

Cartographic Focus on Bambatha and the Rebellion of 1906

Paul S. Thompson, *An Historical Atlas of the Zulu Rebellion of 1906*

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It is often remarked that history cannot be properly understood without sound geographical orientation. At the University of Natal, Paul Thompson and John P.C. Laband have lately established themselves as foremost compilers of authentic detailed atlases on especially Natal Colonial military history.

Thompson's most recent atlas focuses on Inkosi Bambatha and the Zulu rebellion of 1906. The compiler drew extensively from unpublished resources. The maps are accompanied with thorough introductions. The selection of maps offers a complete overview of the events associated with the so-called Bambatha Rebellion.

Boekresensies

The foreword addresses many of the traditional concerns about historical atlases. Thompson *inter alia* explains the reasons for his choice of specific terminology.

While well researched and organised, there seems to be some room for improvement. The concluding section on operations in Zululand in 1907 could have been strengthened to more effectively analyse the changes brought about by the rebellion. Additionally the inclusion of a small photo section would have enhanced the popular appeal of the atlas. But, ultimately Thompson has convincingly fulfilled his mission to provide an authoritative and competent analysis of a fully representative selection of military maps, providing a unique resource for future scholarship on the Zulu Rebellion of 1906.

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