

# Historical Surveying Talk on The Dutch at the Cape of Good Hope: Land Rights and Mapping

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## SUMMARY

When the Dutch arrived at the Cape of Good Hope to establish a refreshment station, they brought with them, and imposed, the dominant views of land rights under international law of the time. But this international law was a European compact and did not consider the rights of indigenous peoples. Land acquisition at the Cape under Dutch rule, and the legality of that in terms of their international law is discussed. Along with land governance came the responsibility of surveying land parcels for allocation to Dutch immigrants as well as mapping of the territory acquired. This presentation thus touches on the law, the practice, the property surveying and the maps during Dutch rule at the Cape between 1652 and the start of the 19th century.

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