

Societies in Conflict

Humans, the Natural World and the Shifting Boundaries Between Them

Lecture 7. Traces in the Landscape

Learning Objectives

- Emphasis on historical thinking skills

- Specific learning objectives listed in [week 4 study questions](#)

- Introduction to the geographical and cultural landscape of South Africa

- Historians' emphasis on time-place specificity and contingency

3 goals for today's lecture

- Establish a working definition of history

- Outline major strands in South African history

- Introduce the principal historical actors (agents of change) relevant for our story

Chronology and History Compared

First reading assignment for this unit: a chronology—a list of dates and events

- Does this list make sense to you?

- When you opened the reader and turned to the assigned page, did you

- Read the list?

- Skim the list?

- Skip it and turn to the next reading?

- What is the most important date on this list?

- How would you know?

History: making meaning from the past

Situating South Africa: the place itself as historical evidence

- Geography

- Climate

- Flora and Fauna

Peopling Southern Africa—and examining the records they left behind

- Problematizing “Bushmen”

- Complicating colonial categories

- The inescapable lens of Apartheid

Early Colonial Encounters

- Portuguese exploration

- VOC refreshment station

- Asian/Indian Ocean slaves

- European immigration

When does South African history start?

- History at local, national, and global scales