



# The War in South Africa: Its Causes and Effects

*J. A. Hobson*

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*Manchester Guardian* correspondent John Atkinson Hobson's book describes in clinical detail the lies, deception, underhanded maneuverings, false propaganda—and the ubiquitous Jewish lobby—which lay behind the outbreak of the Second Anglo-Boer War in 1889.

The trail of lies included faked “atrocities” propaganda, faked allegations of Boer barbarity, corruption, maladministration, and the deliberate distortions and double-crossing in the “negotiations” which preceded the war.

He also explains how these allegations were spread across the English-speaking world. They were generated, he proves, in the newsrooms of the anti-Boer “newspapers” in Johannesburg, and sent by telex to London, from where they were fed into the major English language newspapers, where they were faithfully repeated without question.

Finally, Hobson reveals the true source behind the anti-Boer agitation and incitement to war: the powerful Jewish lobby in South Africa, who he openly calls the “Jew-Imperialists.”

This Jewish lobby, Hobson shows, owned not only the mineral and trading wealth of the Transvaal Boer republic, but also the major media outlets in Johannesburg, which generated the false propaganda against Paul Kruger's isolated and ultimately inoffensive state.

“A few of the financial pioneers in South Africa have been Englishmen, like Messrs. Rhodes and Rudd; but recent developments of Transvaal gold-mining have thrown the economic resources of the country more and more into the hands of a small group of international financiers, chiefly German in origin and Jewish in race.

“Before I went there, the names of Beit, Eckstein, Barnato, &c., were of course not unknown to me; the very ship in which I crossed bore many scores of Jewish women and children. But until I came to examine closely the structure of industry and society upon the Rand I had no conception of their number or their power. I thus discovered that not Hamburg, not Vienna, not Frankfort, but Johannesburg is the New Jerusalem.

“When it is borne in mind that this great confederation of press interests is financially cemented by the fact that Rand mining magnates are chief owners of at least two important London daily papers and of several considerable weekly papers, while the wider and ever-growing Jewish control of other organs of the press warrants a suspicion that the direct economic nexus between the English press and Rand finance is far stronger than is actually known, we shall have a clear comprehension of the press conspiracy which has successfully exploited the stupid Jingoism of the British public for its clearly conceived economic ends.”

Hobson also provides the *casus belli* why this Jewish lobby wanted the war: not to seize the mineral wealth of the Boer republic (they already owned that) but to ensure that its political masters were brought under control to ensure a steady cheap supply of black—and white—labor to toil in the dark mines.

He is also biting about South Africa's racial policies, pointing out that the reliance on nonwhite labor would ultimately cause the death of white rule in that country.

“No satisfactory civilisation can possibly arise where two races live together without blending, one superior

in cerebral development and using this superiority to impose all the burden of directly productive labour upon the other, while it despises this inferiority."

This book was first published as the Second Anglo-Boer war was already underway, was highly popular, but its open naming of the Jewish Randlords as the source of the lies and agitation raised an outcry from those so named, and the work quickly disappeared down the memory hole.

This new edition has been completely reset and annotated. It also contains a short history of the course of the Second Anglo-Boer War, and a new introduction which details the Jewish lobby's role in inciting the Iraq War of 2003.

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