

# CHAPTER 13

## THE SCRAMBLE FOR AND PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA

### CAUSES FOR THE SCRAMBLE AND PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA

1. The Scramble for East Africa was the desire and rush for colonies or areas for control in East Africa, by the European super powers.
2. In east Africa the major competitors were: Britain and Germany.
3. Partition, on the other hand refers to the process of dividing up or sharing of the East African countries between Germany and Britain.
4. The partition of East Africa took place in Europe following the Berlin conference of 1884-1885.
5. During the partition of East Africa, Germany took over Tanganyika mainland, while Britain got Uganda and Kenya.
6. When East Africa was partitioned, effective control followed.  
The reasons for the scramble and partition of East Africa were:
7. East Africa was partitioned due to political, social and economic reasons.
8. It was part of the struggle that had its roots in Europe itself.
9. The emergence of Germany as a major power in Europe that upset the balance of power.
10. The search for consumer market for the goods produced by the Europeans. The East Africans were supposed to provide ready market for commodities like clothes, gun powder, and glasses among others.
11. The need for raw materials for their industries, for example coffee, cotton and sisal among others, encouraged the Europeans to come to East Africa.
12. There was also need to invest their excess capital in trade, plantation and so on.
13. East Africa was of strategic importance to many European powers.
14. There was Pressure from chartered companies, for example Carl Peters as a representative of GEACo, requested his home government to come and take over the territory.
15. Mounting pressure for protection from missionaries, traders and others.
16. Leopold's activities in the Congo provoked the British and the Germans to come into East Africa. He wanted to take the whole of Africa.
17. The Berlin conference of 1884-85 that gave a go ahead to the scramble. It made the partition of East Africa official by apportioning the territories.

18. There was also the desire to spread western cultures.
19. Some European powers had lost territories to the most powerful countries in Europe, so they moved to East Africa to get colonies to console themselves.
20. The need to spread Christianity among the East African people was another reason for the scramble and partition.
21. There was also Need to settle the surplus population into East Africa.
22. The growth of nationalism in Europe. It became prestigious for a country in Europe to have colonies outside, because the more colonies a country had, the more powerful she was regarded to be.
23. There was also the desire to abolish slave trade from East Africa.
24. They claimed to have come to “Civilise the East Africans”, whom they claimed to be “backward and barbaric”.
25. Others simply came to carry out exploration and adventure.
26. Yet others had received good reports from the earlier explorers about the East African economic potentials. This attracted them.
27. The Discovery of minerals in some parts of South Africa made Europeans to believe that also East Africa had minerals, hence need to control.

### **THE ANGLO-GERMAN CONFLICTS (1885-1890)**

#### **CAUSES OF THE CONFLICTS**

1. Between the two trading companies, the British East African Association (BEAA) and German East Africa Association (GEAA), serious conflicts arose. The reasons were:
2. The issue was about the strip of land of about 300 miles from the East African coast.
3. German East Africa Association (GEAA) took over the area yet British East African Association (BEAA) had made an agreement with Bargash, the sultan to trade inland.
4. The conflict was out of fear from the Germans that Britain would combine with the British South African company and push her out of Tanganyika.
5. Britain on the other hand feared that the German government would unite with German East Africa Association (GEAA) in Uganda and push her out of Kenya.
6. Britain and Germany were competing to control Uganda between 1886 and 1890.

7. The conflicts became worse when in 1890 Carl Peters the leader of German East African Company signed a treaty of friendship with Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda. This did not put Britain at rest.
8. There was an attempt by Fredrick Jackson to sign a treaty of friendship also with Mwanga but he refused. This worsened the situation.
9. The conflict also aroused out of the rumour that the German commissioner was going to visit Buganda. Britain became very sensitive to the move.
10. The failure of the first Anglo-German treaty increased the conflicts between the Britain and the Germans in East Africa.
11. The conflicts also increased when Emin Pasha, the British governor of the Egyptian Equatorial province was blocked by the Madhi. Britain knew there would be a problem. However Stanley rescued Emin Pasha.
12. The rivalry was also as a result of the presence of the missionaries in Buganda in the 1880s. They wanted protection from their respective home government.
13. East African was also strategically located, for example it was near the coast, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean Sea through the Nile River and near Far East. This attracted conflicts for control.
14. The colonial power wanted to acquire as many territories as possible because of political and military prestige attached to it.
15. There was the influence of the white settlers in Kenya and Tanganyika who pressurized their home government to extend areas of control.
16. Germany became interested in acquiring as many colonies as possible since she had just united in 1871.
17. The industrial revolution also increased demand for raw materials, markets and investment areas.
18. The discovery of minerals in south Africa made the whites to think that minerals were everywhere in Africa hence conflicts for East Africa

#### **HOW THE ANGLO-GERMAN CONFLICTS WERE SOLVED**

1. There were negotiations between the Germans and British. This ended in the signing of the Anglo-German agreement of 1886 and 1890.

2. The 1886 Anglo-German agreement limited the sultan's sphere of influence to only a 10 mile coastal strip.
3. The sultan was also to have dominion over towns like Brava, Kismayu and Merca.
4. The Germans were to control the areas, ten miles coastal strip from river Ruvuma on the Tanganyika border with Malawi to River Uмба on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro.
5. The British would control areas North of River Uмба into Kenya.
6. It must be clearly understood that the 1886 Anglo-German agreement did not clearly handle Uganda's issue. This led to another conflict.
7. It was the 1890 agreement or Heligoland treaty that resolved the issue. By this treaty Uganda went to Britain while Germany Heligoland.
8. Zanzibar, Pemba and Mafia were to be under the British control as per the agreement of 1890.
9. Uganda was declared the British protectorate.
10. The Uganda-Tanganyika boreder was extended westwards to Congo border.
11. The Anglo-German conflicts were practically solved by the 1890 agreement.
12. The colonial masters later effectively controlled their respective areas and the conflict ended.

#### **PROBLEMS THAT THE EUROPEANS FACED DURING THE SCRAMBLE AND PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA**

1. There was inadequate manpower.
2. Hostile leaders, for example Mwanga
3. Shortage of funds to purchase the necessary items for their survival in East Africa.
4. Lack of effective administrators
5. Rivalry among the European colonialists in some areas.
6. Hostile tribes, for example Nandi, Hehe and other.
7. Lack of trusted agents, for example Semei Kakungulu was more of an opportunist than an administrator.
8. Language barrier amongst the Africans and the Europeans.
9. Diseases like malaria and small pox were very big threats to the Europeans in East Africa.
10. Thick forests were not easy to penetrate.
11. Lack of geographical knowledge to increase the scramble.

12. Poor climatic conditions. They were not used to the East African climatic conditions.
13. Shortage of supplies like medicine and personal effects.
14. Distance between East Africa and their home governments was too big; this delayed their supplies and also made them homesick.
15. Influence of Islam, say at the coast of East Africa led to resistance.
16. Traditional cultures were too strong in some East African communities. Example among the Nandi hence resistance occurred.

**Note that** these problems were similar to those of Christian missionaries and even to those of chartered companies.

#### **HOW THE EUROPEAN POWERS ACQUIRED COLONIES IN EAST AFRICA.**

East Africa was colonized through the following ways.

1. Through treaty signing, for example the Buganda agreement of 1900.
2. Through use of explorers like Stanley who convinced the African leaders to accept the Christian missionaries to come, yet missionaries were agents of colonialism.
3. Through the missionaries who softened the hearts of Africans.
4. Through diplomacy, for example, among the Chagga.
5. They also used threats, intimidation and demonstration of military might or power.
6. Through use of chartered companies like IBEACO and GEACO.
7. Use of force and militarism, as the case was with Kabalega of Bunyoro kingdom.
8. Through use of collaborators like Semei Kakungulu and sir Apollo Kaggwa.
9. Through use of soldiers like Fredrick Lugard.
10. Through ruthless measures, for example the coastal towns were bombarded until they submitted.
11. They used divide and rule, for example Baganda against the Banyoro.
12. They used the system of indirect rule, where the East Africans were used to administer fellow East Africans.
13. Through developing transport and telecommunication networks.
14. By introducing taxes in East Africa to make the colonies self-reliant.
15. Through establishing military garrisons, for example Fort Portal, built by Gerald Portal.
16. Used missionaries to “Sugar Coat” the bitterness of colonial rule.

17. In Kenya, they used the white settlers who had settled in Kenya highlands to administer Kenya.
18. They used chartered companies to carry out preliminary administration.
19. Through finances from home governments.
20. Through using gifts like cloth and food that softened the hearts and minds of East Africans.
21. Through explorers who told them the wealth, the strength and weaknesses of East African societies.
22. The Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 laid down guidelines on how East Africa was to be partitioned. It was done first on paper and confirmed through a meeting.
23. By setting up their Headquarters like Kampala, Nairobi, and Dar-es-Salaam to maintain law and order.

#### **THE PROCESS OF THE PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA**

1. The Scramble for East Africa was the desire and rush for colonies or areas for control in East Africa, by the European super powers.
2. Partition, on the other hand refers to the process of dividing up or sharing of the East African countries between Germany and Britain.
3. The partition of East Africa took place in Europe following the Berlin conference of 1884-1885.
4. The partition of East Africa was legalized by the Berlin act of 1885 which clearly legalized Britain and Germany to extend the sphere of influence to East Africa.
5. The process was to be gradual, diplomatic and peaceful in nature.
6. In 1885, Carl Peters of Germany took over Usagara, Ulunguru, UKami and Uzugua in Tanganyika through treaty signing.
7. Carl Peters later took Witu in Kenya and part of Kilimanjaro district, this annoyed the Britain.
8. In 1886, conflicts broke out between Germany, Britain and the Sultan of Zanzibar.
9. This led to the signing of Anglo-German agreement of 1886 which made the Sultan's strip of land which extended from 'Cape Delgado to River Tana, Brava and the interior to be divided.
10. The Western area was resolved, hence a competition between the British and the Germans.

11. In 1890, Carl Peters, a German signed a treaty with Mwanga yet Britain had been given a Charter by the Berlin Conference in 1885 to operate there.
12. The events in Europe led to the signing of the second Anglo-German treaty, that is to say the Heligoland treaty that portioned East Africa.
13. During the partition of East Africa, Germany took over Tanganyika mainland.
14. While Britain got Uganda and Kenya.
15. Britain also took over Zanzibar, Pemba and Witu.
16. Germany took over Heligoland Island, that is to say the area towards North Sea.
17. Uganda was declared the British Protectorate in 1894.
18. Kenya became a British colony in 1895.
19. By 1900, Tanganyika was fully under the German control.

#### **EFFECTS OF COLONIAL RULE IN EAST AFRICA**

1. The effects were both positive and negative.
2. Effects were political, economic and social.
3. Loss of independence to East African people
4. The East African people lost their fertile land
5. It resulted into forced labour, for example in Tanzania.
6. Over taxation of the East African people that made them very poor.
7. Increased Europeans into East Africa.
8. African cultures were undermined.
9. East African chiefs and kings lost their powers, for example the Kabaka of Buganda.
10. East African people were divided up, for example the Southern and central Ugandans against the Northern Uganda.
11. They led to the spread of Christianity among the East African people.
12. They checked the spread of Islam in some areas.
13. The East Africans learnt the white man's technology.
14. Schools were constructed
15. Hospitals were also constructed.

16. There was also introduction of new crops in East Africa, for example coffee, tea and cotton among others.
17. There was improvement in infrastructures, for example railways and roads were constructed.
18. East African minerals were fully exploited for the benefit of Europeans.
19. There was improvement in agriculture as new farming methods like crop rotation were introduced.
20. New boundaries of East Africa were drawn and as a result tribes were detribalized.
21. There was emergence of foreign languages, for example English and German.
22. The East Africans were divided along religious lines, for example Catholics and protestants
23. Colonialism also led to occurrence of many resistances, for example Maji Maji, Hehe, and Abushiri among others where several East Africans were killed.
24. It also led to the signing of very many treaties, whose implications and meanings were unclear to the Africans, like the Buganda agreement of 1900.

### **Revision questions**

- i. Why was East Africa partitioned by the European powers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century?
- ii. What problems did Europeans face in the scramble and partition of E. Africa?
- iii. How did European powers acquire colonies in East Africa?
- iv. Describe the process how East Africa was portioned.

## **THE BERLIN CONFERENCE (1884-1885)**

### **REASONS WHY THE BERLIN CONFERENCE WAS CALLED**

1. The Berlin conference was a European meeting that took place in the German town of Berlin from the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1884 to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1885.
2. The meeting was called by the Chancellor of Germany, Otto Von Bismarck to carry out the paper work for the partition of East Africa. The partition of East Africa, therefore, took place in Europe first and on paper.
3. The conference was called to settle the issue of free navigation on rivers like the Nile, Congo, and Niger among others.



4. There had been many issues in Africa that could lead to war among European super powers, mostly over the control of colonies.
5. The conference, among other reasons, was called by Bismarck to harmonize the scramble and partition of East Africa.
6. The conference was called to inform members that in the process of the partition of East Africa, war should be avoided.
7. Otto Von Bismarck wanted to make other European powers know that Germany had interest to acquire Tanganyika as her colony.
8. In the conference, the bad relations between Britain and Germany, would also be discussed and resolved.
9. The issue of Niger River region in West Africa, would also be solved in this meeting.
10. Germany wanted to gain prestige as a broker of peace in the whole of Europe.
11. Bismarck also wanted international recognition as a peace loving man.
12. There was also need to emphasize effective control of colonies, once given to a European power.
13. It was also called to persuade European powers to stop slave trade in the colonies occupied.
14. After the 1871 Franco-Prussian war, France planned to revenge against Germany. This meeting would iron out this.
15. Yet, in this meeting, members would be told about the need to sign treaties, to act as signs that a colony was already under controlled.

#### **TERMS OF THE BERLIN CONFERENCE**

1. The Berlin conference was a European meeting that took place in the German town of Berlin from the 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1884 to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1885.
2. The meeting was called by the Chancellor of Germany, Otto Von Bismarck to carry out the paper work for the partition of East Africa. The partition of East Africa, therefore, took place in Europe first on paper.

It resolved the following:

3. That a paper map of Africa be produced, then actual partition be done.
4. It was agreed that if any European developed interest to control a colony, other members should be informed.
5. That the European powers were to occupy the territories effectively.

6. It also resolved that once a colony was already taken over by any European power, no other power from Europe should go in for the same.
7. The European powers were to abolish slave trade in East Africa.
8. Rivers Congo, Niger, Nile among others were to be free areas for navigation for all the European powers in Africa.
9. East African countries were to be divided between Germany and Britain.
10. Congo was to go to Belgium under King Leopold II.
11. There was to be no war for colonies among the European powers.
12. Among the European powers, no country was to support the Africans against another, that is to say there was to be no support on rebellions by the Africans against European powers.

#### **ROLE OF THE BERLIN CONFERENCE IN THE PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA**

The conference played many roles in the colonization:

1. It was the Berlin Conference that forced the Europeans to introduce colonial rule in East Africa.
2. In its resolutions, it encouraged the colonial masters to abolish slave trade and introduce legitimate trade.
3. The European powers were forced to develop trade, agriculture and education in East Africa. This was an evidence of effective control.
4. It led to the formation of the chartered companies that administered the territory on behalf of the colonialists.
5. It formalized the scramble and partition of East Africa. Later East Africa was partitioned between Germany and Britain.
6. It confirmed the interest of the Germans in Tanganyika.
7. The Berlin conference forced Germany to introduce direct rule in Tanganyika.
8. Britain on the other hand was forced to introduce indirect rule in her colonies of Uganda and Kenya.
9. The conference left Congo in the hands of King Leopold II of Belgium.
10. The Berlin conference also led to the signing of the peace agreement between the British and Germans, hence passing peaceful resolutions to colonize East Africa.
11. East Africa was opened for economic exploitation by the Berlin conference.

12. The minds of the Europeans were diverted from West Africa to East Africa by the Berlin conference.
13. It made sure the Africans remained weak and disunited. It emphasized that the Europeans should not sell arms to the Africans.
14. By calling the Europeans for a meeting to handle the issue of the scramble and partition, it prevented war between the different European powers.