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Note
As the geographical area that is the focus of this book is localised to the Cape Colony, entries under 'Afrikaners' refer specifically to Cape Afrikaners in the period under review.

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This book is a sequel to a previous book by the author, *Cecil Rhodes and the Cape Afrikaners*, which explores the evolution of Cape Afrikaner ethnic identity and consciousness mainly in the latter part of the 19th century. That book focused on the Cape Afrikaner political elite who led the movement of ethnic discovery and assertion. This study centres on the opposition of the majority Afrikaner sheep farmers in the 1890s to the Scab Act legislation affecting their stock farming pursuit.

Focusing on the sheep-farming community, this study delves deeper into the process of ethnic identity formation among Afrikaner farmers. These farmers left, unusually, an amazingly rich body of written evidence. This offered the author a unique opportunity to explore the elusive process of ethnic consciousness formation among ordinary Afrikaners.

Ethnic identity among Cape Afrikaner sheep farmers was forged, as is invariably the case, along the fault lines between them and 'the others'. The others were, naturally, the English-speaking settlers and the colonial government led by Cecil Rhodes. They differed from the objects of the study both in culture and in attitudes towards sheep farming.

The study also shows that the process of ethnic identity formation is anything but a march of unity and unanimity. The ethnic consciousness of Afrikaner sheep farmers opposing the Act evolved also against Afrikaner others with whom they shared cultural affinity but whom they vehemently opposed on issues related to sheep farming. Along these complex fault lines, they developed their version of Afrikaner identity and consciousness with a particular ontology, a particular understanding of the relations between the ecology and the farmer, a particular outlook about a proper Afrikaner way of life, and a particular conception of ethnic morality.

This brand of Afrikaner ethnicity gave rise to radical politics that shook the conservative, elite-dominated Afrikaner political party, the Afrikaner Bond.

This is as much a study of social ecology as it is of identity and politics.