**BUGANDA KINGDOM**

**1. What were the origins of Buganda?**

* Buganda came up after the collapse of ChweziEmpire.
* The kingdom was established in the interlacustrine region.
* Its early inhabitants were Bantu from Congo.
* Original Baganda lived in Busiro, Kyadondo and Mawokota.
* The first Baganda ruler was Kintu.
* He is believed that have come from Mt. Elgon area around 1314 AD.
* He passed through Bugishu, Budama, Busoga to Buganda.
* Kintu came with 13-14 of the present clans in Buganda.
* Another theory says Kato Kimera found Buganda.
* Kato Kimera came from Bunyoro around 1374 AD.
* He was a twin brother of IsingomaRukidiMpuga, the founder of Bito dynasty.
* He is believed to have curved Buganda from BunyoroKitara which was collapsing.
* He is believed to have come with 5 to 6 of the present clans.
* Another source says Buganda came from Bantu clans who lived around 1000 AD.
* Buganda started as a small state of Busiro, Mawokota, Kyadondo.
* Baganda belong to the interlacustrine Bantu group.
* Buganda extended to Singo, Gomba, Butambala.
* The expansion was made by KabakaKateregga.
* KabakaJjunju also expended Buganda to Buddu, Kooki.
* KabakaMawanda captured Bulemeezi, Kyaggwe, Bugerere.
* By 19th century, Buganda was the biggest kingdom in the interlacustrine kingdom.
* British helped Buganda to acquire Buyaga and Bugangaizi from Bunyoro.

**2. What factors led to the growth of Buganda kingdom during the 18th century?**

* Buganda sprung up after the collapse of the Chweziempire.
* It started as a small state of Busiro, Mawokota, Kyadondo.
* In the 17th century, Buganda started expanding due to the following reasons;
* Conquest of neighbouring provinces like Gomba, Singo and Kyaggwe.
* Strong kings like Kateregga, Jjunju, Mawanda and Muteesa I.
* Her population increase due to conquests made her expend.
* Conquest of mineral rich areas like Buddu which had iron.
* Absorption of conquered people thus increase in her population
* Fertile soils and reliable rainfall which facilitated agriculture.
* Good climate which facilitated settlement.
* Buganda’s trade with coastal Arabs, Swahilis, Khartoumers made her develop.
* Buganda acquired guns from Arab traders which she used to conquer other areas.
* Buganda levied taxes from trade caravans which passed in her territory.
* Buganda had good roads that rotated around the kingdom for easy movement and trade.
* Had a well developed centralized administration with Kabaka on top.
* Buganda had a strong army, equipped with Arab weapons.
* Kabaka married from all clans of Buganda which created unity in the kingdom.
* Kingship was hereditary thus no succession disputes.
* Buganda’s neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga were weak.
* Conquered areas were ruled by chiefs appointed by the Kabaka.
* Conquered states paid tributes to Kabaka which he used to develop Buganda.
* Kabaka used tributes from conquered people to reward his officials and soldiers.
* Buganda’s collaboration with the British made her strong against her enemies.
* Buganda’s acquisition of Buyaga and Bugangaizi from Bunyoro increased her power and size.
* Missionaries who came to Buganda brought education and modernity hence development.
* Specialization in Buganda where women cultivated, planed and harvested while men concentrated on fishing, trading, hunting, fighting, iron working, bark cloth making etc.
* Good geographical location surrounded by lakes and rivers which gave Buganda security.
* Buganda had a naval army on Lake Victoria to monitor attacks from her enemies.
* Common origin, language and culture helped Buganda to grow.
* In the 19th century, Buganda was the strongest kingdom in the interlacustrine kingdom and Stanley called it the Garden of Eden.

**3. Describe the organization of Buganda kingdom during the 19th century.**

* Kabaka was the political head
* Centralized administration
* Kabakaship was hereditary
* Kabaka had absolute powers and his word was final.
* Kabaka appointed, promoted and dismissed his officials without consulting anyone.
* Next to Kabaka was Katikiro who also had a lot of powers.
* Other important chiefs were Mulamuzi (Chief Justice) and muwanika (Finance Minister)
* Buganda had lesser chiefs like clan heads, county heads, sub-county heads and parish chiefs.
* Buganda was divided into counties, sub-counties, parishes etc.
* Chiefs mobilized people for public works like road construction.
* Chiefs also collected taxes from Baganda.
* Chiefs mobilized Baganda in case of war and maintained law and order.
* Chiefs supplied firewood, timber, food, bark cloth to king’s palace.
* Chiefs were answerable to the katikiro.
* Buganda had a parliament called Lukiiko.
* Lukiiko was supposed to make laws, advise the Kabaka and his ministers.
* Buganda had a strong Army of able-bodied men.
* Kabaka had a special army of (Abambowa)
* Buganda had a Navy on Lake Victoria to protect the kingdom from attacks.
* Kabaka had palace officials who acted as his ears and eyes (spies)
* Queen mother, queen sister were important persons in the kingdom.
* Buganda had royal regaria like spears, stools, drums and animal skins.
* Buganda practiced agriculture, growing yams, sweet potatoes, beans, cassava, vegetables, etc.
* Division of labour, women planted, harvested, white men traded, etc.
* Crop rotation after 3 years to maintain soil fertility.
* Kept animals like cattle, sheep, goats and chicken.
* Kabaka had large herds of animals and Hima took care of it.
* Practiced fishing in Lake Victoria etc.
* Hunting for meat (antelopes, pigs and buffalos)
* Hunted elephants for ivory.
* Hunted leopards, lions for hides and skins.
* Kabaka hunted for leisure.
* Bark cloth making.
* Iron working, knives, swords, bangles, axes, pangas and hoes.
* Participated in long distance trade with coastal Arabs.
* Traded with neighborslikeBanyankole and Basoga.
* Bagandamadecanos and craft like mats, beads and necklaces.
* Collected tributes from conquered states.
* Collected taxes from local people and from traders.
* Raided neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga, Kooki for slaves, cattle and ivory.
* Buganda had clans like lion, elephant, antelope, mushroom among others.
* Each clan had a clan head and burial sites.
* Kabaka was the head of all the clans.
* Kabaka belonged to mother’s clan.
* Each clan supplied Kabaka with a wife.
* Buganda was divided into classes.
* Royal class of Kabaka, princes and princess.
* Noble class of chiefs and palace officials.
* Commoners/peasants who were not highly respected
* Slaves who were treated like property by their bosses.
* Kabaka was the spiritual leader of Buganda.
* Buganda had small gods like Ddungu, Musoke, Kibuuka, Mukasa
* Buganda had diviners who consulted spirits of the dead.
* Baganda practiced witchcraft to harm others.
* Baganda had herbalists who treated the sick.
* Baganda believed in a supreme being called Katonda.
* Baganda’s religion was called Lubaale
* Baganda had shrines where they sacrificed for ancestors.
* Baganda dressed in bark cloth, animal skins and beads.
* Royal family members wore skins of antelopes, leopards, goats and cows.
* Baganda built bee-hives shaped houses that were wooden and grass thatched.
* Baganda had polygamous marriages.
* Sex and marriage between close relatives was not allowed.
* Marriage involved introduction ceremony where the girl introduced her husband to her family.
* Had burial grounds for Kabaka at Kasubi (masiro)
* Important chiefs were buried in houses.
* Respect for elders was stressed. Girls had to kneel while greeting them.
* Had games like boat racing and wrestling.

**4. Why did Buganda kingdom decline?**

* Started declining in the 19th century.
* Too big to be ruled by one king
* Due to big size, distant places like Busoga started breaking away.
* Coming of foreigners who colonized the kingdom (missionaries, explorers and colonialists)
* Poor leadership of Mwanga who was young and inexperienced.
* DaudiChwa who was only 3 years and ruled through regents.
* Mwanga’s killing of missionaries and Christians made him hated by Baganda
* 1900 Buganda agreement that completely reduced the powers of the Kabaka.
* Buganda’s neighbours like Bunyoro worked for the down fall of the kingdom.
* Baganda’s army was too weak to defeat colonialists who had maxim guns.
* Missionary teachings softened the hearts of Baganda and started rebelling against Kabaka.
* Lake Victoria was used by white colonialists to conquer Buganda.
* Abolition of Buganda kingdom by Obote in 1967.

**5. Describe Buganda’s relationship with her neighbours**

* Buganda’s neighbours were Bunyoro, Busoga, Ankole, Toro, Kooki etc.
* Her relationship with some neighbours was good and others bad.
* Traded with Bunyoro giving her iron for salt.
* Baganda intermarried with Basoga and Banyoro.
* Baganda got mercenaries from neighbours for her expansion.
* Buganda constantly conflicted with Bunyoro.
* Buganda conquered Kooki, Buddu, Mawogola, Buruuli, Bulemezi from Bunyoro.
* KabakaKyabaggu also conquered Busoga.
* KabakaJjunju brought Kooki under Buganda’s control.
* Buganda raided neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga, Ankole and Toro.
* Buganda raided for slaves,ivory, women, cattle, grains to sell to Arab traders.
* Buganda used canoes to attack islands like Buvuma, Kalangala on Lake Victoria.
* Buganda also raided western Kenya.
* Loyal states like Kooki were not raided.

END