

STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA
HISTORY PAPER ONE NOTES
SENIOR THREE

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS

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THE HEHE REBELLION/CHIEF MKWAWA'S RESISTANCE (1890 - 1898)

- The Hehe rebellion was the first major uprising that took place on mainland Tanganyika against German rule.
- The rebellion took place in southern Tanganyika.
- It was spearheaded by **chief Mkwawa** who had come to power in 1878.
- The major cause of the war was chief Mkwawa's refusal to give up on trading activities as he had been instructed by the German colonialists.

CAUSES OF THE REBELLION

- Chief Mkwawa wanted to maintain the independence of his people which the Germans had eroded i.e. he didn't want his people to be under foreign rule.
- The Hehe under Mkwawa had built a strong army due to their participation in trade with the Arabs through which they got guns and they thought that they could humiliate the German forces.
- Mkwawa levied a heavy **Hongo** tax on the caravans that passed through his area and when the Germans requested him to stop the tax, he refused and this led to war with the Germans.
- When German traders refused to pay tax to Mkwawa, he angrily reacted by closing the trade routes and imprisoning many traders at Usagara which annoyed the Germans.
- The Hehe also resisted because the Germans had grabbed a lot of Hehe lands to introduce plantation farming.
- The Germans were always interrupting Mkwawa's aggressive expansionist raids against his neighbours and this brought him to clashes with the Germans who were also spreading their rule.
- Mkwawa was also annoyed with German disrespect for him e.g. they called him backward and uncivilized yet he was a sovereign ruler of the Hehe.
- Mkwawa also claimed to be the sole controller of the central long distance trade route (Tabora - Bagamoyo) which the Germans were also claiming and this resulted into war.
- Forced labour on European farms, public works like roads also forced Mkwawa to mobilize his people to rebel against German rule.
- Mkwawa's diplomatic envoys (messengers) were on several occasions gunned down by the Germans forcing him to angrily retaliate by engaging them in warfare.
- Mkwawa also expelled the German mercenaries (Akidas and Jumbes) that had been brought in to assist the Germans in administration. This annoyed the Germans who resorted to war.
- The Hehe were also resisting cultural imperialism of the Germans who were encouraging Christianity, and western education and were condemning African cultures.
- The Hehe were also known to be war mongers and they took a lot of pride in fighting and that is why they revolted against the Germans.
- Mkwawa's character also led to the outbreak of the revolt i.e. he was big headed and unpredictable. E.g. when he imprisoned the German traders for not paying tax, the Germans requested him to release them but he refused and this annoyed the Germans.
- The Hehe also expected support from chief Chabruma of the Ngoni and chief Siki of Tabora and this gave them courage to fight against the Germans.

Course of the Hehe rebellion

- ❖ Chief Mkwawa came to power in 1878 after succeeding his father **Munyigumba**.
- ❖ He built a strong army which he used to stage a prolonged resistance against the Germans in southern Tanganyika.
- ❖ From 1880, Mkwawa was busy expanding his borders of his empire.
- ❖ It landed him into trouble with the Germans who were busy expanding their rule in Tanganyika.
- ❖ In his bid to control the trade, Mkwawa closed the Tabora – Bagamoyo trade route.
- ❖ He also imprisoned German and Swahili traders for refusing to pay **Hongo tax/tribute**.

- ❖ Mkwawa was on several occasions requested by the Germans to release the traders he had imprisoned but he refused and this arrogance annoyed the Germans who reacted with force.
- ❖ Mkwawa's behavior was also based on the assumption that he was to get support from Chief Chabumba of the Ngoni and chief Siki of Tabora.
- ❖ In 1891, a German force under Zewlekis confronted Mkwawa for the first time.
- ❖ However he learnt of this plot and he ambushed and humiliated the German force at Lungala.
- ❖ He killed many Germans and their commander, Zewlekis.
- ❖ The Germans temporarily accepted defeat and they turned their attention to chief Isike of the Nyamwezi, who was willing to collaborate and work with them.
- ❖ Mkwawa later realized the need for a peaceful end to the conflict.
- ❖ He sent messengers with gifts to the Germans and they responded by gunning down Mkwawa's messengers.
- ❖ Mkwawa was greatly annoyed by this act and he responded by closing the caravan trade route from Bagamoyo to Tabora to all traders.
- ❖ This forced the Germans to organize more attacks against him.
- ❖ But Mkwawa was not to give up on his peaceful plans to end the conflicts.
- ❖ He therefore sent another messenger to the Germans with gifts but he was also killed.
- ❖ This greatly demoralized Mkwawa who engaged the Germans in full scale war at Kilosa.
- ❖ He managed to kill 290 Germans and their allies.
- ❖ In October 1892, he destroyed a long distance caravan at Kondowa which increased his influence in the region.
- ❖ Mkwawa was also able to complete the construction of his Fort at Kalenga.
- ❖ In 1894, the Germans decided to deal decisively with Mkwawa and they stormed and destroyed his capital at Kalenga killing many of his soldiers.
- ❖ With a handful of his men, Mkwawa escaped to Ingonge where he unsuccessfully attempted to ambush the Germans on their way back to the coast.
- ❖ After this, the Germans relaxed their machinery against Mkwawa thinking that this had completely weakened him, but they were mistaken.
- ❖ Mkwawa started using a guerilla war tactic (hit and run) to launch attacks on German controlled areas.
- ❖ This also forced the Germans to adopt the scorched earth policy.
- ❖ The Germans destroyed water and food reservoirs, which caused wide spread hunger and starvation.
- ❖ Between 1895 – 1898, Mkwawa suffered heavy losses as his warriors were killed.
- ❖ After sensing defeat, Mkwawa refused to be captured alive and instead shot himself in 1898.
- ❖ A few of his trusted soldiers also surrendered to the Germans.
- ❖ When the Germans found his body, they cut off his head and sent it to a museum in Berlin (Germany) and this marked the end of the Hehe resistance against the Germans.

REASONS FOR MKWAWA'S DEFEAT

- Military superiority of the Germans compared to Mkwawa's outdated guns.
- Lack of support from neighbouring societies e.g. the Sangu chief always spied on chief Mkwawa.
- The Germans always received massive support from their home gov't e.g. weapons, medicine.
- The Hehe had a poor economy that could not sustain the prolonged resistance.
- Lack of proper planning e.g. no battle plans were made.
- The scorched earth policy used by the Germans caused a lot of famine which weakened the Hehe.
- Mkwawa lacked advisers e.g. he should have released the German traders who had not paid Hongo tax.
- German brutality also scared some of Mkwawa's forces and they surrendered.
- The long periods of drought and diseases also weakened the Hehe.
- By the time of his death, Mkwawa was sickly and this also led to the defeat against the Germans.
- The Germans' determination to completely discipline Mkwawa led to his defeat.
- Mkwawa made a mistake of constructing a fort at Kalenga and this made it easy for the Germans to ambush his strongest point of defense.
- Mkwawa had also neglected other areas in the Hehe region and was only concentrating on his capital at Kalenga and this made it easy for the Germans to defeat areas beyond the capital.
- Mkwawa had been cut off from the Arab supply of arms which also weakened his army.
- Finally, the death of Mkwawa left his forces with low morale for fighting, and many surrendered to the Germans afterwards.

EFFECTS OF THE HEHE REBELLION

- ✓ The Hehe were defeated by the Germans and they lost their independence.
- ✓ Many people were killed e.g. at Kilosa, Mkwawa killed 290 Germans and their allies.
- ✓ The death of people resulted into massive depopulation in southern Tanganyika.
- ✓ The rebellion caused a lot of misery, suffering which forced some people to migrate to safer areas.
- ✓ There was destruction of property e.g. villages, food stores especially when the Germans used the scorched earth policy.
- ✓ Famine set in because people had neglected agriculture to fight the Germans.
- ✓ After the war, the Germans became more cruel and brutal to Africans which increased suffering.
- ✓ Trade was disrupted especially along the central trade route in Nyamwezi land and Hehe land due to Mkwawa's anti-German campaigns.
- ✓ The Hehe learnt a lesson, that in future they should not bother resisting the Germans because they were superior e.g. during Maji-Maji rebellion (1905-1907), the Hehe didn't participate.
- ✓ The Germans also learnt a lesson that African resistances shouldn't be taken for granted because the Hehe rebellion proved to the Germans that Africans could organize a war.
- ✓ The rebellion spread waves of nationalism in Southern Tanganyika and this led to other revolts in future e.g. Maji-Maji revolt (1905-1907)
- ✓ Africans who assisted the Germans during the war were rewarded by the Germans after the war e.g. the Sangu chief was promoted to the position of an Akida.
- ✓ Diseases like dysentery and sleeping sickness were also spread.
- ✓ The rebellion greatly affected the economic development of southern Tanganyika because many activities came to a standstill.
- ✓ The Germans introduced new advisers and disbanded Mkwawa council of advisers which led to the introduction of Akidas and Jumbes in the area.

MAJI -MAJI REBELLION (1905 – 1907)

- The Maji-Maji rebellion took place in southern Tanganyika and was against the German rule.
- The rebellion included a large section of tribes in southern Tanganyika e.g. Zaramo, Wangindo, Bena, Pogoro, Matumbi e.t.c.
- The rebellion got its name from a Swahili phrase “ maji-maji” which means magic water.
- This magic water was got from River Rufiji by a medicine man called Bakero Kinjikitile Ngwale.
- The rebellion started in July 1905 and ended in 1907.

Causes of Maji Maji rebellion

- The unsuccessful cotton scheme: The people of southern Tanganyika were forced to grow cotton by the Germans in 1902 but the soils were poor and the yields were also poor.
- Africans also received very little pay for the cotton and this is what sparked off the rebellion.
- Forced labor on government farms and public works like roads also forced Africans to rebel e.g. Africans worked for long hours and received little or no pay at all.
- Heavy taxes. The Germans imposed taxes on Africans e.g. three rupees per cotton plot yet the taxes were accompanied with cruel methods of collection e.g. failure to pay meant torture, flogging and imprisonment.
- Loss of land/land alienation: Africans in Southern Tanganyika had lost a lot of their lands to the German settlers forcing them to move to remote and unfavorable land.
- The desire to regain independence that had been eroded by the Germans also led to the Maji – Maji rebellion in 1905.
- The Africans were also resisting the cultural imperialism of the Germans who were encouraging Christianity and western education in favor of African cultures.
- The Wangindo blamed the German mercenaries i.e. Akidas and Jumbes for raping and eloping with their wives and daughters as they were working on the cotton farms. Akidas and Jumbes also allowed their dogs to enter Mosques and this greatly annoyed the Muslims.
- The rebellion was also caused by the struggle to control the trade between the coast and the interior i.e. both Germans and Africans all claimed to control the trade.

- Kinjikitile's religious Propaganda that the magic water would give the fighters protection against German bullets inspired the Africans to fight and Kinjikitile provided the long awaited leadership for the revolt.
- The replacement of African traditional rulers with the Akidas and Jumbes, who were very harsh, brutal and corrupt also led to the rebellion.
- Effects of earlier rebellions for example the Hehe rebellion of 1890 in Tanganyika also inspired the Africans in Southern Tanganyika to rebel.
- The Ngoni had a personal grievance against the Germans because they wanted to revenge on the Germans for murdering their tribe mates during the Boma massacres in 1897.

Course of the rebellion

- ❖ In 1904, a traditional priest called Bakero Kinjikitile Ngwale emerged from the Ngarambe hills near River Rufigi.
- ❖ He was possessed by a spirit called Hongo which stayed in a pond near River Rufigi.
- ❖ It was from River Rufigi that the Magic water was got and mixed with millet, sorghum and local herbs to give immunity to the German bullets.
- ❖ By January 1905, a secret movement called Jujila or Nywiwila had been formed among the Wangindo and Matumbi.
- ❖ This movement worked by secretly communicating from one person to another, encouraging people to go for Kinjikitile's Magic water.
- ❖ However Kinjikitile did not instruct people to go and start fighting and when the Germans heard about the medicine man from Ngarambe hills, they did not take him serious.
- ❖ By 1905, people grew impatient and decided to provoke the Germans into war by uprooting cotton farms and this was enough to engage the Germans into war against the Africans.
- ❖ From Rufiji area, within a few weeks the rebellion had quickly spread to other cotton producing areas like Uluguru, Mahenge and Kilombero valleys.
- ❖ On 2nd August 1905, the Africans attacked the coastal town of Samanga near Kilwa where many traders and government officials were murdered.
- ❖ The whole town was burnt down and German missionaries were murdered.
- ❖ From this time, the rebellion spread to all areas through night messengers and several societies e.g. the Mbuga, Bena, Pogoro, Zaramo later joined the rebellion.
- ❖ On the 30th August 1905, Maji – Maji fighters attacked Lukuledi and Mahinge Valleys where the Germans were caught unprepared and it was a success for the Africans.
- ❖ This forced the Germans to take the rebellion seriously and they adopted the scorched earth policy while the Africans resorted to Guerilla warfare.
- ❖ The Germans ordered for reinforcements and by November 1905, it had arrived under Von Wissman and the Germans started suppressing the rebellion systematically.
- ❖ From 1906, the Germans rounded up whoever was opposed to their rule especially the ring leaders.
- ❖ Leaders were killed, captured while others surrendered and Kinjikitile didn't survive these killings.
- ❖ Others decided to go into exile in Mozambique and when Kinjikitile was killed the rebellion came to an end in 1907 with the Germans emerging victorious.

Why Africans lost the war

- ✓ Kinjikitile false Propaganda i.e. the magic water didn't provide immunity against German bullets as he had claimed.
- ✓ There was no military training carried out to prepare the fighters for war.
- ✓ Africans had poor organization i.e. people just joined the rebellion basing on Kinjikitile's Propaganda.
- ✓ Africans lacked unity among the various tribes i.e. some were even fighting amongst themselves.
- ✓ Africans lacked a unified command i.e. they had more than one leader and they always fought together as a whole community and not in troops or battalions.
- ✓ The Germans also used the scorched earth policy which left many African homes, food stores and gardens destroyed.
- ✓ The Hehe, Chagga and Nyamwezi did not join the rebellion which reduced the power of the Africans fighting against the Germans.
- ✓ Superiority of the German forces i.e. the Germans had guns while Africans had traditional and crude weapons e.g. Spears, bows, and arrows, stones e.t.c.

- ✓ The Maji Maji fighters lacked persistence i.e. some tribes pulled out leaving fellow fighters to suffer.
- ✓ The Germans received help from Germany in form of arms and troops.
- ✓ Slave trade had also taken away the energetic men and left the weak ones who could not do much in the rebellion.
- ✓ Africans had poor economies that could not sustain a prolonged war against a rich and powerful country like Germany.
- ✓ The death of African leaders also made the rebellion lose continuity and strength e.g. Kinjikitile Ngwale.
- ✓ The Germans were also determined to take over Tanganyika whether by hook or crook.

Effects of the rebellion

- The Maji Maji fighters were defeated and this completely led to the loss of African independence.
- Many people lost their lives i.e. over 75,000 people were killed during the suppression of the rebellion.
- As a result of the killings, there was heavy depopulation particularly in southern Tanganyika.
- There was massive destruction of property i.e. settlements. Villages and cotton farms were burnt to the ground.
- There was wide spread misery and suffering caused by the ruthless Germans.
- A period of famine (Fuga Fuga) set in because people had neglected farming and the Germans had also used the scorched earth policy to destroy farms.
- Africans lost confidence and trust in religion and traditional leaders and medicine men and started joining foreign religions like Christianity.
- Many people were crippled in the war campaigns and others forced into exile especially to Mozambique.
- The rebellion was a source of inspiration for future nationalists like Oscar Kambona and Julius K. Nyerere who led the fight for independence.
- Africans who collaborated with the Germans were rewarded with posts in the colonial government land.
- The Germans also learnt from the rebellion and made changes in their administration e.g. the harsh Akidas and Jumbes were sacked / fired.
- The colonial government made economic reforms e.g. taxes were relaxed and mistreatment of Africans was made punishable.
- Africans were encouraged to grow cash crops on their own individual plots rather than on a communal basis.
- In education, Africans were encouraged to go to School and scholarships were given to promising Students in order to fight ignorance.
- Economic activities like trade came to a standstill in Tanganyika and that is why the area lagged behind for a long time in terms of economic development.