



BENIN WARS, ZULU WARRIORS

Lesson Plan to accompany the short story
“Succession” in the collection “The Illustrated
Ulysses S. Grant in China and Other Stories.”

The nineteenth century saw renewed efforts by the European powers to create colonies to expand their influence and markets in an increasingly industrialized western society. With the New World no longer their plaything, the Great Powers of Europe focused on Asia and Africa for their conquests. The French and British were at the forefront of this conquest, with the British Empire spreading throughout portions of Africa and Asia.

Of course, such colonization efforts brought conflict with the locals. With time and training, the locals could put up a fight, too. Whereas the settlers of the New World wielded matchlocks against bows and spears, more often than not the established civilizations of Africa and Asia opposed the Europeans with their own firearms, as well as more traditional weapons.

Two such conflicts were the Benin and Zulu Wars. Benin was a long established African kingdom in West Africa, while the Zulu tribe lived in southern Africa. Both locations would become British and Dutch colonies in the nineteenth century, and their history is a complex mix of local and foreign politics. The Benin Wars was largely a punitive expedition for raids into British holdings, while the expansion of South Africa resulted from a search for natural resources and ports for the British Royal Navy.

ASSIGNMENT

Please visit these sites and answer two questions:

<https://archive.artic.edu/benin/conquest/>

<https://www.historyanswers.co.uk/history-of-war/zulu-warriors/>

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/zulu-war>

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/HistoryofBritain/Timeline-of-the-AngloZulu-War/>

- 1) What events led to the Benin Wars?
- 2) What events led to the Zulu Wars?

Length: your essay should be roughly 300 words

