

## **THE EARLY HISTORY OF EAST AFRICAN COAST**

- The East African coast stretches from Mogadishu in the North to Cape Delgado in the South.
- The earliest people to settle at the coast were initially hunters and food gatherers
- The Bantu were the first group of people to migrate to the East African coast.
- They came from central Africa around 500AD.
- They settled in towns like Mombasa, Kilwa, Sofala and Malindi.
- The second group of people who settled at the coast were the Cushites.
- They migrated from North Eastern Ethiopia and occupied the northern part of the coast.
- The Arabs and Persians were the third group of people to migrate to the coast around 1000 A.D.
- They were mainly traders who crossed the Indian Ocean.
- However other groups like Egyptians, Greeks, Chinese, Indonesians, and Indians also found themselves coming to the coast.
- Their arrival was due to the booming Indian Ocean trade.

### **THE ZENJ EMPIRE (THE LAND OF AZANIA)**

- The Zenj Empire was a stretch of land along the East African coast from Mogadishu up to Cape Delgado.
- It's the Arabs who named that area the Zenj Empire meaning "The land of the black people".
- The Arabs thought that it was one Empire but this was not true
- The coast was made up of 37 independent states.
- These states included; Kilwa, Sofala, Malindi, Mombasa, Pate, Scotra, Kilifi, Zanzibar, Lamu, Oja, Pemba, Gedi, Mafia, Mogadishu, e.t.c.
- Politically each state had its own ruler or leader.
- Each state was equipped with a small army.
- Socially the people settled in small communities and built small wattle houses.
- Economically they carried out Agriculture, Fishing, Hunting, Iron working and Trade.

## **THE ARABS ON THE EAST AFRICAN COAST**

By 1000A.D, the Arabs had started crossing the Indian Ocean to come to East African coasts. Their flow into East Africa continued up to – 1500A.D.

### **Why the Arabs came to the East African coast**

- ❖ The Arabs were attracted by the booming Indian Ocean trade which would generate profits.
- ❖ They were interested in commodities like Ivory, Slaves, animal skins, gold, and bee wax e.t.c.
- ❖ The Arabs were driven by the desire to spread Islam on the coast i.e. the strong Muslims wanted to Islamize the whole coast and set up a Moslem Empire.
- ❖ The East African coast was blessed with good natural harbours which could allow even big ships to anchor.
- ❖ The monsoon winds also encouraged the Arabs to come to the coast because they blew the dhows towards the East African coast.
- ❖ Political persecutions and power struggles in Arabia forced many to seek refuge at the East African coast for example the Yorubi and Busaidi Family struggles in Oman.
- ❖ The Arabs especially the young men were motivated by the spirit of adventure i.e. they had the desire to explore unknown lands /areas.

- ❖ The hospitality of the coastal people also encouraged many Arabs to come to the East African coast.
- ❖ The Arabs were also attracted by the fertile soils at the coast i.e. there was a lot of free land at the coast which the Arabs wanted to use for agriculture.
- ❖ The presence of fresh drinking water at the coast also attracted many Arabs to settle at the East African coast.
- ❖ Religious persecution also forced many Arabs to come and settle at the East African coast.
- ❖ The presence of highly demanded goods e.g. Gold, Slaves, Ivory and Skins forced many Arabs to come and settle at the coast and obtain these commodities cheaply.
- ❖ Some Arabs landed at the E.African coast because they were driven by the monsoon winds.
- ❖ Some Arabs were driven by bound wagon influence i.e. they migrated to the coast because they saw others and their relatives migrating.

### **Effects of the Arabs at the coast**

- ❖ The Arabs imposed themselves as rulers over the local people making them lose their independence hence the coastal people tasted foreign rule for the first time.
- ❖ Inter – marriages between the local people and the Arabs gave birth to a new group of people called the Swahili people.
- ❖ With the birth of the Swahili people a new culture called the Swahili culture (Afro Arab culture) developed at the coast.
- ❖ The new culture came with a new language called Kiswahili which became the medium of communication along the coast.
- ❖ There was spread of Islam i.e. many people at along the coast became Moslems.
- ❖ The Arabs introduced new styles of building at the coast e.g. they started building flat topped houses and some with dome shapes made out of stones and bricks.
- ❖ The Local people adopted Arabic ways of dressing e.g. Men started putting on Kanzus, Turbans and Caps while the Women started putting on long dresses and veils.
- ❖ The Sharia law of administration was introduced at the East African coast and Islamic titles like Sheikh and Sultan were used by the local rulers.
- ❖ The coming of Arabs led to the growth of coastal towns e.g. Kilwa, Malindi, Mombasa and Zanzibar because of the trade contacts with Arabs e.g. magnificent buildings were put up.
- ❖ The Arabs introduced new crops at the E.African coast e.g. Rice, Wheat, Sugarcane, Bananas cloves and the coastal people started growing these crops.
- ❖ Mosques and Quranic Schools were built to help in the spread of Islam. People along the coast were trained to read the Quran and Arabic language.
- ❖ The Arabs introduced the minting and use of coins in trade. This replaced the old system of barter trade.
- ❖ The coming of Arabs led to the development of slave trade along the coast. Slaves were highly demanded in Arab countries and this greatly depopulated East Africa.
- ❖ The Arabs introduced guns along the coast and this increased warfare and insecurity at the coast.
- ❖ Many people shifted from fishing, farming and herding and then took on trade which was booming at the coast.
- ❖ A powerful and rich class of people emerged along the coast as a result of their participation in trade through which they got a lot of wealth.

- ❖ The Arabs introduced new techniques of boat building along the coast due to the need to ease transport along the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ African resources were exploited to the maximum e.g. Slaves, Ivory were exchanged 4 simple Items like mirrors.
- ❖ East Africa was linked to the outside world because the trade along the coast attracted people from Asia and Europe.
- ❖ Economic Rivalry developed among the coastal town e.g. between Mombasa and Malindi, Kilwa and Sofala. Each town wanted to control and monopolize the trade.
- ❖ Arabic language was introduced along the coast as official language used for administration while Kiswahili was for business.
- ❖ Economic prosperity along the coast attracted the Portuguese towards the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and these looted and plundered the coastal wealth.

### **The features of life along the coast (1000 – 1500 A.D)**

#### **Ways of life/characteristics of the coast**

- ❖ The coast was characterized by many groups of people e.g. Bantu, Cushites, Arabs, Persians, Greeks, Egyptians e.t.c.
- ❖ Politically most of these people settled in coastal towns e.g. Malindi, Zanzibar, Lamu, and Mafia with each town having its own ruler who was either a Sultan or Sheikh.
- ❖ There were inter-marriages between the people of the coast and Arabs giving a rise to a new race of people called the Swahili people.
- ❖ The Swahili people had their own culture i.e. the Afro – Arab culture / Swahili culture with their own language called Kiswahili
- ❖ Arabic ways of life e.g. dressing, seating cross legged and people used to wear Kanzus, Veils, and turbans and also build flat topped houses.
- ❖ Many people were converted to Islam and it became the dominant form of worship and it replaced traditional beliefs e.g. mosques and Quranic Schools were built.
- ❖ Arabic was the official language used in administration, courts of law and religious circles while Kiswahili was the business language.
- ❖ Trade was another main feature of the coast. They traded with people of the interior of East Africa e.g. Nyamwezi e.t.c.
- ❖ There existed two classes of people at the coast i.e. the wealthy class lived in luxury houses while the poor slept in mud houses
- ❖ The legal system at the coast was based on the Sharia law and the Koran e.g. Islamic titles came into use e.g. Muhtasib in charge of police, Khadi in charge of the judiciary.
- ❖ The coast was also characterized with rivalry among the various coastal settlements e.g. Mombasa against Malindi and Kilwa against Sofala
- ❖ The coastal people also carried out some agriculture. Crops like millet, rice and wheat were grown.
- ❖ The coastal people also domesticated animals like goats, sheep, chicken and cows.
- ❖ The coastal towns were under foreign rule for the first time i.e. Arabs imposed themselves as rulers of the coast.

## **THE RISE OF THE SWAHILI CULTURE AT THE COAST**

- ❖ The Swahili culture developed out of the Arab contacts with the coastal people.
- ❖ On reaching the coast the Arabs intermarried with the coastal people.
- ❖ Intermarriages between the coastal people and the Arabs gave birth to the Swahili people.
- ❖ Due to the influence of the Arabs, the Swahili people became Moslems.
- ❖ A number of mosques and Quaranic schools were built leading to the spread of the Swahili culture.
- ❖ The Swahili people adopted Architecture of Arabs i.e. they built flat topped and dome shaped houses similar to those in Arabia.
- ❖ The coastal people also adopted the Arabic ways of dressing for example Men wore Kanzus, caps and Turbans while the Women wore long silk dresses, veils, bangles and bracelets.
- ❖ Through the Indian Ocean trade, the Swahili culture was also spread along the coast.
- ❖ Africans started using foreign goods from Arabia like beads, clothes, and spices e.t.c.
- ❖ The Arabs also introduced cowry shells as a currency to help in trade and this replaced the barter system of trade. The coastal people adopted the use of cowry shells.
- ❖ The Swahili people also copied / adopted the Arabic social ways e.g. praying five times a day, sitting crossed legged and Arabic burial customs.
- ❖ The Swahili people also adopted the Arabic food stuffs e.g. Rice, Oranges, Wheat e.t.c they also kept some animals e.g. goats, sheep, and cattle.
- ❖ The Swahili culture would have continued to flourish but due to the interruption from the Portuguese around 1458, Afro-Arab culture experienced a decline.

## **THE INDIAN OCEAN TRADE (1000 –1500 A.D)**

- This was the trade that was carried out between the coastal people and Arabs mainly from Arabia and Persia.
- The trade was as a result of the contacts between the land of Azania and Arabia /Persia.
- It was also the trade relationship between the East African coast and Arabia.

## **ORGANISATION OF THE TRADE**

- ❖ The trade was conducted along the East African coast between 1000 – 1500 A.D.
- ❖ The Indian Ocean acted as the link between the coastal people and the Arabs.
- ❖ The trade was conducted among several people i.e. it was between the coastal people and the Arabs, Persians, Chinese, Indians and Malaysians.
- ❖ The trade was based on the prevailing monsoon winds.
- ❖ The winds blew the dhows towards the coast between November and April and then back to Asia between May and October.
- ❖ The main exports from E. Africa included -; Gold, Ivory, Slaves, copper, honey, and bee wax.
- ❖ Most of these goods for export were got from the interior of East Africa.
- ❖ The imports from Asia included -; Guns, clothes, Beads, Iron, Utensils e.g. pans, bowls and plates.
- ❖ The medium of exchange was barter trade i.e. exchanging goods for goods.
- ❖ Later on cowrie shells were introduced as a currency which speeded up trading activities.
- ❖ The medium of communication was Kiswahili which people mastered to participate in the trade.
- ❖ The foreign traders used vessels known as **dhows** to come to the coast.
- ❖ Foreign traders didn't enter the interior because goods found them at the coast.

- ❖ The main trading centers at the coast were Kilwa and Sofala (Gold) Zanzibar (slaves) and Mombasa (Ivory).
- ❖ From the interior, goods were transported by the African middle men for example: Nyika, Yao and Kamba.
- ❖ The means of transport used to bring commodities to the coast was head portage.
- ❖ The trade was mainly controlled by the Arabs at the coast.
- ❖ The local people controlled the transportation of commodities from the interior.
- ❖ The Indian Banyans were the main controllers of the finances at the coast. This was because they were wealthy businessmen who acted as the money lenders to the traders.

### **Effects of the Indian Ocean trade**

- ❖ The Indian Ocean trade led to the growth of coastal towns due to the coming of Arabs.
- ❖ It led to the introduction and growth of the Afro—Arab culture due to intermarriages between the coastal people and the Arabs.
- ❖ It led to the introduction and spread of Islam because mosques and Quaranic schools were built.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade led to introduction of new crops e.g. rice, wheat, etc.
- ❖ People at the coast abandoned fishing, farming and they joined trading activities because it was more profitable.
- ❖ The Islamic system of Administration was introduced and it was based on the Sharia law in the Quran.
- ❖ Economic Rivalry between coastal towns was increased because each town wanted to control the trade.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade led to the introduction of guns and this increased inter-tribal conflicts which led to bloodshed, insecurity and disorder.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade led to the introduction of new techniques of boat building.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade led to the replacement of barter trade with currency such as rupees, cowry shells and later on small copper coins were introduced.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade led to the introduction of slave trade and slavery which caused a lot of human suffering.
- ❖ The people at the East Africa coast were introduced to new foreign commodities e.g. mirrors, beads, necklaces, bangles etc.
- ❖ With increased slave trade and inter-tribal conflicts, the population at East Africa declined.
- ❖ The coastal people adopted new styles of dressing e.g. men put on kanzus turbans while women put on long silk dresses and veils.
- ❖ Indian Ocean trade attracted the Portuguese in 1498 to come and conquer the coast. They looted and destroyed many coastal towns.
- ❖ The Arabs who came to trade later imposed themselves as the rulers over the local people making them lose their independence.
- ❖ The Indian Ocean trade opened up E.A to the outside world and this attracted more visitors to come to the coast especially from the far east.
- ❖ Literacy was promoted at the coast through the building of Quaranic schools and other Arabic literature.
- ❖ Kiswahili was adopted as the main business language while Arabic became the official language.

### **THE GROWTH AND IMPORTANCE OF THE LEADING COASTAL TOWNS**

- The East African coast was made up of the 37 independent states.

- Some of these states included Kilwa, Mogadishu, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Kilifi, Pate, Oja and Malindi.

### **FACTORS FOR THE RAPID GROWTH OF COASTAL TOWNS**

- ❖ The Indian Ocean trade between the Arabs and the coastal people was the major reason behind the development of the coastal towns for example people generated a lot of wealth.
- ❖ The monsoon winds that facilitated the movement of the Arabs also led to the development of the coastal towns for example they eased the transportation of the goods and movements of the people.
- ❖ The coming of many foreigners to the coast also led to the development of coastal towns. For example the Arabs, Greeks, Indians etc.
- ❖ The introduction of Islam by the Arabs created a sense of brotherhood which led to the development of coastal towns.
- ❖ The introduction of Kiswahili and Arabic also led to the development of coastal towns because it improved on communication.
- ❖ The introduction of the Sharia law of administration based on the Quran also led to the development of coastal towns.
- ❖ The introduction of guns by Arabs imposed security hence leading to the growth and development of coastal towns.
- ❖ The introduction of cowry shells and rupees led to the development of trade which in turn led to the development of the coastal towns.
- ❖ The presence of highly demanded goods e.g. Gold, Ivory, slaves and Iron at the coast also led to the development of the coastal towns.
- ❖ The cool coastal climate also attracted many foreign visitors to the coast who contributed towards the growth of the coastal towns.
- ❖ The good natural harbours at the coast for example at Mombasa and Zanzibar also led to development of coastal towns.
- ❖ The fertile soils at the E.African coast also attracted many foreigners and they also supported agriculture for example rice, wheat and clove growing.
- ❖ Many towns developed on Islands giving them natural defense from attackers.
- ❖ The presence of a big population at the coast also led to the development of the coastal towns for example they provided labour and market for goods.

### **PRINCIPLE CENTERS OF POWER AND WEALTH AT THE COAST**

#### **KILWA:**

- ❖ Kilwa was probably founded by Persian migrants.
- ❖ They displaced the Cushites and Bantu around the 13<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ Its rulers were the Afro-Shirazi who came from the Banadir coast.
- ❖ They established a strong dynasty and controlled the town up to the time of the Portuguese.
- ❖ Under Ali Ibn – Al Hassan, Kilwa was transformed into a very powerful town.
- ❖ He conquered areas like Pemba which improved her status at the coast.
- ❖ Kilwa developed due to its monopoly in Gold trade and she controlled the Gold trade route from Sofala.
- ❖ Kilwa also carried out raids on her neighbours like Pemba and Mafia which provided revenue.
- ❖ Kilwa also became a centre of Arabic Architecture i.e. mosques and impressive flat topped houses were built.

- ❖ Kilwa had the biggest mosque called Husni Kubwa which was one of the wonders at the coast.
- ❖ Kilwa also became the centre of Islam i.e. it had Moslems who were devoted to the spread of Islam.
- ❖ Many of them penetrated into the interior of East Africa to acquire trade items e.g. slaves.
- ❖ With time, Kilwa started minting its own silver copper coins to facilitate trade.
- ❖ By the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Kilwa had started declining.
- ❖ This was due to the emergence of Mombasa and coming of the Portuguese in 1498.

### **MOMBASA:**

- ❖ It was assumed that Mombasa was founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ It was founded by the Afro-Shiraz Arabs who displaced the Arabs.
- ❖ Mombasa was founded as an export centre for slaves and Ivory and the town had a strong element of African culture.
- ❖ Mombasa grew rich because of the Indian ocean trade and she started expanding in the second half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ The good natural harbours at Mombasa and her strategic position attracted the Arabs which led to her development.
- ❖ Due to intermarriages between the Africans and the Arabs, Mombasa became a centre of Swahili culture.
- ❖ From the 15<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Kilwa had started declining giving Mombasa a chance to grow to fame and power.
- ❖ Mombasa started putting up beautiful buildings and this attracted many people for settlement.
- ❖ Mosques and Quranic schools were built at Mombasa and its inhabitants were very devoted Moslems.
- ❖ However, Mombasa was always at war with Malindi.
- ❖ When the Portuguese landed at the coast, it was finally defeated and Fort Jesus was setup.

### **ZANZIBAR:**

- ❖ Zanzibar started as a small fishing village.
- ❖ Its earliest occupants came around the 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ These were later joined by the Arabs & Persians.
- ❖ They intermarried with the local people giving birth to the Swahili people and culture.
- ❖ Zanzibar gained a lot of wealth from the Indian Ocean trade.
- ❖ She traded mainly in slaves, ivory and animal skins.
- ❖ The wealthy Arabs also carried out agriculture and they set up coconut and clove plantations.
- ❖ Between **1200-1500 AD**, Zanzibar was one of richest coastal settlement with fine permanent stone buildings.
- ❖ Zanzibar was one of first coastal towns to mint and use her own coins.
- ❖ She maintained her trade contacts with the Indians.

### **DECLINE OR COLLAPSE OF THE COASTAL TOWNS**

- Between 1500 - 1700 AD, the East African coast greatly experienced a decline.
- This was also the same period when Portuguese were controlling the East African coast.

- ❖ The Portuguese chased away the Arabs who had greatly developed the coast.
- ❖ The Portuguese were constantly involved in rebellions against the Africans at the coast.
- ❖ The Portuguese destroyed and burnt down the coastal towns e.g. Kilwa and Mombasa's fine buildings were all destroyed by the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Portuguese were imposing heavy taxes on the local people and this caused massive poverty.
- ❖ There was a decline of the Indian Ocean trade when the Arabs were chased away by the Portuguese.
- ❖ Scarcity of trade items also led to the decline of the coastal towns this was because of the over exploitation of ivory, gold e.t.c.
- ❖ The Portuguese looted & squandered the coastal wealth i.e. they stole everything that was precious from the coast.
- ❖ The Portuguese monopolized the trade at the coast and they denied Africans a chance of participating in trade.
- ❖ The effects of slave trade also led to the decline of the coast i.e. the coast was depopulated and the strong and energetic youth were taken.
- ❖ Inter-coastal town conflicts also led to the decline of coastal towns i.e. Rivalry between coastal towns e.g. Malindi against Mombasa and Kilwa against Sofala.
- ❖ Attacks from Segeju & Zimba man eaters also led to decline of coastal towns i.e. they forced many people to run away from the coastal towns.

### **Revision questions**

1. a) what was the land of **Zenj/Azania**? Or who were its inhabitants by 1000 A.D?  
c) Describe the ways of life of the early inhabitants by 1000 A.D.
2. a) Why were the Arabs interested in settling at the East African coast by 1000 A.D?  
b) How did their settlement affect the peoples of the East African coast?
3. a) Explain the **rise and development** of the **Swahili culture** at the East African coast before 1500 A.D.  
b) How did Islam influence the lives of the coastal people by 1500A.D?
4. a) Describe the **ways of life** of the East African coastal people by 1500 A.D.  
b) What were the reasons for the development of the East African coastal states?
5. a) Describe the **organization** of the Indian ocean trade by 1500 A.D **OR** Describe the **trade relationship** between **Azania** and **Arabia** during the period 1000-1500 A.D.  
b) What were the effects of this trade on the Peoples of East Africa?
6. Describe the growth and development of any two of the following coastal towns.  
a) Kilwa    b) Mombasa    c) Mogadishu    d) Zanzibar    e) Malindi.
7. a) Describe the characteristics of the East African coast by 1500 A.D.  
b) What reasons led to the decline of coastal towns between 1500A.D – 1700 A.D?

### **PORTUGUESE RULE AT THE EAST AFRICAN COAST (1500-1700 AD)**

- These were the first group of Europeans to come and settle at the East African coast.



- They started arriving at the coast in 1498 A.D.
- They displaced the Arabs who had stayed at the coast for over 500 years.

#### **Why the Portuguese came to E.Africa**

- ❖ The Portuguese being Christians wanted to spread Christianity along the East African coast especially after ending the spread of Islam.
- ❖ The Portuguese were looking for their Christian king called John Prester who had disappeared and was believed to be in the interior of North. East Africa.
- ❖ The Portuguese wanted to establish a large commercial empire along the coast so as to monopolize the Indian Ocean trade
- ❖ The Portuguese were looking for a direct sea route to India and they wanted to use the E.African coast as a base for resting and repairing of ships.
- ❖ The Portuguese also wanted to revenge on the Moslems who had converted them to Islam in Turkey (**IBERIAN PENINSULAR**) as early as 1700A.D.
- ❖ The Portuguese came to the E.African coast as a result of adventure and exploration i.e. they wanted to explore unknown lands.
- ❖ The Portuguese were also attracted by the coastal wealth i.e. the E.African coast had a lot of mineral and precious stones.
- ❖ The Portuguese were attracted by the fertile coastal soils which they wanted to use for growing crops to provide food to the Portuguese sailors.
- ❖ The East African coast also had good natural harbours which would act as bases for resting, repairing of ships and getting food and water.
- ❖ The Portuguese were also attracted by the coastal climate i.e. favorable rainfall and temperature to support Agriculture.
- ❖ The Portuguese wanted to prevent other European powers from gaining access to the coast (Indian Ocean Trade) i.e. they were unwilling to share the coastal wealth.
- ❖ The hospitality of the coastal people also led to the coming of the Portuguese i.e. Malindi made friendly relations with the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Portuguese also wanted to be prestigious as a great colonial power with wealthy colonies.
- ❖ The Portuguese wanted to deprive the Egyptian and Turkish forces of any help that they would get from fellow Moslems at the coast and that's why Fort Jesus was built.

#### **STAGES DURING THE PORTUGUESE CONQUEST AT THE COAST (1498 – 1510 A.D)**

- ❖ The Portuguese conquest of the East African was not a single event i.e. it took over 10 years and it was by force.
- ❖ In 1498, Vasco da Gama carried out a thorough survey of the coast and he returned to Portugal and made a report to King Emmanuel.
- ❖ He reported about the booming coastal trade, the presence of the Arabs and the need to use force to conquer the coast.
- ❖ In 1500, Pedro Alvares Cabral made an unsuccessful attack to capture Sofala hoping to control her gold trade.
- ❖ In 1502, Vasco Da Gama returned on his second journey with a fleet of 19 ships.
- ❖ He captured Kilwa where Sultan Ibrahim was forced to pay tribute to Portugal.
- ❖ However when Vasco Da Gama's fleet left for GAO (India), the sultan of Kilwa stopped paying tribute to Portugal.
- ❖ In 1503, Ruy Ravasco Lamenco came with reinforcements and was able to capture Islands of Mafia, Zanzibar and Pemba forcing them to pay tribute to Portugal.

- ❖ In 1504, Lopez Suarez unsuccessfully attacked Kilwa and its harbours.
- ❖ The gold trade was disrupted but Sultan Ibrahim still refused to pay the tribute.
- ❖ In 1505, Francisco D'Almeida on his way to GAO (India) attacked three towns i.e. Sofala, Kilwa and Mombasa.
- ❖ In all these towns, the Portuguese well trained soldiers over powered the coastal Sultans.
- ❖ In 1506, Captain Tristan De Cunha captured the Islands of Lamu, Kismayo, Pate, Brava and Oja and Scotra.
- ❖ In 1509, Alfonso D'Albuquerque captured the Islands of Mafia, Pemba, and Zanzibar.
- ❖ Other towns like Malindi simply welcomed and co-operated with the Portuguese.
- ❖ By 1510, all the coastal towns were under the Portuguese and they were divided into the northern and southern states.

#### **Why did the Portuguese conquer the East African coast with a lot of ease?**

- ❖ The Portuguese were well informed about the nature of Arabs at the coast e.g. Vasco da Gama had visited the coast and he advocated for the use of force to defeat the Arabs.
- ❖ The Portuguese were militarily superior i.e. they had better ships and guns e.g. the Canon Gun which scared the Africans at the coast.
- ❖ The coastal people had inferior weapons like spears and outdated guns which could not compete with the superior weapons of the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Coastal people were disunited and could not join hands to fight a common enemy e.g. Malindi and Mombasa had strong rivalry.
- ❖ The Portuguese had well trained soldiers who were experienced in warfare they also carried muskets and armored clothes.
- ❖ The Portuguese were skilled in naval warfare i.e. they could fight on water while the coastal people were used to fighting on land.
- ❖ The Portuguese soldiers were financially supported by their home government and the rich Portuguese merchant and therefore they had enough food, ships and weapons.
- ❖ The Portuguese always used surprise attacks to defeat the coastal societies for example at night and on market days.
- ❖ The Portuguese were very ruthless and brutal and they looted and burnt coastal towns to ashes e.g. Kilwa and Mombasa and this scared other towns.
- ❖ The Portuguese used the divide and rule policy to ensure that the coastal people would lose e.g. the Portuguese allied with Malindi to fight against Mombasa.
- ❖ The Coastal states had weak economies which could not sustain the fight against the Portuguese who were economically stronger.
- ❖ Some coastal states were already weakened by slave trade which reduced their population.
- ❖ Some coastal settlements were already weakened by the Segeju and Zimba man eaters
- ❖ Portugal did not have any rival European power at the coast to engage them in war hence easing their conquest.
- ❖ Africans were further weakened by famine and diseases and therefore could not put up any resistance against the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Portuguese were so determined and united to achieve their goal of conquering the coast.

#### **Problems faced by the Portuguese at the coast**

- ❖ The E.African coast was very big and too wide covering over 400km and therefore the Portuguese could not effectively control the wide area.
- ❖ The Portuguese officials were very few to control the whole of the East African coast.

- ❖ Portugal lacked enough skilled man power to effectively administer the coast.
- ❖ The few Portuguese officials at the coast were very arrogant and inefficient, harsh / Ruthless, greedy and corrupt hence the coastal people hated them.
- ❖ The coastal climate was very hostile and unhealthy for the Portuguese who were whites i.e. it was either too hot or too wet.
- ❖ The Portuguese also faced a problem of language barrier i.e. they could not easily communicate with the coastal people.
- ❖ The Portuguese lacked money (funds) to effectively administer the coast due to the decline of the Indian Ocean trade.
- ❖ The Portuguese also faced a problem of Turkish sea pirates e.g. Ali Bey who attacked their ships and coastal settlements.
- ❖ Diseases also claimed many lives of the Portuguese who had come to the coast e.g. Malaria, sleeping sickness e.t.c
- ❖ The distance from Portugal to the coast was too long and therefore the Portuguese could not easily get supplies like medicine and guns.
- ❖ The Portuguese were constantly attacked by the Segeju and Zimba man eaters which also led to a reduction in their numbers.
- ❖ The Portuguese faced constant rebellions from the people at the coast which consumed a lot of Portuguese resources and energy.
- ❖ The Portuguese were Christians yet most of the coastal people were Moslems and this led to cultural and religious differences.
- ❖ The Portuguese were so unfriendly to the coastal people e.g. they built their own Churches and Schools which affected their rule at the coast.

### **Effects of Portuguese rule at the coast**

- ❖ Portuguese built Fort Jesus in Mombasa in 1593 as a military base but today it serves as tourist attraction for Kenya.
- ❖ The Portuguese introduced new crops at the coast e.g. Maize, Cassava, Pineapples, Paw paws, groundnuts, Guavas e.t.c which have provided food to E.African communities.
- ❖ The Portuguese improved on farming by encouraging the use of cow dung as manure.
- ❖ The Portuguese introduced new items at the coast e.g. Karata (playing cards), headscarves and table clothes.
- ❖ The Portuguese improved on the Swahili language by adding some `words e.g. Pesa meaning money, Meza meaning table and Motoka meaning car.
- ❖ The Portuguese also provided strong links between E.Africa and India because their main head quarters were in India (GAO)
- ❖ The Portuguese presence at the coast also opened up E.Africa to other European countries e.g. Britain, France, and Holland.
- ❖ The Portuguese introduced Christianity although it failed to take root at the coast because most people hated the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Portuguese led to the decline of the Indian Ocean trade because they chased away the Arabs from the coast.
- ❖ The Portuguese made no attempts to uplift the living standards of the coastal people but were just interested in gold trade than developing the coast.

- ❖ The Portuguese were always at war with coastal towns e.g. Mombasa which led to massive destruction of property and decline of towns.
- ❖ The Portuguese rule resulted into widespread poverty at the coast because *they* introduced heavy taxes which made the coasted people poor.
- ❖ Their raids, unsettled life and killing of the most productive people resulted in destruction of crops that further led to famine.
- ❖ The Portuguese looted and squandered the coastal wealth which led to the decline of the coastal towns.
- ❖ The Portuguese made unfriendly relations with the coastal people which led to cultural and religious differences.

### **Portuguese administration at the coast**

- ❖ By 1510, the coast was effectively under Portuguese rule.
- ❖ The Portuguese used the divide and rule policy to administer the coast.
- ❖ The coast was divided into two i.e. Northern states and Southern states each under a captain.
- ❖ The Northern states were ruled by the captain stationed at Malindi.
- ❖ The Southern states were ruled by the captain stationed at Mozambique.
- ❖ Before 1507, Mozambique was the over-all headquarter of the Portuguese authority at the coast.
- ❖ All captains had to report to the Portuguese Viceroy at Gao in India.
- ❖ Captains were supposed to collect taxes and tribute, enforce payment of customs duty on imports and exports, keep law and order and suppress rebellions.
- ❖ They were harsh and always burnt and destroyed settlements to control rebellions.
- ❖ Portuguese rule was full of corruption because they employed ruthless and corrupt army commanders.
- ❖ They lived isolated lives and never attempted to create good relations with the Africans.
- ❖ Fortified garrisons were built in Mozambique and Sofala to suppress / defeat all rebellions.
- ❖ In 1593, Fort Jesus was built at Mombasa because of her rebellious nature and also to strengthen Portuguese administration.
- ❖ A captain was appointed to settle permanently in Mombasa because of her rebellious nature.
- ❖ They looted coastal towns and denied Africans a chance to participate in trading activities.
- ❖ Later on, the Southern states were reunited with the Northern states to form one big Portuguese Empire.
- ❖ Socially, they tried to spread Christianity but with little success.
- ❖ Economically, they over taxed their subjects and collected tributes from to raise revenue.
- ❖ The 200 years of their rule witnessed decay of coastal towns and slow movement of goods.

### **Ways of life under the Portuguese at the coast (1500 – 1700 A.D)**

- ❖ The 200yrs of Portuguese rule at the coast were characterized by wars, continuous economic decline and decay.
- ❖ The coastal people did not gain from the Portuguese rule at any time.
- ❖ At the same time, the Portuguese did not prosper because of the decline in trade.
- ❖ Trade under the Portuguese rule declined due to the Portuguese corrupt ways of handling affairs.
- ❖ The Portuguese looted the coastal towns of all valuable items for example the gold at Kilwa and Sofala.

- ❖ The Portuguese denied the Africans a chance of participating in trade and they stole all the Proceeds from the trade.
- ❖ Towns were demolished and burnt during the Portuguese rule for example Mombasa and Kilwa lost their beautiful buildings.
- ❖ People greatly suffered during the Portuguese rule for example they were flogged (canned) in public and humiliated for small offenses for example failure to pay tax.
- ❖ The Portuguese era was also characterized by unfriendliness and isolation.
- ❖ They had their own churches and lived in their own communities.
- ❖ The Coastal people hated the Portuguese and called them infidels and nick named them 'Afriti.
- ❖ This was because most of the coastal people were Moslems yet the Portuguese were Christians.
- ❖ Rebellions became the order of the day at the coast as the coastal people always resisted the Portuguese administration in a bid to overthrow them.
- ❖ Life was unproductive, oppressive and disappointing to the Africans.

### **Why the Portuguese lost control of the coast**

- ❖ The Portuguese had very few qualified personnel to administer the coast.
- ❖ Portuguese administrators at the coast were very corrupt and arrogant.
- ❖ Portugal was a very small country with fewer resources to finance the administration of the coast.
- ❖ The Coast was too big (400km) and the Portuguese could not effectively administer.
- ❖ Religious differences i.e. the coastal people were Moslems while the Portuguese were Christians.
- ❖ The Portuguese failed to establish friendship with the coastal people leading to hatred and wars.
- ❖ Language barrier affected them and could not communicate easily with the coastal people.
- ❖ Tropical diseases e.g. malaria claimed many lives of Portuguese reducing their number.
- ❖ The hostile climate at the coast also made their stay at the coast very difficult.
- ❖ Portugal was too far away from the coast which made communication with their home government difficult.
- ❖ Portugal was forced to unite with Spain in 1640 which meant that Portugal wouldn't control the coast alone because of the demands of the Union with the Spain.
- ❖ The frequent rebellions at the coast greatly weakened the Portuguese e.g. many lost their lives.
- ❖ The arrival of more powerful rivals particularly Britain, the Dutch and French traders around the 16<sup>th</sup> century who also wanted to control the Indian Ocean trade.
- ❖ The Challenges from the Turkish sea pirates who constantly raided the Portuguese settlements and ships.
- ❖ The climate at the coast also proved harsh and unsuitable to most Portuguese and many died thus reducing their number at the coast.
- ❖ Portugal could not keep fortified garrisons all along the coast, e.g. they only had forts at Sofala, Mozambique and Mombasa.
- ❖ The coming of the Oman Arabs in December 1698 led to the eventual collapse of the Portuguese rule at the coast.

### **Revision questions**

1. a) Why were the Portuguese interested in controlling the East African coast 1500 A.D? **OR**  
Why did the Portuguese wish to control the East African coast after 1498 A.D?

- b) How did the Portuguese administer the East African coast between 1500 to 1700 A.D?
2. a) Why did the Portuguese conquer the East African coast with a lot of ease?  
b) How were they able to control it for over 200 years?
3. a) Why did the Portuguese establish their control over the East African coast after 1498?  
b) Why were there numerous resistances during their rule at the coast?
4. a) How did the Portuguese gain control of the East African coast between 1487 to 1510? **OR**  
How did the Portuguese establish themselves on the East African coast?  
b) Why did African resistance against the Portuguese fail? **OR** Why did the coastal states lose their independence so easily to the Portuguese?
5. a) Describe the Portuguese conquest of the East African coast up to 1510. **OR** Describe the course of the Portuguese conquest of the East African coast.  
b) What problems did they meet in controlling this area during the 16<sup>th</sup> century?
6. a) Describe the political, social and economic ways of life at the coast between 1500 to 1700 A.D. **OR** Describe the characteristics of the East African coast between 1500 to 1700 A.D.  
b) What were the effects of Portuguese rule on the East African coast by 1700 A.D?
7. a) Why did the Portuguese lose control of the area North of River Ruvuma by 1700 A.D? **OR**  
Why did the Portuguese rule finally come to an end by 1700 A.D?  
b) How did their rule affect the coastal people? **OR** Why are they remembered in the history of East Africa?
8. a) How did the 200 years of Portuguese rule affect the coast of East Africa?  
b) Why had they lost their control by 1700?

#### **THE OMAN ARABS AT THE EAST AFRICAN COAST (1700 – 1880 A.D)**

- After the final defeat of the Portuguese in 1698, the Oman Arabs imposed themselves at the E.African coast as the new rulers.
- Mombasa was to become the centre of Oman rule at the coast.

#### **Why the Oman Arabs wished to control the East African coast**

- ❖ Politically, the Oman Arabs wanted to exercise their political powers by imposing themselves as the new rulers of the coast.
- ❖ The Oman Arabs also wanted to impose taxes on the East African coastal people so as to generate revenue for their country Oman.
- ❖ The Oman Arabs wanted to rule the coast as compensation for helping the coastal people defeat the Portuguese i.e. they believed that their help was not for free.
- ❖ The East African coast was free from conflicts compared to Oman which had the Yorubi - Busaidi family conflicts.
- ❖ The Oman Arabs wanted to control the coast to make sure that the Portuguese did not return e.g in 1778 the Portuguese tried to re-capture Fort Jesus which scared the Oman Arabs.
- ❖ Mombasa which was under the Mazrui Arabs was rebellious to Oman rule, therefore the Oman Arabs wanted to crush Mombasa and set an example to other towns.

- ❖ Economically, the Oman Arabs wanted to gain from the profitable Indian Ocean trade e.g they wanted to control the gold wealth in Kilwa.
- ❖ The coastal climate was favorable for agriculture compared to the arid conditions in Oman.
- ❖ The coast was blessed with fertile soils for agriculture hence the Oman Arabs wanted to set up plantations.
- ❖ The East African coast was also strategic enough with good natural harbors which could allow big ships to anchor.
- ❖ The Oman Arabs wanted to effectively exploit the cheap slave labour at the coast i.e. they did not want to use fellow Muslims as workers.
- ❖ Socially, the Oman Arabs wanted to strengthen and spread Islam which had greatly declined during the Portuguese rule.
- ❖ The Oman Arabs wanted to maintain social and culture ties with their Muslim brothers at the coast.

### **THE STRUGGLE BETWEEN THE COAST AND THE OMAN ARABS (BUSAIIDI - MAZRUI CONFLICTS)**

- In 1698, Fort Jesus fell in the hands of the Oman Arabs after chasing away the Portuguese.
- In 1741 a conflict arose between the Busaidi and Mazrui.
- The Busaidi were Arabs from Oman
- The Mazrui were the coastal Arabs mainly settled in the town of Mombasa.

#### **CAUSES OF THE BUSAIIDI—MAZRUI CONFLICTS**

- ❖ The Busaidi family wanted to be recognized as the rulers of the coast which the Mazrui never accepted.
- ❖ They both wanted to control the lucrative Indian Ocean trade which resulted into conflicts.
- ❖ The Mazrui were tired of foreign rule and wanted independence.
- ❖ The Mazrui had suffered a lot under the Portuguese and did not wish to be under a new colonial master.
- ❖ The Mazrui governors of Mombasa had declared themselves independent of Oman rule and this was challenged by the Busaidi who looked at it as a form of rebellion.
- ❖ The Mazrui at the coast never liked the appointment of Busaidi rulers e.g. Mombasa saw no need of paying tribute to Oman.
- ❖ The Mazrui governors were very proud and they believed that Mombasa belonged to them even before coming of the Portuguese.
- ❖ The Mazrui believed that the coast was theirs since they felt that the Busaidi couldn't administer the coastal effectively.
- ❖ The Mazrui had gained a lot of confidence after defeating the Portuguese in 1698 and hence they saw this as a step in regaining their independence.
- ❖ Able leadership especially under Seyyid said led to the Busaidi - Mazrui conflicts because he greatly organized the Oman Arabs to fight the coastal Mazrui.
- ❖ Mazrui fighters were assured of support from interior tribes like Nyika and Kamba which gave them morale to fight for their independence.
- ❖ Mazrui fighters had acquired guns due to their earlier trade contacts which strengthened their army.
- ❖ Mazrui fighters were united due to their strong element of Islam which encouraged them to fight.

- ❖ The Busaidi Arabs were involved in Yorubi-Busaidi conflicts back in Oman which opportunity the Mazrui wanted to exploit to gain their independence.

**NB:** When Seyyid said came to power, he managed to bring the coastal struggles to an end.

#### **Course of the Busaidi-Mazrui conflicts**

- ❖ In December 1698, Fort Jesus fell in the hands of the Oman Arabs after chasing away the Portuguese.
- ❖ In 1728, the Portuguese attempted to recapture the coast but were driven out with the help of the Oman Arabs.
- ❖ In 1741, the Yorubi Sultan Saif Ibin of Oman appointed Mohammed Ibin Uthman of the Mazrui family to be the governor of Mombasa.
- ❖ He was expected to be loyal to the ruler of Oman.
- ❖ After the death of the Yorubi Sultan Ibin Saif, the Busaidi took over power in Oman.
- ❖ A new ruler of the Oman Empire called Sultan Ahmad Ibin Said was installed.
- ❖ The Mazrui governors at the coast and Mohammed Ibin Uthman of Mombasa refused to recognize Sultan Ahmad Ibin Said's administration.
- ❖ The Mazrui governors declared themselves independent because to them, the Oman ruler was supposed to be from the Yorubi family and Busaidi family.
- ❖ Sultan Ahmad Ibin Said of Oman decided to wage war against the Mazrui Arabs.
- ❖ Mohammed Ibin Uthman the governor of Mombasa was killed in cold blood which angered the Mazrui at the coast.
- ❖ Ali Ibin Uthman, a brother to the murdered governor took over power as the ruler of Mombasa and he was determined to defend the Mazrui power at the coast.
- ❖ In 1804, Sultan Ibin Seyyid Said of the Busaidi family took over power in Oman.
- ❖ Ali Ibin Uthman continued with the expansion of Mazrui influence at the coast and by 18mk 07, it had stretched from Pangani to Malindi.
- ❖ By this time, it was only Kilwa that was loyal to the Oman Arabs.
- ❖ When Abdullah Ibin Ahmad took over power in Mombasa he tried to get support from the British.
- ❖ He found that the British had already signed an agreement with the new Oman ruler Sultan Ibin Seyyid Said.
- ❖ In 1817, Seyyid Said freed Pate and forbade all her subjects from trading with the Mazrui in Mombasa.
- ❖ He also ordered Zanzibar to liberate Pemba and Brava from Mazrui rule.
- ❖ Seyyid said also attacked Pemba in 1822 and drove out the Mazrui governor hence expanding the Busaidi influence.
- ❖ In 1824, Seyyid Said personally commanded the forces that bombarded Mombasa and almost brought Mazrui rule to an end.
- ❖ Mazrui rulers finally accepted Oman rule after that defeat.
- ❖ However, when Seyyid Said went back to Oman, the Mazrui governors again stopped recognizing the Oman rule.
- ❖ He returned in 1829 but he failed to defeat the Mazrui who had got support from the Nyika in their struggle.
- ❖ It was Seyyid Said's son Khalid who captured Fort Jesus the headquarters of the Mazrui and threw some of Mazrui family members and the governor into the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ In 1837, Seyyid Said tricked some of the Mazrui family members and took them to the Persian Gulf where he starved them to death.



- ❖ In 1840, Seyyid Said transferred his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar to completely end the power struggles at the coast.

### **The reign of Sultan Ibin Seyyid Said (1840-1856)**

- Seyyid Said was born in 1791 in Muscat the capital city of Oman.
- He was born to Sultan Ibin Said Ahmad of the Busaidi family.
- He came to power in 1804 when his father was killed in battle.
- He transferred his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar in 1840.
- Unfortunately, Seyyid Said died in 1856 having done much for the coast and East Africa as a whole.

### **Why Sultan Ibn Seyyid Said transferred his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar**

- ❖ Seyyid said wanted to be close to Mombasa because of its rebellious nature.
- ❖ Seyyid Said had greatly admired the cool coastal climate.
- ❖ The fertile soils also attracted Seyyid Said because they could support cloves growing.
- ❖ Zanzibar had good natural harbours which would allow big ships to land easily.
- ❖ He wanted to control the lucrative Indian Ocean trade rather than leaving it to his relatives who were corrupt and unreliable.
- ❖ The East African coastal people were considered to be more loyal to Seyyid Said than the people of Oman.
- ❖ Political problems in Oman also forced Seyyid Said to shift his capital to Zanzibar after the murder of his cousin Bedr Saif.
- ❖ Seyyid Said also wanted to establish regular trade links between the East African coast and the interior of East Africa.
- ❖ Seyyid Said also wanted to exploit the cheap slave labour at the coast to use on his clove plantation.
- ❖ Seyyid Said also wanted to gain popularity and prestige as a ruler of two territories at the same time.
- ❖ Zanzibar also had a security advantage since it was an Island and it would offer maximum protection naturally compared to Oman.
- ❖ Seyyid Said wanted to end the Busaidi – Mazrui conflicts once and for all.
- ❖ Zanzibar was strategically located as a market for goods and this would enable him to control and expand the interior trade.
- ❖ Seyyid Said also had the belief that the waters of Zanzibar were sweeter than those of Oman and this forced him to shift his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar.
- ❖ He also wanted to check on the activities of the Indian Ocean sea pirates.
- ❖ Religious persecutions in Oman forced him to shift his capital to Zanzibar.

### **Changes introduced by Seyyid Said in Zanzibar**

- ❖ Seyyid Said developed the clove industry in Zanzibar and today Zanzibar is the leading producer of cloves.
- ❖ He signed commercial treaties with European countries for example Britain in 1839, France 1844, Hungary 1844, Germany and U.S.A which attracted many foreign traders at the coast.
- ❖ He transformed Zanzibar into an entre - port i.e. it became an international market for traders from all parts of the world.

- ❖ Encouraged trade with interior tribes of East Africa e.g. Yao, Nyamwezi and Sukuma who always supplied slaves.
- ❖ He fought sea pirates with the help of the British navy which brought about peace and increased trade on the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ He organized personal caravans into the interior of E.Africa to bring goods to Zanzibar hence encouraging the development of long distance trade.
- ❖ He invited the Indian Banyans to settle along the coast who advanced loans to the Zanzibar is to go into the interior and buy commodities.
- ❖ He also encouraged the use of small copper coins in trade to replace the barter system.
- ❖ He introduced the system of taxing all imports and exports as a means of raising revenue.
- ❖ His settlement also encouraged slave trade i.e. the interior was depopulated as many people were taken to work on his clove plantations.
- ❖ Encouraged Europeans to open up trading posts in Zanzibar to increase trading activities e.g. in 1844 the Germans opened up one.
- ❖ Managed to end the quarrels that existed along the coast between the Busaidi and Mazrui.
- ❖ He attracted foreigners to Zanzibar for example Arabs, Indians, Europeans and this created a population of mixed culture.
- ❖ Seyyid Said was also involved in the signing of treaties to end slave trade and slavery in East Africa for example in 1822 and 1845 he signed treaties with the British.
- ❖ Socially, Seyyid Said encouraged the spread of Islam and built many Quaranic schools.
- ❖ He also encouraged the spread of the Swahili culture along the coast and the interior of E.Africa.
- ❖ United coastal towns under one leadership.
- ❖ He also encouraged use of Sharia law of administration and in justice.

#### **Why did the Arabs have little interest in the interior of East Africa before 1500 A.D?**

- They were mainly interested in spreading Islam at the coast hence no need to penetrate into the interior.
- African middlemen always brought goods to the coast and therefore no need for Arabs to penetrate into the interior.
- The Arabs lacked serious competition at the coast due to their small number hence only concentrating at the coast.
- Some came to the coast as political refugees and therefore did not want to look for more trouble in the interior.
- They lacked the knowledge about the economic potential of the interior of East Africa.
- The Arabs also lacked the geographical knowledge about the interior of East Africa and hence feared getting lost.
- Language barrier also forced the Arabs to concentrate at the coast because they could not easily communicate with the people in the interior.
- Absence of well-developed transport means into the interior also forced the Arabs to neglect the interior.
- Tropical diseases like malaria and sleeping sickness also scared the Arabs hence forcing them to stay at the coast.
- Interior tribes didn't welcome the Arabs because they had not yet known their importance.
- Hostile tribes in the interior of East Africa also scared away the Arabs from the interior.

- Inter-tribal and civil wars were rampant in the interior and this created insecurity which scared away the Arabs.
- Wild animals like lions and thick forests also made the Arabs fear the interior.
- The good coastal climate also presented good living atmosphere for the Arabs and they forgot about the interior.

### **Why did they finally develop interest in the interior of East Africa after 1500 A.D?**

- The Arabs developed the urge to exploit the abundant trade opportunities in the interior.
- Increased demand for interior goods forced the Arabs to go into the interior and acquire the goods e.g. slaves.
- The arrival of Seyyid Said in 1840 also led to increased Arab penetration into the interior due to increased demand for slaves to work on his clove plantations.
- Presence of Indian banyans who gave traders loans to go into the interior for goods also led to Arab penetration into the interior.
- Arabs had got knowledge about the economic potential of East Africa's interior which forced them to penetrate into the interior.
- Prominent Arab traders like Tippu-Tip had already settled in the interior and therefore invited others into the interior.
- African leaders like Muteesa I of Buganda and Mirambo of the Nyamwezi invited many Arabs into the interior due to the need for guns.
- Population increase at the coast also forced the Arabs to penetrate into the interior to occupy the free land.
- The desire to spread Islam in the interior also forced the Arabs to penetrate into the interior of East Africa.
- The stiff competition for trade items at the coast also forced the Arabs to penetrate into the interior and acquire cheaper goods.
- The need to do away with middlemen also led to the Arab penetration into the interior so as to earn more profits.
- The presence of guns also ensured security for the Arabs hence they started venturing into the interior.
- The coming of the Portuguese also led to competition for trade control at the coast hence leading to the migration of the Arabs into the interior.
- Transport means had been well developed in the interior e.g. use of donkeys and this forced the Arabs to penetrate into the interior.

### ***Revision questions***

1. a) Why did the Oman Arabs wish to control the East African coast after 1698?  
b) Why was there a struggle between the coast and the Oman Arabs?
2. a) Why was there a struggle for the control of the East African coast between 1698-1840? **OR**  
What were the causes of the Busaidi - Mazrui conflicts?  
b) Describe the course of the struggle during that period.
3. a) Describe the main events in the struggle to control the coast between 1698-1840.  
b) How did Seyyid Said settle these conflicts?
4. a) Why did Seyyid Said choose Zanzibar as the centre of his commercial activities?

- b) How did he build up the economy of Zanzibar?
5. a) Why did Seyyid Said transfer his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar in 1840?  
b) Describe the economic, social and political development of Zanzibar under Seyyid Said.
6. a) Why did Zanzibar become the capital of Oman by 1840?  
b) Show the importance of Seyyid Said in the history of East Africa. **OR** Why is Seyyid Said still remembered in the history of East Africa?
7. a) Why did the Arabs have little interest in the interior of East Africa before 1500 A.D?  
b) Why did they finally develop interest after 1500 A.D?

### **MIGRATIONS AND SETTLEMENT IN EAST AFRICA (1000 – 1880 A.D)**

From 1000A.D, East Africa received many groups of people coming from different directions. The new invaders included;

- i) Cushites and the plain/highland nilotes from Ethiopia
- ii) **Bantu** from Niger / Congo Basin
- iii) **Luo (River-lake-Nilotics)** from southern Sudan (Bahr-el Ghazel)
- iv) **Ngoni** from South Africa

### **THE BANTU MIGRATION ORIGINS**

- Bantu is a linguistic word describing a group of people who speak a similar language.
- They have a root word/suffix 'Ntu/Ndu' meaning a person.
- They belong to the Negroid family.
- Their origins and migrations are still unclear among historians.
- Some historians believe that the Bantu came from West Africa around the Cameroon highlands.
- However, most historians believe that they came from the Katanga region in South Eastern Congo.
- Their migration was gradual and seasonal i.e. spread over a long time.
- Believed to have entered East Africa by the first millennium i.e. 1000 A.D.
- They entered East Africa under different groups and clans.
- They entered East Africa through the Western part using different routes
- The Bantu form the largest group of people in E.Africa.
- They include tribes like, Banyankole, Baganda, Bakiga, Bagishu, Chagga, Nyamwezi, Kikuyu, Luyia, and Pokomo.
- The major reason for the migration was search for fertile soils that could support Agriculture.

### **Causes of Bantu migrations**

- ❖ Population pressure; The Bantu were forced to migrate from their cradle land to E.A because the population had increased and they were searching for settlement in new areas.
- ❖ Search for fertile lands; since the Bantu were farmers they ended up migrating to E.Africa in search of new areas with fertile soils for Agriculture.
- ❖ Internal conflicts; The Bantu migrated to E.Africa due to misunderstandings with in their communities e.g. witchcraft and cannibalism.

- ❖ Misfortunes; it is also assumed that the Bantu cradle land witnessed misfortunes that claimed many people and their animals thus the fortune tellers directed the Bantu to move to safer areas.
- ❖ Land-pressure .Due to population explosion, the pressure increased on land resulting into land conflicts and the defeated groups ended up migrating into E.Africa in search of new lands for settlement.
- ❖ Natural calamities for example famine, drought, earthquakes, floods and diseases. These forced the Bantu to search for new areas for settlement and ended up in E.Africa.
- ❖ Adventurism /Love for adventure .The youth may have wanted to explore and adventure into new lands where they could practice their skill of iron working.
- ❖ Unsuitable geographical climate. The climate of the Congo forest was inhabitable and this necessitated moving of Bantu into E.Africa.
- ❖ External pressure. The Bantu were constantly attacked by their neighbors and this forced them to look for new areas which were free from civil wars.
- ❖ Poor leadership. Some of the Bantu migrants experienced poor leadership in their cradle land which forced them to migrate to E.Africa so as to exercise their leadership skills.
- ❖ The need to export their iron working culture some people maintained that the Bantu migrate wanted to export their Iron working culture and search for market for their Iron products.
- ❖ Search for water and pasture since the Bantu were animal keepers they migrated to E.A in search of new grass land and water for their animals.
- ❖ The band wagon influence some of the Bantu simply moved to E.A because they saw their friends plus relatives migrating.

### **Course/organisation of the Bantu migrations**

The Bantu entered E.A in different groups each using its own route.

- ❖ The first group was the **western Bantu (Interlacustrine Bantu)**.
  - This was the first group of the Bantu to migrate into East Africa.
  - They formed the largest group of the Bantu to migrate to East Africa.
  - They entered East Africa through the West from the Niger-Congo basin.
  - They used the route between Lake Albert and Lake Edward.
  - They settled around the North West shores of Lake Victoria.
  - They are believed to have migrated between **(1000—1300 A.D)**.
  - The Bantu in this group gave rise to such as Baganda, Banyoro, Batoro, and Bakiga.
  - The other Bantu moved to the Eastern and Western Kenya giving birth to Bagishu and Luyia.
- ❖ **The central and Northern Tanzania Bantu;**
  - They formed the second group of the Bantu to enter E.A.
  - They also entered East Africa through the West from the Niger-Congo basin.
  - They used the route between L. Edward and Tanganyika.
  - They formed some tribes like the Sukuma Nyamwezi, Zinza, and Gogo.
  - Their migration took place between 1000—1300 A.D.
- ❖ **The coastal and highland Bantu.**
  - They are also known as the **Eastern Bantu**.
  - They settled along the coast and highland hence the name coastal and highland Bantu.

- They are a continuation of the Central and Northern Tanzania Bantu.
- They crossed the dry Tanganyika plateau between 1000 – 1300 A.D.
- These comprise of that group of Bantu that continued with their migration and crossed the Taita hills and Mt. Kilimanjaro.
- The Chagga, Taita, Pare decided to settle around these hills permanently and came to be known as the **highland Bantu**.
- The Pokomo, Giriama, Nyika and Segeju moved north wards along the coast to Shungwaya.
- At Shungwaya, there was dispersal due to pressure from the Galla and Somali community.
- Due to pressure, the Nyika moved southwards along the coast.
- These came to be known as the **coastal Bantu**.
- Another group of the Eastern Bantu was forced away from Shungwaya to the Kenyan highland.
- This group included the Chuka/Kikuyu, Kamba and Embu.

#### ❖ **The southern Tanzania Bantu.**

- These formed the fourth group of the Bantu migration into E.A.
- Their migration took place between 1000—1300A.D.
- They entered East Africa through the West from the Niger-Congo basin.
- They used the route between Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika.
- They settled in Southern Tanganyika in areas such as Ruvuma, Songea and Mbeya.
- They included Hehe, Yao, Pogoro, Zaramo, Makonde, Bena, Ngindo, Gogo and Rufigi.

- ❖ **The Ngoni:** Around 1840, another Bantu group moved into East Africa and these were the Nguni who came from South Africa and formed the last wave of the Bantu migration into E. Africa.

#### **Effects of the Bantu migrations**

- ❖ They introduced iron working and use of iron tools like hoes, pangas, and axes.
- ❖ The Bantu introduced the growing of crops on a large scale with the help of iron tools.
- ❖ Population increased in the area where the Bantu settled this also meant that there was increased food production.
- ❖ The Bantu also introduced new food crops in E.A e.g. Bananas, Beans, Yams e.t.c today many tribes still depend on these food crops.
- ❖ They introduced new farming methods e.g. mulching, shifting cultivation, irrigation.
- ❖ They introduced new languages in E.A for example Luganda, Lusoga, and Runyankole.
- ❖ The Bantu absorbed most of the tribes they met in E.A especially the Bushmen and Cushites. Some who refused to be absorbed migrated to other areas.
- ❖ The Bantu in some cases abandoned their cultures and copied those of the people they met, e.g. circumcision among the Bagishu, age set system, pastoralism.
- ❖ The Bantu displaced some people in E.A. especially those in fertile areas e.g. Ngoni displaced the Yao in their fertile lands in southern Tanzania.
- ❖ They introduced a new system of building permanent houses e.g. they built round grass thatched houses.
- ❖ There were intermarriages between the Bantu who settled along the coast with the coastal Arabs giving birth to the Swahili people.

- ❖ The Bantu introduced a new system of centralized administration in E.A which led to the formation of kingdoms e.g. Buganda, Ankole, Bunyoro, Nyamwezi e.t.c.
- ❖ The Bantu led to clashes over land with the communities that they met in E.A.

## **THE LUO MIGRATION**

### **Origins**

- The Luo are also referred to as the **River-lake nilotes**.
- They originated from Bahr el- Ghazel in southern Sudan.
- They are known as River –Lake Nilotes because they settled along Rivers and lakes.
- Their migration took place between 1350 - 1500 A.D.
- They entered East Africa through the Northern part of Uganda following the Albert Nile.
- They included tribes like Alur, Langi, Acholi, Japadhola and Ja-luo of Western Kenya.

### **Causes of the Luo migration**

- ❖ Search for water and pasture, the Luo migrated from their cradle land because they lacked enough water sources and pasture for their animals.
- ❖ Population pressure: Their cradle land was over crowded and due to over grazing of their animals in Bahr-el-Ghazel.
- ❖ Internal conflicts: Some Luo migrated to E.A because they were constantly included in civil wars over land and animals.
- ❖ External-conflicts: There was a lot of pressure from their neighbors especially the Galla from Ethiopia which forced the Luo to migrate into E. Africa.
- ❖ The hostile climate of the southern Sudan also led to the Luo migration into E. Africa. i.e. prolonged drought.
- ❖ The Luo also had the desire to export their political culture and organization. E.g. some of them wanted to exercise their political rights.
- ❖ Band Wagon effect: i.e. some of the Luo migrants simply migrated as a result of seeing their relatives moving.
- ❖ Love for adventure: Some Luo migrants especially the youth were interested in knowing what was happening in other areas.
- ❖ Natural calamities: e.g. drought and famine also led to Luo migration into E. Africa.
- ❖ The southward movement of the Sahara desert also led to the Luo migration into E. Africa.
- ❖ Some historians attribute the Luo migration to over flooding since they lived along the banks of R Nile.
- ❖ Misfortunes and epidemics e.g. sleeping sickness and Nagana led to the Luo migration into E. Africa.
- ❖ The Luo also migrated to look for fertile areas that could support agriculture since some of them were farmers.
- ❖ The Natural aggressive tendencies of the Luo also led to their migration into E.A so as to conquer the weak people.
- ❖ The need to settle around water bodies and rivers since they did some fishing also forced them to move.

### **Course/organisation of the Luo migration**

- The Luo left Bahr-el-Ghazel around the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- They then moved southwards following the River Nile under their leader Olum.

- Around the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the Luo settled at Pubungu (present day Pakwach).
- Therefore Pubungu became their area of dispersal/separation.
- From Pubungu the Luo split into two groups.
- Each group was under its own ruler and moved into a different direction.
- One group led by Gipir moved westwards, crossed the Nile and settled in the Northern parts of Lake Albert.
- They intermarried with the Lendu, Okebo and Madi to form the Alur presently found in Nebbi district.
- Another group under Labongo moved southwards and settled at Pawir (Chope) in Northern Bunyoro kingdom.
- One group still under Labongo that remained at Chope, moved southwards to come into contact with the Bachwezi to form the Luo-Babito Dynasty.
- Labongo left Chope and moved East wards to form Acholi people presently found in Gulu and Lira.
- Another group of the Luo moved eastwards from the Pubungu through Acholi land, Lango, Teso land up to Eastern Uganda in the Budama area.
- They gave birth to the present Japadhola found in Tororo District.
- However some of the Luo continued into Western Kenya e.g. the Joka—Jok moved directly from Pubungu and settled in the Lamogi hills of the Nyanza province.
- The Jok—Omollo migrated through Busoga, Samia and Bukedi and finally settled in the Nyanza region to form the Samia of Western Kenya.
- The Jok-Owiny moved from Pubungu and settled temporarily in Budama before finally settling in Singoma Alego in the Nyanza province of Western Kenya.
- The Abasuba were the last group of the Luo to move into Kenya.
- These were refugees from Buganda, Busoga and Ssesse Islands and they settled in the southern Nyanza province.

### **Effects of the Luo migration**

- ❖ There were inter-marriages between the Luo and the local people leading to the formation of new tribes i.e. Alur, Langi Japadhola.
- ❖ The coming of the Luo led to the formation of new kingdoms which were all using centralized system of administration e.g. Buganda, Bunyoro and Ankole.
- ❖ The Luo introduced chiefdoms in Northern Uganda and western Kenya e.g. Rwotship in Northern Uganda was a Luo creation.
- ❖ The coming of the Luo led to the final collapse of Bunyoro-Kitara Empire / Chwezi Empire and led to the formation of the Luo-Bito Dynasty.
- ❖ The Luo introduced pet names (Empaako) erg Akiiki Abwoli, Amooti, Apuuli, Atwooki etc especially in Bunyoro and Toro.
- ❖ The Luo introduced new crops in E.A e.g. millet, sorghum, groundnuts which are staple food for many tribes in Western, Northern and Eastern Uganda.
- ❖ The Luo introduced new economic activities in E.A e.g. nomadic pastoralism and also introduced the short horned cattle.
- ❖ \*8The population of E.A increased as a result of the Luo influx and this created conflicts over land.
- ❖ The Luo put to use what would have been idle land due to population increase.



- ❖ The Luo also developed trade within E.A because they introduced new commodities e.g spears and arrows.
- ❖ The Luo introduced royal burial grounds for the kings e.g. in Bunyoro the jaw bones of the Omukama have to be removed before burial and buried separately.
- ❖ The Luo led to the civil wars increasing in E.A as a result of their contacts with the local people of E. Africa.
- ❖ Many people were displaced from E.A to other regions as a result of the Luo migration into Tanzania to form Karagwe kingdom.
- ❖ In Bunyoro, they introduced new items of the royal regalia e.g. royal crown, royal fire, and royal drums e.t.c

## **NGONI MIGRATION (1820—1860)**

### **Origins**

- THE Ngoni were close relatives of the Zulu and Ndwandwe people from South Africa.
- They were Bantu who belonged to the negroid race.
- They originally lived in Natal province in the south East of the Drakensburg Mountains.
- The Ngoni were Nguni speaking people.
- They are believed to have left South Africa around 1820.
- They left South Africa because of Shaka Zulu's expansionist wars.
- This was during the **Mfecane** period where there was a lot of war and suffering in South Africa.
- The Ngoni were forced to flee and moved northwards.
- They left South Africa under different leaders e.g. Zwangendaba, Maputo and Zulugama.
- They moved through central Africa and finally settled in East Africa (southern Tanganyika).

### **Causes of Ngoni migrations**

- ❖ Shaka created a period of wars (Mfecane) that forced many people to migrate including the Ngoni.
- ❖ Population pressure in their cradle land also led to the Ngoni migration into East Africa.
- ❖ Internal conflicts e.g. land and clan conflicts also led to the Ngoni migration.
- ❖ The Ngoni were farmers and therefore migrated in search of new lands that were fertile to support agriculture for example Ufipa plateau.
- ❖ The influence of good leaders e.g. Zulugama, Zwangendaba, Maputo etc also led to the migration of the Ngoni into East Africa.
- ❖ Love for adventure also forced the Ngoni to migrate especially the youth who wanted to explore new areas North of River Limpopo.
- ❖ Misfortunes and natural calamities e.g. diseases, floods, e.t.c also led to the Ngoni Migration.
- ❖ The ruthless army training of Shaka Zulu also forced some of the Ngoni fighters to escape to East Africa.
- ❖ The Boer invasion of South Eastern Africa from the cape made the Ngoni lose their land which forced them to move to East Africa.
- ❖ The need to export their culture also led to Ngoni migration into East Africa especially by the youth.
- ❖ Band Wagon effect i.e. some of the Ngoni Migrants moved into East Africa after seeing their relatives and friends moving.
- ❖ Search for water and pasture since the Ngoni kept animals they migrated into East Africa in search of fresh pastures and water for their animals.

### **Course of the Ngoni migrations**

- The Ngoni left South Africa in two (2) distinct groups.
- They left around 1820 and each group took a different direction.
- The first and biggest group was led by chief Zwangendaba.
- They moved through central Africa crossed R. Zambezi, traveled through Malawi and finally settled around Ufipa where they destroyed the small settlements.
- The second and smaller group was led by chief Maputo.
- It moved through Mozambique, Eastern Malawi and finally settled around Songea among the Yao.
- This group was known as the Maseko Ngoni.
- Around 1848, Zwangendaba died and his group split into 5 small groups.
- Three of these groups went back to central Africa settling in present day Malawi and Zambia.
- The two remaining groups settled permanently in Tanganyika and these were the Tuta and Gwangara Ngoni.
- The Tuta Ngoni moved northwards to the lands of the Holoholo where they were defeated.
- They continued up to Nyamwezi land in 1850 where they captured a young Mirambo.
- The Gwangara Ngoni led by Zulugama moved East wards destroying the Hehe.
- By 1860, they had reached Songea where they clashed with the Maseko Ngoni whom they defeated and forced them to flee.
- The defeated Maseko Ngoni split into two groups.
- One group under chief Maputo moved southwards crossed river Ruvuma and finally settled in Mozambique.
- The other group fled northwards to Morogoro and these came to be known as the Mbuga Ngoni.
- During their movements the Ngoni always captured people.
- The boys were absorbed into their army and girls were married off and this swelled their number.

### **Reasons why the Ngoni were successful against the people of E.Africa**

- ❖ They had a strong army e.g. they always recruited captured boys into their army which strengthened their army.
- ❖ The Ngoni had superior military organization which they had copied from Shaka.
- ❖ Their army was divided into battalions or regiments called Impis for effectiveness in battle.
- ❖ The Ngoni always used Guerilla tactics and this would scare other societies which easily gave up.
- ❖ The Ngoni had superior weapons e.g. the short stabbing spear (Assegai) and they had shields.
- ❖ They had superior tactics of fighting e.g. they surrounded the enemy using the cow-horn method.
- ❖ Ngoni fighters were professionals who had received a lot of military training and were always free from duties at home.
- ❖ The Ngoni were determined to remain in East Africa because they feared to go back to South Africa in case of defeat.
- ❖ The Ngoni invaders were fully united under their leaders and this helped them to defeat the East African societies with a lot of ease.
- ❖ The Ngoni fighters had a lot of experience in warfare because they had participated in large scale wars during their stay in South Africa.

- ❖ The Ngoni always used surprise attacks e.g. at night and on market days hence always caught their enemies unaware.
- ❖ The East African societies were disunited and couldn't offer any support to their neighbours against the Ngoni.
- ❖ E.African societies had already been weakened by slave trade which had claimed all the strong men.
- ❖ East Africa had also been weakened by attacks from Segeju and Zimba man eaters who also reduced on the population.
- ❖ Ngoni fighters were never affected by famine because they always looted for food wherever they passed.
- ❖ Ngoni also used the scorched Earth policy on those that tried to resist them e.g. Burning villages, food stores, and huts and scared others who simply gave in without a fight.
- ❖ Most of the Ngoni enemies were weak and small societies that were disorganized and therefore could not challenge the Ngoni military might.
- ❖ The East African societies had poor economies that could not sustain the fights against the Ngoni.
- ❖ The East Africans had inferior weapons that could not compete with those of the Ngoni.

### **Effects of the Ngoni Migration**

- ❖ Their migration created a period of wars in areas that were previously peaceful e.g. the Ufipa communities were destroyed and devastated.
- ❖ The Ngoni migration resulted into the spread of epidemic diseases in the southern and central Tanganyika e.g. smallpox and Malaria.
- ❖ Their migration created a new generation of war lords and leaders e.g. Nyungu ya mawe and Mirambo.
- ❖ There was increase in slave trade because of the Ngoni confusion, Chaos and disorganizations.
- ❖ The Ngoni spread their culture e.g. most people who were captured and absorbed by the Ngoni copied their Nguni language.
- ❖ The Ngoni invasion also disrupted the long distance trade caravans especially along the Southern route which was dominated by the Yao.
- ❖ The Ngoni invasion led to the formation of warrior groups e.g. The Maviti and Ruga Ruga .These were bandits who terrorized southern and central Tanganyika.
- ❖ The Ngoni invasion led to the people of southern Tanganyika losing their land to the Ngoni.
- ❖ There was population increase in Southern Tanganyika where they settled e.g. among the Yao.
- ❖ Famine broke out in many societies since no farming and harvesting could take place because of the Ngoni raids.
- ❖ Many people copied the Military tactics i.e. cow horn method and adopted their weapons e.g. Assegai (short stabbing spear) for defense.
- ❖ Their migration led to the decline of some states e.g. Bena and Sangu because they never had the capacity to resist the Ngoni aggression.
- ❖ The Ngoni raids led to heavy loss of lives especially those that tried to resist their movement e.g. the Yao.
- ❖ There was deculturalisation and detribalisation e.g. the Ngoni displaced people from their original homelands making them lose their culture.

### **Revision questions**

1. a) Who were the Bantu? **OR** Describe the origins of the Bantu speaking people?  
b) What were the causes of the Bantu migrations into East Africa?
2. a) Describe the course of their migration in East Africa before 1800 A.D.  
b) What were the effects of their migration and settlement in East Africa?
3. a) Describe the movement and settlement of the **Eastern Bantu** into East Africa. **OR** Describe the movement and settlement of the **Western Bantu** into East Africa.  
b) What were the effects of their invasion on the people of East Africa?
4. a) Describe the organization of the migration of the Bantu speaking people into East Africa.  
b) How were the people of East Africa affected by their coming?
5. a) Who were the River-Lake Nilotics? **OR** Describe the origins of the Luo speaking people.  
b) Why did they leave their cradle land? **OR** What were the reasons for their migrations into East Africa?
6. a) Describe the course of the migrations of the Luo (**River - Lake Nilotics**) into East Africa.  
b) What were the effects of their migration and settlement on the peoples of East Africa?
7. a) Who were the Ngoni? **OR** Describe the origins of the Nguni speaking people.  
b) Why did they leave their cradle land for East Africa in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century?
8. a) Describe the migration and distribution of the Ngoni peoples into East Africa in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
b) What were the consequences of this invasion on Tanganyika by 1860?
9. a) Why was the Ngoni invasion of East Africa in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century successful?  
b) What were the **results/impacts/outcomes** of their migration into East Africa by 1860?
10. a) Why did East African resistance against the Ngoni fail in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
b) How did this migration affect mainland Tanganyika by 1860?
11. a) Who were the Plain/Highland Nilotes? **OR** Describe the origins of the Plain/Highland Nilotes.  
b) Why did they migrate from their cradle land?
12. a) Describe the course of the migration and settlement of the Plain/Highland Nilotes.  
b) What impacts did their migration have on the people among whom they settled?

#### **THE RISE OF THE INTERLACUSTRINE KINGDOMS**

- This is the area surrounding Lake Victoria.
- Many Kingdoms flourished in this region and the most important of these were Bunyoro – Kitara, Bunyoro, Buganda, Ankole, Toro, Karagwe, and Wanga.

#### **ABATEMBUZI**

- The Batembuzi were the first to inhabit the interlacustrine region.

- Their origins are not clear and are surrounded in myths and legends.
- Traditions in western Uganda suggest the Tembuzi fell from heaven.
- They were semi gods and were able to perform miracles.
- The Tembuzi couldn't die but just disappeared and went back to heaven at the end of their earthly life.
- The Tembuzi dynasty is believed to have been founded by Ruhanga (creator or god) assisted by his brother Nkya.
- Ruhanga had no sons but Nkya had four, namely Kairu, Kahima, Kakama – Twale and Kintu.
- Kairu became the ancestor of cultivators, Kahima the ancestor of herders and Kakama – Twale the ancestor of rulers.
- Local traditions claim that Ruhanga and Kintu went back to heaven.
- Upon Ruhanga's ascending to heaven, Kakama – Twale took over the kingdom.
- Kakama – Twale later disappeared to heaven and was succeeded by his son Baba who was later succeeded by Ngonzaki.
- Ngonzaki was succeeded by Isaza who was recorded as the last ruler of the Tembuzi.
- When Isaza disappeared, his gate keeper - Bukuku imposed himself as the ruler but people refused to recognize him as their leader.
- The Tembuzi were farmers growing mainly cereals and also kept animals.
- They also slept in grass thatched huts.
- This Kingdom lasted for 4 to 5 generations between 1200 – 1350 A.D.
- The Tembuzi divided their Kingdom into Ssazas each under a chief.
- They introduced the succession system in Bunyoro-Kitara.
- After the collapse of the Tembuzi dynasty, the Chwezi took over the interlacustrine region.

## **THE CHWEZI RULE (1350 – 1500 A.D)**

### **Origins**

- Their origin is not clear.
- Most of what is known about them is derived from myths and oral traditions.
- The Bachwezi were the successors to the Batembuzi.
- They were also semi gods and wandering pastoralists.
- Some historians believe that they were Galla or Cushitic people from Ethiopia.
- Others suggested that they must have been Greeks, Portuguese or possibly Egyptians.
- Others claim that they were probably Bantu speaking people.
- They were believed to have entered Uganda through the North or North East.
- Unlike the Tembuzi, they were true human beings.
- They were tall and light skinned people.
- They were demi-gods who possessed super natural powers and performed miracles.
- They were pastoralists and mainly kept the long horned cattle.
- They were known by various names e.g. Chwezi, Tutsi, Hinda and Hima.
- The Bachwezi formed the Bunyoro-Kitara Empire.
- The first ruler of the Bachwezi was Ndahura and their last ruler was Wamara.

## **ORGANISATION OF BUNYORO KITARA EMPIRE**

### **Political organization**

- ❖ The Bachwezi were organized under one central authority i.e. they had a centralized monarch.
- ❖ The overall leader of the Bachwezi had the title Omukama.
- ❖ Omukama had absolute powers to life and death.
- ❖ The empire was divided into small states or provinces, districts and counties each under a chief.
- ❖ The chiefs were close relatives of the Omukama and formed a council of representatives.
- ❖ Bigobyamugenyi was the capital of Bunyoro-Kitara Empire.
- ❖ The rulers lived in reed palaces with palace officials, Women and Slave artisans
- ❖ The Chwezi palaces were protected by enclosures called **Ebirembo**.
- ❖ The Chwezi Empire had a large standing army that fought using spears, bows and arrows.
- ❖ The Chwezi army also dug ditches around their capital and cattle kraals for purposes of protection.
- ❖ The Chwezi had a Royal Regalia which included the royal crown, royal drum and spears.
- ❖ These were symbols of power respected by everyone.

### **Social Organisation**

- ❖ The Bachwezi had two classes of people in society i.e. the Bahima and Bairu.
- ❖ Bairu were cultivators while Bahima were pastoralists and rulers.
- ❖ They built grass thatched huts smeared with cow dung and decorated inside with a variety of hand crafts.
- ❖ They were great sportsmen who spent their free time playing games e.g. Omweso and wrestling.
- ❖ They were great hunters who used long spears.
- ❖ They built reed palaces for the Omukama to stay in.
- ❖ Religiously, they believed in many gods.
- ❖ They had many strange and super natural powers and could even disappear when annoyed.

### **Economic Organisation**

- ❖ They were a pastoral group who mainly kept the long horned cattle.
- ❖ The Chwezi were also farmers who grew coffee, beans and millet.
- ❖ The Chwezi also carried out Iron working and made implements like hoes, pangas and spears.
- ❖ They were also involved in pottery and made round bowls; Jars and shallow basins.
- ❖ Basket weaving also came with them.
- ❖ The bark cloth industry also formed part of their economy.
- ❖ They also made cow-hide sandals.
- ❖ They involved themselves in barter trade with their neighbors exchanging Iron implements and salt for food.

### **THE DECLINE OF CHWEZI EMPIRE**

- ❖ The empire had grown too big to be effectively administered.
- ❖ The empire lacked strong and capable rulers especially after the death of Omukama Wamara.
- ❖ Misfortunes e.g. death of the darling cow **Bihogo** scared the Bachwezi who were forced to migrate.
- ❖ Wide spread internal rebellions especially from the Bantu also led to the decline of the Chwezi empire.
- ❖ Epidemics like Small pox and Malaria claimed many of their animals since they were a pastoral community and they ended up migrating to other areas

- ❖ Famine also broke out in the region forcing many people to leave the area in search of new areas that could provide them with food.
- ❖ The Chwezi rulers were greedy and oppressive which annoyed their subjects hence creating rebellions within the empire.
- ❖ The Chwezi also lost their popularity especially after people had realized that they were ordinary human beings not semi-gods which undermined their power.
- ❖ Conflicts among the various princes over power also weakened their hold on power and influence.
- ❖ Several communities broke away from the Chwezi empire for example Buganda, Bunyoro, Ankole leading to the decline of their power and influence.
- ❖ The Luo invasion is what finally broke the backbone of the Chwezi Empire i.e. the Luo set up the Luo-Bito Dynasty and forced the Chwezi to flee in different directions.

### **The importance of the Bachwezi in the History of E.Africa**

- ❖ They introduced the centralized system of governance which was later adopted in many societies.
- ❖ They introduced hierarchical system of administration whereby administration was broken down into smaller units.
- ❖ The Chwezi are also remembered for introducing the idea of a standing army in the kingdom.
- ❖ The Chwezi also introduced the system of having a royal regalia comprising of the symbols of power in a community e.g. drums, spear e.t.c
- ❖ The Bachwezi were the founders of ancient Bunyoro- Kitara Kingdom which spread from Western Uganda to Western Kenya and Northern Tanganyika.
- ❖ They introduced games which are still popular in Uganda today e.g. local wrestling and Omweso.
- ❖ The Bachwezi also introduced coffee and banana growing in E.Africa which are still cash crops.
- ❖ The Chwezi introduced the idea of palace officials, royal women and slave artisans who were trained in administration.
- ❖ The Chwezi are also remembered for their super natural powers i.e. they were a strange group of people who performed miracles and could disappear when annoyed.
- ❖ They introduced a religion called Abashomi which is still evident up to today in Western Uganda particularly in Bunyoro.
- ❖ They built their capital at Bigobyamugenyi which is still a tourist attraction for Uganda today.
- ❖ The Bachwezi introduced the idea of royal enclosures (Ebirembo) in palaces such as Bigo, Mubende, Ntusi and kibengo. These were mainly for protecting cattle.
- ❖ The Chwezi also introduced the idea of grass thatched houses smeared with cow-dung and decorated with a variety of handcrafts inside.
- ❖ The Chwezi also introduced social classes in society especially in Western Uganda where the Bairu are the cultivators and subjects while the Bahima are the cattle keepers and ruling class.
- ❖ They introduced iron working and they made implements such as spears, Pangas, Hoes e.t.c.
- ❖ Discovered hot springs e.g. Kitagata in Western Uganda.
- ❖ They also developed the art and craft industry e.g. they introduced basket weaving.
- ❖ They also introduced bark cloth manufacture.

## **1. BUNYORO KINGDOM ORIGINS**

- Bunyoro was under Bito rulers and sprung up after the collapse of the Chwezi Empire.
- Local traditions state that Isingoma Rukidi Mpuga was the founder of Bunyoro kingdom.

- Bunyoro was a loose confederation of provinces or Ssazas ruled by the chiefs.
- The growth and expansion of Bunyoro greatly depended on its rulers i.e. Abakama e.g. Omukama Kamurasi (1852- 1869) and Omukama Kabalega (1870 – 1897).
- The Kingdom stretched as far as Buganda, Toro and Ankole in the west to Busoga in the East and West Nile in the North.

### **Factors for the growth and expansion of Bunyoro**

- ❖ Presence of able leadership i.e. Bunyoro was gifted with strong, active and ambitious leaders for example Omukama Kamurasi and Omukama Kabalega who expanded the Kingdom.
- ❖ The Kingdom had a highly developed centralized system of administration which ensured easy administration.
- ❖ The strong army of Abarusula built by Kabalega also contributed to the growth of Bunyoro. It was armed with guns got through trade with the Khartoumers and Coastal Arabs.
- ❖ Bunyoro was also gifted with fertile soils which ensured constant supply of Bananas, Yams and millet to sustain the population.
- ❖ Her good climate with heavy rainfall also supported agriculture to sustain the population.
- ❖ Bunyoro also expanded because it constantly raided her weak neighbours for example Ankole, Toro and Busoga.
- ❖ Bunyoro also participated in trade with her neighbours and also participated in the long distance trade (L.D.T) with the Arabs and Khartoumers where she got guns.
- ❖ Bunyoro had Iron deposits and through Iron working she was able to make spears and arrows for defense.
- ❖ Bunyoro also had plenty of salt deposits which she used to exchange with her neighbours.
- ❖ The decline of the Chwezi dynasty also favoured the growth and expansion of Bunyoro Kingdom. This gave a chance to Rukidi Mpuga to start up his own empire i.e. Bunyoro.

## **THE STRUCTURE/ORGANISATION OF BUNYORO KINGDOM**

### **Politically**

- ❖ The kingdom had a centralized system of administration with the Omukama as the political head.
- ❖ Omukama had absolute powers i.e. to appoint, promote and dismiss any of his chiefs.
- ❖ The Kingdom was divided into provinces, districts and counties each under a chief for effective administration.
- ❖ Most of the chiefs came from distinguished Families and they ruled on behalf of the Omukama.
- ❖ Most of the chiefs resided at the Omukama's palace to ensure their loyalty to him.
- ❖ The Chiefs had to provide the Omukama with gifts such as cattle, beer, grains and men to serve in the army and at the palace.
- ❖ Chiefs were also responsible for tax collection and ensuring law and order within the kingdom.
- ❖ Initially, Bunyoro had no standing army and therefore all able bodied men would be called upon to form an army and the General would be appointed by the Omukama.
- ❖ The army had the duty of defending the Kingdom against external threats, expanding the kingdom, carrying out raids and spying on the Omukama's enemies.

### **Social Organisation**

- ❖ The Banyoro had classes in their society with the Bahima as the rulers and the Bairu as the Subject class.



- ❖ Religiously the Banyoro believed in a supreme being called Ruhanga (God) who was believed to be the creator of all things.
- ❖ Apart from Ruhanga, the Banyoro had many other small gods and each clan and family had its own favourite god.
- ❖ The Banyoro had national gods like Wamara god of plenty, Mugizi –god of Lake Albert and Muhigo the god of war.
- ❖ Sacrifices were always offered to these gods to please them.
- ❖ The Banyoro also had royal regalia which included drums, spears, animal skins, the throne, royal crown and these were highly respected as symbols of power.
- ❖ The Banyoro were always united by a similar culture, language and way of dressing.

### **Economic Organisation**

- ❖ Cattle rearing were the main economic activity of the Bahima and the herdsmen always moved with their cattle in search of pastures and water.
- ❖ Agriculture or crop growing was practiced by the lower class of peasants (Bairu) and they mainly grew millet.
- ❖ Salt mining was another economic activity in Bunyoro got from Lake Katwe.
- ❖ Salt was used for feeding animals and the rest was exported to her neighbours like Buganda.
- ❖ The Iron working industry was also developed in Bunyoro and they manufactured hoes, spears, and pangas. e.t.c.
- ❖ Trade was another economic activity of Bunyoro e.g. she traded with her neighbours and also participated in the long distance trade with the coastal Arabs.
- ❖ Bark cloth making was also done in Bunyoro to provide clothes to the people.
- ❖ Banyoro also involved them in pottery and sold the products outside the Kingdom.
- ❖ These who stayed near Lake Albert and rivers carried out fishing.
- ❖ Revenue was also collected from vassal states e.g. Buganda and Acholi which were supposed to pay tribute to the Omukama.
- ❖ The Banyoro also engaged in hunting for food, Elephants for Ivory and the Rhino for horns.
- ❖ The army of Bunyoro always raided it's neighbours for slaves and Ivory hence contributing to the economy.

### **REIGN OF OMUKAMA KABALEGA**

- Kabalega was born in 1830 to Omukama Kamurasi.
- He spent his early years in Bulega where he acquired the name Kabalega meaning son of Bulega.
- After the death of his father in 1869, Kabalega was involved in a power struggle with his brother Kabigumire.
- Kabigumire was supported by the royal family and provincial chiefs.
- Kabalega used the support of the commoners, Arab mercenaries and his father's body guards to defeat his brother.
- Kabalega ascended to power in 1870.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS OF KABALEGA**

- ❖ He started with the defeat of the opposition from the royal family by killing and exiling members of the royal Family and chiefs who supported his rival brother Kabigumire.
- ❖ Kabalega established a highly centralized administration with him as the political head.

- ❖ He had a chain of chiefs in the provinces to ensure stability.
- ❖ Kabalega built a strong standing army of the Abarusula well armed with guns acquired from the L.D.T with Arabs.
- ❖ Kabalega destroyed the social system of classes in the society and even appointed commoners to positions of responsibility.
- ❖ Kabalega expanded the Kingdom to occupy areas such as Toro, Bwamba, Bulega, Katwe, Lango, Buganda e.t.c and many others. This was done with the help of the Abarusula.
- ❖ Kabalega encouraged trade with the coastal Arabs and Khartoumers from the North e.g. Bunyoro supplied Ivory and salt and in return she got guns.
- ❖ Kabalega encouraged the Banyoro to grow enough food especially millet to reduce famine.
- ❖ He also built enough granaries (food stores) which ensured proper food storage.
- ❖ Kabalega encouraged the spirit of nationalism among the Banyoro for example he always reminded them of the Baganda threat and that if they didn't unite Buganda would finish them off.
- ❖ However Kabalega's programme of building Bunyoro was interfered with by the British.
- ❖ In 1891, he engaged the British in the guerilla warfare as he resisted colonial rule.
- ❖ In 1898, he was captured in Lango with Mwanga and was sent to exile in Seychelles Island.
- ❖ Kabalega died later in 1923 in Jinja as he tried to return to Bunyoro from exile.
- ❖ Kabalega was buried at Mparo in present day Hoima district.

## **DECLINE OF BUNYORO**

- ❖ The Kingdom had grown too big which made it very hard for effective administration.
- ❖ Weak leadership especially after Omukama Kabalega also led to the decline of Bunyoro.
- ❖ The steady growth of Bunyoro's neighbours e.g. Buganda, Ankole, Toro also weakened her.
- ❖ Internal conflicts within Bunyoro also lead to her decline e.g. vassal states constantly revolted against Bunyoro.
- ❖ The loose confederation of chiefdoms and break away of areas such as Buganda, Toro and Ankole also meant Lose of revenue for the Kingdom.
- ❖ The Iron rich deposits of Kooki were taken away by Buganda which meant that Bunyoro would not make enough arrows and spears for defense.
- ❖ Frequent revolts by the Bunyoro princes also weakened the kingdom for example Omukama Kasagama established the Kingdom of Toro.
- ❖ In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Buganda started trading with the Arabs who supplied her with guns to strengthen her army that managed to defeat Bunyoro.
- ❖ The arrival of the British increased Buganda's power and supported her campaigns that led to the final defeat of Bunyoro.
- ❖ Famine and hunger also led to massive loss of lives which reduced the population of the kingdom.
- ❖ Diseases and natural calamities like floods also led to the decline of the kingdom.

## **2. BUGANDA KINGDOM**

### **Origins**

- Buganda is one of the numerous Kingdoms that sprung up after the collapse of the Chwezi dynasty.
- A number of theories have been put forward to explain the origins of Buganda.

- According to oral traditions in Buganda, Kintu was the first Muganda believed to have come from the direction of Mt. Elgon (Kintu came from the East).
- He is said to have come with 13 or 14 of the present day clans in Buganda.
- According to traditions in Bunyoro, the founder of Buganda was Prince Kato Kimera who was a twin brother to Prince Isingoma Rukidi Mpuga the founder of the Bito dynasty in Bunyoro.
- He is said to have come with 5 or 6 of the present day clans in Buganda.
- Other traditions claim that Buganda originated from the Bantu clans that migrated from Congo basin.
- Buganda sprung up after the collapse of the Chwezi Empire with only three countries i.e. Kyadondo, Mawokota and Busiro.
- In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Kabaka Kateregga began her systematic expansion by annexing Gomba, Singo, Butambala and Kyaggwe.
- Around the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1750) many immigrants arrived from Bunyoro, Mt.Elgon area and Ssesse Islands to increase her population.
- Between 1780 – 1789 (18<sup>th</sup> century), Kabaka Jjunju waged war against Bunyoro and managed to annex Buddu and Kooki which were rich in Iron.
- Between 1814 and 1881 Kabaka Ssekamanya annexed Buwekula and Bwera and added them to Buganda.
- Between 1831 – 1851, Kabaka Ssuna finally attacked Bunyoro and crashed it.
- Still in the same period, Kabaka Mawanda tried to annex Busoga but failed in his attempt not until Kabaka Kyabaggu's reign that Busoga was finally crashed.
- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Buruuli, Mawogola, Bulemezi and Bugerere were annexed to Buganda as Bunyoro was declining.
- In the 1900 Buganda agreement, Buganda was given the two lost counties of Buyaga and Bugangaizi.
- This stretched her territory from Lake Albert in the west to River Nile in the East up to Northern Tanzania in the South.

### **FACTORS FOR THE GROWTH AND EXPANSION OF BUGANDA**

- ❖ Buganda started as a very small state which made it easy to defend and administer effectively.
- ❖ Buganda was gifted with fertile soils and good climate which ensured production of Matooke to feed her big population.
- ❖ Buganda established trade links with the coastal Arabs and was able to obtain guns that helped her to expand.
- ❖ Buganda had well developed roads that connected the whole Kingdom which eased the movements of people and their goods.
- ❖ Buganda had a highly centralized system of administration which ensured stability in the Kingdom.
- ❖ Buganda had strong and capable leaders, e.g. Kabaka Ssuna, Kabaka Jjunju, Kabaka Ssekamanya .e.t.c who expanded the Kingdom to greater heights.
- ❖ The Kabaka married from all the major tribes of Buganda which created unity and loyalty of the people.
- ❖ Buganda took advantage of her weak neighbours to expand e.g. Bunyoro lost a lot of land to Buganda.
- ❖ The Kiganda society had division of Labour where by women engaged in agriculture while the men concentrated on trading, fishing and fighting to defend the empire.

- ❖ The geographical location of Buganda also gave her a security advantage e.g. Lake Victoria in the south, river Nile in the East and Lake Kyoga in the North provided natural defense barriers against enemies.
- ❖ Buganda also absorbed / conquered small communities which led to increase of her population.
- ❖ The coming of the British also led to the expansion of Buganda because they offered her enough support in defeating Bunyoro.
- ❖ The constant supply of tributes from conquered states also strengthened Buganda's economy e.g from Busoga.
- ❖ Buganda had a royal guard where by all able bodied men were supposed to go for compulsory military training so that they could defend the Kingdom.

## **STRUCTURE OF BUGANDA KINGDOM**

### **Political organisation**

- ❖ Buganda had a highly centralized system of administration.
- ❖ The Kabaka was the head of the Kingdom with absolute powers e.g. Kabaka could appoint, promote, demote and dismiss his chiefs.
- ❖ The Kabaka's powers were hereditary and leadership was passed on to his elder son.
- ❖ The Kabaka was assisted by 3 prominent chiefs i.e. Chief Justice (Omulamuzi), Treasurer (Omuwanika) and the Prime minister (Katikiro).
- ❖ The Kingdom was subdivided into counties (Ssazas), sub-counties (Gombolola), parish (Muluka), sub-parish (Ekitongole) and village (Kyalo).
- ❖ Each of these was led by a chief for effective administration.
- ❖ The Chiefs were supposed to mobilize people for public works e.g. construction of roads.
- ❖ Buganda had a legislative council called Lukiiko (parliament) which was to formulate laws and advise the Kabaka.
- ❖ The Kabaka had royal body guards called Abambowa and these were charged with protecting the Kabaka at his palace and on journeys and functions.
- ❖ The Kabaka received gifts from his subjects and chiefs as a sign of loyalty and in return they would be rewarded with large chunks of land.

### **Social Organization**

- ❖ Socially, Buganda was organized on clan basis.
- ❖ Every Muganda belonged to a particular clan e.g. Lion (Mpologoma) Monkey (Enkima) Buffalo (Mbogo).
- ❖ Marriage in Buganda was Polygamous.
- ❖ Members of the same clan were not allowed to get married.
- ❖ Each of the clans had a clan head (Omukulu we Kiika) and a special area of origin (Obutaka).
- ❖ Kabaka was the head of all clans (Ssabataka) and belonged to the clan of his mother.
- ❖ The Baganda were divided into classes i.e. royal class for men (Abalangira) Women (Abambejja), Nobles (Abakungu), Peasants/ Commoners (Abakopi) and slaves (Abaddu).
- ❖ The Kabaka was the spiritual leader of Buganda and was considered semi-divine.
- ❖ The Baganda believed in small gods (Lubaale) whom they consulted on various occasions e.g. Ddungu (hunting), Musoke (rain), Mukasa (fishing), and Walumbe (death) e.t.c
- ❖ The Baganda also believed in witchcraft and sorcerers (Abalogo) who were consulted by those who wanted to harm others.

- ❖ The Baganda had a royal regalia which included, drums, backcloth, spears which were highly respected.
- ❖ Virginity was highly respected in Buganda because it was a sign of good upbringing and respect.

### **Economic organisation**

- ❖ The Baganda carried out agriculture as the major activity and grew crops like Matooke, Cassava, Yams and beans.
- ❖ They also domesticated / kept animals like, cows, sheep, goats, chicken, and rabbits e.t.c
- ❖ Fishing was also carried out on the shores of Lake Victoria.
- ❖ Iron working was also practiced and they made implements such as knives, pangas and spears.
- ❖ The back cloth making industry was also developed in Buganda.
- ❖ The Buganda also participated in the long distance trade with the coastal Arabs mainly acquiring guns in exchange for slaves and Ivory.
- ❖ Buganda also received tributes from her vessel states to supplement on her revenue e.g. from Busoga and Toro.
- ❖ Taxation was another source of revenue and it was the duty of chiefs to collect taxes.
- ❖ Raids were also important in Buganda's economy e.g. she raided Bunyoro, Busoga for cattle, slaves, Ivory e.t.c.

### ***Reasons for Buganda's decline***

- ❖ The Kingdom was too big to be effectively administered.
- ❖ Lack of able leadership especially after the death of Kabaka Muteesa 1 in 1884.
- ❖ Attacks from vassal states e.g. Busoga greatly weakened the kingdom.
- ❖ Land conflicts with Bunyoro also increased hostilities with her neighbours.
- ❖ Internal conflicts especially power struggles led to disunity in the kingdom.
- ❖ Disunity because of social classes also weakened her military strength.
- ❖ Natural calamities e.g. floods and diseases especially sleeping sickness which killed many people.
- ❖ The coming of Missionaries also led to disunity within the kingdom hence her decline.
- ❖ The coming of colonialists who effectively led to the loss of her independence.

## **3. ANKOLE KINGDOM**

### **ORIGINS**

- Ankole was one of the Kingdoms that made up after the decline of Bunyoro- Kitara.
- Traditions in Western Uganda claim that Rukidi Mpuga a son to Wamara was the founder of Ankole Kingdom.
- The Kingdom was established in the South Western part of Buganda around the 15<sup>th</sup> century.
- Initially, Ankole was called "Karo Karungi" meaning peaceful land or 'Land of Milk'.
- Ankole remained a small Kingdom around the 18<sup>th</sup> century and Ankole produced a number of ambitious Kings who extended her boundaries.

### **Political organisation**

- ❖ Ankole had a centralized system of administration.
- ❖ Omugabe was the political head of the kingdom.
- ❖ The Omugabe's position was hereditary with absolute powers.

- ❖ The Omugabe, Queen mother, Princes and princesses formed the royal family and resided in the royal palace.
- ❖ The Omugabe was assisted by the Nganzi (Prime minister) who was the most important of all chiefs.
- ❖ Ankole was divided into 10 districts each headed by Omukungu (chief).
- ❖ Some of the districts included Mbarara, Ibanda, Nyabushozi, Bunyaruguru and Kashari.
- ❖ The Omugabe and Nganzi came from the upper class of the Hima and always kept large herds of cattle and estates.
- ❖ The Abakungu also kept cattle and were in charge of keeping peace and sending beer and millet to the royal palace.
- ❖ Ankole had royal regalia that included spears, a crown and the royal drum. (Bagyendanwa).
- ❖ Ankole also had a “royal fire” that was never allowed to go out until the reigning Omugabe died.
- ❖ Ankole had no standing army but in case of war, all able bodied men were supposed to gather at the Omugabe’s palace with spears, bows, arrows and shields.

### ***Social organisation***

- ❖ Ankole society was divided into two distinct classes i.e. Hima and Iru.
- ❖ Bahima who were the rulers and pastoralists and Bairu who were the peasants and subject class.
- ❖ Marriage between the Bairu and the Bahima was considered a social disgrace and was highly discouraged.
- ❖ Religiously, the Banyankole believed in a supreme being called Ruhanga who was thought to be the creator of the world.
- ❖ No prayer and sacrifices were offered to Ruhanga because they believe there was no need of bothering him after bringing them into the world.
- ❖ Below Ruhanga were other lesser gods e.g. kagoro, kazoba, Omusisi e.t.c to whom prayers and sacrifices were offered.
- ❖ The Banyankole highly respected spirits of the dead and sacrifices e.g. beer and milk were offered to them at family shrines.
- ❖ Owning cattle was a sign of prestige and those with few cows were always despised.
- ❖ The Banyankole were united by a similar culture, Runyankole language and same way of dressing e.g. Omushanana.

### ***Economic organisation***

- ❖ Pastoralism was the main occupation of the Banyankole and they kept long horned cattle mainly dominated by the Bahima.
- ❖ The Bairu also carried out cultivation and mainly grew millet.
- ❖ Blacksmithing was another activity of the Banyankole and they made spears, hoes and arrows.
- ❖ Trade was also carried out and they exchanged commodities like ivory with their neighbours and with coastal Arabs.
- ❖ Carpentry was also carried out by the Banyankole and they made very beautiful wooden pots, dishes and other items.

## **4. KARAGWE KINGDOM**

### **Origins**

- Karagwe kingdom extended between Rwanda and Burundi, Lake Victoria and the North western part of Tanganyika.
- The settlers in this area were Bantu who carried out farming and grew crops like millet, sorghum.
- They had come from the south west around the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- However the Bantu are said to have stayed in this region for 43 centuries before migrating north East to Bunyoro and Toro.
- Later a section of these returned to Karagwe after the Luo invasion.
- By the time of their return, they had combined with the Chwezi.
- They reached Karagwe around the 16<sup>th</sup> century and set up the Hinda dynasty.

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF RUHINDA'S RULE IN KARAGWE**

- After the Luo invasion, Ruhinda led his Chwezi immigrants from Bunyoro - Kitara to Karagwe.
- He deposed over the local leader known as **Nano** and he set up the Hinda dynasty.
- He established his rule in Karagwe and built his capital at Bwehangwe.
- He then sent his sons with royal regalia like spears to establish Hinda dynasty in all the surrounding areas.
- This gave rise to small sub dynasties under his sons.
- These sub dynasties included: Gisaka, Kyamtwara, Ihangiro, Buzinza, Busubi, Ukerewe and Nasa.
- The creation of several independent Hinda sub dynasties by Ruhinda's sons created rivalries and these weakened the Hinda rule in Karagwe.
- These small Kingdoms were not directly under the authority of Ruhinda.
- When he died they became independent.

### **Political organisation**

- ❖ Ruhinda introduced a centralized system of government.
- ❖ The centralized system replaced the clan system headed clan leaders called Muharambwa.
- ❖ Upon the death of Ruhinda; many areas that made up his Kingdom declared themselves independent.
- ❖ Ruhinda used the clans for efficient administration. These clans were not destroyed by the Chwezi immigrants.
- ❖ The clan leaders (Muharambwa) were charged with a collection of taxes, tribute and were also in charge of religious rights.
- ❖ The clans were grouped into eight bigger units for easy administration.
- ❖ The units included Kianja, Bukara, Kyamtwara, Kiziba, Ihangiro, Misenyi, Bugabo and Karagwe.
- ❖ Each of these chiefdoms became a nation called Ihanga and chiefs would dismiss a clan head if his people appealed.
- ❖ The clan heads had political, religious and judicial powers. These were supposed to head clan courts that settled disputes.
- ❖ Age sets were encouraged among the Banyambo and young boys of the same age were called at the chief's residence where they would be trained in military art.

- ❖ After military training, they would be sent home and only recalled in times of military emergency.
- ❖ The few, who were outstanding and very skillful, were sent to the king's court where they learnt correct court manners and language.

### **ECONOMIC ORGANISATION**

- ❖ They were mainly agriculturalists and they grew crops like sorghum, millet and bananas.
- ❖ They also kept the long horned cattle.
- ❖ Iron working was another economic activity and tools which were made included hoes, spears and arrows which were used in agriculture and defense.
- ❖ The people of Karagwe also carried out trade.
- ❖ They exchanged trade items like Ivory, and iron products with Buganda and coastal traders.

### **SOCIAL ORGANISATION**

- ❖ The people of Karagwe believed in ancestral spirits.
- ❖ The Muharambwa was supposed to lead over religious functions.
- ❖ A Caste system (class systems) existed in Karagwe Kingdom with the pastoralists as rulers and farmers as the subjects.
- ❖ Settlement of conflicts was entrusted to the clan leader (Muharambwa) but the head of the chiefdom (Ihanga) was the final man in everything.

### **Revision questions**

1. a) Who were the Chwezi/Bachwezi? **OR** What were the origins of the Bachwezi/Chwezi?  
b) Explain their importance in the history of East Africa. **OR** Why are they still remembered in the history of East Africa?
2. a) What were the origins of Bunyoro-Kitara Empire/kingdom?  
b) How was the empire organized by 1350 A.D? **OR** Describe the political, social and economic organization of Bunyoro-Kitara Empire by 1350.
3. a) What is the importance of the Bachwezi/Chwezi in the history of East Africa?  
b) Why did their empire collapse/decline? **OR** What led to the eventual **collapse/downfall** of their empire?
4. a) What were the origins of Bunyoro Kingdom?  
b) Describe the organization of Bunyoro kingdom before the coming of Europeans.
5. a) Describe the political, social and economic organization of Bunyoro kingdom before 1850.  
b) How did Kabalega try to rebuild Bunyoro kingdom?
6. a) Describe the career and achievements of Kabalega for the kingdom of Bunyoro.  
b) What led to the decline of his empire after 1890? **OR** What led to the eventual collapse/downfall of Bunyoro kingdom?
7. a) Describe the origins of Buganda kingdom.  
b) What factors led to her growth and expansion up to 1850?



8. a) Describe the rise and expansion of Buganda kingdom up to 1850.  
b) Why did it become so powerful during this period?
9. a) Describe the political, social and economic organization of Buganda kingdom before 1850.  
b) Why did the kingdom start collapsing after 1850?
10. a) How did Ruhinda establish his rule over Karagwe? **OR** How was the Hinda dynasty established?  
b) What changes did Ruhinda introduce?
11. a) Describe the origins of Ankole kingdom.  
b) Describe the political, social and economic organization of Ankole by 1850.

## **PRE – COLONIAL SOCIETIES IN EAST AFRICA**

### **NYAMWEZI**

#### **ORIGINS**

- The Nyamwezi are Bantu speaking who belong to the central and Northern Tanzania Bantu.
- They are closely related to other tribes such as Sukuma.
- They are an example of a de-centralized society.
- They had fairly organized political, social and economic features.
- They first settled in central Tanzania around Tabora between 1000—1500 AD.
- They migrated from the Congo basin and entered Tanganyika through the western part.
- They used the route between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Edward.
- The name Nyamwezi means people from the moon.
- It was given to them by the coastal traders who saw them coming from the direction of the new moon (west).
- Originally, they lived in small chiefdoms bound together by ethnic association.
- During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they developed centralized administration during the reigns of Mirambo and Nyungu Ya Mawe.

#### **The structure of the Nyamwezi**

##### **Political organisation**

- ❖ The Nyamwezi lived in small independent chiefdoms of about 1,000 people.
- ❖ They were united together by ethnic clan ties.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi had a decentralized system of administration.
- ❖ Each chiefdom headed by a chief with the title **Ntemi**.
- ❖ The position of the Ntemi was hereditary i.e. his son / close relative succeeded him upon his death.
- ❖ The Ntemi had political powers and was in charge of law and order in his chiefdom.
- ❖ In case of population explosion in one chiefdom or succession disputes, splits were done and a new chiefdom would be created.
- ❖ The Ntemi was assisted by a council of elders called **Wanyampala**.
- ❖ **Wanyampala** comprised of old, experienced and knowledgeable elders.
- ❖ Chiefdoms were further split into small political units headed by clan heads called **Gunguli**.

- ❖ Other important chiefs among the Nyamwezi included ritual officer (**Mgawe**), Army commander (**Mtwale**) information officer (**Kikoma**) Tax /revenue officer (**Minule**).
- ❖ All these took orders from the Ntemi.
- ❖ Each chiefdom had an army with a commander appointed by the Ntemi.
- ❖ Before going for any battle, the Ntemi had to bless the army.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi copied the royal regalia from neighbouring societies such as Bunyoro.

### **Social Organization**

- ❖ The Ntemi was the religious leader of his people and linked them to their ancestors.
- ❖ The Ntemi was the fountain of the society and received a lot of respect from his people.
- ❖ The Ntemi could marry as many wives as he wanted.
- ❖ Upon the death of the Ntemi, his body would be buried upright with beer, food and weapons.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also believed in life after death and the spirits of the dead.
- ❖ Ntemi would always preside over sacrifices to ancestors on behalf of his people.
- ❖ The Ntemi was supposed to stop any calamity that would hit his people, their fields and animals.

### **Economic Organisation**

- ❖ The Nyamwezi were farmers and mainly grew cereals e.g. millet and sorghum.
- ❖ The Ntemi always mobilized his people to grow enough food, settle land disputes and guard against misuse of land.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also kept animals for example goats and cattle.
- ❖ The Ntemi and his chiefs always kept large herds of animals.
- ❖ Tax collection was also part of their economy and the Nyamwezi always collected food as tax.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi had established food granaries which were directly under the Ntemi.
- ❖ These were used to feed his body guards, members of his palace and other people in case of hunger and famine.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also carried out some fishing to supplement their diet.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi locally traded with their neighbours e.g. the Vinza for salt and Zinza for Iron.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also participated in the long distance trade with the coastal Arabs.
- ❖ They controlled the central trade route and provided slaves, bee wax, Ivory.
- ❖ In return they got guns , beads and clothes .
- ❖ Raiding on their neighbours was also a major economic activity carried out by the Nyamwezi.

### **Mirambo's Empire**

- Mirambo was born around the 1830s in Nyamwezi land to one Ntemi chief.
- He spent his early years in Bugomba where he had been captured by the Ngoni.
- He mastered the Ngoni tactics of warfare and used them to build a strong army of the Ruga Ruga.
- It was this army that helped Mirambo to build a big empire.
- Mirambo attacked the Vinza, Sukuma and Iramba to extend his influence.
- By 1876, Mirambo established his capital at Urambo.
- His empire extended Northwards and Eastwards to control the central caravan trade route from Tabora to Karagwe, Ujiji, Buganda and Bunyoro.

### **Why Mirambo was able to build such a big empire**

- ❖ Mirambo was a person of boundless courage and energy which he used to build his empire.

- ❖ He personally led his army in battle which encouraged and gave morale to his army to fight on.
- ❖ Mirambo spent a lot of years in Bugomba as a captive of the Ngoni which helped him to master the ngoni military tactics.
- ❖ He used the ngoni military tactics to build a strong army called Ruga-Ruga that was very instrumental in his rise to prominence.
- ❖ He absorbed the conquered people, recruited the youth into his army to boost his fighting force.
- ❖ Mirambo was a man of high determination who took no nonsense from any one. E.g. he insisted on homage and tributes from foreigners passing through his territory.
- ❖ The acquiring of guns and gun power from the coastal Arabs helped Mirambo to extend his empire wide.
- ❖ Mirambo highly paid the Ruga –Ruga who helped him to build such a big empire.
- ❖ Mirambo's empire was strategically located in central Tanganyika which made it the center of trade.
- ❖ Mirambo exploited the weaknesses of his neighbours like Vinza, Zinza, Sukuma, Ha and Samba to acquire territories from them.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi lived in small chiefdoms that were weak and disorganized and this made it easy for Mirambo to conquer them.
- ❖ Mirambo was also far –sighted and an ambitious man who knew what he wanted and always looked for a way of getting it.
- ❖ Trade also helped Mirambo extend his power and influence because it brought in revenue or taxes e.g. He controlled two trade routes, one to Ujiji and the second one to Bunyoro and Buganda.
- ❖ Mirambo also established diplomatic ties with many Europeans, Arabs e.g. He invited missionaries to come to his area.
- ❖ Mirambo also made friendly relations with many African chiefs. He tried to establish diplomatic ties with Muteesa I of Buganda, sultan of Zanzibar and Tippu Tip.
- ❖ Mirambo equally respected foreigners/strangers passing through his land. This brought in many visitors that he benefited from in terms of skills and trade.

### **The collapse of Mirambo's empire**

- ❖ The death of Mirambo led to collapse of the empire because it lacked a strong foundation.
- ❖ The empire was built around Mirambo's personality and without him it was bound to collapse.
- ❖ Mirambo's successor Mpandashalo was too weak and could not keep the empire intact.
- ❖ The empire was too big to be ruled effectively by one person.
- ❖ Mirambo always found it hard to enforce law and order from his subjects due to the vast size.
- ❖ Unity was also lacking i.e. Mirambo had left the various areas he had conquered under their traditional rulers and upon his death many of them declared themselves independent.
- ❖ Mirambo's neighbours were not happy about his success e.g. the Sukuma and this encouraged various states under him to rebel.
- ❖ Mirambo's army of the Ruga-Ruga was not dependable and became a menace after his death e.g. looting and burning people's property.
- ❖ The confusion created by the Ruga Ruga forced the Germans to occupy Tanganyika in 1885.
- ❖ The decline of the Long distance trade and abolition of slave trade also led to the collapse of his empire.
- ❖ Mirambo lost contact with the Arabs who used to supply him guns and gunpowder.

- ❖ Mirambo's chiefs were weak since many were appointed just because they belonged to the ruling class. They did not merit their positions which further weakened Mirambo's empire.
- ❖ Increasing Europeans interests in E.A finally brought Mirambo's empire to an end in 1885.
- ❖ The Germans came under the excuse of abolishing slave trade and stop the Ruga- Ruga and they stamped their authority in Tanganyika.

### **NYUNGU YA MAWE'S empire**

- Nyungu ya mawe was born in Unyanyembe near Tabora among the Nyamwezi.
- He was a prince from the royal family of Unyanyembe.
- Nyungu ya mawe was a praise name meaning 'Pot of stone' (the pot that never breaks).
- Nyungu ya mawe was also able to build a big empire using the services of Ruga Ruga mercenaries.
- He also employed the Ngoni fighting methods.
- ❖ In 1874, he abandoned his people and formed his capital at Kiwele.
- ❖ He attacked the Kimbu in the East and also captured the trade route between Tabora and Ufipa.
- ❖ Nyungu ya mawe was a brave and ruthless military strategist.
- ❖ He could not hesitate to risk the lives of his soldiers and he referred to them as **Mapimpiti** meaning Logs, to achieve his targets.
- ❖ Nyungu ya mawe also created a centralized system of administration.
- ❖ All conquered areas were given new chiefs called Vitwale (plural) or Mtwale (singular).
- ❖ He divided his empire into six provinces each under a Mtwale directly appointed by him.
- ❖ The Vitwale were directly appointed by Nyungu ya mawe and were his eyes and ears. In most cases they were his relatives.
- ❖ Nyungu ya mawe created a highly disciplined army.
- ❖ His army underwent physical and psychological training and didn't lose morale after his death.
- ❖ Nyungu ya mawe did not bother establishing good relations with Europeans.
- ❖ He heavily taxed them which displeased them.
- ❖ In December 1884, Nyungu ya mawe died as a one eyed man.
- ❖ He was succeeded by his daughter Mgalula who ruled successfully until 1893.
- ❖ When she died, her daughter took over and ruled until the Germans captured her capital at Kiwele and conquered it.
- ❖ This marked the end of Nyungu ya Mawe's empire.
- ❖ The Germans replaced the Vitwale with new chiefs called Akidas.
- ❖ The Germans later introduced direct rule.

### **THE KIKUYU SOCIETY**

#### **Origins**

- These were Bantu speaking people under the Eastern Bantu group.
- They are also known as the highland Bantu.
- They first settled in areas around Kenyan highlands near Nyeri, Kiambu and Fort Hall.
- Their origin is based on myths and legends.
- Kikuyu traditions claim that their god (Mumbere) had three sons i.e. Gikuyu, Kamba and Maasai.
- He asked them to choose between a bow, a digging stick, and a spear.
- Gikuyu fell for a digging stick, Kamba for a bow and Maasai for a spear.
- Gikuyu and his wife Mumbi had nine daughters.

- It's these nine daughters who gave rise to the present 9 Kikuyu clans.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE KIKUYU**

### **Political Organization**

- ❖ The Kikuyu had a decentralized system of administration.
- ❖ Their political system was based on clans with each handling its own affairs.
- ❖ Each clan was made up of age groups called **Riika**.
- ❖ These were further sub-divided into age sets each having its own name marking a particular event.
- ❖ The Kikuyu had an army and the commander represented them on council of elders called Kiama.
- ❖ This army composed of Junior and senior warriors.
- ❖ Junior warriors were supposed to clear gardens for planting, defend the village against attack and construct houses and fences.
- ❖ Families sharing the same terrace made up a territorial unit called **Mbari**.
- ❖ Each Mbari was under a council of elders headed by **Muramiti**.
- ❖ The position of the Muramiti was not hereditary but was entrusted to any experienced elder.
- ❖ The Muramiti performed judicial functions.
- ❖ Members of the council of elders must have paid some goats and beer and must have circumcised the elder son of their houses to qualify.

### **Social Organization**

- ❖ Religiously, the Kikuyu believed in a supreme god called Ngai.
- ❖ Ngai who manifested himself through the sun, moon, rainbow, thunder and lightning.
- ❖ Kirinyaga (Mt Kenya) was believed to be Ngai's home.
- ❖ Shrines were built around the slopes of Mt Kenya.
- ❖ Ngai could only be approached by community elders as a group but not as individuals.
- ❖ Ngai was consulted at all stages of life e.g. at birth, marriage and death.
- ❖ The Kikuyu highly respected the spirits of the ancestors whom they believed to possess powers to punish and bless.
- ❖ Therefore sacrifices were offered to appease the spirits of ancestors.
- ❖ The Kikuyu society was also organized on clan basis and each clan was made up of age groups.
- ❖ Riika was further sub-divided into age sets and initiation from one age set to another was after circumcision done on both boys and girls after every five years.
- ❖ Inheritance of property always followed the mother's line (matrilineal).
- ❖ Land and children were all owned by the mother.

### **Economic Organization**

- ❖ Agriculture was their main activity and they mainly grew cereals like Sorghum, Maize and Peas.
- ❖ Land was highly respected by the Kikuyu.
- ❖ A man with no land was not allowed to marry because his wife could not feed the family without it.
- ❖ On top of agriculture, the Kikuyu herded cattle, goats, sheep and kept bees.
- ❖ Fishing and rearing of fowls like chicken was a taboo among the Kikuyu i.e. their social laws did not permit the consumption of fish and fowls.

- ❖ Division of labour existed among the Kikuyu.
- ❖ Men cleared the land, herded and milked animals as women planted and harvested crops and looked after the homes.
- ❖ The Kikuyu traded with their neighbours like the Masai, Embu, Pokomo, and Kamba for products like milk and butter.
- ❖ With the development of LDT the Kikuyu supplied Ivory, Slaves, Bee wax, and Skins e.t.c to the coastal Arab traders.
- ❖ The Kikuyu also hunted wild animals and gathered fruits from the forests around the Kenyan highland.
- ❖ The Kikuyu also carried out Iron working and made Iron implements like hoes for agriculture and spears for hunting.

## **THE ITESO SOCIETY**

### **Origins**

- They are a branch of the plain Nilotics called the Jie.
- They migrated from southern Ethiopia.
- They fall under a smaller group of the Ateker.
- They are related to the Turkana, Kumam, Maasai and Karamojong.
- They first settled in Karamoja for some time and lived there for some time.
- In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the Iteso left Karamoja.
- This was due to cattle rustling, over stocking, over population and lack of water and pasture.
- They then moved southwards and settled along the shores of Lake Bisina.
- It is from here that they acquired the name Itesots.
- Due to more pressure, others moved to Eastern Uganda and Western Kenya.
- They are settled in districts such as Kumi, Soroti, Tororo, Mbale, Kaberamaido and Amuria.

## **Structure of the Teso Society**

### **Political Organization**

- ❖ The Itesots had no centralized system of government.
- ❖ They were organized in clans called Ateker.
- ❖ The clans were the centres of power and it was made up of several extended families.
- ❖ Each clan had a common taboo.
- ❖ The Emuron was the most important chief among the Itesots.
- ❖ He had religious and Political powers, a rain maker and also helped barren women to conceive.
- ❖ Other important chiefs included Aruwon (military leader) who was chosen because of his bravery and Ekaraban (Village ambassador) who settled disputes.
- ❖ Clan meetings (Etems) were important among the Iteso because they handled cases like divorce, adultery and murder.
- ❖ Age- Set system (Aturi) existed among the Itesots on which wars and raids were conducted.
- ❖ Boys of the same age worked and fought together.

### **Social Organization**

- ❖ Social ceremonies were very important e.g. Marriage and birth of twins were marked with jubilations, dances, food and beer.
- ❖ Religiously, the Itesots believed in a supreme being who had lesser gods for example Apa – the god of peace and Edeke – the god of calamity.

- ❖ The Emuron was the religious leader and always offered sacrifices to Edeke on behalf of his people.
- ❖ The Iteso were bound together by strong ties of Kinship and members of the same ancestry regarded themselves as brothers.
- ❖ Itesots had an age-set system (Aturi) which was always formed at a time of Initiations and it marked a change from child hood to adult hood.
- ❖ A man was the head of the family and therefore his sons were supposed to inherit the father's property upon his death.
- ❖ Status among the Iteso depended on how many cows one had i.e. those who less herds were always despised and minimized.

### **Economic Organization**

- ❖ Initially, the Iteso were pastoralists and they kept cows, sheep and goats.
- ❖ They also reared birds e.g. chicken and turkey.
- ❖ The Iteso later adopted farming and they grew crops such as millet, sorghum and Groundnuts.
- ❖ Hunting was another activity among the Iteso and this promoted unity and socialization.
- ❖ The Iteso also carried out some trade and they exchanged hides and skins and Ivory for backcloth, beads and iron implements from Bunyoro and Busoga.

## **THE CHAGGA**

### **Origins**

- They are Bantu speaking people who belonged to the Highland and coastal Bantu.
- They comprise of that group of Central and Northern Tanzania Bantu that continued with their migration from the Congo basin.
- They are closely related to other Bantu tribes like Gweno, Sukuma and Shamba.
- They entered Tanzania through the West using the route between Lake Tanganyika and Lake Edward.
- Their migration took place between 1000 – 1300 AD
- They settled around Mt. Kilimanjaro in Northern Tanganyika.
- The Chagga decided to settle around Mt. Kilimanjaro permanently and came to be known as the highland Bantu.

### **Political organisation**

- The Chagga had a decentralized system of administration with chiefs at the centers of authority.
- The chiefs were distinguished elders in society with political and religious powers.
- Chiefs were always encouraged to extend the political frontiers of their chiefdoms.
- Chiefs were also in charge of administering justice in their chiefdoms.
- The Chagga had political rivalries with their neighbours especially the Masai over grazing lands.
- Below the chiefs were other influential leaders called judicial counselors.
- Judicial counselors were directly appointed by the chiefs.
- Judicial counselors were also charged with tax collection.
- Below the judicial counselors were the clan heads who were prominent and influential.
- Clan heads were also used in maintenance of law and order in their clans.

### **Social organisation**

- The Chagga were organized on clan basis.
- They had several clans with each clan having a clan head.
- Chiefs also served as chief priests and presided over religious ceremonies.
- They believed in a god called Ruwa.
- Ruwa was considered not to have been the creator of the world.
- Ruwa was believed to have freed mankind and provided him with fruits and plants to feed on.
- They believed in the powers of ancestors i.e. life after death.
- Sacrifices were therefore offered to appease the spirits of the ancestors.

### **Economic organisation**

- ✓ Agriculture was the important economic activity among the Chagga.
- ✓ They grew crops such as bananas, millet and coffee.
- ✓ Irrigation was carried out to support agriculture during the dry season.
- ✓ They applied manure in their farms and also carried out crop rotation.
- ✓ They also kept animals like cattle, goats and sheep.
- ✓ They also practiced iron working and made implements like spears, pangas and arrows.
- ✓ They carried out trade with their neighbours and exchanged their surplus goods for salt.
- ✓ They later participated in the long distance trade with the coastal Arabs.

**N.B** By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they had developed a system of kingship.

## **THE GALLA**

### **Origins**

- The Galla are of Cushitic origin.
- They are a branch of the plain Nilotics who migrated from southern Ethiopia.
- They are thought to have originated from Ethiopia then moved to Somalia and finally entered East Africa.
- They are a nomadic pastoral tribe that occupies the Eastern parts of Kenya.

### **Political organisation**

- The Galla traditional structure was connected to the age set system based on ten groups.
- Every male belonged to a single group throughout his life.
- Each age set was headed by a leader called Abba-Boku for 8 years.
- Abba-Boku presided over meetings and formulated laws governing his age set.
- Abba-Boku was seen as a ritual and natural affairs expert.
- Abba-Boku was assisted by 3 other elders all from distinguished families.
- From the age of ten, boys were supposed to train as warriors.
- The Galla thus became a fierce warrior society respected over a wide area.
- They carried spears and shields into the battle fields.
- Each age group came up for promotion every eight years and when this happened, its leader had to take his people to a new territory.
- This would eventually lead to the expansion of the Galla territory.

### **Social organisation**

- The Galla believed in a supreme being called Waqa.
- Waqa was believed to be the controller of everyone's destiny.



- He always granted favours and protection especially in times of battle.
- There existed both good and bad spirits living in lakes, rivers, mountains and trees.
- Later on, some became Muslims due to interaction with the Muslims from Ethiopia.
- They had the age set system where every male belonged to a particular group throughout his life.
- Hunting of animals was carried out as a test of manhood.

### **Economic organisation**

- ✓ They were a pastoral society who moved from place to place in search of water and pasture.
- ✓ They kept animals such as cattle, goats, sheep, camels and donkeys.
- ✓ Their constant movements in search of water and pastures brought them into conflicts with other tribes like the Masai and Somali.
- ✓ They carried out small scale agriculture and grew grains, peas, beans, vegetables and pepper.
- ✓ Limited fishing and hunting were also carried out.
- ✓ Traded with their neighbours like the Somali, Ethiopians and Swahili Arabs.

## **THE MASAI**

### **Origins**

- They fall under the pastoral group of the plain Nilotics.
- They moved from the area West of Lake Turkana around the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- They existed in two groups i.e. the Kwavi and Purko Masai.
- They occupy the area called Machakos in southern Kenya and some are found in Northern Tanzania.

### **Political organisation**

- They were a decentralized society with no central authority.
- They were divided into sixteen independent clans.
- The clans were the basis of their political organisation.
- Each clan had its own territory, cattle brand, pasture and water supply.
- Leadership was exercised through the age set system.
- Age sets were linear and their names were unique and never repeated.
- The most active age set was Moran comprised of junior warriors.
- It was led by a military captain called Olaiguanani.
- Once elected, the Olaiguanani was presented with a ceremonial club Oriakha to symbolize his new status.
- He organized cattle raids and arranged the distribution of the war booty.
- A successful raid was a sign of social success and prestige.
- The elders in society administered the clans and maintained law and order.
- From the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, Laibon became the center of political power.
- A young man became a member after circumcision performed at 18 years.
- After initiation, the boys became junior warriors called illmuran.
- The illmuran lived separately in manyattas where they were drilled in military techniques.
- From junior warriors, they progressed to senior warriors and finally senior elders.

### **Social organisation**

- The Masai believed in a supreme creator called Enkai.

- Enkai was the source of life and punished bad people.
- The Laibon prayed to the Enkai on behalf of his people.
- Senior elders helped organize society especially during difficult periods.
- Women and children were the lowest members of the society.
- The junior warriors (Moran) were charged with defending the homesteads.
- They conducted raids and surveyed areas for grazing.
- Women were also initiated every year.
- They built temporary structures called Manyattas because they are always on the move.

### **Economic organisation**

- ✓ The Purko Masai were pastoralists who kept cattle, goats and sheep.
- ✓ The Kwavi Masai were cultivators who grew crops like finger millet and sorghum.
- ✓ They traded with other communities like the Kikuyu and exchanged their hides and skins for beans, tobacco, sugarcane and millet.
- ✓ Women did the marketing of goods.
- ✓ There were established markets where goods would be exchanged.
- ✓ Iron working was carried out and they made spears, arrows and ornaments.
- ✓ They carried out raids and hunting.
- ✓ Practiced small scale fishing to supplement their diet.
- ✓ Art and craft was also practiced and they made jars and bowls.

### **THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MASAI CIVIL WARS**

- These were a series of wars that were fought between the Kwavi and Purko Masai.
- The Kwavi were agriculturalists while the Purko were predominantly pastoralists.
- The wars were fought in two separate intervals i.e. in 1815 and in 1840.
- The first major war took place in 1815 in the Uasin-Gishu plateau which ended in the defeat of the Kwavi Masai.
- In 1840, the Kwavi reorganized themselves with the help of the Laikipia and they drove the Purko Masai out of the rift valley.
- Between 1870 and 1875, the Purko decisively attacked and defeated the Kwavi killing many of them.

### **Causes of the Masai civil wars**

- The Purko who were the pastoral Masai always despised the Kwavi who were farmers leading to the wars.
- The Purko claimed that the Kwavi were finishing their land and that very soon they would not have enough grazing lands for their animals.
- The Kwavi farmers also claimed that animals of the Purko were destroying their farms during grazing leading to the wars.
- The Kwavi always expected help from their neighbours the Laikipia and this gave them morale to fight against the Purko.
- The succession disputes between the leaders of the Masai after the death of Laibon Mbatien also led to the outbreak of the wars.
- The Kwavi Masai had always defeated the Purko who had for long wanted revenge for their losses.

- The Purko were always a proud society who took a lot of pride in fighting and when they got the opportunity, they had to engage the Kwavi in warfare.
- The two groups had participated in long distance trade and had acquired guns which encouraged them to fight against each other.
- The Purko always believed that the Kwavi had deliberately spread animal diseases which claiming many their animals' lives.
- The youths among the Kwavi were always blamed for stealing the animals that belonged to the Purko which led to the wars.
- The Purko believed that they were the rightful owners of all the Masai land and didn't want it to be taken over by the Kwavi.
- The desire to control the trading activities in the area also led to conflicts between the two groups.

### **Effects of the Masai civil wars**

- Many people died during the course of the wars.
- A lot of property was destroyed during the wars e.g. farms and homesteads.
- The wars created a period of insecurity in Masailand.
- There was depopulation in the area as many people migrated to safer areas.
- The Purko emerged victorious and the Kwavi were greatly weakened.
- The wars greatly weakened Masai supremacy in Kenya and the Nandi emerged as the most powerful tribe in Western Kenya.
- The wars resulted into famine and suffering in Masailand due to neglect of agriculture.
- The succession struggles ended with the separation of the Masai e.g. Laibon Sendeyo and his group occupied Tanzania and Laibon Lenana's group remained in Kenya.
- Natural disasters like small pox and locust invasion further weakened the Masai influence.
- The Masai were easily colonized by the British due to the decline in their power.
- The Masai were tricked into signing treaties with the British which forced them into reserves.
- Masailand was later on taken over by the British colonialists.

## **THE ACHOLI**

### **Origins**

- They fall under the bigger group of the Luo speaking communities.
- They currently occupy Northern Uganda in districts such as Gulu, Pader and Kitgum.
- They emerged out of intermarriages between the Luo, Ateker and Sudanic Madi.
- They originally lived in Bahr-el-Ghazel in Southern Sudan.
- Their migration took place between 1200 – 1350 AD.
- They entered Uganda through Northern Uganda following the Albert Nile.

### **Political organisation**

- The Acholi had a decentralized system of administration with no central authority.
- Political power was centered around the Rwoth chief.
- Rwoth was the political head and religious leader of his people.
- He ruled on the advice of a council of elders from all major clans.
- Rwoth gave favours according to work done.
- Political affairs were handled by the clans with each having its own rituals and regalia.
- Each family belonged to a particular clan that shared a common ancestry.

- Clan councils upheld traditional, religious and legal customs.
- The family was the basic social unit.
- The man had a lot of power over his wife and children.
- The Rwoth appointed village heads called Jogos.
- The duty of the Jogos was to maintain law and order in their respective villages.
- The Jogos were also charged with tribute and tax collection.
- The Acholi had no standing army but the youth were supposed to defend the chiefdoms in case of war.
- The youths were also supposed to carry out raids for cattle.

### **Social organisation**

- They believed in a supreme god called Jok-Lubanga as the creator and sustainer of the world.
- The Acholi always prayed to him through the spirits.
- The Rwoth was the religious head of his people.
- He was believed to have direct links with the ancestors.
- Inheritance followed the father's line.
- Land was communally owned.
- It was the duty of the clan heads to protect it on behalf of his people.

### **Economic organisation**

- ✓ Their main economic activity was pastoralism and they kept short horned cattle.
- ✓ They also carried out agriculture and grew crops such as millet, peas, beans and sorghum.
- ✓ They highly valued cows for prestige, bride wealth and rewards.
- ✓ Fishing was also carried out by those who stayed near the rivers.
- ✓ They traded with their neighbours like the Langi, Banyoro and Sudanese.

### **Revision questions**

1. Describe the **political, social and economic** organization of any two of the following societies; (a)Kikuyu (b)Nyamwezi (c)Itesot (d)Karamojong (e)Galla (f)Chagga (g)Maasai (h) Acholi
2. a) Describe the **origins** of the Nyamwezi.  
b) What were the ways of life of the Nyamwezi before the coming of Europeans?
- 3 .a) Describe the **career and achievements** of **Mirambo**.  
b) What caused the **fall/collapse/decline** of his empire?
4. a) Describe the career of **Nyungu ya mawe**.  
b) Why did his empire **last/survive** longer than that of Mirambo?
5. a) What caused the 19<sup>th</sup> century **Maasai civil wars**?  
b) What were the **consequences/results/effects** of these wars?
6. a) Explain the **relationship** between the Maasai and Kikuyu during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
b) What led to the **decline** of Maasai power and influence?

## **PRE-COLONIAL TRADE IN THE INTERIOR EAST AFRICA**

- Before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, African societies carried out some trade among themselves.
- This was because no society produced all it needed to survive.
- This internal trade was always conducted on a barter system.
- However around the 1st half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (1840-1850), Long Distance Trade developed.
- This involved movements of people from local to international levels all over E. Africa.

## **LONG DISTANCE TRADE**

- It was also called pre-colonial caravan trade.
- This was the trade that was carried between the coastal merchants and the interior tribes in E.Africa.
- The traders covered very long distances from the interior to the coast.
- Long distances had to be covered in caravans of between 100-1000 men to and from the coast.
- This always took months or even a year before they would reach the coast and back to the interior.
- The main participants in the trade included Nyamwezi, Kamba, Yao, Chagga, Kikuyu, Baganda, Banyoro and the Luo.
- These traded with the Arabs and Swahili people at the coast.
- Goods from the interior included ivory, animals, Skins, Slaves, Gold, Bee wax, salt, and copper.
- They were all exchanged for goods like beads, guns, mirrors, clothes and glass which were brought by the coastal people.

## **Reasons for the development of the Long distance trade**

- ❖ The trade developed because of several tribes that produced surplus goods which enabled them to offer some for sale.
- ❖ There was also high demand for foreign goods by African societies e.g. guns and clothes which they had to get from the coast.
- ❖ The arrival of the Portuguese at the coast in 1500 A.D also forced the Arabs to abandon the Indian Ocean trade and join the Long distance trade.
- ❖ The opening of trade routes in the interior of East Africa enabled the traders to reach all corners of East Africa for trade.
- ❖ Seyyid Said's settlement in Zanzibar in 1840 also increased the demand for slaves who were needed to work on his clove plantations.
- ❖ Availability of trade items also led to its development e.g. slaves, Ivory, Bee wax e.t.c were all available in the interior.
- ❖ The abolition of slave trade in West Africa around 1840 forced many Europeans to resort to East Africa where slave trade had not yet been abolished.
- ❖ Some interior tribes had the traditional love for traveling long distances for example the Nyamwezi.
- ❖ Division of labour among the African societies encouraged the men to get involved in trade.
- ❖ The development of Swahili as a business language made it easier for people to communicate in trade.
- ❖ The flat nature of the land enabled traders to easily move up and down looking for trade items.
- ❖ The coming of the Indian Banyans at the coast who financed traders and provided loans.

- ❖ The presence of capable leaders e.g. Mirambo, Seyyid Said, Tippu - Tip and Muteesa 1 who efficiently organized the trade.
- ❖ The introduction of cowrie shells as a form of currency also eased the transaction of business.
- ❖ The introduction of guns also improved security along the trade routes.
- ❖ Co-operation between interior tribes and coastal people also facilitated smooth trade.
- ❖ Presence of already developed coastal towns which acted as the trading centers e.g. Mombasa.
- ❖ Availability of guns helped in raiding of villages for slaves and hunting of elephants.
- ❖ The trade was so profitable to the participants leading to its development.
- ❖ Good and favourable climate encouraged trade throughout the year.
- ❖ Development in transport system e.g. use of donkeys which eased movement of traders.

### **Organization of the Long distance trade**

- ❖ The trade involved many interior tribes e.g. Nyamwezi, Kamba, Yao, Chagga and Baganda.
  - ❖ These traded with the coastal Arabs.
  - ❖ The trade was organized on caravan basis.
  - ❖ Each caravan would have over 1000 men armed and it included porters and medicine men.
  - ❖ Goods from the interior included, ivory, slaves, gold and Iron implements e.g. axes, pangas, hoes.
  - ❖ Those from the coast included beads, glassware, plates, cloths, and swords among others.
  - ❖ Slaves were acquired through raids on villages and ivory was got through hunting of elephants.
  - ❖ Trade was initially conducted on a barter trade system i.e. goods exchanged for goods.
  - ❖ Later on, cowrie shells were introduced but these were also later replaced by small copper coins.
  - ❖ Trade was controlled by interior chiefs who negotiated with the merchants from the coast.
  - ❖ Trade was also conducted in trading centers along the trade routes e.g. Ujiji, Tabora and Bagamoyo.
  - ❖ These trading centres also served as resting places.
  - ❖ The trade also involved taxation for revenue.
  - ❖ Traders from the coast paid taxes to the local chiefs in the interior before their caravans could be allowed passage.
  - ❖ The medium of communication was Kiswahili because it was the business language.
  - ❖ Where communication became a problem, interpreters were used.
    - ❖ The best means of transport was head portage and the Nyamwezi provided the most skilled porters, this was because they naturally enjoyed it and they loved walking for long distances.
    - ❖ The Indian banyans were the financiers of the trade and they provided loans to the traders to go into the interior to buy goods.
    - ❖ The trade followed three main specific trade routes i.e.
1. Northern trade route; it started from Pangani and Mombasa and passed through MT Kenya and Taita hills and it went up to Lake Baringo, crossing the rift valley up to Mt. Elgon. It was controlled by the Akamba.
  2. Central trade route; this was the biggest and busiest route. It was controlled by Nyamwezi and it started from Bagamoyo through Zaramo, Gogoland, and Tabora to Karagwe, Buganda, Bunyoro up to Eastern Congo.
  3. Southern trade route; It was controlled by the Yao. It started from Kilwa through Malawi, Southern Tanganyika up to the Muenomotapa Kingdom in Congo.

4. There was another less significant route from Southern Sudan through Northern Uganda, Turkana land via the Kenyan highlands up to the coast. It was controlled by the Khartoumers from Sudan.

### **The roles played by different tribes in the Long Distance Trade**

#### **Nyamwezi**

- ❖ The Nyamwezi offered market for goods from the coast.
- ❖ On their return from the coast they always came with goods e.g. glass ware.
- ❖ They lived in central Tanzania and they were 1<sup>st</sup> people to move to the coast in caravans around 1830.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi acted as porters during the long distance trade and they enjoyed walking long distances.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also supplied commodities to the traders e.g. copper, ivory, bee wax, salt, slaves.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also controlled the biggest and the busiest route i.e. central trade route which linked Zaire / Katanga region, Bunyoro, Buganda to the East African coast.
- ❖ They acted as translators and interpreters in bargaining or negotiations because some of them had learnt Kiswahili language through their travels and because they played a role of middle men.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also provided accommodation and lodging facilities to the long distance traders e.g. centers like Ujiji and Tabora.
- ❖ They provided food stuffs and beverages to the coastal traders who penetrated into the interior.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi under Mirambo and Nyungu ya mawe were great organizers of the L.D.T.
- ❖ They built a large commercial empire in central Tanganyika.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi also acted as guides and guards along the central trade route.

#### **Why the Nyamwezi got involved in the L.D.T**

- ❖ The Nyamwezi lived in central Tanzania i.e. which gave them a middle man's position between the coastal Arabs and the interior tribes.
- ❖ Among the Nyamwezi society, division of labour existed i.e. the women were left at home to plant, weed and harvest while the men simply cleared gardens and then joined trading activities.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi land was gifted with resources i.e. Ivory, Iron, copper, slaves, grains and hides which were highly demanded by the coastal traders.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi occupied a region in central Tanganyika that experienced long drought and therefore couldn't sustain them through farming hence resorting to trade with the coastal Arabs.
- ❖ The Ngoni invasion of the Southern trade route led into an increase in the volume of trade on the central route and this gave the Nyamwezi prominence in the trade.
- ❖ The introduction of guns also improved Nyamwezi's hunt for elephants and slaves on top of improving security along the trade routes.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi were surrounded by weak chiefdoms which made it very easy for them to attack and raid their neighbors for slaves.
- ❖ The Nyamwezi were good at walking long distances and therefore they found no problem carrying heavy tusks to the coast.
- ❖ Nyamwezi land was flat and since the journeys were so long, this eased the movement of caravans.
- ❖ Nyamwezi were very ambitious people who would always exploit any opportunity that came their way to the maximum.
- ❖ The emergence of Mirambo and Nyungu ya mawe also helped the Nyamwezi establish themselves as prominent long distance traders.

### **THE AKAMBA**

- ❖ In the 1850's, the Akamba had established themselves as the most active long distance traders in the whole of Kenya.
- ❖ They occupied a dry area, lived a semi nomadic life and because of the poor soils they resorted to trade.
- ❖ They started trading with their neighbours e.g. Nyika, Embu, and Kikuyu hence getting access to the coast.
- ❖ The Kamba controlled the northern trade route and their major outlets were Mombasa and Pangani.
- ❖ With the development of the L.D.T, the Kamba became very active in slave trade and Ivory trade.
- ❖ They also supplied other items e.g. Tobacco, rhinoceros horns and wax to coastal traders.
- ❖ The Kamba were also skilled in Iron working such that they produced spears and arrows poisoned with snake poison.
- ❖ The Akamba also opened bases on their land to supply food to the passing caravan traders.
- ❖ The Akamba with their middle man position of the northern route provided relevant information in form of guards and guides.
- ❖ Under leaders like chief kivoi, the Akamba were encouraged to join long distance trade.
- ❖ They built a large commercial empire between Mt. Kenya and Mt. Kilimanjaro.

### **THE YAO**

- ❖ The Yao were found in southern Tanganyika and they controlled the Southern trade route.
- ❖ The Yao were among the 1<sup>st</sup> people to participate in the L.D.T with their neighbours and the coastal merchants.
- ❖ The Yao were good slave raiders after learning military tactics of the Ngoni.
- ❖ They became a major source of slaves to the merchants.
- ❖ The Yao also served as middlemen connecting the interior tribes around Lake Malawi especially through Kilwa.
- ❖ Most of the Yao had embraced Islam hence they established good trading relations with the coastal merchants.
- ❖ Under powerful chiefs like Mpanda and Mataka i.e. the Yao were able to set up a strong empire and this encouraged many people to participate in the trade.
- ❖ Yao also served as porters in the trade because they were good at traveling long distances.
- ❖ Some of the Yao had learned Kiswahili through their contacts with the Arabs hence they acted as interpreters and translators in bargaining between the coastal Arabs and the interior tribes.
- ❖ They also provided food stuffs, beverages to the passing caravans.
- ❖ They also provided lodging facilities /accommodation to the traders.

### **PROBLEMS FACED IN THE L.D.T**

- ❖ First and foremost, the distance covered was too long i.e. the Journey had to be covered by foot yet the goods were to be carried on the head.
- ❖ The heavy taxes imposed on the Arabs and the interior chiefs generated into war hence making the trade unsafe.



- ❖ The Indian banyans also always charged high interest rates on the coastal merchants hence making the trade unprofitable.
- ❖ Tropical diseases e.g. Malaria, sleeping sickness claimed many lives of traders and slaves leading to the decline of the trade.
- ❖ Wild animals e.g. lions used to attack the traders on their way to the coast not until guns were introduced.
- ❖ The introduction of guns increased slave raids, tribal warfare hence making the interior unsafe for many traders.
- ❖ Communication was a big problem because of the language barrier i.e only a few people in the interior knew and understood Kiswahili.
- ❖ Hostile tribes like the Masai and Nandi also made the trade difficult because they always attacked the traders who tried to penetrate into their areas.
- ❖ The Ngoni invasion also disrupted the trade i.e. the Tuta Ngoni disrupted trade between Ujiji and Tabora while the Maseko Ngoni disrupted trade along the southern trade route.
- ❖ The geography of the interior of East Africa was scary and impassible e.g. forests, Mountains, Rift valleys, Lakes and rivers, the Nyika plateau.
- ❖ The climate of E.Africa especially in the rainy season was not favorable because it slowed the movement of slaves and traders.
- ❖ The exhaustion of some goods in the interior also proved to be a problem e.g. the Elephants for Ivory were killed in large numbers.
- ❖ The coming of the missionaries also led to the collapse of the trade i.e. they were against slave trade.
- ❖ The colonization of E.A was what finally led to the eventual collapse of the long distance because slave trade was abolished and legitimate trade was introduced.

### **EFFECTS OF THE L.D.T**

- ❖ It led to the formation and expansion of states because they had acquired guns e.g. Nyamwezi, Buganda.
- ❖ L.D.T led to the raise of strong statesmen e.g Mirambo, Nyungu ya mawe, Kabalega, Kivoi, Mpanda and Mataka because they had acquired guns which helped them acquire economic and political power.
- ❖ Many people became rich in the interior especially the chiefs and rulers and it helped them enjoy high standards of living.
- ❖ The rise of some states also led to the decline of some other states especially those that did not have guns e.g the expansion of Buganda led to the decline of Busoga, Toro and Bunyoro.
- ❖ The introduction of guns increased warfare, slave raids and tribal conflicts in the interior that led to a lot of destruction of property.
- ❖ The captured slaves were badly treated during their transportation to the coast e.g they were whipped and not given enough food.
- ❖ L.D.T led to the decline of agriculture because of constant slave raids which made cultivation difficult.
- ❖ Long distance trade led to the spread of Islam in the interior e.g some societies like Nyamwezi, Buganda and Kamba had many Moslems due to their contacts with Arabs.
- ❖ The trade also stimulated the growth and development of towns along the trade routes e.g Tabora, Ujiji and Bagamoyo

- ❖ Long distance trade caravan routes later developed into proper communication lines and this eased the transport system.
- ❖ The massive slave raids in the interior led to heavy depopulation especially in the southern Tanganyika e.g. Yao land.
- ❖ The introduction of guns almost depopulated the wildlife e.g. elephants' population in Nyamwezi area reduced highly due to the need for Ivory.
- ❖ Long distance trade opened up E.Africa to the outside world and this attracted many Europeans who came as traders, missionaries and explorers.
- ❖ Provided alternative livelihood to societies in dry areas e.g. Nyamwezi and Kamba.
- ❖ It led to the rise of society misfits e.g. Ruga Ruga and Maviti warriors.
- ❖ Led to a decline in local/traditional industry e.g. bark cloth making.

### **SLAVE TRADE IN EAST AFRICA**

- Slave trade was the commercial transaction of buying and selling human beings.
- In E.A Slave trade was introduced by Arabs in 1000 A.D.
- However, by 1850 slave trade was on the increase.

#### ***Reasons for the increase in slave trade by 1850***

- ❖ Abolition of slave trade in West Africa in 1840 forced Europeans to divert their attention to the slaves from East Africa.
- ❖ Seyyid Said's transfer of his capital from Muscat to Zanzibar also led to the rise of slave trade. He introduced clove growing and his plantations needed slaves.
- ❖ The presence British troops on the Atlantic Ocean who constantly patrolled the Ocean which meant that the Europeans had to divert to East Africa for slaves.
- ❖ Increased demand for foreign goods like guns and mirrors by the interior chiefs also led to the increase of slave trade in the interior.
- ❖ Slaves were highly demanded world over i.e. the French had sugarcane plantations in Madagascar and Americans also had plantations in Brazil.
- ❖ The availability of caravan trade routes made it easy for slaves to be transported to the coast. e.g. the southern trade route through Yao land.
- ❖ Introduction of guns made it easy for societies to raid each other hence acquiring slaves.
- ❖ The presence of able organizers especially the interior chiefs also led to the rise of slave trade e.g. Mirambo and Nyungu ya mawe of Nyamwezi, Tippu –Tip a coastal chief, chief kivoi of the kamba and chief Mataka of the Yao.
- ❖ The interstate and intertribal Conflicts also led to the rise of slave trade i.e. these misunderstandings between societies led to the raiding of each other for slaves.
- ❖ The presence of Kiswahili as a business language also led to rise of slave trade, because it made transactions very easy.
- ❖ Lack of valuable economic potential in some areas e.g. Nyamwezi land in central Tanganyika was too dry and could not support Agriculture forcing the Nyamwezi to participate in slave trade
- ❖ The Islamic culture of not employing fellow Muslims also led to the development of slave trade. This forced the Arabs to penetrate the interior to get slaves from the pagan communities.
- ❖ The Absence of vehicles and Railways lines also led to the development of slave trade because slaves were needed to transport goods to the coast.

- ❖ The profits from slave trade were high hence forcing people like Akamba, Yao, and Nyamwezi to carry out slave trade.
- ❖ The primitive culture of some African Societies also led to the development of slave trade i.e. it was the only way of getting rid of criminals, robbers, witches and impotent men.
- ❖ The establishment of Zanzibar, Kilwa, Mombasa as leading slave markets also led to the development of slave trade. These acted as collecting centers for slave traders.
- ❖ The presence of decentralized societies. This meant that people were always living in small communities hence it was easy to defeat such communities and acquire slaves.
- ❖ Decline of gold trade at the coast led the increase in slave trade. This was because the people had to look for alternative sources of survival.
- ❖ The hospitality given to foreigners by African leaders also encouraged many European and Arab traders to come to East Africa to engage in slave trade.

### ***Organisation of slave trade***

- ❖ Many interior tribes were involved in this trade e.g. Nyamwezi, Kamba, Yao, Chagga, Banyoro, Baganda.
- ❖ These constantly raided their neighbors for slaves and sold these slaves to Arabs and Swahili traders.
- ❖ Slaves were acquired through hand picking unfortunate members of the societies e.g. criminals.
- ❖ Also, massive raids were carried out in villages at night and young men and women were captured and then sold to the Arabs.
- ❖ Interior tribes were always at war with each other and the defeated society would always provide slaves.
- ❖ Middlemen were also used to acquire slaves in the interior and then transport them to the coast.
- ❖ After a slave trader had bought his slaves he would chain them together.
- ❖ Slaves were then loaded with goods like ivory and minerals on their heads.
- ❖ They would be forced to march to the coast.
- ❖ As they moved to the coast the cruel /harsh Arabs would whip them.
- ❖ Those who were weak were either left to die or killed and many of them would die before they would reach the coast.
- ❖ The survivors would be given some time to rest, feed, while some were nursed and given clothing to impress the buyers.
- ❖ The routes used in the slave trade were the Northern route dominated by the Akamba leading to Mombasa.
- ❖ The central route dominated by the Nyamwezi was leading to Dar-es-salaam then to Zanzibar.
- ❖ The southern route dominated by the Yao was leading to Kilwa.
- ❖ The Khartoum route dominated by the Sudanese was leading to Bunyoro and Buganda.
- ❖ On reaching the coast, the slaves would be fed, clothed, nursed to attract high pay.
- ❖ After this they would be paraded for the prospective buyers.
- ❖ Buying would either be at Kilwa, Mombasa, or Zanzibar.
- ❖ From here, the slaves were then transported to Europe, America and Arabia.

### **Effects of slave trade**

- ❖ Many people were killed through the raids and others died on their way to the coast.
- ❖ The massive raids depopulated many areas in East Africa.
- ❖ Many people ran away due to fear and uncertainty.

- ❖ Slave trade caused untold suffering and miseries in many African societies' e.g. villages were burnt and people were left homeless.
- ❖ Slaves were mistreated by the buyers and this dehumanized the Africans.
- ❖ Slave trade led to the hatred between societies especially the strong societies always raided the weak ones.
- ❖ Slave trade brought a lot of wealth and profits for those who participated in it e. g. Nyamwezi, Yao, Akamba.
- ❖ Slave trade led to the growth and expansion of some societies as the strong ones always raided the weak ones. E.g. Buganda against Busoga.
- ❖ At the same time, it caused decline of other societies especially the weak ones e.g. Busoga.
- ❖ Famine and hunger set in as a result in decline of agriculture.
- ❖ Some people abandoned farming and took on slave trade.
- ❖ Slave trade led to the rise of important personalities e.g. Mirambo, Nyungu ya mawe and Mohammed Ibn Hamid (Tippu-Tip).
- ❖ Slave trade encouraged internal trade and foreign trade i.e. the slave Arab slave traders were not only interested in slaves but also other items e.g. copper, Ivory, bee wax, honey e.t.c
- ❖ Many young men grouped themselves into warrior groups as a result of slave trade e.g. the Ruga Ruga and Maviti warriors.
- ❖ Slave trade led to the colonization of East Africa this was because many whites (Europeans) came to East Africa with a purpose of abolishing slave trade.
- ❖ Many foreign goods were imported into East Africa e.g. Mirrors, clothes hence the local people enjoyed these goods for the first time.
- ❖ Slave trade led to the spread of Islam and Kiswahili language into the interior of East Africa.
- ❖ Slave trade opened up East Africa commercially to the outside world.
- ❖ This attracted the French, British and Portuguese traders to come to East Africa.
- ❖ Slave trade stimulated the growth of coastal towns e.g. Zanzibar, Mombasa, Kilwa and interior towns like Tabora, Ujiji which acted as collecting centers.
- ❖ Slave trade also led to underdevelopment of East Africa because only strong men were taken.

## **THE ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE**

- The campaign of abolition of slave trade was mainly spear headed by the British.

### ***Reasons for the abolition of slave trade***

- ❖ The missionaries attacked slave trade as an inhuman act and therefore they persuaded the traders to stop slave trade
- ❖ The industrial revolution in Europe (1850) led to the introduction of machines which replaced human labour hence slaves had lost market in Europe.
- ❖ Population increase in Europe made it useless to bring in more people whose services were by this time not needed.
- ❖ The industrial revolution created a high demand for raw materials and therefore slaves had to be brought back to Africa to grow cash crops to feed the 'hungry' industries in Europe.
- ❖ Over production of goods like sugar, clothes made it necessary to re-settle slaves so as to provide market for these excessive goods produced in European industries.
- ❖ Slave strikes had become so frequent e.g. they demanded holidays on Sundays and worship rights hence there was need to abolish slave trade.
- ❖ The abolition of the Trans- Atlantic slave trade in West Africa made it equally important for the same trade to be abolished in E.A.

- ❖ Change in politics of Europe meant that more Europeans were coming to East Africa and therefore there was need to stop slave trade in East Africa so as to create peace and security.
- ❖ The issue of treaties against slave trade also led to the abolition of slave trade e.g. the 1822 Moresby treaty, 1845 Hamerton treaty and 1873 Frere treaty.
- ❖ The role of missionaries under different religious groups e.g. they set up homes for the freed slaves who were already Christian converts and this encouraged the process of abolition of slave trade.
- ❖ The role of the British navy led to the abolition of slave trade. It patrolled the Indian Ocean waters to track down traders who were using it for smuggling slaves.
- ❖ European explorers had earlier on drawn the map of the interior of East Africa which also encouraged the abolitionists to come to East Africa and stop the trade.

### ***Obstacles/problems faced during abolition of slave trade***

- ❖ Anti – slavery campaigns were only concentrated at the coast and on the Indian Ocean waters neglecting the interior which was the heart of slave trade.
  - ❖ Lack of co-operation from other European countries e.g. Spain, France and Portugal etc... Which all looked at the British Anti – Slave trade campaign as selfish.
  - ❖ It was a big financial burden for the Britain because she single handedly patrolled the Indian Ocean waters and compensated slave traders.
  - ❖ Slavery was an accepted custom among many African societies because it was a way of getting rid of wrong doers in the society e.g. criminals and therefore African chiefs saw no problem with it.
  - ❖ Hostile tribes e.g. the Yao and Nyamwezi didn't want any foreigner to cross their land hence delaying the abolition process.
  - ❖ Freed slaves were also reluctant to be free because many of them didn't have any land, property and also lacked practical skills to sustain themselves.
  - ❖ Wild animals also scared the few abolitionists who attempted to go into the interior mainly because East Africa was covered by thick forests.
  - ❖ Physical geographical barriers E.g. Rivers, lakes, valleys etc blocked the movement of the abolitionists.
  - ❖ Tropical diseases e.g. Malaria, Sleeping sickness, typhoid reduced the number of the abolitionists.
  - ❖ Lack of transport and communication lines i.e. there were no developed roads leading into the interior.
  - ❖ Language barrier i.e. abolitionists were not familiar with the languages of the interior so they found it hard to negotiate with the traders to stop slave trade.
  - ❖ Many people had migrated to different areas meaning that when the British came in to stop slave trade they found it hard to bring together people who had scattered in different areas.
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- ❖ The Arab slave traders were always armed with guns and were always ready to fight whoever interfered with their trading activities.
  - ❖ There was lack of alternative means of transport to replace human portage which was mainly done by the slaves.
  - ❖ In some societies, there was no immediate alternative economic activity because it was their only source of livelihood e.g. in Nyamwezi land where it was very infertile for agriculture.
  - ❖ Slave traders were very cunning and they could always raise British \

- ❖ flag when they saw a British patrol ship approaching.

### **STEPS TAKEN TO ABOLISH SLAVE TRADE**

- ❖ It was Britain that spear headed the campaign against slave trade in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- ❖ In 1772, the Supreme court of England declared that Britain didn't allow slavery in England and those who owned slaves were supposed to free them.
- ❖ In 1807, through the effects of humanitarians (missionaries) and religious leaders, the British parliament passed a law making slave trade illegal.
- ❖ In 1815, the British navy started patrolling the Indian Ocean waters so as to check on the shipment of slaves.
- ❖ In 1822, the British used their influence to sign the Moresby treaty with sultan Seyyid Said. Captain Fair Fox Moresby signed on behalf of the British.
- ❖ By this treaty, no more slaves were to be exported to India, Madagascar, Mauritius and Christian countries.
- ❖ In 1824, Captain Owen set up the Owen protectorate over Mombasa to stop slave trade activities in the area.
- ❖ However this didn't work because slave trade was carried out along the whole coast and not only at Mombasa.
- ❖ In 1845, the Hamerton treaty was signed between Sultan Seyyid said and colonel Hamerton.
- ❖ The treaty persuaded Seyyid said to stop buying and selling slaves within and outside East Africa.
- ❖ Unfortunately, in 1856 Seyyid said died and colonel Hamerton also died in 1857.
- ❖ Seyyid Said was succeeded by his son sultan Ibn Majid who was not to co-operate with the British.
- ❖ Therefore the process of abolishing slave trade came to a standstill.
- ❖ It was not until 1870 when sultan Bargash took over the throne from Sultan Majid.
- ❖ In 1873, Sultan Bargash signed the Frere treaty with Sir Batte Frère to end slavery at Zanzibar.
- ❖ All slave markets in Zanzibar were closed.
- ❖ In 1890, Zanzibar became a British protectorate.
- ❖ In 1897, the Zanzibar slave market was burnt down and this ended slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba.
- ❖ In 1919, Britain took over the control of Tanganyika.
- ❖ She speeded up the process of ending slavery in mainland Tanganyika.
- ❖ In 1921, the complete abolition process was achieved.
- ❖ Britain imposed a law against slavery and this totally marked the end of slavery.

### **Why did the process of abolition take so long?**

- ❖ The Indian Ocean was too big to be patrolled by British navy alone.
- ❖ European super powers e.g. France and Germany were not willing the support the abolition of slave trade because they still needed the slave workers.
- ❖ Britain lacked the funds for the campaign against slave trade i.e. it was very expensive.
- ❖ British war ships were always over powered by Arab slave traders because they were always many and had guns.
- ❖ The British were not familiar with all the various inlets and outlets used by the Arab slave traders.
- ❖ The abolition treaties signed were in most cases under looked by the slave traders.

- ❖ Arab slave traders were very cunning e.g. they always used the American flag once they saw the British patrol ships approaching.
- ❖ East Africa lacked alternative means of transport to replace human portage which was mainly done by slaves.
- ❖ Members of the British navy always suffered and died from tropical diseases e.g. Malaria.
- ❖ The freed slaves didn't have any where to go after abolition of slave trade hence the process was made long.
- ❖ Interior chiefs e.g. Nyungu Ya Mawe, Mirambo, Kivoi, Mataka had built their empires using slave trade wealth and were not ready to abolish slave trade.
- ❖ Physical barriers e.g. Forests Mountains, Rivers, Lakes etc always made the work of the abolitionists very difficult.
- ❖ There was language barrier which also delayed the abolition of slave trade.

### **Effects of the abolition of slave trade**

- ❖ There was decline of the former slave trading states e.g. Yao, and Nyamwezi because they had lost their source of their economic power.
- ❖ There was also loss of wealth and income to those individuals and societies that greatly depended on slave trade.
- ❖ The Yao who had made slave trade their sole occupation could not settle down to do agriculture after slave trade was abolished.
- ❖ There was population increase because the human exports that had depopulated mainland East Africa had stopped.
- ❖ Agriculture improved and new crops were introduced to facilitate the transition from slave trade to legitimate trade e.g. coffee, tea and sisal, e.t.c.
- ❖ People started attending to their farm lands which they had neglected during the slave trade era and this increased food production.
- ❖ People regained their status and dignity that had been eroded by slavery and slave trade.
- ❖ Security greatly improved because slave raids that had de-stabilized the interior were brought to an end.
- ❖ The abolition increased the spread of Christianity and Western culture.
- ❖ Missionaries therefore built mission stations, schools and hospitals for the freed slaves.
- ❖ Transport was improved. The Uganda railway was built to facilitate and aid the transfer from slave trade to legitimate trade.
- ❖ The abolition also led to the increase of European penetration into the interior of E.A especially the humanitarians.
- ❖ This subsequently led to the colonization of East Africa and this led to the loss of independence by East African states.
- ❖ The abolition of slave trade led to the introduction of legitimate trade. This was the trade in natural products e.g. cotton, coffee, Tea, sisal, etc. but not people.
- ❖ Former slave trade routes later developed into proper communication lines and this increased European penetration into the interior.
- ❖ The intertribal war that were always fought to acquire slaves were minimized which brought in an era of peace and security.
- ❖ Local people hated their traditional rulers who had collaborated with slave traders i.e. there was hatred between who had participated in slave trade and those who were opposed to it.

**Revision questions**

1. a) What factors led to the **development** of the Long distance trade in East Africa?  
b) Describe the **organization** of the Long distance trade in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
2. a) How was the Long distance trade in East Africa **organized** between 1800-1880?  
b) What **problems** were faced by the merchants in the Long distance trade?
3. a) Why did the Long distance trade **decline** during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century ?  
b) What **impacts/consequences/effects/results** did it have on the peoples East Africa?
4. a) Describe the role played by any **two** of the following societies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Long distance trade  
(1) Nyamwezi                      (2) Kamba                      (3) Yao  
b) Why did the trade decline in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
5. a) Why did the Nyamwezi get involved in the 19<sup>th</sup> century Long distance trade?  
b) What roles did they play in the organization of the trade?
6. a) Why did slave trade expand in East Africa in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
b) How was Slave trade organized?
7. a) Describe the **working** of Slave trade in East Africa in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
b) What were the effects/consequences/results/outcomes of this trade?
8. a) Why was Slave trade **abolished** in East Africa during the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?  
b) Why did the process of abolition prove to be so difficult?
9. a) Describe the **steps taken** by the British to abolish Slave trade in East Africa.  
b) What problems were met by the abolitionists?
10. a) Outline the **steps taken** to abolish Slave trade in East Africa?  
b) What were the **effects of the abolition** of Slave trade on the peoples of East Africa?