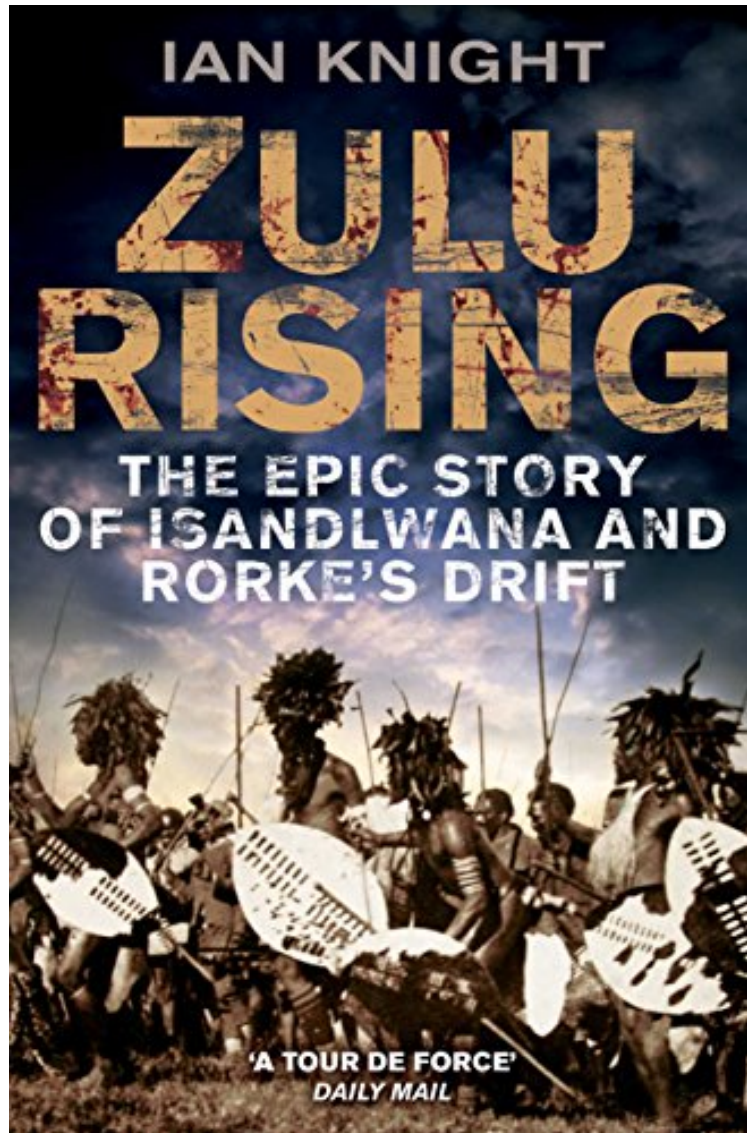


(Read now) Zulu Rising: The Epic Story of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift (English Edition)

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Von Ian Knight

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Von Ian Knight : Zulu Rising: The Epic Story of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zulu Rising: The Epic Story of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The message of a tour de forceVon Roman NiesThis book has a misleading title. Actually not the Zulu were rising, when

the British invaded their lands in 1879 to make an end to the independent Zulu nation. Before the ensuing war the British, who kept the South African Natal colony in the West of the Zulu kingdom had agreed with the Zulus the Buffalo river forming the natural boundary between the two. But the British thought otherwise and drove the Zulus into self-defense. This is not debated in our days. The author gives a critical account of the events which led to the extermination of the Zulu kingdom with no fair means at all. He has apparently made a good research and in fact it was not before the 1960s that the story of the Zulu war could be written from a more sophisticated position, led aside the glorifying tendencies of former times. The subtitle is just naming the central pieces of the book. The battles of Isandlwana and Rorke's drift, which are depicted in extensive detail. But the book is more than that. It is critical with the military leaders, who were in command, for whom promotion, egotism, self-complacency and self-congratulation and a detestable practicing of fishing for honors were more important than truth and integrity. But it is also critical on the military tradition and the dedication to the Zeitgeist. There was more claim of bravery than the proper feat. Zulus who were found wounded, were stabbed or shot. The Zulus made no prisoners, but the British as well. Lord Chelmsford, who was the army commander of the British forces was also at the head of an intrigue to blame his subordinate commander Colonel Durnford for the defeat of Isandlwana, although he was to blame for it. He had chosen to invade Zulu lands in three army columns with the main center column of some 7500 men under his direct command. King Cetshwayo's army numbered 30.000 men with his main force of about 20.000 in direction of the center column of the British army. His men were essentially a militia force which could be called out in time of national danger. But since they had to care for the annual harvest and their civilian duties, they were always in a hurry. Their maintenance and logistical capacity was therefore limited. Zulu warriors were armed primarily with Assegai - spears, cow-hide shields, some muskets and old rifles with limited ammunition, while the British had Martini-Henry breech-loading rifle and some cannons. They had cavalry with them and were supported by wagons and carts with supplies while the Zulus did all what they did bar-footed. The first battle was fought at Isandlwana on 22 January 1879. Lord Chelmsford had made a poor intelligence, did not care for making a "lager"-fortification, ignored warnings from messengers who had found the Zulu army approaching from a not from the General expected direction towards the camp of the British army. He divided his forces, riding away with a contingent. Even when it became clear that the camp was engaged, he did not react in a proper way. About 1,800 British, colonial and native troops and civilians were massacred, although they had the superiority in weapons. But the Zulus came with numerical superiority, disinhibited bravery and overwhelming speed upon them. Shortly afterwards the small British contingent at the mission station at Rorke's Drift, defended behind a properly built wall of defense survived several attack of the Zulus who finally withdrew, finally tired and in the awareness of their great victory at Isandlwana. The British army had suffered its worst defeat against a technologically inferior indigenous force. However, Isandlwana resulted in the British taking a much more aggressive approach in the Anglo-Zulu War, leading to a heavily reinforced second invasion and the destruction of The Zulu's hopes of a negotiated peace. The author notes very well that the Zulus had sought for peace from the start of diplomatic relationships, then during the war, from its beginning to its end. For the British government in London the engagement with the Zulu was a bigger problem because they could not afford being distracted from the more imminent scenes where they clashed with the Russians (Afghanistan for example!). They were abject to deploy troops to South Africa in fear of exposing. And they feared the public opinion against such a bloody war and the waste of money. The book is going in detail into the General Lord Chelmsford's dishonourable handling of the responsibilities for the Isandlwana disaster and Colonel Durnford's being made scape-goat, although his mistress tried hard to prove his innocence. Actually other sub-commanders supported their General out of personal interests, giving deliberate wrong testimonies. One of them took the personal papers of Durnford in his custody, papers which proved the innocence of Durnford who had just carried out the orders of Chelmsford. Only decades later the truth was found out. Too late to rehabilitate the reputation of Durnford's family and his offspring. This is a hard lesson. The victorious and successful not always find their correct and rightful payment whereas the just and good people sometimes have to take the blame, although they are innocent. And they take this fate into their graves. But still it is a question of time when truth comes to light! If the daily mail called this account a "tour de force" it must be because humans are shown to be capable of all sorts of vices and claim at the same time to be innocent and well-done. What a deplorable race, the humans. But it is hard to gulp also because of something else. This book is also a payoff to the legend of bravery or chivalry. Do the British militarists and militarist traditionalists get the message?

Kurzbeschreibung The battle of Isandlwana was the single most destructive incident in the 150-year history of the British colonisation of South Africa. In one bloody day over 800 British troops, 500 of their allies and at least 2000 Zulus were killed in a staggering defeat for the British empire. The consequences of the battle echoed brutally across the following decades as Britain took ruthless revenge on the Zulu people. In *Zulu Rising* Ian Knight shows that the brutality of the battle was the result of an inevitable clash between two aggressive warrior traditions. For the first time he gives full weight to the Zulu experience and explores the reality of the fighting through the eyes of men who took

part on both sides, looking into the human heart of this savage conflict. Based on new research, including previously unpublished material, Zulu oral history, and new archaeological evidence from the battlefield, this is the definitive account of a battle that has shaped the political fortunes of the Zulu people to this day. Werbetext A gripping and vivid account of one of the British army's most famous battles Kurzbeschreibung The battle of iSandlwana was the single most destructive incident in the 150-year history of the British colonisation of South Africa. In one bloody day over 800 British troops, 500 of their allies and at least 2000 Zulus were killed in a staggering defeat for the British empire. The consequences of the battle echoed brutally across the following decades as Britain took ruthless revenge on the Zulu people. In Zulu Rising Ian Knight shows that the brutality of the battle was the result of an inevitable clash between two aggressive warrior traditions. For the first time he gives full weight to the Zulu experience and explores the reality of the fighting through the eyes of men who took part on both sides, looking into the human heart of this savage conflict. Based on new research, including previously unpublished material, Zulu oral history, and new archaeological evidence from the battlefield, this is the definitive account of a battle that has shaped the political fortunes of the Zulu people to this day.