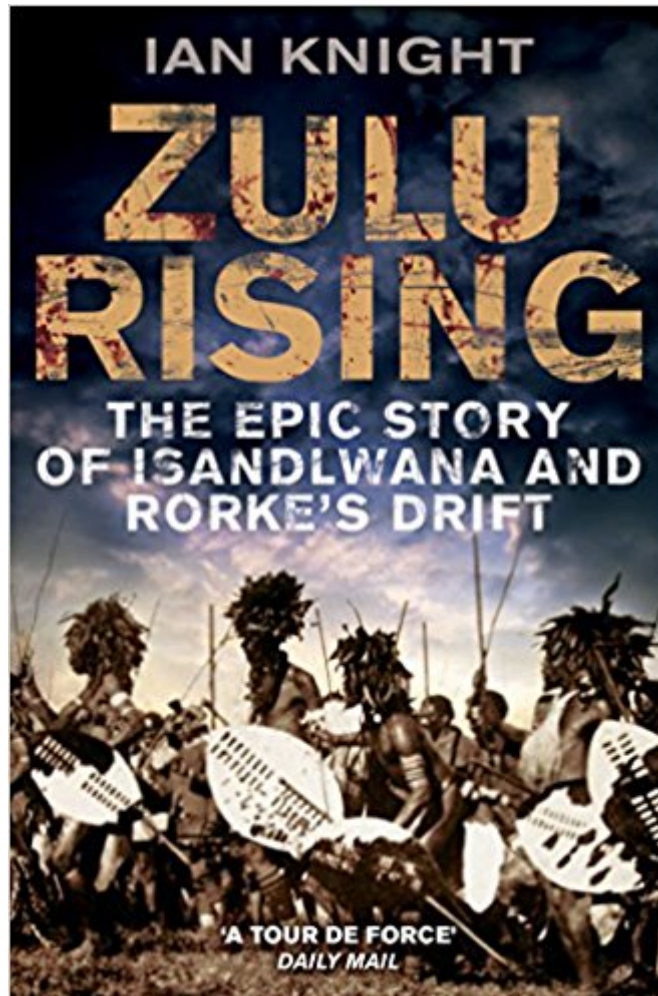




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# Zulu Rising: The Epic Story Of ISandlwana And Rorke's Drift



## Synopsis

The battle of Isandlwana was the single most destructive incident in the 150-year history of the British colonization of South Africa. In one bloody day—more than 800 British troops, 500 of their allies, and at least 2,000 Zulus were killed in a staggering defeat for the British empire. The consequences of the battle echoed brutally across the following decades as Britain took ruthless revenge on the Zulu people. In *Zulu Rising* Ian Knight shows that the brutality of the battle was the result of an inevitable clash between two aggressive warrior traditions. For the first time he gives full weight to the Zulu experience and explores the reality of the fighting through the eyes of men who took part on both sides, looking into the human heart of this savage conflict. Based on new research, including previously unpublished material, Zulu oral history, and new archaeological evidence from the battlefield, this is the definitive account of a battle that has shaped the political fortunes of the Zulu people to this day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ian Knight is the leading authority on the Anglo-Zulu War and has written over thirty highly regarded publications on Zulu history, including the award-winning National Army Museum Book of the Zulu War. He has appeared in and written many television documentaries on the Zulus, and in 2008 was awarded the Anglo-Zulu War Historical Society's Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Award for a lifetime's contribution to the field.

This is the definitive book for historians studying this period in British/African history. However, it is

not a light read. I found that the narrative was often bogged down by unnecessary details regarding minor characters and inconsequential references to too many regimental maneuvers. With respect, I found it distracting to be informed of almost every soldier's name, and unit details and family history. Be warned! It took 300 pages just to set up the first battle. Then another hundred before the actual fighting started. The book itself is 700 pages. I slogged through it because I wanted to know about these events, but I have to say, it was not a very fun read.

Ian Knight an award winning author, has written a seemingly complete epic of this famous 19th century colonial campaign. There is a beginning, a middle and end. All are essential for understanding not only the battle of Isandlwana but its ramifications for those participants. The Zulu are portrayed with dignity and in heroic context. Those that obtain their "knowledge" of history from motion pictures will be in for "eye opening" correction. The author refers to "cinematic myth" more than once in the narrative and corrects same. Readers will find here in, the Martini Henry, Zulu war magic, shield patterns, reality on drummer boys as well as the real Pvt Hook. There is so much detail in this volume, that one should realize this is not a quick read. This is a well told story of the "Day of the Dead Moon". recommended Bill McVey

Knight has written a long (700 pgs) detailed work that deals not only with the two battles in detail but the prelude & post periods including lives of many of the survivors from both sides; he deals with the controversies surrounding the war & many of the myths generated by previous books/articles & the movies Zulu Dawn & Zulu; he credits those from both sides who fought; died bravely as well as some who did not; I thought it was a fair/objective account & is well written for a military history; I recommend it for anyone interested in the colonial period in South Africa & military history in general

I read Washing of the Spears some 50 years ago and was much impressed. However with Zulu Rising a lot of the myths and falsehoods that were believed at the time of Washing of the Spears have been addressed and corrected such as the story that it was near impossible to open the ammunition crates. I would be surprised if a better book on Isandlwana can be found.

As others have noted, this is THE definitive work about the British / Zulu Wars of the 1870s. Ian Knight is the authority and does an excellent job covering not only the British and colonial perspectives, but also the Zulu side of what transpired. There is a shorter book by him that focuses only on Isandlwana and Rorke's Drift, but this large volume gives you the events leading up to those

initial battles. I found the coverage of events after the battles and the subsequent battles that ended the war a bit less detailed though. Nonetheless, this is the source for information on the Zulu Wars.

This is NOT a casual read. But the Zulu War is a subject of interest to me so I don't mind an extensive, well-researched plunge into the people and events. Despite its length and detail, Knight's book is quite readable and tells the story of a fascinating series of events in a clearly understandable way. Highly recommended.

my husband loves it

was my third try for the right book...found it. It is a very good (balanced) read

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