

TOPIC 4: COLONISATION OF EAST AFRICA/ SCRAMBLE FOR AND PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA

- The period after 1880 saw Africa going through some very significant historical developments e.g. Africa was partitioned, conquered and occupied effectively by the industrialised nations of Europe.
- To the Europeans, the colonization was easily co-ordinated and done in speed while to the Africans, the process took a long time to be completed and was intensely opposed by the Africans.

Reasons for the Scramble for and partition of Africa

- They can be divided and explained under:

- (1) Economic motives
- (2) Strategic motives
- (3) Diplomatic motives
- (4) Psychological motives
- (5) African dimension motive.

(1) Economic motives

- Its greatest proponent is John Atkinson Hobson (1858-1940).
- Due to industrial revolution, in Europe in the 2nd half of the 19th C (1860s), European nations needed materials for their manufactured goods which the colonies readily provided.
- Britain was the first country to industrialise and thus imposed a Free Trade Policy to other Europeans interested in trading in Africa.
- Britain produced the cheapest and largest quantity of goods and also had a powerful and large merchant naval force.
- However, from 1860s, continental Europe and the U.S.A. also attained industrial advancements leading to a saturation of European markets and thus the need for markets elsewhere.
- Subsequently protectionism developed due to competition. Thus France and Germany saw the need to acquire colonies in Africa to compete with Britain.

- European powers were in need of raw materials for their industries. They targeted the interior of Africa which had volumes of untapped resources.
- European powers wanted to invest their surplus capital in Africa due to investment saturation in Europe. The investors called for protection from their home governments.
- There was also a common speculation about the availability of deep pockets of mineral resources in Africa.

(2) Strategic motives

- It was advanced by some scholars including Ronald Robinson and John Gallagher.
- European colonization of Africa was aimed at securing important resources and trading points and routes.
- The strategic motive was triggered by the **Egyptian Question**.

The Egyptian Question

- The Egyptian Question was about the increased desire by the British to control and safeguard her trade routes.
- This necessitated the construction of the Suez Canal.
- The construction was funded by Britain and France.
- Inability to repay the construction debts made Britain and France to institute a commission to run the canal.
- A coup led by Urabi Pasha (a nationalist army general) against Tawfiq (the Khedive of Egypt and Sudan) made Britain to crush it and occupy Egypt. In 1882, France, which was facing challenges at home was unable to join Britain in the invasion. France was angered by Britain's continued stay in Egypt.
- In anger France laid claim to vast areas of West Africa, N. Africa and C. Africa. France got Britain's tacit support in order to avoid an explosive situation over the Suez Canal.
- France's desire to link her colonies from Senegal to Somaliland so as to cut off British control over Egypt steered Britain to occupy East Africa and West Africa.
- Strategic motivations also influenced the scramble for and partition of Southern Africa.

(3) Diplomatic motives

- This includes the national prestige and balance of power.
- In the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-1871, France lost to Germany and subsequently lost two mineral rich provinces of Alsace and Lorraine to Germany.
- For prestige, she (France) went into acquiring many large territories as colonies in Africa, especially W. Africa as compensation for her loss of the two provinces- however, they were of little economic importance.
- Britain on the other hand emerged the British Empire so as to continue consolidating their vast colonial empire.
- The industrial Revolution made some European powers too powerful and influential. This made them to increasingly threaten other nations with war within Europe. To ensure that none could become so powerful that they could dominate others, it was agreed that any territorial acquisition was to take place outside Europe. This balance of power was resolved by Europeans playing power politics in Africa and Asia through acquisition of colonies.

(4) Psychological Motives

These include:

- (a) Social Darwinism
- (b) Evangelical Christianity
- (c) Social Atavism

(a) Social Darwinism (Pure racism)

- It is grounded on Charles Darwin's book "The Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection" of 1859.
- The Darwin theory lay basis on the superiority of race that European race is superior thus the moral authority to colonise Africans (backward race) as an inevitable process of natural selection.

(b) Evangelical Christianity

It has been argued that the partition of Africa was due, in no small measure, to a 'broader missionary' and humanitarian impulse which aimed at the Westernisation of African peoples. It has, indeed, been asserted specifically that it was the missionaries who prepared the ground for the imposition of colonization on East and Central Africa as well as Madagascar. Missionaries were **forerunners** of European imperialists, thus the phrase **"the flag followed the cross."**

(c) Social Atavism

- According to Joseph Schumpeter, imperialism was an outcome of man's natural desire to dominate his fellow man for his own sake.
- The social atavism was grounded on thirst for power and domination.
- By nature, man is selfish and power hungry thus this motivated European colonization of Africa.

(5) African Dimension Motive

- The colonisation of Africa was due to internal conditions in Africa:
- Divisions and disunity among the Africans
- Inferior scientific technology in the battle field etc. this made it easy for European colonisation and control since Africans could not offer stiff resistance.

The Beginnings of the Scramble

- By the end of the 3rd quarter of the 19th C (1875), NO European power was interested in the formal colonisation of Africa.
- They were generally contented with informal control e.g. with the trading relations with the African continent.
- However, ten years later, this attitude was reversed, probably due to:
 - a) **The activities of King Leopold of Belgium**, of wanting to take over the Congo River Area, which threatened the economic interests of other European powers.
 - b) **The activities of Portugal in Southern Africa**, of exploring Southern Africa and colonizing Mozambique.

- c) **The French expansionist policy**, of expanding further into the rest of West Africa, from their long-time centre of Senegal.
- Disputes arising from European activities in Africa led to the convening of the Berlin Conference (15th Nov, 1884-26th Feb, 1885).

Terms of the Berlin Conference

- (i) Free trade and navigation along the Congo, Zambezi and Niger Rivers.
- (ii) Full occupation of territories by the power claiming it.
- (iii) Notification of other European powers when declaring a sphere of interest.
- (iv) Protection of European missionaries/traders/settlers by the occupying power.
- (v) Abolition of slave trade and introduction of legitimate trade.
- (vi) Peaceful resolution of disputes over territorial claims.

Scramble- The rush/struggle/competition by major European powers to take a share of African territories.

Partition- The sharing out of African colonies by European powers.

- Britain and Germany were the main contenders in the scramble for East Africa.
- Until 1884, the European powers with trading interests in East Africa went through the Sultan of Zanzibar.
- This changed from September 1884 when both German and British agents independently signed treaties in Tanganyika.

To avoid a dispute, the two powers signed the Anglo-German Agreement of 1886 whose terms were:

- (i) The Sultan of Zanzibar was given a 16 km of the coastline and the coastal towns therein.
- (ii) The territory to the north of Unga River (roughly modern Kenya) became a British sphere of influence while the area to the South became a German sphere of interest.
- (iii) Germany also acquired the coastline of Witu.

*The Western boundary of the two spheres was not defined hence leading to friction and rivalry in the region which gave way to the second Anglo-Germany Agreement of 1890 (Heligoland Treaty).

Its terms were:

- 1) Germany recognized Uganda as being within the British sphere of influence
- 2) Germany was to vacate Witu and the Tana River Area
- 3) Germany accepted a British Protectorate over Zanzibar and Pemba
- 4) Britain ceded the island of Heligoland in the North Sea to Germany
- 5) Britain ceded a strip of land on Lake Tanganyika to Germany
- 6) Germany received the coast of Tanganyika

Methods used by Europeans to colonise Africa

- (1) Before the Berlin Conference, the European powers acquired territory in Africa through exploration, especially of commercial posts, missionary activities and settlement.
- (2) Treaty signing
 - (i) Between Africans and Europeans
 - (ii) Between Europeans and Europeans
- (3) Military conquest.

African Response to the Imposition of Colonial Rule.

- It was not uniform
- Some resisted while others collaborated
- The responses were neither constant nor consistent
- Africans analysed their internal and external conditions before choosing on how to respond.

*There are specific factors that influenced the response.

Factors that determined the way Africans responded

1. A misunderstanding of the actual motives of the Europeans i.e. the Mazrui Arabs
2. Strategies used by Europeans i.e. a military expedition against the hostile Nandi
3. The relationships among local communities
4. Natural catastrophes i.e. the Maasai
5. The natural attitude of some ethnic groups
6. Earlier prophesies:
 - Mugo wa Kibiro
 - Orkoiyot Kimnyole

The Nature of African Responses

- The period between 1885 and 1914 is referred to in the History of Africa as the period of **Pacification**, the period that witnessed the European partition, European conquest and establishment of colonial rule.
- It is also the period between which the African responses were portrayed. Despite the fact that Africans responded differently, the 2 conspicuous ways were:
 1. Resistance
 2. Collaboration
- Each of them has been evaluated by scholars. For instance, resistors were judged as heroes who fought to retain the independence of African communities.
- On the other hand, collaborators have been judged as betrayers, self-seekers and people after material benefits who betrayed the course of their communities in order to gain from the colonialists.
- Generally looking at the motives of resistors and collaborators, it is possible to argue that the resistors and collaborators had the same objectives. The only difference is that they used different means to achieve their objectives.

The Maji Maji Rebellion (1905-1907)

It was a rebellion involving many communities in Southern Tanganyika i.e. Zaramo, Matumbi, Bena, Ngindo, Pogoro, Bunga, Ngoni, Luguru e.t.c.

Causes of the rebellion

- High taxation (hut tax)
- The Arab and Swahili herdsmen were brutal
- Forced labour
- The harsh, cruel and ruthless German rule
- Abuse of traditional African practices especially by Christian missionaries
- Compulsory cotton growing

Organisation of the Rebellion

- Kinjeketile Ngwale, a local medicine man used religion to unify heterogeneous people. Other leaders were Abdalla Mpanda and Ngamea.
- A mixture of water millet and maize was administered as magic water on people. It was believed that the concoction would change German bullets into water (maji).
- Communities around the Rufiji River participated in the rebellion.
- Initially, the people fought blindly using the traditional weapons like spears and clubs and never took cover resulting in merciless butchery from German firearms.
- Guerilla warfare was adopted later, making the Germans resort to the scorched earth policy.

Reasons why Africans were defeated

- i. Africans had inferior weapons compared to Germans' superior weapons.
- ii. The "magic" water failed to protect Africans.
- iii. Lack of unity- every community rose up on its own.
- iv. The capture and execution of African leaders including Kinjeketile and Mpanda demoralized the warriors.
- v. Some African communities collaborated with the Germans against fellow Africans.
- vi. Germans received reinforcement in the form of soldiers and weapons.
- vii. Affliction from natural calamities such as famine- was worsened by the German scorched earth policy.

Results

- Loss of lives- about 75,000 to 120,000 Africans died during the war and probably many more died from famine than the actual war itself.
- Massive destruction of property- homes, villages and crops were burnt down.
- Imprisonment and execution of captured African leaders.
- Displacement and separation of families due to fear and widespread insecurity.
- Economic disruption- economic activities came to a standstill.
- The uprising undermined the Africans' confidence in their traditional religion.
- The Germans made several administrative reforms i.e. rejection of extra taxation, less brutality from the administrators and appointment of Africans to leadership positions.
- This was to avoid another rebellion.

THE BAGANDA COLLABORATION

- The Buganda Kingdom grew from a small principality in the 14th and 15th centuries.
- It was a highly centralized society with powerful kings – the *Kabakas* who expanded their territories through various ways.
- Though relatively powerful in mid and late 19th Century, its kings particularly Kabaka Mutesa I and Kabaka Mwanga collaborated with the Europeans.

Kabaka Mutesa I (1856-1884)

- In 1871 and 1875, Henry Morton Stanley convinced Kabaka Mutesa I to accept European missionaries. Kabaka Mutesa I collaborated due to:
 - He wanted his people to acquire western education, medicine and other material benefits from the missionaries.
 - He wanted to establish a centralized religious authority over Buganda to counteract the power wielded by traditionalists, especially with regard to his position. In addition, he desired to reduce the power and influence of the Muslims within his kingdom. Both the traditionalists and Muslims were a threat to his position and trade.
 - He wanted protection against Mukama of Bunyoro, who was a threat to his position and trade.
 - He needed protection against Khedive Ismail of Egypt, who wanted to extend his territory into Buganda.
 - He desired to trade with Europeans so as to get their goods, especially firearms.

Kabaka Mwanga

- He came to power in 1884 after the death of his father. He was undecided as to which religious support.
- In January 1885, Mwanga ordered the execution of three young Church Missionary Society (CMS) converts. In October 1885, Bishop Hannington was killed before reaching Buganda. In May 1886, thirty young converts were burnt to death at Namugongo for refusing to denounce their Christian faith. These incidents ushered in a period of political instability in Buganda as he played off one group against another. Between 1888 and 1890, Mwanga was deposed from power in favour of his brother Kiwewa and later the younger Kalema. However, Mwanga recaptured his position with the help of the Christians. Mwanga later signed a protection treaty with Fredrick Lugard of the Imperial British East Africa Company (IBEAC) due to:
 - He wanted protection from internal and external enemies, especially religious groups such as traditionalists, Muslims, Catholics and Protestants and the Banyoro.
 - He also desired to secure his position and safeguard the Baganda from interference.
 - He wanted the British to help him gain regional supremacy over the surrounding kingdoms such as the Bunyoro, Ankole and Toro.

- IBEA Company's rule over Uganda was short-lived which made the British government to directly control Uganda.
- Religious conflicts continued to afflict the Baganda. In 1892, the Franza-Ingleza war, also known as Anglo-Franco war broke out. The war pitted the protestants (British) against the Catholics (French). It was sparked off by a conflict between a Catholic and a Protestant that was unfairly handled.
- In 1894, Kabaka Mwanga signed another protection treaty with Gerald Portal which brought the whole of Uganda under British rule. Uganda was duly declared a British protectorate and Kabaka Mwanga realized that under British rule, he was just a puppet ruler, since administrative authority was vested in the hands of the British administrators. His revolt against the British in 1897 saw him being captured and exiled to Kismayu in Somalia in 1899 and later to the Seychelles where he died in 1903.
- After his death, his infant son, Daudi Chwa, became the Kabaka. Daudi Chwa was assisted by three ministers, the Katikiro (Prime Minister), the Chief Justice and the Treasurer. It was at this time that the Buganda Agreement of 1900 was signed.

Provisions of Buganda Agreement of 1900

- It confirmed British authority over Buganda becoming one of the many provinces of the larger Uganda Protectorate.
- The Kabaka began to be referred to as 'His Highness'. He would exercise direct rule, unlike other local rulers. He would be assisted by three ministers:
 - **Katikiro**- Chief Minister
 - **Omulamuzi**- Chief Justice
 - **Omuwanika**- Treasurer
- The traditional legislature (Lukiiko) was formally constituted. It also became Buganda's final Court of Appeal.
- For the first time, its composition was fixed- it would consist of 81 members, i.e. 60 notables, 6 Kabaka nominees, 20 county Chiefs and the 3 ministers.
- On land, first freehold titles were granted to the Kabaka, members of the royal family, ministers, county chiefs and about a thousand minor chiefs. Secondly, about a half of Buganda became crown land. It was no longer the property of its former users or occupants.
- Buganda people were to pay a hut tax of 3 rupees to the administration to be collected by local chiefs. They also paid some gun tax. It was also stated that Buganda's revenue would be merged with that of the whole of Uganda Protectorate. The Buganda ministers and County Chiefs would be paid for their services.
- * The agreement favoured the Buganda within the Protectorate as no new taxation would be introduced in Buganda without the consent of the Kabaka. More important was that the Agreement confirmed Buganda's right to all territories she had acquired during the fights with Bunyoro. Moreover, the Baganda pro-British regents were appointed provincial administrators and colonial agents amongst the Bunyoro, Busoga, Bagisu Bukedi etc