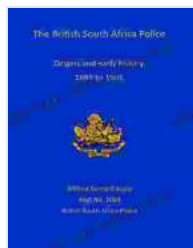


# The British South Africa Police: A Comprehensive Historical Overview



## The British South African Police: Origins and Early History 1885-1901 by Dan Hoffler

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1066 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 177 pages



The British South Africa Police (BSAP) was a paramilitary police force that played a pivotal role in the history of Southern Africa. Established in 1889 as the British South Africa Company's Police, the BSAP was responsible for maintaining law and order in the British South Africa Company's territories, which included present-day Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

The BSAP was initially recruited from a variety of backgrounds, including British soldiers, settlers, and African levies. Over time, the force became increasingly Africanized, with African constables making up the majority of the rank and file by the early 20th century. The BSAP was also responsible for the administration of African territories, and its officers often served as magistrates and tax collectors.

The BSAP played a controversial role in the Rhodesian Bush War (1964-1979). The force was accused of human rights abuses, including torture and extrajudicial killings. After Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, the BSAP was disbanded and replaced by the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

## **Inception and Early History**

The BSAP was established in 1889 by Cecil Rhodes, the founder of the British South Africa Company. Rhodes's vision was to create a British colony in Southern Africa that would stretch from the Cape Colony to the Zambezi River.

The first BSAP officers were recruited from a variety of backgrounds, including British soldiers, settlers, and African levies. The force was initially responsible for maintaining law and order in the British South Africa Company's territories, which included present-day Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

The BSAP quickly became a powerful force in Southern Africa. The force played a key role in the suppression of the Matabele Rebellion of 1896-1897, and it was also responsible for the administration of African territories. BSAP officers often served as magistrates and tax collectors, and they played a major role in the development of colonial rule in Southern Africa.

## **Africanization**

Over time, the BSAP became increasingly Africanized. By the early 20th century, African constables made up the majority of the rank and file. The Africanization of the BSAP was a complex process, and it was driven by a

number of factors, including the growing number of African recruits, the increasing demand for police services in African territories, and the changing political landscape in Southern Africa.

The Africanization of the BSAP had a number of consequences. It led to a decline in the number of white officers in the force, and it also resulted in a change in the BSAP's relationship with the African population. The Africanization of the BSAP also contributed to the growing sense of African nationalism in Southern Africa.

### **The Rhodesian Bush War**

The BSAP played a controversial role in the Rhodesian Bush War (1964-1979). The war began as a conflict between the white-minority government of Rhodesia and African nationalist groups. The BSAP was responsible for suppressing the African nationalist insurgency, and it was accused of human rights abuses, including torture and extrajudicial killings.

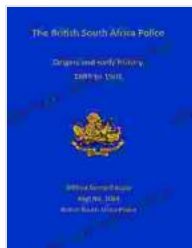
The BSAP's role in the Rhodesian Bush War was highly controversial. The force was accused of using excessive force against African nationalists, and it was also accused of colluding with the Rhodesian government in the suppression of African dissent. The BSAP's actions during the Rhodesian Bush War contributed to the growing international condemnation of the Rhodesian government, and they also played a role in the eventual downfall of the white-minority government.

### **Dissolution**

After Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, the BSAP was disbanded and replaced by the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The dissolution of the BSAP

was a significant event in the history of Zimbabwe, and it marked the end of an era of colonial policing in the country.

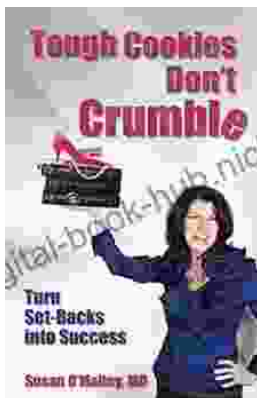
The BSAP was a complex and controversial organization. It played a significant role in the history of Southern Africa, and its legacy continues to be debated today.



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