

# Smuts: Lost in Transmission



## Smuts: Lost in Transmission?

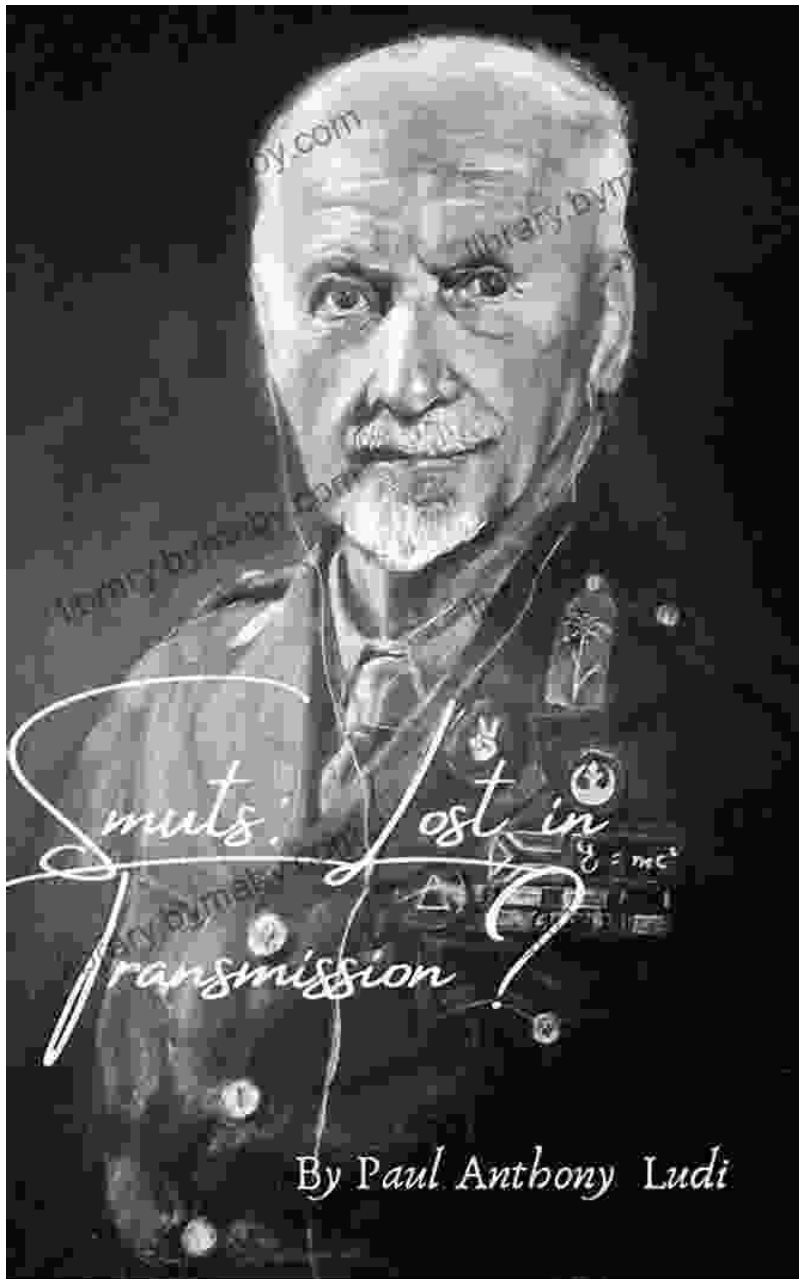
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Jan Smuts was a towering figure in South African history. He was a brilliant military strategist, a gifted statesman, and a visionary thinker. He played a key role in shaping the course of his country's history, both during and after the apartheid era.

Smuts was born in the Cape Colony in 1870. He studied law at the University of Cambridge and then returned to South Africa to practice law.

He quickly became involved in politics and was elected to the Cape Parliament in 1895.

When the Boer War broke out in 1899, Smuts joined the Boer forces. He quickly rose through the ranks and became one of the most successful Boer generals. After the war, Smuts played a key role in the negotiations that led to the Treaty of Vereeniging, which ended the war and established the Union of South Africa.

Smuts served as Prime Minister of South Africa from 1919 to 1924 and again from 1939 to 1948. During his time as Prime Minister, he oversaw the country's entry into World War I and World War II. He also played a key role in the establishment of the League of Nations and the United Nations.

Smuts was a complex and controversial figure. He was a brilliant military strategist and a gifted statesman, but he was also a strong advocate for white supremacy. He believed that whites were superior to blacks and that blacks should be segregated from whites.

Smuts's views on race were shaped by his experiences growing up in the Cape Colony. He grew up in a world where whites were the dominant race and blacks were treated as second-class citizens. He believed that this was the natural order of things and that it was necessary to maintain white supremacy in South Africa to protect the country from chaos.

Smuts's views on race were not unique among white South Africans at the time. Many whites believed that blacks were inferior and that they should be segregated from whites. However, Smuts's views were more extreme than most. He believed that blacks should be denied all political and economic rights and that they should be forced to live in separate areas.

Smuts's views on race had a profound impact on South Africa's history. He was one of the architects of the apartheid system, which enforced racial segregation and discrimination. Apartheid was a brutal and oppressive system that caused great suffering for millions of black South Africans.

Smuts's legacy is complex and controversial. He was a brilliant military strategist and a gifted statesman. He was instrumental in shaping the course of South African history during the apartheid era. However, he was also a strong advocate for white supremacy and his views on race had a profound impact on the country's history.

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### **About the Author**

Andrew Thompson is a historian and author. He has written extensively about South African history, including the apartheid era.

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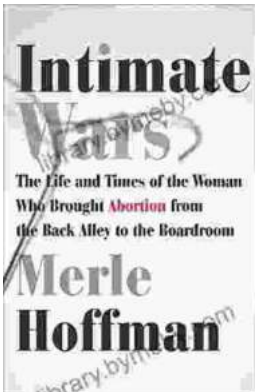
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