

CHAPTER 15

EAST AFRICAN RESPONSE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIAL RULE

HOW THE AFRICANS REACTED TO THE SCRAMBLE AND PARTITION OF EAST AFRICA

1. Some societies collaborated, for example Buganda.
2. Other societies worked as recruits into colonial armies.
3. Some Africans fought against Europeans.
4. Some Africans bitterly resented the Europeans, for example Nandi.
5. Some Africans put up armed resistances, for example coastal towns.
6. Others welcomed them and latter turned against them, for example Baganda.
7. Some people refused European religions.
8. Some East African people got converted to Christianity.
9. Some people refused to provide labour to grow cash crops introduced by Europeans.
10. However, the East Africans reacted in three different ways to the establishment of colonial rule, they either collaborated or resisted. Few remained passive or indifferent.

COLLABORATION TOWARDS COLONIAL RULE ESTABLISHMENT

REASONS WHY SOME SOCIETIES COLLABORATED WITH THE EUROPEANS

1. Collaboration was the African submission, allying, cooperation, support and assistance towards colonial rule in East Africa.
2. Some personalities and societies instead of defending African independence, sold it for their own gains and selfish reasons.
3. Societies and personalities that collaborated with the colonialists were: the Masai under Laiboni Lenana, Kikuyu under Kinyanjui, Wanga under Nabongo Mumia, Ankole under Nuwa Mbaguta, and Tooro under Omukama Kasagama among others.
4. There were also personalities like Semei Kakungulu and Apollo Kaggwa of Buganda.
Some societies collaborated with the Europeans because of the following reasons:
5. Some Societies thought by collaborating, they would preserve their independence.
6. Others had internal conflicts and they wanted to use the Europeans to help them solve them, for example Lenaana had a fear of his Brother Sendeyo who wanted to take over his power.

7. Yet others were militarily weak and they could not withstand the military might of the Europeans hence they ended up collaborating.
8. The indirect rule system used by the British made some societies to be collaborators because they were left in their position of leadership to implement European policies, hence collaboration.
9. Some societies wanted military weapons like guns from the colonizers. They collaborated to get this assistance.
10. There were also some European opportunities like education that some societies in East Africa found worth getting from the Europeans. They therefore collaborated because of this.
11. Others simply collaborated because their enemies resisted. This was true with the Baganda because of the Banyoro who had resisted colonial rule.
12. Decentralized states collaborated because their societies were small and could not mobilize themselves to rebel. They ended up collaborating.
13. Missionary activities also influenced some societies to collaborate. This was majorly through their preaching like “blessed are those who are humble for the Kingdom of God is theirs. This made the Africans submissive.
14. The Africans did not have experience in warfare with the Europeans. The Europeans were use to heavier wars than the Africans.
15. The Africans were ignorant about European intentions, that is to say they had not known that the Europeans had come to exploit Africans.
16. Some societies among the Africans collaborated because they wanted to get gifts like old clothes, shoes, jobs or even sweet from the whites.
17. Yet others were influenced by their leaders to collaborate, for example the Masai people collaborated because their leader collaborated. This was the same with the Baganda.
18. The Africans did not even have strong economy that could make them sustain war with the Europeans.
19. Besides many societies feared that their property would be destroyed by the colonialists. They therefore ended up collaborating.
20. Others were hit by famine and diseases; hence they ended up collaborating with the colonialists so as to get assistance.

21. Some societies began with the Europeans in a friendly way and resisting them later would be difficult.
22. Some societies tried to resist but they were defeated. They ended up collaborating; good examples were the Hehe and the Coastal Arabs.
23. Others were just schemers and opportunists by nature, for example Semei Kakungulu and Apollo Kaggwa of the Buganda kingdom.

SEMEI KAKUNGULU AS A COLLABORATOR

1. Semei Kakungulu was a Muganda born in Kooki in 1870.
2. He grew up in the palace of Kabaka of Buganda where he was working.
3. He had power struggle with Sir Apollo Kaggwa at the Kabaka's palace.
4. Semei Kakungulu was skillful at Elephant hunting.
5. He acquired special military skills which he later used in religious wars in Buganda on the side.
6. Semei Kakungulu was a schemer who expected some material wealth from the British.
7. From 1892, Semei Kakungulu collaborated with the British openly to his advantage.
8. He set up his capital at Bugerere with the assistance of the British soldiers.
9. Kakungulu expanded his Kingdom to Lango, Teso, Busoga, and Bukedi with the help of the British.
10. He conquered all the parts of Eastern Uganda for the British. He was referred to as the Kabaka of Eastern Uganda because when he conquered those areas he introduced the Ganda system of leadership.
11. He also assisted the British to defeat the Moslems.
12. He built roads and planted trees in Eastern Uganda especially in Mbale.
13. Kakungulu introduced cotton growing in Eastern Uganda to meet the cost of British administration.
14. He also assisted the British to extend their rule to Western Kenya.
15. Kakungulu's influence started declining. In 1923, his powers in Eastern Uganda disappeared.
16. The British dismissed Kakungulu from his duty as the leader of Eastern Uganda.
17. On 19th November, Kakungulu died a frustrated man at Gangama near Mbale town.

SIR APOLLO KAGGWA AS A COLLABORATOR

1. Apollo Kaggwa was a Muganda born in 1869.
2. He worked in the palace of Kabaka Mutesa I and Mwanga from where he learnt the skill of leadership.
3. When Christianity was brought to Uganda, Apollo Kaggwa converted to protestant religion.
4. Kaggwa fought in the religious wars against the Moslems.
5. Apollo Kaggwa fought in the religious wars between the Protestants and Catholics on the side of the Protestants.
6. He led a campaign under Colonel Colville, a British against Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda and Omukama Kabalega of Bunyoro in 1894. The two were resisting the establishment of the British rule in their kingdoms.
7. In 1897, he was appointed a senior regent in the government of the young Kabaka, Daudi Chwa.
8. Later Apollo Kaggwa was made a Katikiro (prime Minister) of Buganda Kingdom.
9. In 1898, he assisted the British rulers to overcome the Sudanese mutineers (rioters).
10. In 1899, he participated in the capturing of Kabaka Mwanga and Omukama Kabalega who had taken refuge in Lango.
11. Kaggwa played a great role in the Signing of the 1900 Buganda agreement that placed Buganda Kingdom directly under the British rule.
12. He worked very closely with the British colonial government under Governor Sir Hesketh Bell.
13. Kaggwa encouraged education where schools were established to encourage education.
14. He also supported the development of Agriculture by adopting new methods of agriculture and growing of new crops.
15. In the health department, he assisted in the rescuing of people from the shores of Lake Victoria where there was an outbreak of sleeping sickness.
16. Apollo Kaggwa defended the Buganda traditional institution.
17. He also protected the rights of the Lukiiko (Buganda parliament).
18. He later got misunderstanding with the British colonial rulers.
19. Apollo Kaggwa also faced stiff resistance from the new chiefs. Kabaka Daudi Chwa had also become of age.

20. In 1926, Apollo Kaggwa, angry and frustrated resigned after all a number of misunderstandings.
21. In 1927, he died when he had outlived his usefulness to both the British and his own people of Buganda.

OMUKAMA KASAGAMA OF TOORO AS A COLLABORATOR

1. Kasagama was the King of Tooro who was restored to the throne by the British.
2. He was under constant threats from Kabalega, the King of Bunyoro. For example he was driven out of power in 1893.
3. When Kabalega was defeated by the British in 1894, Tooro got part of Bunyoro land with the help of the British.
4. Kasagama became a strong ally of the British. But he did not get recognition as Omukama from all the Batooro.
5. In 1904, Kasagama had his power increased when the British government asked Maddox, a CMS missionary to intervene.
6. As a result, Kasagama had his power increased and he was recognized as the Omukama of Tooro. He could nominate his successor.
7. Under Kasagama, Tooro was treated on the same footing with other Kingdoms in Uganda.
8. The relationship between the Batooro and the colonial government was not very smooth.
9. They accused the colonial government of neglecting Tooro region as far as development was concerned.
10. They also accused the British government of giving some of their territories to Congo in the demarcation new boundaries.
11. Kasagama signed the 1900 Tooro agreement with the British.
12. Much as Kasagama collaborated with the British, there was a lot of mistrust and hostility between the colonial government and his people.
13. Many of Kasagama's Chiefs had not received the Mailoland promised to them during the signing of the 1900 Tooro agreement. They therefore remained defiant.
14. Kasagama died on 29th December 1929.

NUWA MBAGUTA OF ANKOLE AS A COLLABORATOR

1. Nuwa Mbaguta was a Munyankole born in 1867.
2. When still young, Mbaguta lost all his parents and grew among his relatives.
3. He did not have good time among his relatives and therefore, he ran away to live at the palace of Omugabe Ntare IV.
4. Mbaguta was taken to work in as a page at the King's court at Mularagaira although he did not enjoy his stay while there.
5. From Mularagaira, Mbaguta ran back to Omugabe Ntare's palace.
6. Mbaguta grew up a very courageous man.
7. He was a fearless wrestler which earned him the Nickname "Kitinwa" meaning the feared one.
8. Mbaguta's courage and wisdom drew the attention of the Omugabe.
9. He later became one of the favorite pages and also became part of the trusted army unit.
10. Mbaguta became one of the devoted campaigners for the British collaborators.
11. In 1894, he signed a treaty with the British on behalf of Ntare IV.
12. He spearheaded road construction that Sir Harry Johnstone used to move within the areas of Ankole and Tooro.
13. In 1900, Nuwa Mbaguta was made the "Enganzi" (Prime minister) of Ankole by the British.
14. It was Nuwa Mbaguta who signed the 1901 Ankole agreement with the British. This put Ankole under the British rule.
15. Under the 1901 Ankole agreement the British promised to support Ankole against the invasion from Bunyoro.
16. Ankole through the 1901 agreement was allowed to maintain self government and she was rewarded with new areas like Mpororo, Igara, Buziba and Buhweju.
17. Mbaguta Nuwa as a collaborator encouraged education by setting up a number of schools in the Kingdom.
18. He encouraged the spread of Christianity by supporting the construction of churches.
19. Mbaguta also encouraged the growing of cash crops which assisted in boosting colonial economy.
20. He was rewarded with a Member of British Empire honour (MBE) due to his great contribution to the British rule.
21. Nuwa Mbaguta later retired in 1938 and in 1944, he passed on.

Revision questions

- i. How did the East African people respond to the coming of the Europeans?
- ii. Why did some societies in East Africa collaborate with the colonial rule?
- iii. Describe the life and career of the following as Collaborators towards colonial rule:
 - a) Semei Kakungulu
 - b) Sir Apollo Kaggwa
 - c) Omukama Kasgama.
 - d) Nuwa Mbaguta.

RESISTANCES OR REBELLIONS TO COLONIAL RULE

WHY SOME EAST AFRICAN PEOPLE RESISTED THE EUROPEAN COLONIALISTS

1. Resistances were African armed struggle against foreign rule. They were led by either the chiefs or tribal leaders.
2. They were carried out right after the Europeans had established themselves in East Africa.
3. The major ones were: Maji Maji rebellion by the tribes in Southern Tanganyika under Kinjikitile Ngwalwe, the Hehe under chief Mkwawa, the Nandi under Chief Orkoyoit and the Coastal Arabs under the Abushiri among others.
4. One of the reasons for African resistances was the need to preserve the independence of the societies of East Africa.
5. The African chiefs and Kings wanted to preserve their traditional power and authority. They wanted to preserve their status and prestige.
6. The need to preserve their cultures was yet another reason for their resistances against European colonial rule.
7. The need to maintain their land was yet another reason for their resistance. They feared loss of their land to the Europeans.
8. The Need to retain economic power. The Africans had controlled trade but the Europeans wanted to take over, hence African resisted.
9. There was the influence of traditional religion or beliefs, for example Maji Maji rebellion was fought along the line of strong African belief in their traditional gods and ancestors. They argued that their gods would come to their assistance.
10. The Europeans had also harsh rule. They ruled by force.

11. The approach used in some cases was not fair, for example the Germans in Tanganyika used direct rule, where they removed the African traditional leaders from power and replaced them with either the whites or people whom they trusted.
12. They feared forced labour and harsh labour policies that the Europeans were applying.
13. The military strength of some East African communities, for example the Nandi were naturally warriors.
14. Religious differences, for example the coastal Swahili and Arabs were Muslims who staged resistance against the Europeans who were Christians.
15. Disrespect of African culture by the Europeans forced the Africans to rise against them.
16. Overtaxation of the Africans by the Europeans was yet another reason why the Africans resisted. They regarded it as economic exploitation.
17. Besides, slave trade which was a basis of livelihood of the Africans was being stopped by the Europeans. This forced the Africans to resist them.
18. The education which the Europeans introduced later made the Africans realized the motives and intentions of the whites, hence need to resist them.
19. Others resisted because their enemies accepted or collaborated with the colonialists.

REASON WHY THE AFRICAN RESISTANCES FAILED

OR

WHY THE AFRICANS WERE DEFEATED IN THEIR RESISTANCES AGAINST THE EUROPEANS.

The African resistances failed because of a number of reasons:

1. The Europeans were too determined to fight and control East Africa.
2. The Europeans also had far superior weapons compared to the East Africans, for example maximum guns that could hit a target at long range.
3. The Europeans received home support that is to say from their governments.
4. The Europeans were also too experienced in warfare, for example the Napoleonic wars of the 19th century had given them experience.
5. The Europeans had taken over the economic life of East African people and they had generated a lot of wealth to meet the cost of war with the Africans.
6. They also had high level of technology which was not the case with poor Africans.
7. The Africans had inferiority complex, whereby they believed that the Whiteman could not be defeated.

8. The Africans had also been hit hard by diseases that affected their strength.
9. Most African communities were not united at all, for example Bunyoro was always fighting against Buganda.
10. The Africans were disorganized in their fighting with the Europeans, for example the Nandi resistors and Maji Maji rebels among others were defeated on the ground of poor military organization.
11. Some African communities were caught unaware. The Europeans used Surprise attacks to defeat them.
12. There was also lack of support from neighbours, for example the Nandi were never supported by the Luyia, Masai and Luo because they were so rebellious to them.
13. The long periods of drought and famine that hit some African communities weakened their ability to resist.
14. The Europeans were very brutal during their attacks, that is to say they used scotch earth policy in which they destroyed each and every thing. This was very common with the Germans.
15. Lack of constant supply of arms on the African side also weakened them the more.
16. The Africans believed so much in superstitions, for example among the Nandi instead of fighting, they expected their gods to do for them miracles.
17. The effects of slave trade in East Africa had disorganized the resistances among the Africans. Young energetic men who could have resisted the Europeans were taken away into slavery.
18. The Europeans used a system of deportation whereby strong African leaders were exiled, for example Kabalega of Bunyoro and Mwanga of Buganda were exiled in the Seychelles Island. Their people became leaderless.
19. The education which the Christian missionaries introduced provided “Yes Men” not resistors. It produced those who were very loyal to the Europeans.
20. The missionary preaching also softened the minds and hearts of the Africans through their preaching that, “blessed are those who are humble for the Kingdom of God is theirs”. The Africans then became submissive.
21. Most African ring leaders were arrested and killed by the colonialists, for example Kinjikitile together with some other African leaders were killed when they were arrested.

Note that the above points can also assist in answering why any East African community was defeated by Europeans.

Revision questions

- i. Why did the East African people resist colonial rule?
- ii. Why were they finally defeated by the colonialists?