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Poverty, War, and Violence in South Africa

Poverty and violence are issues of global importance. In *Poverty, War, and Violence in South Africa*, Clifton Crais explores the relationship between colonial conquest and the making of South Africa's rural poor. On the basis of a wealth of archival sources, this detailed history changes our understanding of the origins of the gut-wrenching poverty that characterizes rural areas today. Crais shifts attention away from general models of economic change and focuses on the enduring implications of violence in shaping South Africa's past and present. Crais details the devastation wrought by European forces and their African auxiliaries. Their violence led to wanton bloodshed, large-scale destruction of property, and famine. Crais explores how the survivors struggled to remake their lives, including the adoption of new crops, and the world of inequality and vulnerability colonial violence bequeathed. He concludes with a discussion of contemporary challenges and the threats to democracy in South Africa. Written for general readers and specialists alike, this book overturns conventional wisdom and offers new ways of understanding violence and poverty in the modern world.

Clifton Crais is currently a professor of history and director of the Institute of African Studies at Emory University. Crais is the recipient of fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Humanities, Fulbright, Stanford Humanities Center, Institute of Social and Economic Research, Rhodes University, and University of Cape Town. He is the author of *Sara Baartman and the Hottentot Venus: A Biography and a Ghost Story*, as well as *The Politics of Evil* (Cambridge, 2002; paperback edition, 2009) and *White Supremacy and Black Resistance in Pre-Industrial South Africa* (Cambridge, 1992), and editor of *The Culture of Power in Southern Africa: Essays on State Formation and the Political Imagination* (2003). Crais is on the editorial board of the *Journal of Social History*. He has lived in North and South Africa. He is currently completing a memoir, *History Lessons*.

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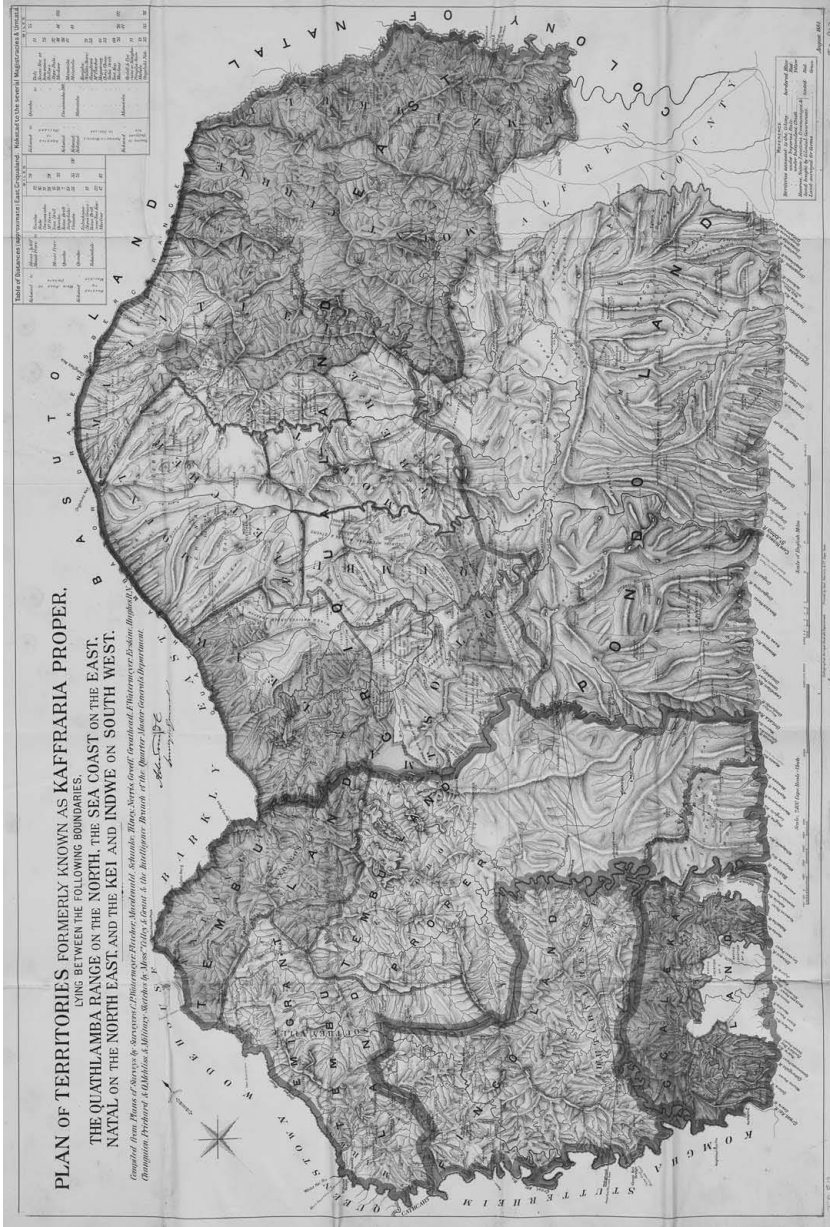
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