

# CHAPTER 14

## THE EUROPEAN ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES IN EAST AFRICA

### THE GERMAN SYSTEM OF DIRECT RULE AND WHAT IT WAS

1. The German system of indirect rule was a system in which the colonialists abolished the traditional African political institutions.
2. It was the kind of administration used by the Germans in Tanganyika.
3. It was the system of administration, where the Germans used foreigners in administration, that is to say, the Akidas and Jumbes, were used to administer Tanzanians
4. Direct rule was that system of administration that was introduced by Carl Peters.
5. It was the system of administration in which the Germans imposed their cultures and legal systems in the administration of the East African people.
6. It involved the Germans in the direct administration of the people of Tanganyika, hence the name direct rule.
7. It was the system of administration in which the traditional chiefs completely lost all their powers that were given to the Akidas and Jumbes from the coast.
8. It was used as a basis of administration in Tanganyika from 1891 up to 1914.
9. The system was harsh ruthless and generally very oppressive to the people Tanganyika.
10. It aimed at collection of taxes more than any other activity.
11. Public works like roads were properly supervised by the German colonial officials.
12. Under direct rule, special departments were also created, for example medical, agriculture, education and so on.
13. Top most leadership was for the whites only.

### REASONS WHY DIRECT RULE WAS APPLIED IN TANGANYIKA BY THE GERMANS

1. The Germans used direct rule in order to maximumly exploit the resources of Tanganyika.
2. The Germans had enough personnel or manpower to administer their territory of Tanganyika.
3. They also feared the financial obligations involved in training local manpower.
4. It was one of the means through which the German prestige, would be fulfilled in Tanganyika.

5. In Tanganyika, most states lacked powerful chiefs who would govern on their behalf. Most communities in Tanganyika were decentralized and small. They could not provide powerful leaders.
6. It was applied so that the Germans would be able to effectively administer Tanganyika. The Berlin conference of 1884-1885, had also emphasized effective control in its terms and acts.
7. The need for the Germans to impose their customs and cultures to the people of Tanzania.
8. They did not want to use indirect rule because it was applied by the British elsewhere in East Africa. They wanted to appear different from the British in their administration.
9. Besides, they were being threatened by the British, who wanted to control the whole of East Africa. Direct rule would make Germany watch the movements of Britain in East Africa.
10. The Germans initially had suffered from African resistances; hence they needed to be more firm.
11. Direct rule would ensure that Africans grow cash crops to feed their home industries in Germany.
12. The Germans were proud so they did not want to share leadership with the Africans hence direct rule.
13. German had used force to take over many parts of Tanzania, and hence it was only direct rule that could offer the best political yields.
14. They also wanted their area of control in East Africa to be very strong in all aspects.
15. The Germans joined the Scramble for colonies in Africa late, and therefore, they got few colonies. They therefore decided to administer them directly.
16. The Germans lacked experience in tropical countries and they did not trust the local leaders in East Africa. They, therefore, decided to use direct rule.
17. They also wanted to dominate the hostile Muslim Arabs along the East African coast. They, therefore, choose to use direct rule.
18. Direct rule would be the best way of creating employment for their excess unemployed population in Germany.

## HOW THE GERMANS APPLIED DIRECT RULE IN TANGANYIKA

1. The Germans made use of the Akidas and Jumbes. The Akidas were the Arabs and Swahili people who collaborated with the Germans, while the Jumbes were Headsmen and leaders of small clans or groups of Africans.
2. The governor, who was at the top of administration was based at Dar-es- Salaam.
3. He had an advisory council that had Europeans in its composition.
4. Tanzania was divided into 24 districts for easy administration.
5. Each district was supposed to have about 20,000 to 30,000 people for easy administration.
6. Of the 24 districts, each was under a District administrator.
7. The German administrators appointed and dismissed at will the African local leaders.
8. The Chaotic districts of Iringa and Mahenge were put under strict military administrators.
9. Each district had a police post to maintain law and order.
10. Districts were sub-divided into counties and sub-counties.
11. The German administrators also worked as administrators to handle criminal cases reported.
12. As the Germans worked at the District level and above, villages were ruled by Jumbes and Akidas, under strict supervision by the German officials.
13. The German settlers were also used in most areas to administer Tanganyika.
14. In Chagga land, the local chiefs were left to continue with leadership, because they were peaceful.
15. The Akidas and Jumbes together with the District administrators, collected taxes for the German government.
16. The German administrators were harsh and cruel, as they used direct rule. This was done to scare the Africans from rebelling the more

#### **PROBLEMS FACED BY THE GERMANS IN IMPLEMENTING DIRECT RULE**

1. Language problem posed a big problem, because the Germans did not know the languages of the Africans among whom they were working.
2. Harsh climatic conditions like in some seasons, there would be too much sunshine and too much coldness in yet other seasons.
3. Manpower was lacking in some areas making their work very difficult.
4. Besides Tanganyika was a big territory that could not easily be administered by the few Germans without the Africans.

5. There was also lack of funds to pay the Germans who helped in the implementation of the direct rule.
6. The Africans did not accept to work in the German projects like road construction and plantations. They, therefore, lacked labour and this was a big problem.
7. Thick forests acted as a big geographical barrier, because they affected the movement of the German officials.
8. The Germans were being threatened by the presence of the British, who wanted to take control of the whole of East Africa. There was, therefore, stiff competition for colonies in East Africa.
9. The Belgians in Congo also were a big threat to the German colony in East Africa. They wanted to take over the whole of Africa.
10. The German officials lacked supplies like food, medicine and clothes for their personal use.
11. The Akidas and Jumbes were not effective in their leadership. They were very cruel and it made the Germans to be hated by African communities.
12. The Germans fought many wars of resistance against the Africans. The Hehe and the southern tribes in Tanganyika fought many wars of resistance against the Germans.
13. The coastal Muslims heavily opposed the Germans, right from the beginning of their administration in Tanganyika.
14. Tropical disease like malaria and sleeping sickness, killed many of the German officials.
15. Most societies in Tanganyika were decentralized and they could not provide good centres for the German administration in the interior.
16. Poor infrastructure also made it a big problem especially to the German officials. The roads were not properly developed hence movement was a problem.
17. The resignation of Otto Von Bismarck as a German Chancellor in 1890 greatly affected the German colonial administration.
18. During the World War I, Germany was defeated, and this put her colony in East Africa under a big threat. She lost Tanganyika to Britain through the League of Nations.

#### **EFFECTS OF DIRECT RULE TO THE PEOPLE OF TANGANYIKA**

1. It led to wide spread rebellions, for example Maji-Maji, Hehe rebellion and Abushiri among others.

2. The local chiefs lost their powers to the Jumbes and Akidas.
3. The Akidas and Jumbes were therefore promoted.
4. New crops were introduced in Tanganyika, for example sisal, cotton and many others.
5. Infrastructures were developed so as to use them to exploit resources of Tanganyika.
6. The German culture, or generally Western cultures were spread throughout Tanganyika. African cultures were steadily eroded away.
7. The German direct rule led to widespread of Christianity in Tanganyika except in the coastal areas, where the Arabs had deeply established Islam.
8. They undermined the Muslim cultures, for example the German administrators would enter the mosques with dogs, moreover during the holy month of Ramadan.
9. The Tanganyika states and chiefdoms lost their independence to the Germans. Tribal institutions were destroyed.
10. There was loss of lives in wars intended to force the people of Tanganyika to abide by this system, hence depopulation.
11. Africans lived in fear and panic as the Germans subjected them to heavy punishments.
12. Forced labour was imposed on the people of Tanganyika, that is to say they were forced to work the in the German plantations and provide transport means in form of head portorage.
13. Serious discontent spread throughout different parts of Tanganyika.
14. Africans lost all their reliable and fertile lands to the Germans.
15. Reserves or settlements were established for the Africans whose land had been grabbed.
16. Poor Africans in Tanganyika were overtaxed hence making them poorer and poorer.
17. Famine broke out in several parts of Tanganyika, as people did not settle down to cultivate due to wars with the Germans. Others were forced to participate in cash crop cultivation against their will and could not cultivate food crops.
18. Public flogging became the order of the day.
19. Immorality increased in Tanganyika, as the German officials raped women and girls, especially the Wanyindo.
20. It, in the end, led to the rise and development of nationalism in Tanganyika, as Africans wanted to free themselves

## Revision questions

- i. What was direct rule?
- ii. How was direct rule applied in Tanganyika before 1914?
- iii. Why was direct rule applied by the Germans?
- iv. What were the problems faced by the German direct rulers?
- v. What were the effects of direct rule to the people of Tanganyika?

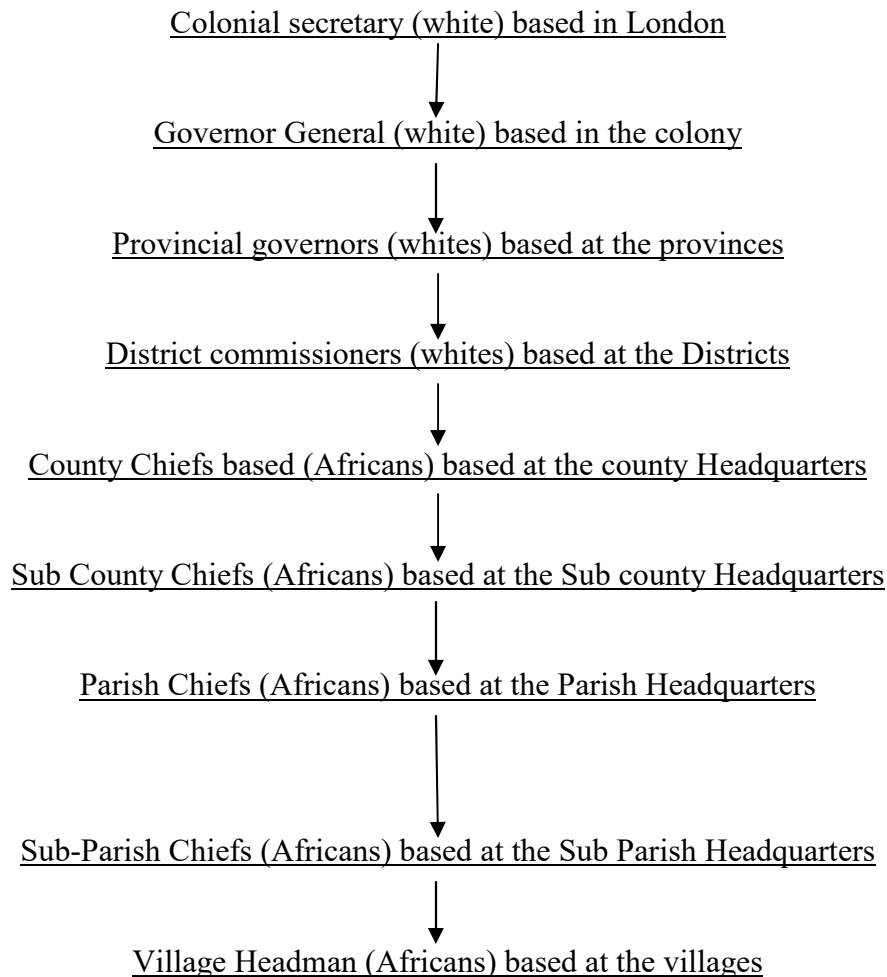
## **BRITISH INDIRECT SYSTEM OF RULE IN EAST AFRICA**

### **WHAT WAS INDIRECT RULE IN TANGANYIKA?**

1. This was a system of colonial administration used by the British in Kenya and Uganda.
2. The British government replaced IBEACo in Uganda 1894 and they introduced indirect rule.
3. The indirect system of rule was also introduced in Kenya in 1895.
4. It was introduced by Fredrick Lugard.
5. It involved the use of local leaders. The traditional chiefs were used to rule their fellow Africans.
6. The system involved the usage of traditional institutions in administration.
7. It worked well in well organised Kingdoms like Buganda, Tooro, Ankole, and Wanga among others.
8. The system was based on divide and rule.
9. The African chiefs worked under the instructions of the British.
10. The system made the African leader to work as Shock absorbers.
11. It was a system of leadership that divided the Africans into collaborators and resisters.
12. African personalities like Apollo Kaggwa, Nuwa Mbaguta, Mumia Nabongo and Semei Kakungulu were used as collaborators.
13. It was a system of administration that tried to preserve African institution, for example. Courts of law.
14. The traditional rulers were supposed to collect taxes on behalf of the British
15. Local administration was left under traditional rulers.
16. Under indirect rule topmost political offices were dominated by the whites while the African took up lower jobs.
17. Supervision of local chiefs was done by the British.

18. At the apex or top of this system, was the secretary for colonies, who was a white man resident in London.
19. He was responsible for the British colonial affairs and was answerable to the British parliament.
20. Below the secretary for colonies were the Governor Generals who were also whites.
21. These were responsible for colonies and were answerable to the secretary for colonies.
22. The colonies were divided into provinces.
23. The provinces were further sub- divided into districts under the district commissioners and also headed by whites.
24. The districts were further divided into smaller administrative unites called counties, under a county chief, who was an African.
25. The county chief was supposed to maintain law and order.
26. Counties still were divided into sub-counties, under sub-county chiefs, who were Africans.
27. Sub counties were then sub-divided into parishes, under parish chiefs who were also Africans.
28. The parishes were sub-divided into sub-parishes under sub-parish chiefs and these too were Africans.
29. The sub-parishes were divided into villages, under the village chiefs or headmen, who were Africans.
30. Under British administration, the Africans featured in the local government, while the whites controlled the central government acting as supervisors.
31. In some other areas, some people who had no hereditary claims to power agents, were used as the case was in Bunyoro.
32. In the west of Uganda, the Bairu were used to rule the Bahima
33. Among other duties, the African chiefs collected taxes that were used to develop roads, schools, health centres and to implement other colonial policies.
34. The chiefs were given salaries to make them loyal to the British colonial government and the central authority in London.
35. In all serious cases, African chiefs had no serious powers.
36. To ease administration, administrative centres, roads and railways were put in place.

## DIAGRAMMATIC STRUCTURE OF THE BRITISH INDIRECT RULE



### WHY THE BRITISH APPLIED INDIRECT RULE IN EAST AFRICA

1. It was cheaper economically. The whites if used intensively, would required a lot of money yet the Africans would be given little money and even accept gifts.
2. The British had few personnel in East Africa. The Chiefs were abundant in and they were ready to work for the British.
3. The British first used it in their outside colonies of India, Nigeria and Ghana and it was successful.
4. It had worked well in Buganda; hence the British felt the need to use it throughout.
5. It was to act as a form of “reward” to the communities that had co-operated, for example Buganda.



6. The British believed that traditional leaders would secure obedience and respect much more easily from the subjects.
7. Britain never wanted to make colonialism too obvious hence it was “Sugar coated” through indirect rule
8. It was part and parcel of the divide and rule policy, where the British used people like the Baganda, to govern on their behalf. They were hated throughout their countries.
9. It could easily solve communication problems as Africans knew the languages of fellow Africans.
10. Presence of good local administration in certain parts of E.ast Africa.
11. It was intended to make the British look more unique in their administration, that is to say, not to use a method similar to what their rivals; the Germans had used.
12. Local rulers understood their local people better in terms of administrative tactics.
13. The Africans would not rebel because they would be seeing their people working.
14. It was intended to make the Africans act as “Shock absorbers” in case of any problem in administration. The British leaders would appear as if they were not part of African suffering under colonial rule.
15. There was lack of good transport net work and means of transport for the Whites to use to move around in villages. The Africans were then left in their leadership position.
16. The problem of tropical diseases like small pox and malaria posed a big threat to the White personnel.
17. The British had only the time to exploit the African resources. They never had time to handle African politics.
18. They also wanted the Africans to master leadership qualities, hence need to involve them.
19. The Africans were willing to work for the whites, for example, people like Semei Kakungulu, Apollo Kagwa, and Nabongo Mumia among others.
20. They discovered that the Africans could work well in lower positions, not higher positions where other white scramblers would overpower them.

#### **METHODS OF RULE USED BY THE BRITISH TO ADMINISTER THEIR TERRITORIES IN EAST AFRICA BY 1920**

1. The method of administration was indirect rule.

2. It was mainly applied in areas with centralised political institutions.
3. At the apex or top of this system, was the secretary for colonies, who was a Whiteman resident in London.
4. He was responsible for the British colonial affairs and was answerable to the British parliament.
5. Below the secretary for colonies were the Governor Generals, who were also whites.
6. These were responsible for colonies and were answerable to the secretary for colonies.
7. The colonies were divided into provinces.
8. The provinces were further sub- divided into districts under the district commissioners and also headed by whites.
9. The districts were further divided into smaller administrative units called counties, under a county chief, who was an African.
10. The county chief was supposed to maintain law and order.
11. Counties still were divided into sub-counties, under sub-county chiefs, who were Africans.
12. Sub counties were then sub-divided into parishes under parish chiefs who were also Africans.
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16. In some other areas, some people who had no hereditary claims to power agents were used, as the case was in Bunyoro.
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### **HOW INDIRECT RULE WAS APPLIED IN UGANDA AND KENYA**

1. The British used the local chiefs in the counties, sub counties, parishes, sub parishes and villages.
2. The British divided their colony into provinces, districts, counties and many smaller units.
3. Many societies signed treaties that made it acceptable for them to be under the British rule.
4. It was also applied by using collaborators who were mainly Baganda like Semei Kakungulu, who spread the system to other areas.
5. The chiefs who assisted the British were given programmes like supervising the road construction, collecting taxes and so on.
6. In areas where people resisted like Bunyoro, Karamoja, Northern Uganda and the Nandi land, force was used.
7. Communication lines were constructed to reach rebellious areas.
8. The Chartered companies were also used.
9. In Kenya most white settlers were used to administer on behalf of the British.
10. The missionaries too, were used to implement indirect rule.
11. The colonial army and police were recruited from among the Africans to handle rebellious communities.
12. The local councils were put in place in other areas and the Buganda system of rule was introduced to ease leadership.
13. Uncooperative chiefs like Rwot Awich of Payiira in Acholi land, was removed from power.
14. Administrative headquarters were also established to handle administration, for example Mombasa, Nairobi and Entebbe.
15. Chiefs were paid salaries in order to motivate them to work.
16. Law courts were also introduced to handle local justice.

### **PROBLEMS FACED BY INDIRECT RULERS IN EAST AFRICA**

1. The implementers faced the problem of tropical diseases like sleeping sickness, malaria and others.
2. There was also the problem of harsh climatic condition.
3. Language was a problem to the agents and the colonial administrators at the higher level.
4. The chiefs who implemented the indirect rule system were killed by the local people.

5. In some areas the British were exploitative. It made many of them to be killed, for example in Ankole Provincial commissioner John Galt was murdered.
6. The local chiefs were always despised and disrespected by both their superiors and the local people hence making them discouraged.
7. The Buganda system of leadership used, was unfavorable in non-centralized areas.
8. Communication within areas where the white personnel worked was unfavorable.
9. Transport network, too, was not developed.
10. Resistance against the implementers of indirect rule was yet another problem, for example the Nandi, Bunyoro, Karamoja and Northern Uganda.
11. The Baganda agents, who implemented indirect rule, were not welcomed in other parts in Uganda.
12. Chiefs, who worked for the British, were not paid in time, hence making their work very difficult.
13. There was even lack of manpower to administer the East African territories.
14. The Baganda peasants who never had land rebelled against the implementers of indirect rule.

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

1. The effects were both positive and negative.
2. They were also were political, economic and social.
3. It led to the introduction of forced labour. The Africans were made to work in plantations against their will.
4. New boundaries of East African countries, where indirect rule was implemented, were drawn and as a result tribes were detribalized.
5. There was emergence of foreign language, for example English.
6. It also led to the occurrence of many resistances, for example among the Nandi and Banyoro among others, where several people were killed.
7. As people resisted, many were killed, hence depopulation.
8. Property, too, was destroyed.
9. It also led to the signing of very many treaties, whose implications and meanings were unclear to the Africans, like Buganda agreement of 1900.
10. Uganda, where indirect rule worked very well, was divided up, for example the western, Southern, central Uganda and the Northern Uganda.

11. It led to other tribes hating Buganda that implemented indirect rule in most parts of Uganda.
12. The Baganda became “Yes people” because they collaborated with the British, who later used them to implement indirect rule.
13. Buganda that implemented indirect rule benefited from it greatly. Many developments were carried out in Buganda, for example roads and schools were constructed.
14. There was also introduction of new crops in Uganda and Kenya, for people to take part in their growing, for example coffee, tea and cotton among others.
15. There was rapid spread of Christianity, because people who implemented indirect rule also spread Christianity, especially the Christian missionaries.
16. Uganda never developed as a white colony, because of indirect rule system. There was no need of bringing more whites for leadership.
17. Uganda and Kenyan resources like minerals were fully exploited for the benefit of Europeans.
18. It resulted into forced labour, for example in Tanzania.
19. There was improvement in agriculture as new farming methods like crop rotation were introduced.
20. There was serious loss of independence by the East African people.
21. The East African people lost their fertile land
22. It resulted into forced labour, for example in Tanzania.
23. There was increased in the number of Europeans into East Africa, especially in Kenya.
24. African cultures were undermined.

### **Revision questions**

- i. What was indirect rule?
- ii. How was indirect rule applied in Uganda?
- iii. Why was indirect rule applied by the British?
- iv. What were the problems faced by the British indirect rulers?
- v. What were the effects of indirect rule to the people of Uganda and Kenya?

