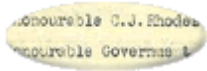
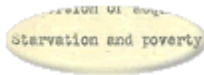


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SOURCE SEVEN

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)Extract from a complaint in 1899 by white South African settlers against British businessman Cecil Rhodes
(PRO ref: DO 119/552)

7a

[7b](#)

To His Honour the State President and the Honourable
Members of the Executive Council Pretoria.

Your honour and Gentlemen,

The undersigned come before you with a humble request to assist us.

We are desirous of presenting the following complaints against the Right Honourable C.J. Rhodes of Rhodesia (Matabeleland), to the Honourable Government of this State.

1. Whereas an invitation was issued some time ago by Mr. C.J. Rhodes to the Afrikaners in the S.A. Republic and especially to the Transvaalers, to come and occupy the Northern portion of South Africa under a promise that those who accepted his invitation should receive for themselves properties (lands), and whereas many of us travelled thither in pursuance of that invitation and sacrificed everything for that object especially at the time of the war of 1896 against the Matabeles, on which occasion again Mr. C.J. Rhodes distinctly promised in the presence of a great gathering at the time of the Commando, that all those Afrikaners who should give faithful service in that war should each receive a property for himself as soon as the war was over;

How to use this source

Study this source carefully. Different parts of the source will contain clues about why the British became empire builders in Africa. As you study the source, ask yourself:

- According to the Afrikaners, what deal did Cecil Rhodes put to them?
- Why did they accept?
- What do you think Rhodes was trying to achieve?
- What clues does this source provide about why the British became involved in Africa? (Use this source and the information in the useful notes.)

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Source 7b

Extract from a complaint in 1899 by white South African settlers against British businessman Cecil Rhodes
(PRO ref: DO 119/552)

Mr. C. J. Rhodes refused to fulfil his promise and we are thus by this action on his part, which we cannot describe otherwise than as a perversion of acquired rights, reduced to pitiable poverty. Starvation and poverty also prevail among us in Rhodesia.