

CHAPTER 16

CASE STUDIES OF RESISTANCES BY COMMUNITIES IN EAST AFRICA

THE ABUSHIRI REBELLION AT THE COAST OF TANGANYIKA (1888-1890)

CAUSES OF ABUSHIRI RESISTANCE

1. Abushiri resistance is also referred to as the Coastal rebellion and Arab revolt.
2. It was the first resistance that was staged against the German rule in Tanganyika.
3. It was led jointly by Abushiri Bin Salim and Bwana Heri.
4. The Abushiri rebellion occurred from 1888-1890.
5. The Arabs, Swahili people and Africans were the ones who were very much involved.
The causes were:
 6. It was fought as a way of preserving African political independence that the Germans had wanted to take.
 7. Some African traditional leaders had lost their powers to the Germans and there was need to redeem it, hence war.
 8. The Germans abused and despised Arab cultures as inferior and backward.
 9. The German traders had also dominated the Coastal trade and this forced the Arabs to fight them.
 10. Besides they had put heavy tariffs on traders and the local people, for example taxes like hut tax, poll tax and inheritance tax among others.
 11. The taxes introduced were even brutally and cruelly collected.
 12. The Sultan of Zanzibar had sold African coastland to the Germans. This later provoked or forced war against the Germans.
 13. The German rulers at the coast were too harsh and rude to their subjects, for example they would wallop, and whip, cane and even frog march the local people. This attracted war.
 14. The Germans was active in the abolition of slave trade which the coastal Arabs and the Africans had benefited from highly. They therefore rejected this move.
 15. The Arabs generally hated the whitemen and it not surprising that when the Germans established themselves at the East African coast they were resisted.
 16. The presence of strong leaders like Abushiri Bin Salim and Bwana Heri encouraged the Arabs to resist.

17. The coastal people also resisted forced labour imposed on them by the Germans.
18. The German East African Company had started forcefully removing houses from the Arabs.
The coastal people were therefore resisting loss of their property.
19. The Germans were not respecting the Moslem time of praying, fasting, even the Mosques.
They would stubbornly enter the mosques with dogs.
20. The Germans were so immoral. They committed adultery with African wives after getting drunk. This annoyed the Africans.
21. In 1888, the Germans passed a new land regulation that required the Africans to have proof of land ownership. To the Africans and the Arabs, this was looking for a way of grabbing African land. They therefore fought to oppose this law.

COURSE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE ABUSHIRI UPRISING

1. Abushiri uprising was also referred to as the Coastal rebellion and Arab revolt.
2. It was the first resistance that was staged against the German rule in Tanganyika.
3. It was led jointly by Abushiri Bin Salim and Bwana Heri.
4. Abushiri rebellion occurred from 1888-1890.
5. The Arabs, Swahili people and Africans were involved.
6. The resistance started in August 1888 when the Germans arrived and established themselves in the area. They had wanted to raise their flag.
7. The coastal people rejected this move and they rioted right away.
8. The rebellion took route and extended to other areas like Kilwa, Bagamoyo, and Tanga settled on by the Arabs.
9. Some of the Bantu tribes like the Bonda and Uzigua joined in for self defense.
10. Abushiri Bin Salim got much support from his fellow Muslims.
11. The first attacks on the Germans caught them unaware and they suffered heavy losses.
12. The weapons of the rebels consisted of old fashioned guns, bows and arrows, spears and big sticks (clubs).
13. The rebels beat the GEACo officials and drove them out of the coastal towns.
14. The GEACo officials were besieged or confined in Bagamoyo and Dar es Salaam.

15. The alarming situation reached Germany and Von Wissman was sent to overcome the resistance.
16. When he arrived he mobilized mercenaries that included the Zulu, Somalis, Nubians, and Turks among others.
17. He started by capturing Pangani, the strong hold of the rebels and proceeded to Dar es Salaam including the Northern towns.
18. Wissman's success made many Arabs to surrender and requested for peace.
19. Meanwhile Abushiri, the ring leader retreated into the interior and hired 500 Maviti mercenaries but these were only interested in looting wealth and did not do much.
20. On 15th December, Abushiri Bin Salim was betrayed by Jumbe Magaye of Usagara who reported him to the Germans. He was captured and hanged at Bagamoyo.
21. His comrade Bwana Heri surrendered to the Germans in april1890.
22. By January 1891 the resistance was crushed and the German government replaced the GEACo as the new rulers of their East African territory.

REASONS WHY THE REBELLION FAILED

1. The Germans were determined to bring Tanganyika mainland and East Africa under their control.
2. They had superior weapons as compared to those of the Africans.
3. In addition, the German army was well trained compared to the African army.
4. Many coastal towns fought in isolation. Generally, there was some form of disunity on the Arab side.
5. Abushiri Bin Salim had never been a military man. He lacked military training and therefore he could not successfully command a force against the Germans.
6. Compared to the army of the Germans, the ones of Abushiri was small.
7. The rebels were also betrayed by the Maviti mercenaries who were only interested in looting and did not know why they were fighting.
8. Abushiri was also betrayed by the Uzigua under Mkubwa. He assisted the Germans against Abushiri.
9. When Abushiri retreated inland, he was cut off from getting supplies of guns and other items. He never even had enough support inland.

10. The Germans were ruthless in their attacks. The mercenaries hired by the Germans were instructed to use full scale war.
11. Some sections of Abushiri rebels easily gave in to the Germans and this weakened the rebellion.
12. The rebels were poorly organised with poor fighting tactics like open warfare.
13. The rebellion lacked a national out look. It was taken to be an Arab rebellion.
14. The Germans used scotch earth policy which rendered the rebel foodless.
15. The coastal Arabs did not have a strong economy to sustain protracted war or prolonged warfare.
16. The Coastal topography did not favour the Coastal people. There were no defensive barriers.
17. The rebels lacked leadership after Abushiri was killed. They therefore got demoralized.
18. The leaders of the rebellion harassed those who did not join them making them be hated, hence not much support was given to them.

EFFECTS OF THE REBELLION

1. There was massive loss of lives on both sides.
2. The Germans forcefully grabbed land of the coastal people.
3. The rebels were completely defeated by the Germans.
4. The Germans took over the leadership of trade at the East African coast.
5. A lot of property was destroyed, for example buildings.
6. Due to the scotch earth policy the Germans used, famine broke out because crops and animals were destroyed.
7. The Abushiri defeat exposed the East African coast to colonialism.
8. The people of Tanganyika learnt a lesson that the Germans were superior and that force would never make them gained their independence.
9. The sultan of Zanzibar lost independence to the Germans. He later recognized the German governorship upon his territory.
10. The rebellion exposed the weakness of the GEACo leadership and failure to establish law and order.
11. The GEACo was withdrawn from leadership of the German colony in East Africa.
12. The German missionaries tried to spread Christianity at the East African coast although they failed.

13. The Arabs lost control of their customs duty to the German traders.
14. The rebellion was very costly to Germans to suppress. They spent a lot of money to overcome it.
15. The Germans and the British cooperated in the colonization of East Africa.
16. The Abushiri rebellions inspired African nationalism in Tanganyika against colonial rule. After this, many other rebellions occurred in East Africa.
17. There was a change in German government policy. The change was reflected in the appointment of Wissman as the Imperial German Commissioner.
18. The coastal Arabs lost their leader, Abushiri who was killed by being hanged.

Revision questions

- i. What were the causes of the Abushiri uprising?
- ii. Describe the course of the Abushiri rebellion?
- iii. Why was the Abushiri rebellion defeated?
- iv. What were the effects of this rebellion?

THE HEHE REBELLION IN TANGANYIKA (1890-1898).

CAUSES OF THE HEHE RESISTANCE

1. The Hehe occupied the Southern part of Tanganyika.
2. They were led by chief Mkwawa under whom they fought many of their neighbours including the Ngoni invaders.
3. They resisted from the onset the establishment of German colonial rule in their area.
4. The rebellion took place from 1890 to 1898.

The causes were many and they included the following:

5. When the Germans took over the leadership of Tanganyika, they denied the Hehe under Mkwawa a chance to raid their neighbours as before.
6. Mkwawa also controlled the long distance trade route from Tabora to Bagamoyo where, the traders who were using it were being taxed. The Germans wanted to take control of that trade route, hence a rebellion.
7. Mkwawa had also refused the Germans to introduce their new tax called 'the Hongo'.
8. Mkwawa of the Hehe also resisted the German forceful taking away of African land.

9. The Germans despised African culture by referred to it as satanic, barbaric and backward. The Hehe therefore fought because of cultural independence.
10. Mkwawa had his own problem with the Germans; that is to say the Germans had wanted to overthrow him; they were not at all comfortable with Mkwawa's prosperity from trade. The need to preserve his traditional authority and the independence of his people therefore led to this rebellion.
11. Mkwawa, the Hehe chief was ready for the Germans, but still hoping that war could be avoided, he sent unarmed men with presents to meet the visitors and assure them of his friendly intentions. The Germans instead frustrated Mkwawa by opening fire against them and several of Mkwawa's men were killed. This provoked him to revenge.
12. The Germans also subjected the Hehe people to forced labour on public works and the German projects.
13. Mkwawa was also very defiant to the German orders, for example he was summoned by the Germans for a meeting but he instead sent his messengers.
14. The German missionaries also threatened to abolish slave trade, yet the Hehe under Mkwawa depended on it. The Hehe rejected this.
15. The missionaries also encouraged the spread of Christianity. They condemned African religion and practices. This forced the Hehe under Mkwawa to fight them.
16. The Hehe hated the appearance of the white man. They called them ghosts and devils who must be destroyed.
17. The war was due to the act of the Hehe, when they forcefully released the Africans who had been imprisoned by the Germans at Usangara. The Germans therefore declared war on the Hehe.
18. The Hehe were also rebelling against the German harsh rule.

COURSE OF THE HEHE REBELLION

1. The war was led by Chief Mkwawa who was the leader of Hehe Society.
2. He came to power in 1878 after succeeding his father Mungyigumba.
3. Mkwawa led one of the greatest resistances against German authority during the 19th century.
4. Mkwawa had his own problem with the Germans; that is to say the Germans had wanted to depose him; they were not at all comfortable with Mkwawa's prosperity from trade.

5. It was therefore the above factors and others that forced Mkwawa to rebel against the Germans.
6. In June 1891, a German force of more than one hundred troops advanced from Kilwa to attack Mkwawa.
7. Mkwawa, the Hehe chief was ready for them, but still hoping that war could be avoided, he sent unarmed men with presents to meet the visitors and assure them of his friendly intentions.
8. The Germans instead completely frustrated Mkwawa only by opening fire against them and several of Mkwawa's men were killed.
9. Mkwawa's hope for peace was surely eliminated.
10. Mkwawa was too quick to ask his soldiers to attack with a lot of rapidity or speed; the German invaders including their leader "Zewlesky" were completely damaged.
11. The German garrison at Kilosa was attacked and all its occupants were killed.
12. A fresh German expedition led by Von Prince attacked Mkwawa's fort at Kalenga and captured it in 1804 after fierce resistance.
13. At this very stage, Mkwawa escaped and resorted to prolonged guerrilla warfare that ended in 1898.
14. The German from 1898 onwards tried hard to crack down Mkwawa. They even promised 400 pounds to anybody who could lead to the arrest of chief Mkwawa.
15. The Germans surrounded Mkwawa's place of refuge. He was forced to escape but the Germans still followed him.
16. Mkwawa on seeing that life had become so precarious (risky and dangerous), he committed suicide.
17. The Germans still got his dead body, cut off the head and took it to Germany only to return it in 1954 after his people had made a lot of noise.
18. His death marked the end of the Hehe resistance.
19. No doubt Mkwawa was a great resistor in the eyes of the German invaders and he will remain in the history of East Africa for quite along period of time.

EFFECTS OF THE HEHE REBELLION

1. The effects of the Hehe resistance were positive and negative in nature.

2. They were also political, economic and social in nature.
3. The Hehe were defeated by the Germans.
4. The war led to loss of lives of both the Hehe and the Germans although the Hehe were more affected.
5. The Hehe lost their leader Mkwawa, who was forced to commit suicide.
6. The Hehe completely lost their independence to Germans.
7. The resistance led to loss of land among the Hehe; the Germans completely grabbed the land which the Hehe were resisting.
8. Taxation by the Germans continued as a way of getting revenue from the Africans for the German administration.
9. The war also exposed how harsh, brutal and inhuman the Germans were. This was clearly seen when they cut off Mkwawa's head and took it to Germany, even after he had committed suicide.
10. After the war, the German missionaries encouraged the spread of Christianity among the Hehe.
11. The Hehe learnt a big lesson from their defeat that indeed the Germans were superior and force would never bring back their lost independence.
12. The Hehe fighters were all disarmed after the war to make them stop their resistance.
13. During the war, the Hehe Capital Kalenga was destroyed by the Germans.
14. The war led to loss of property of both the Hehe and the Germans. The huts, food, and domestic animals were destroyed.
15. As food crops were destroyed, the Hehe suffered from Starvation and famine.
16. The Hehe were forced to resort to collaboration with the Germans colonialists.
17. The Hehe also lost control of the trade they were fighting for.
18. Plantation farming of Sisal and cotton was introduced and the Hehe provided the free labour they were resisting.
19. The Hehe were hit hard by poverty due to scotch earth policy that the Germans also used against them.
20. However, the Germans also learnt a lesson that the Hehe were also human beings that needed the best treatment and peace in their society.

REASONS WHY THE HEHE WERE DEFEATED

1. They used inferior weapons, for example, spears, arrows, sticks and stones among others.
2. The Hehe used poor war tactics during the battle, for example standing in the open to face the Germans.
3. The Hehe were few in number and this made them to be easily defeated.
4. The Hehe lacked food supplies during the war as their sources of food were destroyed. The fighters were therefore starved and could not fight well.
5. The Hehe strongly believed in the support of their gods and ancestors which did not help them.
6. They also failed to get support from their neighbours the Yao, Nyamwezi, Ngoni and the coastal Arabs.
7. The scotch earth policy that the Germans used weakened the strength of the Hehe fighters.
8. The Germans were militarily stronger than the Hehe. They had guns like the Maxim guns fired at long range.
9. The war had taken too long and the Hehe had become tired.
10. The Germans also got re-enforcements from Germany against the Germans.
11. The Germans were also determined to bring the Hehe under their control. It was the period of the scramble and partition of African countries.
12. Poor leadership on the side of the Hehe, for example Mkwawa, the leader of the Hehe gave up full scale war and resorted to guerilla warfare which was ineffective.
13. There was also lack of coordination among the Hehe. They were disunited and had internal conflicts.
14. The Berlin conference of 1884-1885 called for European cooperation during the scramble and partition which emphasized effective control.
15. The Hehe like other tribes in East Africa had suffered from natural problems like diseases, drought and other problems.
16. The death of Chief Mkwawa was the final blow to the Hehe resistance against the Germans. When Mkwawa committed suicide and the Germans beheaded him, the Hehe were mesmerized or surprised and they got discouraged and gave up resistance.

Revision questions

- i. Why did the Hehe rebel against the German rule?

- ii. Describe the course of the Hehe resistance.
- iii. Why were they defeated?
- iv. What were the effects of their resistance?

THE NANDI RESISTANCE IN KENYA (1895-1906)

CAUSES OF THE RESISTANCE

1. The Nandi belonged to the Nilotes group of Kenya who lived on the western slope of Uasin Gishu plateau.
2. They were animal keepers, warriors and war lovers.
3. They staged a protracted resistance against the British colonial rule.
4. Their resistance started in 1895 and ended in 1906.
5. The Nandi were led by their leader, Chief Orkoyoit.

The causes were many and they included:

6. They resisted the British interference with their independence.
7. The Nandi were war lovers with a lot of experience in raiding. It is not a surprise that they fought the British.
8. They Nandi also fought because of the British interference with their cultural practices. They believed in their cultural superiority.
9. The Nandi all along looked at the whitemen as devils because of the way of their dressing that resembled their devils, hence need to get rid of them.
10. They also resisted loss of their land to the British. They depended so much on their land for survival and yet the British were threatening to take in away from them.
11. The railway construction across their land worsened the situation. The railway line was interpreted to be “iron snake and bringer of bad luck” which had to be uprooted, hence war.
12. The Nandi were also being forced into reserve camps whose condition of living was appalling or terrible and unfit for human survival. They therefore resisted.
13. The strong leadership of Orkoyoit also contributed greatly to this resistance. He could prophesize and even mobilize the Nandi incase of trouble. He prophesized that the foreigners will rule the Nandi forever. This prepared the Nandi for war.
14. The British later killed Prophet Orkoyoit in a very shameful incident. This forced the British to pick up arms in 1895.

15. The British had threatened to take over the Nandi monopoly of trade especially in ivory, hence the Nandi resistance.
16. The Nandi never wanted the British to cross their land. They murdered the British trader, Peter West and his company when he crossed their territory. This forced the British to declare war on the Nandi as a way of revenge.
17. The Nandi's neighbours like the Masai and Baluyia were collaborating with the British against the Nandi. They could not accept this hence war.
18. The Sudanese and Swahili mercenaries employed by the British had caused a lot of havoc on the Nandi by stealing their foods and other property. This forced the Nandi to intensify their resistance.
19. They also resisted forced labour by the British to work on their plantations and other projects.
20. The Nandi staged a resistance against the British due to the earlier resistance by people like the Hehe and the coastal Arabs under Abushiri in 1880s. They were therefore inspired.
21. They also feared that the British were going to take away their cattle. They had to resist their presence in their area.
22. The British missionaries abused the Nandi culture as backward and barbaric. The Nandi therefore fought them because of this.
23. They also hated the British tendency of overtaxation.
24. The Nandi land was mountainous with very many valleys that acted as hiding places during the war.

COURSE OF THE NANDI RESISTANCE

1. With the war experience the Nandi had, they never wanted to accept the British rule.
2. They had even gained supremacy following the decline of powerful states like the Masai.
3. The war started in 1895 after the Nandi killed the British trader, Peter West and his company.
4. In response the British declared war against the Nandi. They reacted by sending a military force against the Nandi.
5. The British forces were made up of the Sudanese and Swahili mercenaries together with the Europeans.
6. The British forces failed to defeat the Nandi.

7. They fought the British for eleven years. They employed all tactics including hit and run. They would attack the British and disappeared in the hills.
8. In their attack, they were killed the British workers and loot their property.
9. The British tried to arrange for peace talks but the Nandi rejected.
10. The British commander colonel Meinertzhgen visited the Nandi leader, Chief Orkoyoit in a trickery act.
11. As Orkoyoit came out of the house to meet him, he was shot dead together with his men.
12. This completely disorganized the Nandi and their resistance was broken.
13. They were evacuated or removed from an area where the railway line was going to pass. Some of their land was given to the whites.
14. In 1906, the Nandi lost their independence to the British and accepted their dominion or authority.

WHY IT TOOK TOO LONG TO DEFEAT THE NANDI OR WHY THE NANDI RESISTED THE BRITISH FOR LONG

The Nandi resistance was a protracted or prolonged war because:

1. They had hiding places like the valleys and caves that the British could not reach easily.
2. Besides, the mountainous nature of the Nandiland could not allow the British use of Maxim guns.
3. The mentality of the Nandi being war lovers kept them in this resistance for long.
4. The prophecy of Orkoyoit kept the Nandi together and with high hope of winning the war.
5. The British fighters also feared the Nandi magic and evil practices, so they needed to study them first.
6. The British had many issues to handle in East Africa, for example the rebellions in Bunyoro and other parts of their colonies.
7. High unity among the Nandi gave them an upper hand in their resistance.
8. Poor transport and communication in the Nandi land worked against the British.
9. The Nandi practiced mixed farming that gave them constant supplies of food to the warriors from both the animals and crops.
10. The Nandi military tactics of hit and run gave the British hard time.
11. The Nandi use to loot food from neighbours and this also gave them additional food supplies.
12. The Nandi were so determined to protect their independence from the British.

13. The experience the Nandi had in warfare with their Neighbours energized them. They had fought and defeated their neighbours like the Masai, Luyia, and Luo among others.
14. The cold and wet climatic condition in the Nandi land did not favour the British.
15. The Nandi soldiers were also well discipline and organised towards a common goal of defeated the British.
16. The British soldiers were not mobile. They were stationed at certain points because they had very many porters to carry their food and other supplies.
17. They Nandi fought in isolation. They did not have defensive points for the British target.

WHY THE NANDI WERE FINALLY DEFEATED

1. The belief in magic and superstition did not assist them.
2. The British with time proved militarily stronger than the Nandi.
3. They also used scotch earth policy against the Nandi, for example all the Nandi property, houses, food, and cattle were destroyed.
4. The war had taken too long and the Nandi fighters were already tired. War fatigue therefore worked against them.
5. The British were more determined than the Nandi to meet their mission of colonialism.
6. The neighbours of the Nandi like the Masai, Luyia and Luo collaborated with the British against the Nandi. There was therefore, an act of betrayal against the Nandi.
7. They defeated the Nandi by use of mercenaries from the Sudanese and Swahili people.
8. Fighting in isolation of the Ngoni showed lack of unity. At the end it made the Nandi to be defeated.
9. The Nandi just like other East African states were hit hard by famine, drought and diseases. These weakened them greatly.
10. The treachery act of the British in which they killed the Nandi leader, Chief Orkoyoit demoralized the Nandi.
11. The Nandi also lacked better military tactics.
12. The also lacked constant supplies of weapons and bullets.

EFFECTS OF THE NANDI RESISTANCE

1. The effects of the Nandi resistance were positive and negative in nature.

2. They were also political, economic and social in nature
3. The Nandi were totally defeated, they lost their pride, arrogance and superiority.
4. They also lost their independence to the British.
5. They learnt a great lesson from their resistance that the British were more superior and that force will never get back their independence.
6. Thousands of people perished during the war.
7. On a very sad note, the resistance led to the death of the Nandi leader, Chief Orkoyoit.
8. Property too was destroyed massively, for example, cattle, food, huts and others. The British soldiers also looted much more of the Nandi foodstuffs.
9. Many Nandi people were displaced by the war.
10. The British learnt a lesson too that it was not good to mistreat the people they were leading.
11. Christianity gained ground in the Nandi land. Many people were converted to Christianity.
12. As war went on agriculture was disrupted, food supply dwindled and famine therefore hit the Nandi area.
13. To stop further resistance from the Nandi, the British pushed the Nandi to camps or reserves.
14. More white settlers came and settled in the Nandi land in big number.
15. The railway construction which the Nandi were partly resisting went on.
16. Internal trade was also disrupted as war went on.
17. The war was very costly. The British spent a lot of money to suppress the rebellion.
18. The British grabbed the Nandi land and opened plantations.
19. The Nandi were then forced to provide cheap labour by force to the British plantations.
20. There was also wide spread of poverty and sufferings among the Nandi.
21. A number of Forts were constructed in many parts of the Nandiland to keep close watch on the Nandi.
22. The defeat of the Nandi was a proof to what their leader Orkoyoit had prophesize that the foreigners would for ever rule them.

THE MAJI-MAJI REBELLION OF 1905- 1907 IN TANGANYIKA

CAUSES OF MAJI MAJI REBELLION

1. The rebellion took place in Southern Tanganyika and was against German rule.

2. It involved a cross section of tribes, for example the Bena, Zaramo, Wangindo and Mbuga among others.
3. The rebellion got its name from the “Magic water”, Maji-Maji given by a medicine man called Kinjikitile Ngwalwe, a Matumbi by tribe who lived on River Rufigi in Ngarambe village.
4. The rebellion begun in 1905 and ended in 1907.
5. It was “a brain child” or masterminded by Kinjikitile Ngwale a traditional priest.

It was fought due to:

6. Unsuccessful cotton scheme that was introduced by the Germans in Tanganyika.
7. The Germans had also subjected the Africans to forced cotton growing especially on the German farms.
8. Forced labour on government farms and public works greatly annoyed the natives of Tanzania.
9. Heavy taxation to the Tanzanians of three rupees was yet another cause of the Maji-Maji rebellion.
10. The need to get independence from the colonial rule of the Germans by the Tanzanians.
11. The Germans greatly undermined the African cultures which annoyed the Tanzanians greatly.
12. Loss of land to the Germans by the poor Africans through “land alienation”
13. Complete disrespect for local customs of the people of Tanganyika, for example the Germans act of moving in mosques with dogs even during the holy month of Ramadan.
14. The Germans committed adultery with African wives. They would force the Wangindo girls into sexual relations and even infect them with venereal diseases. This was a great humiliation to the people of Tanganyika especially men hence the revolt.
15. The role played by Kinjikitile’s misinformation and false confidence he gave to the natives of Tanganyika made the Africans to pick up arms.
16. Replacement of African chiefs or rulers by the Germans with Akidas and Jumbe also led to this rebellion.
17. The Akidas and Jumbe were too harsh on to the Africans, that is to say they would conduct public flogging of the Africans.

18. Poor methods of tax collection where the Africans were battered in public. It was a big humiliation.
19. The struggle to control trade as monopolists. The Germans had edged out or displaced the African middlemen in all the trading activities in Tanganyika.
20. The Germans gave help and refuge to a young man who had seduced a king's wife. The Africans therefore had to attack the Germans for protecting a social misfit.
21. Generally the German administration was too oppressive and harsh, for matter of clarity, Karl Peters the champion of direct rule was nick named "MUKONO WADAMU" meaning hand of blood. It alleged that at one time he castrated a certain young man who had attacked him for eloping with his girl friend.

COURSE OF MAJI-MAJI REBELLION

1. The rebellion took place in Southern Tanganyika.
2. It involved the Zaramo, Wangido, Bena, and Ngoni among other tribes.
3. The areas where the war directly occurred included Chumo Kibata, Miteja, Samanga, Kinjumbi in Matumbi.
4. With all the problems of the natives of Tanzania, there emerged among the Wamatumbi a prophet called "Kinjikitile Ngwale" who claimed super-natural powers.
5. Kinjikitile stood up to lead a revolt against the Germans using the forces of religion and traditional belief as the basis of his organisation.
6. Near Kinjikitile's home at Ngarambe, there was a pool of water from a tributary of the Rufigi River, which he claimed was the place of the devil spirit "HOGO which possessed him.
7. Kinjikitile began to preach about the need for blackmen to unite, emphasizing that his medicine "the Magic water" was more powerful than European weapons.
8. Kinjikitile's gospel spread like a bush fire among the Wamatunabi, Zaramo, Wangido, Bena and others.
9. By July 1905, a secret communication from one person to another about the emergence at Ngarambe known as "Jail" was formed.
10. The Germans were alarmed on hearing the news of a possible outbreak of a rebellion and sent a messenger to prove this.
11. The messenger confirmed the possibility of a rebellion in Ngarambe village.

12. At Ngarambe, Kinjikitile, who had assumed the title “Bokero” meaning the intermediary between men and spirits, gave them the medicine, a mixture of sorghum flour in water, which was smeared on the forehead.
13. In 1905, the rebellion started in Pogoro and Gindo but spread to Lindi and Kilosa in the North.
14. The rebellion among other reasons was against forceful cotton growing in southern Tanganyika yet with little payment.
15. The rebels therefore targeted cotton plantations, cotton stores and the German officials.
16. In July 1905, In Matumbi hills, people refused to pick cotton.
17. To make matters worse the Wamatumbi went ahead to carry out very annoying things to Germans like uprooting cotton plants at Nandeta plantations.
18. Such provocative actions bitterly upset the Germans into declaration of war against natives of Southern Tanzania.
19. On 31st July, 1905, the Germans attacked the Wamatumbi.
20. It must be clearly observed that the rebellion started spreading with a lot of rapidity to other places like Ngindo, Mbuga, Bena, Pogoro and other areas for a national struggle.
21. But the Hehe and Nyamwezi pulled out of the war because of earlier lesson from their rebellions which were seriously defeated.
22. The rebellion took on a very destructive nature; the natives clearly destroyed mission and administrative posts of the Germans especially at Samanga which was located just near Kilwa town. In here, several German administrators were either killed or tortured.
23. Just before the end of 1905, the natives attacked and put massive damage to villages like Mahenge, Lukuledi valley and so on.
24. Seeing that things were going out of hand, the Germans appealed for support from their home government which was brought in before 1906.
25. They even hired the support of the Sudanese mercenaries who helped them crack down the rebels.
26. With home support, the Germans got an upper hand over the natives of Tanzania, the Germans hunted for the leaders of the rebellion upon which more than 40 chiefs and sub-chiefs were rounded up and killed including Abdullah Mpande which greatly horrified and terrified the Africans.

27. Kinjikitile the ring leader was also killed.
28. The rebellion was virtually over before the end of 1907 with the Germans as the victors and the Africans as the Vanquished or defeated group.

EFFECTS OF THE MAJI MAJI REBELLION

1. The rebellion had more destructive effects though it even had positive effects.
2. The effects were also political, social and economic in nature.
3. The Africans were defeated by Germans.
4. There was heavy loss of lives, that is to say over 75,000 people were killed.
5. After the defeat of the Africans, the Germans re-established their rule over Tanganyika.
6. There was also massive destruction of property, for example on 2nd, August 1905; the whole coastal town of Samanga was destroyed into ashes by the Africans.
7. The Africans lost trust in their traditional religion because it did not help them as claimed by the medicine man, Kinjikitile Ngwalwe.
8. Many Africans were displaced during the rebellion.
9. The Africans realized the superiority of the Germans.
10. The Africans did not get their independence, yet they were fighting for it.
11. Famine resulted after destruction of plantations.
12. Depopulation of African societies was yet another serious effect of this rebellion.
13. Though it had failed, the rebellion inspired other rebellions later.
14. Nationalists like Julius Kambarage Nyerere emerged to struggle for the independence of Tanganyika.
15. There was a change in German administration for the betterment of the Africans.
16. The old Governor was sacked and replaced by Von Rechenburg and was instructed to handle the affairs of Tanganyika with a lot of care so that no any other rebellion occurred again.
17. Harsh Akidas and Jumbes were sacked immediately.
18. Corporal punishments were ended in Tanganyika.
19. Taxes were revised and lowered for the betterment of the people of Tanganyika.
20. Mistreatment of Africans by the Germans ended.
21. Swahili was made the official language.
22. Health services like hospitals were extended to the people Tanganyika.

23. Western education was encouraged among the people of Tanganyika.
24. The war was very costly to both sides.
25. Africans were economically exhausted by the rebellion.

Revision questions

- i. What factors led to the Maji-Maji rebellion of 1905 - 1907?
- ii. Describe the course of Maji Maji rebellion of 1905 -1907?
- iii. What were the effects of the above rebellion?