

Slavery and colonialism were among the earliest historical sources of conflict in Africa and other regions. Foreigners started with hunting human beings, then attacked, subjugated and ruled over them. By as early as the 16th century, the Europeans had touched southern Africa's shores as travelers, explorers, hunters, traders and missionaries. Later, European nations permanently conquered and colonised Africa, especially after the 1884 Berlin Conference.



Dr. Tlou Setumu

Resistance against foreign invasion by indigenous communities is as old as the earliest intrusion. Indigenous communities have fought against their attacks since slavery and colonial days. Fierce wars and battles had been fought between the enslavers and colonisers on the one hand, and indigenous communities on the other. In southern Africa, powerful, independent African kingdoms which fought fiercely against the intruding European colonial forces included those of Dingane, Mzilikazi, Hintsa, Cetshwayo, Mantatisi, Lobengula, Moshweshwe, Sekhukhune, Mabhogo, Mokopane, Mankopane, Makgoba, Modjadji, Malebogo, Ngungunyane, Makhado, just to name these. Because of the European's tactics, especially of dividing their opponents, and the valuable intelligence information they received from the countrymen, missionaries, as well as their technologically advanced weapons, the European colonial forces eventually subjugated the local kingdoms.

Even though by the end of the 18th century the colonisers had almost defeated African kingdoms in southern Africa, resistance and fight to regain the lost land, livestock, freedom and dignity did not end. Indigenous communities continued to fight, albeit in different ways. The formation of the South African Natives National Congress (SANNC) in 1912 (later renamed African National Congress – ANC in 1923) was the continuation of the struggle by the indigenous communities to regain lost land, livestock, freedom and dignity which started during slavery and colonial periods. The institutionalisation of White rule, oppression and discrimination in South Africa in the form of apartheid after 1948, saw the intensification of the struggle by the Black majority.

When Tlou Theophilus Cholo grew up in the rural villages of Ga Matlala and Mmakala, he found himself and his people living under a cruel system which dispossessed them of land, livestock, freedom and dignity. T.T. would not fold his arms, he joined the fight. What the young T.T. did was heeding the call to fight for the fatherland. Franz Fanon once said: "Each generation must discover its mission, fulfill it or betray it, ...". This book is about how T.T. discovered and fulfilled his mission of fighting for the fatherland. It is now up to the current generations who come after T.T. to discover their mission, fulfill it, or betray it.

HEEDING THE CALL TO FIGHT FOR THE FATHERLAND

BIOGRAPHY OF T.T. CHOLO



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*The life and struggle of T.T. Cholo*

BIOGRAPHY BY DR. TLOU SETUMU