

elected Pretorius, the then president of the Transvaal, as president of the Free State. Thus, Pretorius temporarily united the Republican North into a single unit — thereby coming as close to the attainment of his ideal of a united Voortrekker Republic as he ever would.

His acceptance of the presidency of the Free State threw the Transvaal into *confusion*. Once again the old geo-political division of the community came to the fore in the division of the country into an *eastern* and *western* group. *Civil war* was the outcome; union, the great political ideal which had developed from the Great Trek, was a lost cause. For the Free State, a new period of independence and consolidation dawned under the able leadership of President Brand.

After the civil strife of 1862 and 1864, order was eventually restored in the Transvaal and the country could be built up. The Great Trek had ended; fresh avenues had to be found. The aftermath of the Great Trek was no longer felt, and new interests emerged.

The foregoing clearly reveals the important part played by boundaries in the life of human communities. The Orange and the Vaal Rivers gave rise to strong political movements. It would be impossible to grasp the significance of the Great Trek in all its varied aspects without appreciating the part played by geographical features.

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