

LEGITIMATE TRADE

Legitimate trade was established to replace slave trade in West Africa.

It involves the exchange of goods for goods instead of human beings exchanged for goods.

FACTORS FOR THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEGITIMATE TRADE IN WEST AFRICA:

- Abolition of slave trade led to the emergence of legitimate trade that was meant to abolish slave trade.
- It was also introduced as to create employment to the freed slaves of West Africa who had become problems.
- The European also developed legitimate trade in order to compensate their European traders who had invested a lot in slave trade in West Africa.
- The rise of Niger Delta states like Bonny, Brass, Opobo, Itsekiric, etc. led to the development of legitimate trade since they participated actively in it.
- The rise of trading rulers e.g. Itsekiric, Jaja of Opobo and the chief of Lagos also led to the development of legitimate trade.
- The need for raw materials for European Industries in West Africa also led to the development of the trade.
- Need for consumers' goods like guns, Clothes, beads, Whisky and others also led to the development of the trade.
- The prevailing peace and security in West Africa that was suitable for trade also led to the development of the trade.
- The availability of the highly demanded local goods e.g. Palm oil, gold, bee wax, ostrich feathers and others in West Africa also attracted foreign traders.
- The improved transport and communication networks at the interior of West Africa especially during the abolition of slave trade in West Africa also contributed to the development of legitimate trade.
- The coming of European Traders from Britain, France, Spain and others also boosted the development of legitimate trade in West Africa.
- The hospitality of the West African people towards foreigners could have also contributed much towards the development of the legitimate trade.
- The introduction of common currencies like Cowrie Shell, Manillas, Iron bars and others as a medium of exchange also made trading easy leading the development of the trade.

ORGANISATION OF LEGITIMATE TRADE IN WEST AFRICA:

- The foreign participants included the British, Americans, Spaniards, Portuguese, French and others mostly from Europe.
- The local participants from the states like Bonny, Brass, Opobo, Itsekiri and others.
- The imported goods during the trade brought by foreign traders included Clothes, textile, glasses, and mirrors.
- In the other hand, local goods brought by local traders included Palm oil, gold, ivory, ground nuts, timber and others.
- The trade was carried out on barter system which involved the exchange of goods for goods.
- Later media of exchange like Cowrie shells, iron bars, copper, manillas and others were introduced as currencies to be used in transactions.
- Further, the trade between the Africans and the Europeans, the Spanish doubloon, British Pounds and American Dollars were also used during transactions.
- The middlemen in the trade were majorly the Niger delta people who brought goods for the interior of the coast and sold them to the European traders.
- The system of transport mostly used was Water transport, however, African porters were also hired to help to carry the goods to the coast.
- There was no single language for communication used during the trade however many European and African languages were used by the various traders who knew them.
- Trade was conducted on “trust” basis where the European gave their goods in credits to African middlemen.
- The African middlemen then sold the goods and paid back the credits which used to take between 6-12 months to pay back the credits.
- The African middlemen wielded a lot of monopoly powers at the interior of West Africa.
- Whereas from the coast the British merchants and other European traders controlled the trade.

CHALLENGES MET BY LEGITIMATE TRADERS IN WEST AFRICA:

The development of legitimate in West Africa faced a number of challenges as can be seen below:

- Firstly, slave trade still continued hand-in-hand with legitimate trade and this competed against development of legitimate trade.



- The available goods in West Africa were not also as profitable as it was also a case with slave that brought a lot profits to its traders.
- The insecurity and instabilities brought about by in the tribal wars and wars of raids of slaves also made it difficult for the growth of legitimate trade.
- The problems of poor transport especially at the interior also made trading very difficult.
- The traders also faced a problem of lack of a common language for communication during trade since there was no single language known by many.
- Furthermore, sometimes the trade items were scarced in supply due to failure by the middlemen to bring them to the coast.
- Traders also faced a problem of lack of common currency that was generally accepted by all the traders as media of exchange during the trade.
- Related to the above, the European traders cheated the African traders through unfair exchanges using Spanish doublon, British Pounds and American dollars.
- Sometimes the climate of West Africa did not favour the foreign traders especially during hot weather and heavy rainy seasons.
- Some African traders who got goods on credit never came back and paid their credits discouraging the European creditors from giving goods on credits.
- Some traders also lost their trade items to unfaithfully porters who made away with their trade items.
- In some areas, the traders faced the problem of food shortage due to poor harvest and this also affected legitimate trade.
- Some tropical diseases like malaria, small pox, sleeping sickness also attacked some traders making it hard for them to continue with the trade.
- Finally, the legitimate traders from West Africa faced a problem of out-competition by European traders and trading companies who had surplus capital.

EFFECTS OF LEGITIMATE TRADE

The effects of legitimate trade in West Africa were diverse positive and negative as can be seen below:

- There was introduction and importation of new European manufactured goods in West Africa like clothes, glasses, textiles, mirrors which improved on the living standards of the West African people.



- The trade also led to the development of modern towns and cities which were trading stations such as Lagos, Accra, Free town, Lakoja, Oritsha and others.
- Many West African people who are free slaves got employment opportunities which improved on their standard of living.
- The trade also led to the emergence of powerful middle class who were traders and business men who got a lot of wealth from the trade.
- Transport and communication networks like road, railways, and canals were constructed to help in transporting goods especially from the interior.
- European cultures and ways of life were also introduced in West Africa such as ways of dressing, eating using Forks or spoons, marriage and others.
- Agriculture was also boosted through commercial farming and improved farming methods which benefited the West African people.
- Relatively, new crops like cotton, tea, tobacco, sugarcane and others were also introduced in West Africa to boost Agriculture and provide raw materials to European industries.
- Furthermore, new currencies like cowrie shells, Spanish doubloon, American dollars, British pounds and other were introduced in West Africa as a media of exchange.
- New European languages like English, French, Portuguese, and Spaniard were introduced in West Africa as a result of interaction between and the West Africans.
- Financial services like Banking systems and credit facilities were also introduced in West Africa which promoted the economic development.
- There was also increase in the number of foreigners in West Africa since many European traders decided to settle there.
- Once again, Africans gained the dignity and status as human beings unlike it was during slave trade when Africans were treated just like animals or property.
- On the other hand, the trade also facilitated the spread of Christianity since many European traders who were Christians supported the missionaries to spread Christianity.
- Finally, legitimate trade European colonialists in West Africa leading to the colonization of West Africa especially by the British, French, Portuguese and Spaniards.

THE FOUNDATION OF SIERRA LEONE:

After the abolition of slave trade and slavery in Europe and America, efforts were made to start resettling this people in West Africa and this included Humanitarians and Philanthropists who got assistance from their home government.

Thus, humanitarians in Britain led by Granville Sharp got assistance from British government to settle the Negroes from Britain, hence they founded Sierra Leone.



The first batch of over 400 Negros from Britain arrive in Sierra Leone which was named Free town by Granville.

It should be noted that the original people in Sierra Leone were the Mande and the Temne and they call the Negros as the settlers or colonialists.

In order to make the administration of Sierra Leone easy, Granville Sharp founded Sierra Leone Company for commercial and administration purposes.

The second batch of 1000 Negros from Nova Scotia reached Sierra Leone colony in 1792.

The third lot of free slaves arrive in Sierra Leone colony from Jamaica in 1800 and they were referred to as the Maroons in West Africa.

Sierra Leone was founded in later 18th Century as a result of inspiration of British humanitarians like Granville sharp, Wilberforce and Thompson together with the help of British Government.

Sierra Leone was founded as a home to which the Negros slaves who were liberated as a result of a liberation of slave trade could be sent.

There was an alarming call in Europe and America to suppress slave trade in West Africa and replace it with legitimate trade therefore, the free slaves needed the home where they could get permanent settlement hence its foundation.

The Europeans also wanted to spread Christianity and Western civilization through the free slaves and this could be made possible after getting permanent settlement in Africa hence Sierra Leone.

During the American revolution, many black slaves and free men fought for the British empire, thus following the defeat of British, black loyalists together with their masters fled to either England or Nova Scotia as refugee for American persecution, the British decided to find for them a home hence Sierra Leone.

Life had become hard become both for the black and the white loyalists especially for the black who suffered discrimination socially among the white society and they were forbidden freedom and status of equality and because of this, they need home in Africa hence Sierra Leone.

Many of the slaves were poor, illiterate, poverty stricken and unemployed thus there was need to settle the suffering poor liberate slaves in Africa hence Sierra Leone was founded.

The foundation of the colony was also to serve as a way of getting rid of London prostitutes [most of them were Negros] who were regarded as desirable in the English society hence they were to get married to the liberated slaves therefore Sierra Leone was founded.

Generally, the Negros were discriminated and the only solution was to take them away from Europe and America no wonder therefore Sierra Leone was founded.

The anti-slave trade committee and Granville Sharp choose Sierra Leone as a home for free slaves because it was well known in England as the cabinet slave trade.

Sierra Leone has also got good harbors and fresh water supplies for the sailing ships and this made it easy to form the home of the freed slaves and the British government supported the organizers of the scheme and provided transport and supplies in form of food stuff and farm equipment.

NB: In May 1887, the first settlers consisting of 450 Negros and 60 white prostitutes arrive on the coast of Sierra Leone under Captain Thompson.

For security, the police force and administration was also set up to protect the settlers.

The Negros settlers faced a number of problems in their new stations and the Negro settlers did not know the climatic condition of West Africa, the suitable crop to be grown and the season for planting them. The first few years, they suffered because they cannot produce any crops.

Tropical diseases killed many Negro settlers in Sierra Leone. I.e. Malaria, small pox and others.

The African diet did not fit the Negros hence in the first few years, their food was imported from England.

There was shortage of land as the Mande and Temne never wanted the Negros to do any expansion on their land.

There was shortage of man power to work on the large plantations of the Negros in Sierra Leone.

The Napoleonic wars in Europe affected the Negro settlement in Sierra Leone in 1794 when the French attacked and destroyed Freetown because Sierra Leone was a British colony and Britain was an enemy to France.

More so the Company Officials practiced racial discriminations, this was not healthy for the free slaves.

There was imposition of land rent on the Negro settlers and yet they were promised free land before their departure from both America and Britain.

Because of racial discrimination and land rent, there occurred a rebellion which was referred to as Nova Scotia Negro rebellion of 1800.

Granville Sharp company made no profits in Sierra Leone, they spent huge amount of resources on cultivation for large plantations but they reaped nothing hence the company was demoralized from supporting the freed slaves.

Britain finally took over the colony from Granville Sharp in 1807.

The Creoles was a community which emerged in Sierra Leone by 1850 through the inter-marriages between the settlers and the receptive, the settlers came from Jamaica, Nova Scotia (Britain colony in Canada)

Meanwhile the recaptives were the Africans who were captured board in West Africa before final dispatch in Europe.

The intermarriages between these two groups gave rise to a new race called Creoles with a distinct culture, they spoke their own style of English called "Kria" which was a mixture of Yoruba, Temne, Mande, Susu, Ibo and English.

Their culture was an amalgamation of European, American and numerous African culture.

The social system was based on monogamy with the Christian culture, there food was a blend of India, French and African cooking.

They were found in Sierra Leone, they were Christians, they wore European clothe, lived in European style houses, however, they kept traditional customs and gadgets of natives.

The Creoles had been significant in the development of West Africa on the following grounds:



- In the field of Agriculture, not much was done as the land was scarce and not suitable for Agriculture but they encourage plantation Agriculture on small scale.
- In commerce, they encouraged trade between Britain therefore a lot of wealth was brought in West Africa and therefore development.
- The Creoles improved communication in West Africa and even abroad across the ocean e.g. they owned ships across Atlantic and they built infrastructures like roads and railways
- They built schools and many children were sent to school, education as promoted e.g. a teacher training college was established at Fourah Bay in 1827 and a secondary school and university was also built in Sierra Leone.
- Because of this education, many doctors, lawyers, teachers, clergymen were produced and they later become administrators in West Africa.
- The Creoles also helped in the spreading of Western culture in Sierra Leone e.g. through the spread of Christianity by the missionaries e.g. they encouraged polygamy.
- The Creoles established modern towns and cities in West Africa e.g. Freetown, Monrovia.
- The Creoles serviced or repaid the loans to the British government for the creation and reconstruction of roads and railways.
- The Creoles created social order in Sierra Leone based on non-discrimination, they advocated for human rights and equality in West Africa.
- The Creoles were great and writers of books e.g. they wrote the history of Yoruba by Samuel Johnson in 1897, the topography of West Africa by JB Bolton in 1860.
- Many Newspapers were published by the Creoles and they were sold in Africa and Britain and because of that. Sierra Leone became famous in the World.
- They also took up employment in the colonial civil service and dominated both the senior and junior post and they also served in other West African British Colonies especially in Nigeria.

THE DECLINE OF THE CREOLES

The importance of Creoles decline

- Firstly, the Creoles were replaced in many high positions by the British White men and as a result they lost their powers and influence.
- Further, the British had already used the credes in the establishment of colonial rule in West Africa and so they were no longer needed by the British hence their decline.

- In addition, the British also wanted to establish the much better contact and relationship with the local tribes like Tiv, Kru, Mande, Temne and others who were more important to the British at that time than the Creoles.
- The British also feared the negative influence of the Creoles on the local people which made them to pursue the Creoles policy leading to the decline of the Creoles influence.
- Important still, the British also used the indirect rule which involved reserving African culture and Traditional institutions that also made the Creoles less influential unimportant leading to their decline.
- Further still, the Creoles were also not allowed to buy land and own properties by the local people and the British and this made them lose their importance in the West African societies.
- The European missionaries replaced the creoles from the high church positions by white missionaries like Bishop Samuel Crowther Ajays.
- The Creoles merchants were replaced by the Asian traders from Lebanon and Syria and this further weaken the Creole economic influence leading to their decline.
- The diversion of trade to cattle, gold and ivory trade and the interior of Sierra Leone to the port of Conakry in Guinea also made Creoles lose their influence and positions in the trade hence their decline.
- The Creoles influence in the trade was further weakened when the European merchants were replaced by the European firms who had larger capital and therefore the Creoles could not compete with them.
- Finally, the hut tax [Temne and Mande] war of 1893 was the last flow to the creoles influence since the British suspected them for having influenced the local people to rebel against the British and therefore the British resorted into the anti-creoles policy.

THE FOUNDATION OF LIBERIA

Liberia was founded in 1822 by the American colonization society between the Negro slaves from America.

The American colonization society bought land of cape Mesurado because island was so small.

Cape Mesurado was later renamed Monrovia after the United States Of America's president James Monroe by the colonization society and Monrovia became the capital of Liberia.

In the subsequent 14 years, more settlers arrived in the other areas like Cape Palmas, Grand Bassa and Sinoe where more slaves settle



This area therefore expanded to become known as “Liberia” meaning the land of free people who needed liberty.

The state of Liberia stated as a love state between the black and the white friend who were united in this area under the motto “Love of Liberty brought us here”.

REASONS FOR THE FOUNDATION OF LIBERIA:

Liberia was founded for various reasons as below:

- ✓ Firstly, the abolition of slave trade in West Africa and America created the need where freed slaves are to be settled hence the foundation of Liberia.
- ✓ The freed slaves had become a social problem in America. They were unemployed, hardcore criminals, prostitutes and others therefore, there was need to get rid of them from America.
- ✓ The need to spread Christianity to the African Negros and the entire continent of Africa also led to the foundation of Liberia.
- ✓ The need to spread western culture and civilization especially among the settlers also led to the foundation of Liberia.
- ✓ Liberia also had good natural harbors at Monrovia which would allow the shipping of big coater vessels that would boost the trade.
- ✓ Climate of West Africa was also good for Agriculture and settlement that made it easy for the settlers to settle there.
- ✓ Relatedly, the Cape of Mesurado [Monrovia] also had fertile soils that would support large scale agriculture to produce raw materials for the American industries.
- ✓ The need for markets for the American manufactured goods also led to the foundation of Liberia so as to empower settlers to consume those manufactured goods.
- ✓ The Americans also wanted to extend their international trade of West Africa and Africa as a continent that is why they founded Liberia.
- ✓ The American capitalists and industrialists also wanted to invest their surplus capital to earn more revenue and that is why American government founded Liberia.
- ✓ Furthermore, the foundation of Sierra Leone could also have inspired the Americans by the British to establish Liberia as a free slave’s home.
- ✓ The discrimination of the black people in American societies by the white men also led to the foundation of Liberia where those black people could be resettled and not discriminated.

- ✓ The American colonization society also founded Liberia in order to completely eliminate slave trade in West Africa for good.

PROBLEMS FACED BY THE SETTLERS IN LIBERIA

- The settlers in Liberia faced a lot of social, political and economic problems that can be discussed as below.
- Firstly, they suffered from tropical diseases like Malaria and small pox which killed many of them since they do not have natural immunity against those tropical diseases.
- They were also not used to the tropical climate with high rainfall and temperature which made their settlement harder for a short while.
- Some of the local African tribes did not like them and therefore saw them as invaders and therefore attacked and killed them.
- Some of the hardcore traders and some hardcore African chiefs continued to raid the settlers' community and ended up re-enslaving them.
- The French and the British traders refused to pay custom duties to the Liberian government making them to lose a lot of revenue on such tax defaulters.
- The French and the British did not recognize the independence therefore threatened them in the colonization of West Africa.
- Furthermore, there was also lack of funds to run the independent state of Liberia since Liberia was new and poor state that received fund administration from America.
- The power struggle between the settlers to leave Liberia also brought conflicts that almost caused the state of Liberia to collapse especially between the Republican Party and the True Whigs party.
- There was also overcrowding by the settlers in Liberia due to lack of enough land since the local people refused to sell land to them.
- Moreso the American colonization society promised the settlers free land when they came to Liberia but again the society taxed the settlers highly on rent for land which also put them into more problems.
- The Liberian constitution imposed on the settlers gave much powers to the colonization society like power to appoint and dismiss any government official at their own will.
- There was also lack of improper infrastructures like roads, railways and other communication networks which made trade and movement difficult.
- Finally, the settlers suffered from racial class differences and discrimination like the mullatoes were preferred to hold government positions to the Negros settlers and the local people.



THE POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN LIBERIA UPTO 1900

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

- At first, Liberia was under direct control of the American colonization society which had founded Liberia.
- The American colonization society appointed agents and vice agents who were also elected by all adults in Liberia to administer on their behalf.
- In 1836, the five counties of Liberia which were Grand Bassa, Edina, Marshall, Greenville and others form the common wealth of Liberia.
- The common wealth was headed by a governor and its first governor was Thomas Buchana the white man.
- Later, the settlers' pressure meant the American colonization society to appoint the Negro governor called Joseph Jenkins Roberts.
- J.J Roberts imposed custom duties on trading ships in Liberian ports in order to raise revenue for the administration of Liberia but this received a lot of resistance from the British and French traders who did not recognized the independence of Liberia.
- In 1847, due to the financial burden or problems that Liberia was giving the American colonization society, Liberia was granted her independence from America by the colonization society.
- Joseph Jenkins Roberts became the first President of the Republic of Liberia.
- There was a constitution on Liberia model to that of the United States and among others it provided for the House of Representatives and the Supreme Court.
- The republic of Liberia was divided into five counties which were Monteserrado, Grand Bassa, Maryland, Sinoe and the Grand of cape Mount.
- The interior of Liberia was administered through the indirect rule system which were the traditional rulers govern their people under the supervision of commissioners appointed by the independent government of Liberia.
- There was the establishment of political party system and there were two political parties that existed.
- The Republican Party was dominated the mixed race of American and African settlers and they were famously known as the Mullatoes.
- The true Whig party was dominated by the Black Negroes and headed by Edward James Roye and 1869, they won the Presidency of Liberia.

- The two political parties struggle for powers in Liberia and each used their positions in power to cripple their opponents.
- Liberia's expansion in 1850s brought her into border disputes with the French and the British colonies of Guinea and Sierra Leone respectively.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS:

- The Liberian society was sharply divided based on colour bars and this created a sharp colour discrimination in the social, political and economic fields in Liberia.
- The Americo-Africans who were a mixed race of the Americans and the Africans famously known as the Mullatoes dominated the other races at first.
- The mullatoes held the American, social, religious and cultural values by due to their long stay in America.
- There was always racial classes between the different races that is the Mullatoes, Negroes settlers and local West African people who had lived in the place before.
- By 1862, education was developed by building many schools and colleges where women and men of different skills and occupations were produced.
- The independent government also built hospitals and health centres where people got medical assistances from.
- With the coming of more Christian missionaries, Christianity was encouraged and many churches and mission stations were set up in order to enforce the spread of Christianity.
- The European ways and styles of houses could be seen in Liberia as a result familiarity by the Negroes and the Mullatoes who had lived in America.
- Western culture was spread widely in Liberia including common use of Kiswahili language, ways of dressing, eating, marriage, family setup and others.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS:

- The economy of Liberia was basically built around agriculture where they developed large plantations of sugar and coffee.
- Sugar and coffee became Liberia's largest export which paid her a lot of foreign revenue for her administration.
- However, with the development of coffee and sugar plantation in Brazil and other West African countries, sugar and coffee export in Liberia declined.

- Liberia resorted to trade in palm oil and raffia palm fibres by 1850s which brought her quick profits from international trade.
- Her trade brought her manufactured goods like clothes, beads, guns, whisky and others from Europe and America.
- Later the European partition of West Africa brought her into trade conflicts and competition with the British and French colonies and this affected her trade too.
- Because of the above, she received low revenue income from trade and agriculture which could not support her national expenditure on education, health, infrastructure and others,
- In 1884, Liberia's annual total revenue was only at US \$ 25,000 less than that of Sierra Leone and this meant that by the 20th century, Liberia was the poor and backward nation.

ISLAMIC JIHADS IN WEST AFRICA

ISLAM AND JIHADS MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

- Islam was a religion introduced in the Middle East as early as 600AD by Prophet Muhammad of Makkah (Mecca).
- After Prophet Muhammad's death in 632AD, the Arabs Muslims were scattered in Europe, Asia and Africa due to religious persecution.
- With the Arab conquest of North Africa around the 7th century, Islam became close to West African people due to the trade contacts and relations between Western Sudan and North Africa.
- In West Africa, Tekrur Kingdom under the Dya'ogo dynasty rule were the first people to accept Islam in western Sudan as early as 1840s.
- With the rise of Muslim empires like Mali, Songhai, Kanem Bornu, Islam became very influential and spread widely in West Africa.

REASONS FOR THE SPREAD OF ISLAM IN WEST AFRICA

Islamic religion spread faster in West Africa due to several reasons which were social, cultural, political and economic as can be seen below:

- Firstly, Islam spread faster in western Sudan because it was the only foreign religion in West Africa at that time with no foreign rival to interfere with its spread.
- The Arab conquest of North Africa around the 17th century also brought Islam closer to the West African people due to the contacts between them.
- Further, the Muslim Arab traders also prefer to trade with only fellow Muslim brothers and this made many people to convert to Islam in order to trade with the Muslim Arabs.

- The rise of Muslim dominated empires like Mali, Songhai and Kanem Bornu also greatly supported the spread of Islam since Islamic religion was made a state religion.
- Relatively, the rise of great Muslim leaders in those empires like Mansa Musa, Askia Muhammad, Idris Alooma who inspired other West African people to embrace Islam.
- Pilgrimages made by those leaders especially Mansa Musa also inspired other West African People to convert to Islam and also made such pilgrimage.
- The coming of Muslim scholars to West Africa like Al-Munnabbah, Al-Masudi, Al-Bakri, Al-Khawarizmi and others also led to the spread of Islam as they stayed and preached the religion.
- Furthermore, the Muslim titles like Hjj, Hajat, and Sheikh were also attractive to the West African people and so they converted to Islam to get such titles.
- Some of the Islamic practices were also in line with the traditional practices and culture of Islamic people like polygamy, inheritance and others which also attracted many West African people to Islam.
- The building of Koranic schools and Islamic learning centres where people were taught and writing Arabic languages made learners of such places to convert to Islam.
- Further still, the intermarriages between the Muslim Arabs and the West African people also made very many people to convert to Islam in order to keep their marriages.
- The Muslim work of Charity like giving of free food, foreign items like clothes, beads, necklaces and others also attracted many people to Islamic religion.
- Some people were attracted to Islam just because of the Muslim ways of Lives and dressing where men put on Kanzu and women put on long clothes and veil their heads.
- The rise of Muslim brotherhood groups like Tijaniyyah, Quadiniyyah and others in West Africa purposely to spread Islam also supported the spread of Islamic religion.
- Finally, the use of force by some Islamic Jihadists groups also forced many people to convert to Islam especially during the 19th Jihads.

EFFECTS OF ISLAM IN WEST AFRICA

The spread of Islam in West Africa affected them socially, politically and economically in both short and long term periods as can be seen below.

- Firstly, many mosques were built in West Africa where Muslim could go and pray from.
- Many Koranic schools, learning centres, colleges and Universities among others were built to study theology like the most notable one was Sankore University in Timbuktu that was built during Mansa Musa's rule.



- Trade was also boosted since Muslim preachers were also traders and they preferred to trade only with the fellow Muslim brothers.
- Islamic system of administration based on Islamic laws (Sharia) was also introduced in some West African states like Mali, Songhai and Kanem Bornu.
- Arabic language was also introduced since many Muslim preachers preached in Arabic which is also the language of Qur'an.
- Many West African people also went to Makkah in Saudi Arabia to make pilgrimages and therefore they attain titles of Hajj and Hajat.
- There was the spread of some Arabic cultures in West Africa like Arabic ways of dressing, feasting, marriage and others.
- There was also intermarriages between the people of West Africa and the Muslim Arabs which led to the rise of new races like the Berber, Arma and Fulani among others.
- There was also the development of trading centres into towns and cities with the development of schools and other centres around them e.g. Timbuktu, Goa and others.
- The Muslim Arabs also brought new goods to West Africa like spices, clothes, pepper and many others which improved on the living standards of the West African people.
- The spread of Islam also brought about unity, peace and co-existence among the different societies of West Africa that has embraced it despite having different historical and cultural backgrounds.
- The influence of traditional religion was also reduced in areas where Islam was widely spread and in some cases, traditional religion disappeared.
- The spread of Islam led to the rise and growth of some states which were united as one people under the umbrella of Islam like Mali, Songhai and Kanem Bornu.
- On the other hand, other states which were considered pagan states also collapsed due to resistance from Muslim subjects who never wanted to be rule by such pegans and infidels like Ghana Empire.
- Muslim scholars flocked West Africa and they were appointed in many positions of administration as advisors, clerks and court officials.
- Islam also promoted international relationship between the people of West Africa, North African countries like Egypt, Tunisia and the Middle East among others.
- Finally, the introduction of Islam in West Africa led to the rise of Jihadists groups in West Africa leading to the 19th century Jihads in West Africa.

ISLAMIC JIHAD MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA:



Jihad referred to the holy wars fought by the Muslims to protect the teaching and practices of Islam.

In West Africa, the major Jihad movement was led by Uthman Don Fodio and Muhammad Bello in Hausa land, Seku Ahmadu in Massina and Al-Hajj Umar in Tokolor.

After the collapse of the Muslim dominated Songhai Empire, around the 16th century, Islam had also declined and therefore, there was need to revive it.

CAUSES OF THE 19TH CENTURY JIHADS MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA:

Jihads in West Africa was caused by many reasons as can be seen below:

- Firstly, the need to purify Islam that was being adulterated by traditional religious practices made the Muslims like Uthman Don Fodio, Muhammad Bello, Seku Ahmadu and others to wage holy wars to purify Islam.
- The need to revive Islam that had decline in spread and influence after the collapse of Songhai empire around the 16th century also led to the occurrence of the 19th century Jihadists movement in West Africa.
- The emergence of Jihadists leaders like Uthman Don Fodio, Muhammad Bello in Hausa land, Al-Hajj Umar in Tokolor and Seku Ahmadu in Massina among others who mobilized and led the people also led to the Jihads in West Africa.
- Furthermore, the Muslim subjects also never wanted to be ruled by non-Muslim rulers whom they considered pegans and infidels and therefore, Jihads were meant to remove them.
- In addition, the Fulani were educated and work in various positions as clerks, advisors, teachers, lawyers therefore they fill their uneducated rulers were inferior to them and so they joined the Jihads.
- Furthermore, the spread of Islam in West Africa in many areas also caused the Jihads because without the Islam in West Africa, the Jihads were not also going to be there.
- The long enmity between Islam and traditional religion also exploded into holy wars by Muslim against the traditional religion in the 19th century.
- Further still, the Muslim subjects in some states were also being forced to worship idles by their rulers who were non-Muslims and therefore, their subjects rose against such rulers.
- The Muslim also hated their rulers because of corruption and oppression and therefore, they fought against their rulers to do away with corruption and oppression.

- The Muslims also hated forceful recruitment into pegans armies that were being done by non-Muslim rulers and therefore the Muslim fought to relive themselves from such conscription.
- Important still, the selling of Muslim into slavery by some West Africans also angered them leading to the 19th century Jihads in West Africans.
- The unfair and heavy taxes imposed on Muslim which were also against the teaching of Islam by non- Muslim leaders also made the Muslim to resort to jihads in order to solve the problems.
- The Muslim traders also wanted to revive the trade union system that had existed during the Mali and the Songhai empire times and this was why they joined the Jihads.
- The need to establish Islamic Caliphates in West Africa where Islamic laws and Islamic system of administration could be applied also led to the 19th century Jihads in West Africa.
- The rise of Muslim brotherhood especially Qudirriyyah and Tijaniyyah also caused the Jihads as some of this groups were radical in their approach.
- Finally, the success of early Jihads movement like that of Uthman Don Fodio also inspired other Jihads later in West Africa.

EFFECTS OF THE JIHADS MOVEMENT IN WEST AFRICA

The 19th century Jihads in West Africa affected the people in many ways which were religious, social, political and economic effects as can be seen below:

- Firstly, Islam was spread widely in West Africa as his influences was revived and others were forced to convert to Islam for fear of attacks by the Jihadists.
- There was also the establishment of large political units by the Muslim Jihads like the Tokolor caliphate, Uthman Don Fodio, Mandinka Empire and Tokolor by Al-Hajj Umar.
- In addition, the Jihads also led to the establishment of new Islamic system of administration based on sharia (Islamic laws) which created political order in West Africa.
- On the other hand, traditional laws that had created confusion and civil strife was also replaced by Islamic laws that brought in judicial order and stability.
- In addition, the old leaders who were corrupt and oppressive were also over thrown e.g. in Hausa land where the Fulani Emirates took over power.
- The jihads also created peace and stability in a long run which boosted Agriculture and trade in many West African states where the Jihads took place.

- The past unfair and unjust taxes which were imposed on the Muslims yet against the teachings of the Islam were also removed.
- Many Islamic literature and jihads were written by Uthman don Fodio, Seku Ahmadu and Al-Hajj Umar among others which promoted development in West Africa.
- The jihads in West Africa also created unity among the Muslims which unity enabled them to resist even the European colonialists like Samoure Toure in Mandinka Empire who resisted the French for long.
- The success of the early Jihads also inspired other Jihads in other West African states especially the Jihad of Uthman don Fodio.
- The emergence of the Muslim brotherhood groups like Qudirriyyah and Tijaniyyah also created disunity among the Muslim in West Africa who were divided along those Muslim brotherhood lines.
- With the revival of Islam after jihads, Muslim schools and mosque, learning centres and colleges were built to support the spread of Islam.
- Some of the structures established by the Muslim political units were used by the Europeans especially the British to establish their colonial rule in West Africa.
- The jihads also led to the loss of lives of some people who were killed in the battle fields and this was in both sides.
- The jihads also led to the destruction of properties settlements like farm lands especially where the wars concentrated.
- In the short run, there were also instabilities in many places where the holy wars were fought as others were forced to flee their homes and settlement.
- In conclusion, Islamic jihads in West Africa affected West Africa both positively and negatively in both short term and long term aspects.

Sample Quiz

1. What were the causes of the 19th jihadists' movement in West Africa.
2. What were the effects of their movement into West Africa by the 19th Century?

UTHMAN DON FODIO

Uthman Don Fodio was born in 1754 in a small town of Marantha in Gobir.



He was a son to Mallam Muhammad Fodio and his mother Maimuna who were the great Muslims at that time.

He studied Islam and belong to the Qudirriyyah Muslim brotherhood group that was famous in West Africa in the 19th century.

By 1800, don Fodio emerged as a great Muslim scholar and a teacher in Hausa land who preached Islam widely to the People.

He established his base at a town called Degel where he attracted the attention of Degel leaders at that time.

He condemned the unjust taxes on Muslims, political oppression and the nominal characters of the Hausa leaders at that time.

He wrote so many books condemning evils and calls for forms in the Muslim societies of West Africa at that time.

During the reign of power Uthman don Fodio, signed agreement with him in which some of the above unfairness were to be addressed.

In the agreement, the unfair taxes on Muslims were to be abolished, the Muslim men were allowed to put on Turbans and women to put on Veils, the Muslims were not forcefully recruited in the army and even to be sold into slavery.

By 1804, John Yunfa, the leader of Gobir turned against Uthman Don Fodio forcing him and his followers to flee to Gudu where he mobilized the Fulani, Tuaregs and some other people from Hausa land to wage he had against the people.

Uthman don Fodio's army had taken over Gobir, movement parts of Hausa land and other areas of West Africa including Kano, Katsina, Zaria, Adamawa and Bornu, etc.

He established later the Sokoto caliphate where Muslims became rulers and used Islamic laws to administer the caliphate.

Uthman don Fodio later retired in active politics and left his son Muhammad Bello and his brother Abdallah on politics leadership of the Muslim states that had been taken by the jihadists.

He continued preaching as a Muslim scholar where he taught many children who later become Muslim scholars of West Africa.

He also wrote many books for Islam which was widely read in West Africa on the history and Jurisprudence of Islam.



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Uthman Don Fodio also set up many Koranic schools and learning centres which supported the study of Islamic religion in West Africa.

Because of his influence and achievements, some of his followers referred to him as Amir-Al-Muhminin (commander or leader of believers) and also referred to him as Mahdi (Messiah) in West Africa.

Uthman Don Fodio died in 1817 but his revolution on jihad movement was a great revolution of the 19th century that affected most parts of West Africa even beyond the 19th century that he lived.

Sample Quiz

1. What were the contribution of Uthman don Fodio in the history of West Africa during the 19th century jihadists movement.

THE CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES IN WEST AFRICA

The first European Christian missionaries to come to West Africa were the Portuguese catholic missionaries, they came between the 15th and 17th century and visited Senegambia, Benin, Wari in Southern Niger but did not have any serious impact.

Another group were the Willsteyon Missionary society who started working in West Africa as early as 1795, they preached in Sierra Leone and in 1825, they extended their work to Ghana through the activities of Rev. Thomas B. Freeman.

In 1844, the Scottish Missionary society opened the station of Abeokuta so that they can use local personnel like Samuel Ajays Crowther to carry out missionary works by preaching.

REASONS WHY MISSIONARIES CAME TO WEST AFRICA

A number of reasons were responsible for the Christian missionaries in West Africa.



- They had a desire to spread and convert the people of West Africa into Christianity and to fight against traditionalism and Islam.
- As humanitarians, they wanted to stop slave trade and slavery in West Africa because this had led to a lot of sufferings in West Africa.
- The missionaries wanted to promote legitimate trade so that the standard of living would improve in West Africa since they would get revenue from this trade.
- Furthermore, missionaries wanted to educate the Africans and spread western civilization in West Africa so that the African could be enlightened with modern civilization.
- In addition to the above, they wanted to stop some bad traditional practices and murdering of twins which had claimed a lot of human lives.
- The Christian missionaries also wanted to put an end to the spread of Islam in West Africa so that Christianity should become the main religion in West Africa.
- Some missionaries came to West Africa simply because they wanted to explore the regions of West Africa and the beautiful and benefits that can be got from West Africa like minerals.
- Others came to look for markets for goods from their home countries in other words, some of the missionaries were traders.
- Others came as imperialists that is they came to acquire colonies for their respective home government hence they acted as spies.

PROBLEMS FACED BY MISSIONARIES IN WEST AFRICA

In carrying out their activities or duties in West Africa, the missionaries encounter a number of challenges:

- The missionaries were white men and some of them were seen by the local people as people who participated in slave trade and because of this, the local people were not willing to welcome them and this made their work difficult.
- In addition, the harsh climatic condition in West Africa affected the movement and work of the missionaries i.e. the climate was humid and hot and it was unhealthy for the whites who were used to cool and climate from Europe.
- On the other hand, diseases like malaria and small pox affected this people and West Africa because a white man's grave because the death toll of the missionaries was very high, this made their work difficult. Sometimes there were tribal customs and traditions that were deeply rooted in people's cultural lives e.g. polygamy, Circumcision, smoking,

child sacrifices, beer drinking. This made the missionaries' to face stiff oppositions from the traditionalists.

- Hostility from the slave traders, this people strongly hated the missionaries because of their campaigns against slavery and for this, they attacked the missionaries and killed some of them.
- Poor transport and communication means affected the work of the missionaries because at this time, west Africa was less developed in terms of roads, railways, telephones and because of this, there was reduced mobility, few people could be reached and hence few converts.
- Lack of supplies, it should be noted that the missionaries were operating far away from home and it would take months or even years for them to receive assistance from this problem retarded missionary activities in West Africa.
- Furthermore, the missionaries faced a problem of language as a mode of communication. They had to spend a long time to learn African languages and so they had to use interpreters, this limited the expansion of their work.
- In addition, the missionary groups that operated in West Africa were too few to be affected and yet of the few, most of them died. For this matter, their work was difficult.
- Quarrels and misunderstanding between the whites themselves limited the progress of their work i.e. the different factions only work for their interest and sometimes some of them were harsh and indisciplined hence it endangered the evangelization process.
- Hostility and opposition from rulers also affected the work of the missionaries like Samon Toure oppose the missionaries so much and in Northern Nigeria, the Fulani also oppose the missionary works.
- The Christian missionaries also had stiff opposition from the Muslims who had already gained routes in West Africa hence their evangelization work was made difficult.

EFFECTS OF THE MISSIONARY ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA:

The missionary activities in West Africa left significant influence in that society:

- In many parts of West Africa, the Christian missionaries helped a great deal in promoting Christianity like in Lagos, Abeokuta, and Ibadan, Sierra Leone among others and in this area, they built churches for proper spread of the gospel.
- Besides the above, the Christian missionaries initiated and promoted western education i.e. they encouraged the establishment of both elementary and secondary schools and

elementary schools in Sierra Leone and 2 secondary schools one for boys and one for girls.

- The Christian missionaries made improvement in medical and health services, before the coming of the missionaries, the Africans depended on the local herbs and magic for treatment but missionaries built medical centres in West Africa and they established quinine to fight against malaria leading to population increase.
- Through missionary influence and support from the home government, slave trade was abolished i.e. humanitarians and Christian missionaries like William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson and others were ready to devote their lives for the abolition of slave trade.
- They encouraged commerce through the formation of the trading companies and setting up trading centres through which the Africans could get manufactured goods from Europe and they could also sell their local goods like the church missionary society form the Basel trading company in 1862.
- They introduced new architecture suitable to the tropical land like brick laying, stone houses, tile roofing and corrugated iron roofing.
- The missionaries made further improvements in the fields of agriculture i.e. they introduced new cash crops such as palm oil, cocoa, they distributed seeds to the Negroes farmers, setting up plantation and teaching new agricultural method of farming and preparing methods.
- They checked on African human practices like the human sacrifice, twin mutilation, etc. and this created peace and tranquility.
- The missionaries also embarked on the systematic study of local languages so as to introduce them to writing and teaching their converts how to read and write hence local languages were written in grammar books such as Tui, aa, Gwe, Hausa, and Yoruba.
- The missionaries also introduced the first printing press in West Africa such as the press by Terian Press in Ghana, and the church missionary society press in Nigeria, this helped in printing and distribution of religious literature hence the Africans are able to read and write and do some arithmetic.
- The missionaries further made improvements in transport and communication networks. This was done in order to facilitate the work of evangelization hence ports, harbors, bridges and railways lines among others were constructed and most of the interior of West Africa was opened to facilitate easy movements.
- Furthermore, the missionaries helped in development of urban centres and trade i.e. most places along the roads and railway lines grew into important urban centres like Lagos and Freetown were brought up.



- On the other hand, African culture were undermined as a result of Africans acquiring new western cultures like monogamy, method of dressing and architecture among others.
- On the political ground, the Christian missionary activities in West Africa paved way for the easy conquest of African societies especially where they had much influence i.e. they were therefore ran as the European colonization.