# Aula 9

# THE VICTORIAN PERIOD

#### META

Apresentar ao estudante o contexto sócio-político do século XIX inglês e as implicações culturais do período vitoriano.

#### **OBJETIVOS**

Ao final desta aula, o aluno deverá: Copreender o modo como as condições sociais, políticas e econômicas de cada período afetam a sua produção cultural e literária.

## PRÉ-REQUISITOS

Contexto sócio-histórico do século XVIII e do Romantismo inglês.

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## **INTRODUÇÃO**

According to his biographers, George IV (1762-1830) led an extravagant lifestyle, having contributed to the fashions of the period, propagating new forms of leisure, style and taste. This charm and culture earned him the title of "the first gentleman of England". His ministers found his behaviour selfish and irresponsible, acusing him of not providing national leadership in time of crisis. George was forced to accept catholic emancipation and his only child, Princess Charlotte (1796-1817), died before him in 1817. He was then succeeded by his younger brother, William IV (1765-1837).

William was the third son of George III and the younger brother of George IV, being the last king and penultimate monarch of the House of Hanover. He served in the Royal Navy in his youth and, because of that, he was nicknamed the "Sailor King". When he inherited the throne, he was already 64 years old. Among his reforms, we can mention the update of the poor law, the restrictions on child labour restricted, the abolition of slavery and the **Reform Act of 1832** (1). He was also the last monarch to appoint a prime minister contrary to the will of Parliament. At the time of his death, William had no surviving legitimate successor, although he had had ten illegitimate children with the actress Dorothea Jordan (1761-1816), with whom he lived for twenty years. He was succeeded by his niece, Victoria (1819-1901).

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William IV (1765-1837) was King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and King of Hanover from 26 June 1830 until his death. The third son of George III and younger brother and successor to George IV, he was the last king and penultimate monarch of Britain's House of Hanover. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\_IV\_of\_the\_United\_Kingdom



Victoria (1819-1901) was Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland from 20 June 1837 until her death. From 1 May 1876, she adopted the additional title of Empress of India. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queen\_Victoria

### **DESENVOLVIMENTO**

Victoria's father was Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn (1819-1861), the fourth son of the reigning King of the United Kingdom, George III. She was fifth in the line of succession after her father and his three older brothers: the Prince Regent, the Duke of York, and the Duke of Clarence, later William IV. On the death of her uncle George IV in 1830, she became heir presumptive to her next surviving uncle, William. The Regency Act of 1830 made special provision for the Duchess of Kent to act as regent in case of William's death, while Victoria was still a minor. King William distrusted the Duchess's capacity to be regent and in 1836 declared in her presence that he wanted to live until Victoria's 18th birthday, so that a regency could be avoided. With the death of William IV, in 1837, at the age of 71, Victoria became Queen of the United Kingdom.

At the time of her accession, the government was led by the Whig prime minister Lord Melbourne (1779-1848), who at once exerted a powerful influence on the Young monarch. She was the first sovereign to take up residence at Buckingham Palace and inherited the revenues of the duchies of Lancaster and Cornwall as well as being granted a civil list allowance of f385,000 per year.

Though queen, as an unmarried young woman Victoria was required, by social convention, to live with her mother. In 1840, she married her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819-1861), in 1840. Albert became an important political adviser as well as the Queen's companion, replacing Lord Melbourne as the dominant influential figure in the first half of her life as a queen.



O casamento dos rainha Vitória por George Hayter (1792-1871) - fontes: http://pt.wahooart.com/Art.nsf/O/9DH4CR/\$File/George+Hayter-The+Marriage+Of+Queen+Victoria+(2).JPG

During Victoria's first pregnancy in 1840, in the first few months of the marriage, Edward Oxford (1822-1900), a young man of 18 years old, attempted to assassinate her while she was riding in a carriage with Prince Albert on her way to visit her mother. He was tried for high treason but was found not guilty on the grounds of insanity, being then committed to an insane asylum. Her daughter, also named Victoria, was born on 21 November 1840. Although she hated being pregnant, she and Albert had a further eight children over the following seventeen years: Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, born in 1841, Alice, in 1843, Alfred, in 1844, Helena, in 1846, Louise, in 1848, Arthur, in 1850, Leopold, in 1853, and Beatrice, who was born in 1857.



Edward Oxford, photographed by Henry Hering c. 1856. Fontes: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edward Oxford#/media/File:Edward Oxford c\_1856.jpg

In 1842, while she was riding in a carriage in London, a man called John Francis aimed a pistol at her but the gun did not fire and he escaped. The following day, Victoria drove the same route, in a deliberate attempt to provoke Francis, and he tried to shoot her but he was arrested and convicted of high treason. Two days after Francis's death sentence was commuted, in on 3 July, a certain John William Bean also tried to fire a pistol at the Queen, but the plan was frustrated. Bean was then sentenced to eighteenth months in jail. In another similar attack, this time in 1849, an unemployed Irishman called William Hamilton also tried to kill the queen. Two more attempts were frustrated before Vctoria could rule without being afraid os a royal assassination.

In 1845, Ireland was hit by a **potato blight (2)**. In the next four years over a million Irish people died and another million emigrated in what became known as the **Great Famine (3)**. No wonder that in Ireland Victoria was labelled "The Famine Queen".

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#### Victoria's British Prime Ministers

## Year Prime Minister (party)

1835 Viscount Melbourne (Whig)

1841 Sir Robert Peel (Conservative)

1846 Lord John Russell (W)

1852 (Feb.) Earl of Derby (C)

1852 (Dec.) Earl of Aberdeen (Peelite)

1855 Viscount Palmerston (Liberal)

1858 Earl of Derby (C)

1859Viscount Palmerston (L)

1865 Earl Russell (L)

1866 Earl of Derby (C)

1868 (Feb.) Benjamin Disraeli (C)

1868 (Dec.) William Gladstone (L)

1874 Benjamin Disraeli (C)

1880 William Gladstone (L)

1885 Marquess of Salisbury (C)

1886 (Feb.) William Gladstone (L)

1886 (July) Marquess of Salisbury (C)

1892 William Gladstone (L)

1894 Earl of Rosebery (L)

1895 Marquess of Salisbury (C)

Fonte: http://www.avictorian.com/prime\_ministers\_conclusion.html

Internationally, Victoria invested in the improvement of relations between France and Britain. She made and hosted several visits between the British royal family and the House of Orleans, who were related by marriage through the Coburgs. In 1843 and 1845, she and Albert stayed with King Louis Philippe I (1773-1850) at château d'Eu in Normandy. As it wasn't enough, she was the first British or English monarch to visit a French ince the meeting of Henry VIII of England and Francis I of France on the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. Louis Philippe, in turn, became the first French king to visit a British sovereign when he made a reciprocal trip in 1844. When Louis Philippe was deposed in the revolutions of 1848 he fled to exile in England. Victoria's first visit to Ireland in 1849 was a public relations success, but it had no lasting impact or effect on the growth of Irish nationalism.

Russell's ministry, though Whig, was not favoured by the Queen. She found particularly offensive the Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmerston (1784-1865), who often acted without consulting the Cabinet, the Prime Minister, or the Queen. Victoria complained to John Russell (1792-1878) that Palmerston sent official dispatches to foreign leaders without her knowledge, but Palmerston was retained in office and continued to act on his own initiative. In 1851, Palmerston was removed after he announced the British government's approval of President Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte's coup in France without consulting the Prime Minister. In 1852, The following year, Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was declared Emperor Napoleon III. Nevertheless, Napoleon III, who, since the **Crimean War (4)**, was Britain's closest ally, visited London in 1855. In the ame year, after some months, Victoria and Albert returned the visit. They visited the Exposition Universelle, a successor to Albert's 1851 brainchild **The Great Exhibition (5)**.

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In 1861, terrible things happened o the queen. Frst, her mother died. To relieve his wife, Albert took on most of her duties, despite being ill himself with chronic stomach trouble. In August, they visited their son, the Prince of Wales, who was attending army manoeuvres near Dublin, and spent a few days in Killarney. By the beginning of December, Albert was diagnosed with typhoid fever and died in the same month, leaving the queen devastated. Then, she entered a state of mourning and wore black for the remainder of her life. Avoiding public appearances, she rarely set foot in London in the following years, earnig the nickname of "widow of Windsor". Her isolation from the public diminished her popularity and encouraged the growth of a republican movement. Even undertaking her official government duties, she chose to remain secluded in her royal residences.

Through the 1860s, the queen relied increasingly on a manservant from Scotland, John Brown (1826-1883). There were rumours of a romantic connection and even a secret marriage appeared in print, and the Queen came to be referred to as "Mrs. Brown". The story of their relationship was the subject of the 1997 movie called *Mrs. Brown*. A painting by Sir Edwin Henry Landseer depicting the Queen with Brown was exhibited at the Royal Academy, and Victoria published a book, *Leaves from the Journal of Our Life in the Highlands* (1868), which featured Brown prominently and in which the Queen praised him highly.

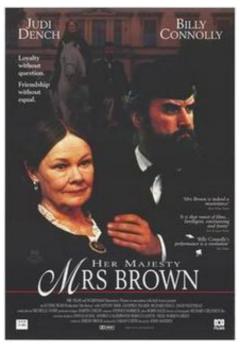


John Brown (1826-1883) was a Scottish personal servant and favourite of Queen Victoria for many years. He was appreciated by many (including the Queen) for his competence and companionship, and resented by others for his influence and informal manner. The exact nature of his relationship with Victoria was the subject of great speculation by contemporaries, and continues to be controversial today. Fonte: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John Brown">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John Brown</a> (servant)



Victoria and John Brown at Balmoral in 1863, Photograph by G. W. Wilson. Fontes: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Queen\_Victoria,\_photographed\_by\_George\_Washington\_Wilson\_(1863).jpg

#### A film to be watched



Mrs Brown, also theatrically released as Her Majesty, Mrs Brown, is a 1997 British drama film starring Judi Dench, Billy Connolly, Geoffrey Palmer, Antony Sher, and Gerard Butler in his film debut. It was written by Jeremy Brock and directed by John Madden. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrs\_Brown

Palmerston died in 1865. In 1866, Victoria attended the State Opening of Parliament for the first time since Albert's death. The following year, she supported the passing of the **Reform Act 1867 (6)**, which doubled the electorate by extending the franchise to many urban working men, though she was not in favour of votes for women. In 1868, Edward George Geoffrey Smith-Stanley, 14th Earl of Derby, (1799-1869) was replaced by Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) as prime minister. With the phrase "we authors, Ma'am", he complimented her in his letters, leaving her proud of being a writer. Disraeli's ministry only lasted some months and, at the end of the year, his Liberal rival, William Ewart Gladstone (1809-1898), was appointed took his place.

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In 1870, republican sentiment in Britain, fed by the Queen's seclusion, was boosted after the establishment of the **Third French Republic (7)**. A republican rally in Trafalgar Square demanded Victoria's removal, while radicals spoke against her. On the last day of February 1872, two days after the thanksgiving service, a 17-year-old Young man called Arthur O'Connor waved an unloaded pistol at Victoria's open carriage just after she had arrived at Buckingham Palace. Mr. Brown, who was attending the Queen, grabbed him and O'Connor was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. As a result of the incident, Victoria's popularity was recovered.

In 1874, Disraeli was returned to power. He passed the Public Worship Regulation Act of 1874, which removed Catholic rituals from the Anglican liturgy, something which the queen strongly supported. He also pushed the Royal Titles Act 1876 through Parliament, so that Victoria took the title "Empress of India" from 1 May 1876 until the end of her life. The new title was proclaimed at the Delhi Durbar in 1877.

Between April 1877 and February 1878, she threatened five times to abdicate while pressuring Disraeli to act against Russia during the **Russo-Turkish War** (9), but her threats had no impact on the events or their conclusion with the Congress of Berlin. Disraeli's expansionist foreign policy, Always endorsed by Victoria, led to conflicts such as the famous Anglo-Zulu War and the **Second Anglo-Afghan War** (10).

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Films to be watched



Zulu is a 1964 epic war film depicting the Battle of Rorke's Drift between the British Army and the Zulus in January 1879, during the Anglo-Zulu War. It depicts 150 British soldiers, many of whom were sick and wounded patients in a field hospital, who successfully held off a force of 4,000 Zulu warriors. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu\_(1964\_film)



Zulu Dawn is a 1979 war film about the historical Battle of Isandlwana between British and Zulu forces in 1879 in South Africa. The screenplay was by Cy Endfield, from his book, and Anthony Story. The film was directed by Douglas Hickox. The score was composed by Elmer Bernstein. Fonte: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zulu\_Dawn

Victoria saw the expansion of the British Empire as civilising and benign, protecting native peoples from more aggressive powers or cruel rulers, what seems ironical nowadays, if we take into account the great amount of studies and historical reposrts about the agressove and negative aspects of the British imperialism.

In 1882, the queen was victim of other physical attacks. Her carriage was shot at the Windsor railway station. Two schoolboys from Eton College struck him with their umbrellas, until they were hustled away by a policeman. She was then outraged when he was found not guilty by reason of insanity. In 1883, Brown died and began to write a biography of Mr. Brown, but she was advised against publication and the manuscript was destroyed. Nevertheless, in 1884 she publish *More Leaves from a Journal of a Life in the Highlands*, a sequel to her earlier book which she dedicated to her "devoted personal attendant and faithful friend John Brown".

When Gladstone resigned in 1885, he was replaced by Lord Salisbury (1830-1903). Salisbury's government only lasted a few months and Victoria was forced to recall Gladstone, who attempted to pass a bill granting Ireland home rule, but to Victoria's glee it was defeated. In the next election, Gladstone's party lost to Salisbury's and the government changed again.

#### Golden Jubilee

In 1887, the British Empire celebrated Victoria's Golden Jubilee with a banquet to which 50 kings and princes were invited. The following day, she participated in a procession and attended a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey. By this time, Victoria was once again extremely popular. She even engaged, at the occasion, two Indian Muslims as waiters, one of whom was Abdul Karim (1863-1909). But he was accused of spying for the Muslim Patriotic League and biasing the Queen against the Hindus. Nevertheless, Abdul Karim remained in her service until he returned to India with a pension on her death.

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Gladstone returned to power after the 1892 general election. He was 82 years old at te time. Victoria objected when Gladstone proposed appointing the radical Henry Labouchere to the Cabinet. In 1894, Gladstone retired and, without consulting the outgoing prime minister, Victoria appointed Lord Rosebery (1847-1929) as prime minister. The following year, Lord Salisbury replaced him and remained prime minister for the rest of Victoria's reign.

In 1896, Victoria surpassed her grandfather George III as the longest-reigning monarch in English, Scottish, and British history, what made she request that any special celebrations should be delayed until 1897, to coincide with her Diamond Jubilee, which was made a festival of the British Empire.

In 1889, during a stay in Biarritz, she became the first reigning monarch from Britain to set foot in Spain when she crossed the border for a brief visit. In 1900, the **Boer War (11)** was so unpopular in Europe that her annual trip to France seemed inadvisable. Instead, the Queen went to Ireland for the first time since 1861, in part to acknowledge the contribution of Irish regiments to the South African war.

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Vitoria in her official diamond jubilee photographed by W. & D. DOWNEY 1829-1915. fONTE: https://i.pinimg.com/736x/a2/aa/8c/a2aa8cf06c13425c5d72b6ae185bfd04--reina-victoria-queen--victoria.jpg

## **CONCLUSÃO**

Following a custom she maintained throughout her widowhood, Victoria spent the Christmas of 1900 at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. Rheumatism in her legs had rendered her lame, and her eyesight was clouded by cataracts. Through early January, she felt "weak and unwell" and by mid-January she described herself as being "drowsy ... dazed, [and] confused". She died on Tuesday, 22 January 1901, at the age of 81. Her son and sucessor, King Edward VII (1841-1910), and her eldest grandson, Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany, were at her deathbed.

In 1897, Victoria had written instructions for her funeral, which was to be military as befitting a soldier's daughter and the head of the army, and white instead of black. With a reign of 63 years, seven months and two days, Victoria was the longest-reigning British monarch and the longest-reigning queen regnant in world history until her great-great-granddaughter Elizabeth II (1926-) surpassed her on 9 September 2015. She was the last monarch of Britain from the House of Hanover. Her son and successor Edward VII belonged to her husband's House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.



Queen Victoria was the daughter of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn (1767-1820), the fourth son of King George III. Both the Duke of Kent and King George III died in 1820, and Victoria was raised under the supervision of her German-born mother Princess Victoria of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld (1786-1861). She inherited the throne at the age of 18, when the United Kingdom was already an established constitutional monarchy. Nevertheless, Victoria attempted to influence government policy and ministerial appointments. Publicly, on the other hand, she became a national icon who was identified with strict standards of personal morality.

Victoria married her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha (1819-1861), in 1840. After Albert's death, in 1861, the queen plunged into deep mourning and avoided public appearances. As a result of her seclusion, republicanism temporarily gained strength, but in the latter half of her reign her popularity recovered, especially when her Golden and Diamond Jubilees were celebrated. Her reign of 63 years and seven months is known as the Victorian era. It was a period of industrial, cultural, political, scientific, and military change within the United Kingdom, and was marked by a great expansion of the British Empire. She was the last British monarch of the House of Hanover. Her son and successor, Edward VII, belonged to the House of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the line of his father.



Após ler o texto dessa aula, escreva seu próprio texto, buscando ressaltar ate que ponto os acontecimentos políticos e culturais do reinado da rainha Vitória afetaram a produção oliterária do período. Use apenas uma página e escreva em inglês.

## COMENTARIO SOBRE AS ATIVIDADES

A intenção desta atividade é familiarizar o período vitoriano, antes de conhecer a sua literatura.



The Victorian Literature

## GLOSSÁRIO

- (1) The Representation of the People Act 1832 (known informally as the 1832 Reform Act, Great Reform Act or First Reform Act to distinguish it from subsequent Reform Acts) was an Act of Parliament (indexed as 2 & 3 Will. IV c. 45) that introduced wide-ranging changes to the electoral system of England and Wales. According to its preamble, the Act was designed to "take effectual Measures for correcting divers Abuses that have long prevailed in the Choice of Members to serve in the Commons House of Parliament".
- (2) Phytophthora infestans is an oomycete that causes the serious potato disease known aslate blight or potato blight (Early blight, caused by *Alternaria solani*, is also often called "potato blight"). Late blight was a major culprit in the 1840s European, the 1845 Irish and1846 Highland potato famines. The organism can also infect tomatoes and some other members of the Solanaceae. At first, the spots are gray-green and water-soaked, but they soon enlarge and turn dark brown and firm, with a rough surface.

- (3) The Great Famine or The Great Hunger was a period of mass starvation, disease, and emigration in Ireland between 1845 and 1852. It is sometimes referred to, mostly outside Ireland, as the Irish Potato Famine, because about two-fifths of the population was solely reliant on this cheap crop for a number of historical reasons. During the famine, approximately one million people died and a million more emigrated from Ireland, causing the island's population to fall by between 20% and 25%.
- (4) The Crimean War was a military conflict fought from October 1853 to March 1856 in which Russia lost to an alliance of France, the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and Sardinia. The immediate cause involved the rights of Christian minorities in the Holy Land, which was a part of the Ottoman Empire. The French promoted the rights of Roman Catholics, while Russia promoted those of the Eastern Orthodox Church. The longer-term causes involved the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the unwillingness of Britain and France to allow Russia to gain territory and power at Ottoman expense. It has widely been noted that the causes, in one case involving an argument over a key, have never revealed a "greater confusion of purpose", yet led to a war noted for its "notoriously incompetent international butchery".
- (5) The Great Exhibition of the Works of Industry of All Nations or The Great Exhibition, sometimes referred to as the Crystal Palace Exhibition in reference to the temporary structure in which it was held, was an international exhibition that took place in Hyde Park, London, from 1 May to 11 October 1851. It was the first in a series of World's Fairs, exhibitions of culture and industry that became popular in the 19th century, and it was a much anticipated event. The Great Exhibition was organized by Henry Cole (1808-1882) and Prince Albert, husband of the reigning monarch, Queen Victoria. It was attended by numerous notable figures of the time, including Charles Darwin, Samuel Colt, members of the Orléanist Royal Family and the writers Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, Lewis Carroll, George Eliot and Alfred Tennyson. Music for the opening was under the direction of Sir George Thomas Smart and the continuous music from the exhibited organs for the Queen's procession was "under the superintendence of William Sterndale Bennett (1816-1875)".
- (6) The Representation of the People Act 1867, known informally as the Reform Act of 1867, or the Second Reform Act, was a piece of British legislation that enfranchised part of the urban male working class in England and Wales for the first time.

- (7) The French Third Republic was the system of government adopted in France from 1870, when the Second French Empire collapsed, until 1940, when France's defeat by Nazi Germany in World War II led to the formation of the Vichy government in France. It came to an end on 10 July 1940, when the National Assembly of the Third Republic under its last President Paul Reynaud delegated all constitutional powers to Marshal Philippe Pétain of the rump French State in the *Zone libre* ("Free Zone") in the south of France.
- (8) The East India Company (EIC), also known as the Honourable East India Company (HEIC), or the British East India Company and informally as John Company, was an English and later British joint-stock company, which was formed to pursue trade with the East Indies but ended up trading mainly with the Indian subcontinent and Qing China.
- (9) The Russo-Turkish War of 1877-78 was a conflict between the Ottoman Empire and the Eastern Orthodox coalition led by the Russian Empire and composed of Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro. Fought in the Balkans and in the Caucasus, it originated in emerging 19th-century Balkannationalism. Additional factors included Russian hopes of recovering territorial losses suffered during the Crimean War, re-establishing itself in the Black Seaand supporting the political movement attempting to free Balkan nations from the Ottoman Empire.
- (10) The Second Anglo-Afghan War was fought between the British Raj and the Emirate of Afghanistan from 1878 to 1880, when the latter was ruled by Sher Ali Khan of the Barakzai dynasty, the son of formerEmir Dost Mohammad Khan. This was the second time British India invaded Afghanistan. The war ended after the British emerged victorious against the Afghan rebels and the Afghans agreed to let the British attain all of their geopolitical objectives from the Treaty of Gandamak. Most of the British and Indian soldiers withdrew from Afghanistan. The Afghan tribes were permitted to maintain internal rule and local customs but they had to cede control of the area's foreign relations to the British, who, in turn, guaranteed the area's freedom from foreign military domination. This was aimed to thwart expansion by the Russian Empire into India.
- (11) The **Second Boer War**, otherwise known as the **Second Anglo-Boer War** or the **South African War**, started on 11 October 1899 and ended on 31 May 1902. The United Kingdom, its Cape Colony, Colony of Natal with significant Afrikaner support and native African allies fought the South African Republic (Republic of Transvaal) and the Orange Free State. The British war effort was supported by

troops from several regions of the British Empire, including Southern Africa, the Australian colonies, Canada, Newfoundland, British India, and New Zealand. The war ended in victory for the British and theannexation of both republics. Both would eventually be incorporated into the Union of South Africa in 1910.

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