give it up?

My only regret is that you, like many others of your generation, will probably be too old to take full advantage of South African freedom. When it comes that it will come you need have no doubts about. In the meantime I urge you to find the courage to face the new challenge that the striving for justice poses. The future peace and prosperity of our country may well depend on the willingness of men like yourself to accept the inevitability of change.

I trust that you will find this letter as rewarding as I found yours. Stay well, but sleep not, for the future beckons you to great deeds. Yours faithfully,

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recent migrants tg\South Africa.â\200\230

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lthan you should expect me to accept your bald assertions. Any reasoâ\200\230

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~able interlocutor is expected to put forward compelling and con~

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'vincing evidence coi-\202roborative of his claims. For purposes of this E

niscourse i refer you to three authoratative studies on the ma.tter'

(ndertaken by South African scholars. All threenthese works should

" be quite easily available in South Africa, and as far: as I am aware

none of them has been circumscribed.

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The first is the "Oxford History of South Afrigngjointly edited

by Professors Monica'Wilson and Leonard Thompson. It was published

in 1969 by the Oxford University Press. All the contributors areâ\200\235

South Africans though some are now employed in universities in other

parts of the world.

The second, "The Peep;igg of Southern Aigggg" by Dr R.R. Inskeep,

was published in 1978 by David Phillip, Cape Town. This is an

extremely informative work which traces human settledbnt in South

Africa from the Pleistocene to the late 18th century. In this meti~

culously documented compilation of the then available archaeologi~

cal data, Inskeep demonstrates that as long ago as the fifth century

A.D. there were wellâ\200\224deveIOped communities of African farmers in the present~day Transvaal and OFS;that there i~\201%e such communities as far south as the present day Ciskei by the eighth century A.D.; that many of the skills that past scholars assumed the Africans learnt from other civilizations were in fact indigenous. These include mining and smelting metal ores, the working of these ores into tools, utensils and ornaments, etc. The book is richly illustrated with charts, sketches and photographs of the archaeological sites and their excavations.

The third work was jointly edited by Richard Elphick, an American,iï~\201 and Herman Giliomee, formerly of the University of Stellenboseh, now

of Cape Town. Its title is "The Shaping of South African Society, 1652 ~ 1820"; it was published by Longman in 1979. As the title suggests) the book deals with the interaction between the colonists and the indigenous peoples during the first two centuries of White occupation. You will find in this work a number of well researched papers, produced by scholars with unimpeachable credentials, that refute your historical arguments.

These are but three, amongst a host of works produced since 1945, that disprove the historical myths of the past. I myself am no specialist on the subject, but like others who read, I have acquainted myself with the facts of the case. Should you require Specialist assistance in these areas I am certain that there are a number of very competent historians at the Universities of Port Elizabeth and Rhodes, who could assist you in this regard. I am personally aware of the work of Dr. I.T.R.H. Davenport of Rhodes and Dr. Peires who at some point was attached to the University at Port Elizabeth. Rhodes University also houses the Coryndon Collection, a particularly rich resource in both primary and secondary materials on the history of the Eastern Cape. Being in Port Elizabeth the source is within reach.

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In any event, MI Malan,

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prior historical claims of the African people to the territory of South Africa. Not that we entertain any doubts about the legitimacy of such claims, it is rather that we acknowledge the historical and special consequences of the evolution of our country. Thus, the

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Freedom Charter, the principal policy statement of our movement  
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"South Africa belongs to all who live in it, black and  
White 3 o o"

Perhaps this is the fundamental issue separating the two of us.

Because I note you claim."South Africa ie'Whiteman's land". I would\*  
appeal to you to desist from such ehortsighted and vacuoue claims.

They have no basis either in moral/ty or in history. Meaningful

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JAN,â\200\235

fatherland.

Addressing myself to the other points you raise I would point out that in practically every part of the world, the smaller political units you choose to refer to

as separate black nations, have parallels.

Germany, for example, until the 1860s was made up of a number of distinct principalities that were welded into a single national state by 1870. Since that time historical events have once again divided that country into two separate entities. Yugoslavia was divided into a number of tiny states before 1914. Today it is one nation state. I should think that these examples, drawn from other

parts of the world, illustrate that a past history of separation has no bearing on the possibility of unity, even less on its desirability.

You are of course absolutely correct about the variety and diversity of our South African population. But why should this be taken to imply and justify the need for institutionalised inequality? On the contrary, the richness and diversity of our population is an immense storehouse of strength and creativity which is being cruelly stifled by the policies that impose inequality. Released from the bondage of racism, I am absolutely confident that South African creativity will have an opportunity to blossom and flower as never before.

Who will rule a future South Africa, you inquire.

The answer is quite simple: The people of South Africa! Of course,

since the Africans comprise well over 70% of the total population the institutions of state will be reflective of that fact. Anything else would be a travesty of democracy.

I fear that you are hopelessly wrong when you characterise ours as a lost cause. While I do not for one second question your right to



It is always a pleasure to receive a letter from a fellow South African and I was particularly delighted to receive

yours, which was kindly passed on to me by the Zambian authorities.

What pleased me about your letter was not its content, but that you have, through writing, afforded me the opportunity to enter into a direct dialogue with a White South African while; As a result, my views are in sharp contrast to those of the majority of the white South African population.

My views are sharply contradictory to mine, on a number of issues that are central to our country's future.

As you are no doubt aware, the pre-colonial history of South Africa is a matter of controversy.

Indeed, at the time I passed through the school system in our country, there was no consensus among scholars about the facts of that history. Since

that time, African universities

within South Africa, as well as those

, elsewhere

in other parts of the world, a consensus has been established. It is my view that

you, though, did not come about as a result of eloquent persuasion but

linguists, historians and anthropologists. The findings of all these researchers, many with reputations second to none, point to a number of irrefutable facts with respect to pre-colonial history.

Briefly stated, these are:

(i) That it is a self-serving political myth that South Africa was an empty land before the arrival of the Europeans;

(ii) that the Negroid African people whom you refer to as blacks in your letter - have lived in parts of the country from time immemorial;

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(iii) that all the historical evidence points to migrations and population movements from the north



south to north rather

than the reverse;

(iv) that the 'Whites from Europe, followed

by three groups of Asians, are the most