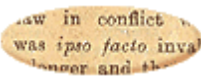


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SOURCE FOUR

[Transcript](#) | [Useful notes](#)Report from the South African Cape Times newspaper on the Statute of Westminster, 1931  
(PRO ref: DO 119/1019)

4a

[4b](#)

## THE STATUTE OF WESTMINSTER

Considerable discussion has been roused by General Hertzog's motion in the House of Assembly which asks the House to approve a statute, to be passed by the British Parliament, to remove survivals of the authority of the British Parliament over the Dominions. The statute is to be known as the Statute of Westminster. It embodies the results of Dominion status. In a number of matters Great Britain still has technical authority over the Dominions. These are relics of a past day and the Imperial Conference of last year, following up the declaration of the Imperial Conference of 1926, recommended that they should be formally abolished by means of legislation passed by the British Parliament, after it had been approved by the

### How to use this source

1 Study this source carefully. Ask yourself whether the source supports or contradicts the view that:

- The British left as soon as the people wanted them to
- The British left because of the actions of important individuals
- The British were forced out by peaceful political protests
- The British were forced out by armed resistance
- The British wanted to leave because the area was causing them problems
- The British left because they felt the country was ready to rule itself democratically

2 If you were an **admirer** of the British empire, explain whether you would be able to use this source to support your viewpoint.

3 If you were a **critic** of the British empire, explain whether you would be able to use this source to support your viewpoint.

4 What impression do you get of the attitude in South Africa towards Britain?

[Background](#) | [Worksheet](#)

after it had been approved by the Parliaments of the Dominions. General Hertzog's motion asks the House of Assembly to give such approval. A schedule attached to the motion sets out the "lines" on which this Statute of Westminster is to be framed. One of the sub-sections (clause 2, (2) ) of this schedule provides that



## Source 4a

**Report from the South African Cape Times newspaper on the Statute of Westminster, 1931**  
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## Source 4b

Report from the South African Cape Times newspaper on the Statute of Westminster, 1931  
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No law or provision of any law made after the commencement of this Act by the Parliament of a Dominion shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the law of England or to the provisions of any existing or future Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, or to any order, rule, or regulation made under any such Act, and the powers of the Parliament of a Dominion shall include the power to repeal or amend any such Act, order, rule or regulation, in so far as the same is part of the law of the Dominion.

In other words, the old provision that a Colonial law in conflict with a British law was *ipso facto* invalid is to prevail no longer and the Parliament of any Dominion is to have power to repeal or amend any British Act which is part of the law of that Dominion.