

## **THE NGONI MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT (COURSE)**

The Ngoni migration had its origins in South Eastern Africa and was primarily sparked off by Shaka expansionist wars that created a period of troubles historically called Mfecane.

There were several waves of migration from South Africa but two groups came to East Africa around the 1820s. Each group taking a different direction.

The first and biggest group as led by Nduna chief Zwangendaba. These moved through Central Africa, destroying the settled Shona communities in 1831.

They crossed River Zambezi in 1835, travelled through Malawi and finally settled around Ufipa plateau in 1840.

This was after destroying the small disorganized Fipa communities. The Ngoni settled around Fipa because the soils were fertile and the people were easy to conquer.

However, around 1848, Zwangendaba died. Without his strong leadership, his group split into five small groups. Three of these went back to Central Africa, settling in present day Malawi and Zambia.

The remaining two groups decided to remain permanently in Tanzania. These were the Tuta and Gwangwara Ngoni.

The Tuta Ngoni moved northwards into the land of the Holoholo on the Eastern shores of Lake Tanganyika but were driven out, forcing them to change course and settle in North – eastern Tanzania among the Nyamwezi around 1850.

This group took the young Mirambo captive in Bugomba and disrupted trade caravans between Tabora and Ujiji.

The Gwangwara group too, under Zulu Gama decided to leave Fipa and moved eastwards, destroying Hehe and Sangu settlements.

Meanwhile the second and smaller group led by Maputo had reached East Africa travelling up the Eastern side of Lake Nyasa until they reached Songea around 1840.

At Songea the Ngoni absorbed and intermarried with local inhabitants they found there i.e. the Yao.

By 1860, the Gwangwara had reached Songea here they clashed with the Maseko Ngoni defeating them and forcing them to flee.

The defeated Maseko split into two groups. One group under Chief Maputo moved backwards crossing River Ruvuma and settled in Mozambique and South eastern Malawi.

The other group fled northwards to Morogoro and these came to be the Mbuga Ngoni and others scattered to Tunduru, Masaai and Newale.

From Songea, this Gwangwara group raided the land between Lake Malawi and the coast, creating a period of instability, uncertainty and chaos. However, their activities were brought to an end by the Germans around 1886.

## **REASONS FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE NGONI MIGRATION**

The Ngoni managed to defeat the societies they met with relative ease because;

During their movement they always captured young men and women. The young men served as warriors and women as wives. This meant that the Ngoni always had a large force compared to their enemies.

The Ngoni had an outstanding military organization inherited from Shaka. They divided their army into fighting units called Impis.

They also had a strong standing army that was always ready to crush the enemy. They also had an age set system as the basis of their military regiments.

They were also equipped with superior weapons compared to the people they met. Such weapons included the short stabbing spear and large cow hide shields.

They had good military tactics of attacking their enemies like the cow – horn tactic which enabled them to encircle their enemies easily.

They also preferred fighting in the open and barefooted which facilitated easy mobility. They also carefully planned each battle.

Most of the Ngoni enemies were weak and small societies that were organized on a clan basis and therefore could not challenge the military might of the Ngoni.

These societies were disunited and often at war with each other.

Societies that could have resisted the Ngoni invasion were always attacked unprepared. This was because the Ngoni used surprise attacks.

The Ngoni always used the scorched earth policy on those that tried to resist them e.g. burning villages, food stores and gardens. This scared small societies forcing them to flee on seeing them.

Unlike other tribes, the Ngoni fighters were professionally trained and free of any work. This means that their entire lives were dedicated to fighting.

The Ngoni had great experience in large scale warfare which many of the interior tribes lacked. The many wars they had fought gave them immunity to small bloodshed.

The Ngoni commanders kept the morale of the army high by promising them rewards after victory, hence making them work harder.

The Ngoni fighters were also loyal and united under their leaders and commanders.

They were also aggressive and determined because they could not go back to South Africa in case of defeat. They therefore, had to fight hard to ensure that they remained in East Africa.

The Ngoni warriors were not affected by famine because they always looted for food wherever they passed.

The long journey from South Africa almost 2000 miles gave them military discipline and strong endurance.

## **EFFECTS OF THE NGONI MIGRATION**

The Ngoni invasion had many effects on the peoples of East Africa. These were political, economic and social, but many of them were destructive and damaging than positive.

Their migration created a period of wars in areas that were previously peaceful. The settled Fipa communities were for example destroyed and devastated.

It also led to massive loss of lives. Many people who tried to block their movements were killed and others taken captive.

The conquered were absorbed into their ranks and most of them adopted the Ngoni culture and language hence losing their culture and identity.

There was also massive destruction of property, burning of villages and general breakdown of society. This resulted into a period of insecurity, turmoil and chaos.

There was increased slave trade because of the Ngoni's confusion, chaos and disorganization. This caused untold suffering, bloodshed and a period of uncertainty.

There was heavy depopulation especially in southern Tanzania due to the Ngoni slave raids and wars they fought with the local people.

Famine broke out in many societies since no farming and harvesting could not take place because of the Ngoni raids. Cows were looted, food stores and field destroyed, resulting into wide spread famine.

The Ngoni invasion disrupted the Long distance trade caravans. The Tuta Ngoni for example disrupted trade caravans along the central route between Tabora and Ujiji. This resulted into poverty as the wars could not allow trade to flourish.

Many people copied the Ngoni military tactics i.e. the cow – horn tactic and adopted their weapons like the short stabbing spear for defense against the slave traders and local enemies.

Their weaponry and tactics were later used against them. The Holoholo for example managed to learn their military tactics and used them to defeat them.

Mirambo who had been taken captive in Bugomba by the Ngoni managed to learn their tactics in captivity and later used them to build a strong military empire.

He also copied some of their fearful customs like wearing ornaments made of people's teeth. This was intended to instill fear among their enemies.

Their migration therefore created a new generation of warlords and leaders like Nyungu ya mawe and Mirambo.

Their mass movement also resulted into the spread of diseases in Southern and Central Tanzania e.g. malaria and small pox.

The Ngoni terror and confusion forced many societies to regroup, unite and form bigger chiefdoms e.g. Chief Munyugumba managed to create a strong centralized empire in Tanzania between 1850 and 1870.

In the same way their terror and tactics hardened and prepared many tribes to resist the European imperialists e.g. Mkwawa of the Hehe used this advanced political organization to resist the Germans for some time.

Their migration also led to the decline of some states especially those that had no capacity to resist their aggression. For example, the Bena and Sangu were defeated by Munyugumba using the Ngoni tactics.

There was the formation of warrior groups like the Mavit and Rugaruga. These were bandits who lived by looting and plundering. Mirambo later used these bandits to build a powerful commercial empire.

Their invasion also led to the displacement of people. For example, the Yao lost their lands to the Ngoni and were forced to settle in unfavorable areas.

Initially, there was population increase in Southern Tanzania where Ngoni settled. This was so because they absorbed their conquered people in their society.

There was loss of culture and decline of tribes. For example the Ngoni displaced people from their original homelands making them lose their culture.

## **THE MIGRATION OF THE PLAIN NILOTES**

These were a section of the Nilotes who preferred to settle in the large, open and vast areas of East Africa during their migration and settlement. Their life was characterized by cattle keeping and rustling. They include the Jie, Karamojong, Iteso, Turkana and Masaai.

## **REASONS FOR THEIR MIGRATION**

Just like any other migrations, the reasons for the migration of the plain Nilotes are not clear but based on their way of life historians have put forward the following possible causes;

Due to increase in population, land is assumed to have become small for their growing numbers forcing them to search for bigger areas for settlement.

It is probable that the plain Nilotes migrated in search of fertile areas that could support agriculture. This could be true of the agricultural Maasai i.e. Kwavi Maasai.

It is also assumed that since they were pastoralists may be they were looking for pastures and water for their animals.

Their original homeland could have experienced the problem of overstocking. This created the problem of land shortage and later conflicts.

The plain Nilotes also witnessed prolonged seasons of drought and the drying of water reservoirs which might have forced them to move in search of water.

Epidemic diseases like small pox, malaria, river blindness and Nagana may have hit their area due to overcrowding, forcing some to look for new disease free areas.

Internal conflicts are given as a probable cause for their migration. These may have possibly been family quarrels or clan feuds. Other conflicts may have been over land that was not enough.

It is also believed that there were external conflicts and pressure from the neighbors especially the Cushites.

There were also constant internal hostilities and raids among Karamojongs themselves and sometimes between the Karamojongs and Turkana s over cattle.

Others assume that their migration was just out of love for adventure and wandering as they may have just wanted to be in a new place.

Severe famine might also have hit their area forcing them to look for new areas that could give them food.

Some historians attribute their migration to the harsh climate.

### **THEIR MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT INTO EAST AFRICA (COURSE)**

Their movements were slow and gradual, spreading over a very long period of 1000 and 1800 AD. Sometimes these movements were also seasonal and usually in small family or clan groups.

Their migration is not clear but a large section of them are believed to have come from the northeast, probably the southern slopes of the Ethiopian Highlands.

From Ethiopia, they moved southwards and by 1000 AD, they had reached and settled north of Lake Rudolf in Kenya.

Lake Rudolf i.e. Turkana became their dispersal point from where they spread into various directions and this was because of epidemic diseases like Nagana, river blindness, tsetse fly infection of the area.

They got divided into two major groups, the Teso – Masaai and Bari – speakers.

The Bari – speakers moved into the Sudan while the Teso – Maasai spread into East Africa.

The Teso – Maasai split into three small groups, the Lotuko, the Masai, Karamojong and Iteso. The Lotuko moved and finally settled in Sudan.

The Masai moved southwards and settled between Mt. Kenya, Kilimanjaro and Taita Hills. From there the Masaai expanded southwards along the rift valley.

The Masai then established themselves in the area ranging from the Uasin – Gishu plateau in the north east Lakipie and Samara in southern Tanzania.

By the 17<sup>th</sup> century they had separated into 16 independent groups each with its own territory, source of pasture and water.

During their migration they met with the Chagga and the Kikuyu onto whom they passed the Cushitic culture of circumcision, initiation and iron working.

The Iteso and Karamojong first settled on Mt. Moroto before their major dispersal during 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Due to increase in population, the Iteso moved further Southwards into Eastern Uganda and Western Kenya. In Uganda, the Iteso settled in present Soroti, Mbale, Kaberamaido and Kumi.

The Karamojong first moved south westwards from Mt. Moroto and then moved westwards settling into the present – day south and central Karamoja.

The Dodoth and Jie moved northwards settling in present day Kotido.

The Turkana first moved north – eastwards into present day Northern Kenya but later turned south near Lake Turkana due to pressure from the Samburu.

## **THEIR EFFECT ON THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA**

Their coming increased warfare, raids and general insecurity in East Africa. For example there were wars between the Masaai and the Samburu, Masai and the Galla, Pokot and Turkana etc.

These conflicts and wars resulted into massive loss of lives and destruction of property.

Because of these conflicts, many people were forced to leave their original homelands for example the Kamba, Kikuyu and Kipsigis were all driven out of their lands.



They also brought pastoralism on large scale and many communities in East Africa like the Kamba and Kikuyu adopted this cattle culture.

They also introduced a drought resistant short horned breed of cattle. This breed spread to almost all the areas where they settled.

Their migration also led to population increase in East Africa especially in areas like Northern Tanzania, Eastern Uganda and Western Kenya. This later led to land conflicts.

There were various intermarriages resulting into the birth of new tribes. For example the Iteso intermarried with the Luo forming the Kuman and the union of the Ateker pastoralists and resulted into the Langi.

Some of the plain Nilotes copied the ideas of cultivation from the Bantu for example the Masaai who became mixed farmers.

They traded with their neighbors for example the Iteso bartered cereals with the Banyoro and the Kalenjin traded in iron articles for skins, butter and cattle from the Masai.

They copied the knowledge of iron working from Cushites which they promoted in the various parts of East Africa.

The plain Nilotes also took over control of many societies they came into contact with. The Masaai conquered the Kalenjin and absorbed their culture and also took over the Chagga.

## REVISION QUESTIONS

1.     (a) Why did the Bantu speaking peoples move into East Africa?  
       (b) Describe their migrations and settlement in East Africa before 1800AD.
2.     (a) Who were the Luo?  
       (b) How did they affect the life of the people among whom they settled?
3.     (a) Why did the Ngoni leave their homeland?  
       (b) How were the peoples of Tanzania affected by the Ngoni invasion?

4.     (a) Describe the course of the Ngoni migration into E. A. between 1820 – 1860.  
  
       (b) How did this migration affect the people of mainland Tanganyika?
5.     (a) Why did the Luo speaking peoples move into East Africa?  
  
       (b) Describe their migrations and settlement in East Africa up to 1800.
6.     (a) Why did the Luo migrate from their cradle land?  
  
       (b) What were the results of their migration?
7.     (a) Who were the Ngoni?  
  
       (b) How did they influence events in Tanganyika by 1845?
8.     (a) Why was the Ngoni invasion of the settled communities of East Africa in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century successful?  
  
       (b) What were the effects of this invasion on Tanzania?
9.     (a) Why did the Bantu move into East Africa?  
  
       (b) Describe their migration and settlement in East Africa before 1800?
10.    (a) Describe the movement and settlement of the Eastern Bantu into East Africa.  
  
       (b) How were the Cushitic peoples affected by this movement and

settlement?

11.   (a) Why were the Ngoni able to raid and defeat African societies easily?  
      (b) What impact did their invasion have on the East African societies?
  
12.   (a) Who were the River – Lake Nilotics?  
      (b) Why did they leave their cradle land?
  
13.   (a) Who were plain and highland Nilotes?  
      (b) Why did they migrate from their cradle land?
  
14.   (a) Why did the plain nilotes move in East Africa?  
      (b) Describe the course of their migration and settlement.

## THE INTERLACUSTRINE REGION

It refers to the area that is between the great lakes regions. It is largely occupied by the Bantu who include Baganda, Banyoro, Banyankole, Wanga, Karagwe etc... The earliest occupants were the Tembuzi.

## THE TEMBUZI

The earliest occupants were the Tembuzi who are said to have been demi gods, also called Abakama.

There is no clear information about the Tembuzi and their history is only obtained from myths and legends handed over from one generation to another.

It is believed that they were the founders of the interlacustrine empire with *Ruhanga* i.e. creator as the first ruler and his brother *Nkya*.

Ruhanga is said to have had four sons namely; Kintu, Kairu, Kakama and Kahima.

Kakama took up the leadership but was succeeded by his son Baba who was also succeeded by Ngozaki.

Ngozaki was succeeded by Isaza the last Tembuzi king.

His gate keeper Bukuku took over power but was killed by Isaza's grandson Ndahura who took over the throne and founded the Chwezi dynasty.

The Tembuzi dynasty lasted for 4-5 generations and it is believed that the Tembuzi either went back to heaven or disappeared at the end of their rule.

After the collapse of the Tembuzi rule, the Chwezi took over the administration of the interlacustrine region.

***QN***

***a) Explain the contributions of the Tembuzi to the history of interlacustrine region.***

## **THE BACHWEZI**

The Bachwezi are sometimes called the Hinda, Tutsi or Hima. Their origins are not clear but what is known is that they were the successors of the Batembuzi.

Most of what is known about the Chwezi and their origin is derived from myths.

Some historians say that they were Galla or Cushitic migrants of Ethiopia. Others suggest that they must have been Greeks, Portuguese or possibly Egyptians. Yet others say that they entered the interlacustrine region from the North as pastoral strangers and others believe that they were Bantu speakers.

Their emergence was a result of either a struggle in the ruling pastoral families which ended in a new ruling group taking over or the arrival of a new group from the North who took over the Tembuzi dynasty.

It is believed that they arrived around 1350 in the interlacustrine region.

Unlike the mythical Tembuzi, the Bachwezi were real people, however, they were regarded as demi gods since they performed miracles.

Their founder was Ndahura who was succeeded by Wamala.

They were believed to have been tall and light skinned.

They were the founders of Bunyoro Kitara Empire.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE CHWEZI EMPIRE / BUNYORO KITARA**

The Chwezi were highly organized politically economically, and socially.

Politically they had a centralized administration with the Omukama as the king and had all the powers and authority over his people.

According to archaeological findings, the capital was at Bigobya Mugenyi.

Below the Omukama was a chain of chiefs or representatives of various provinces and districts appointed by the king.

The Omukama was the final court of appeal and final judge.

Succession to the throne was hereditary i.e. son succeeded the father.

The Bachwezi rulers lived in reed places with palace officials, palace women and slaves and the palace was protected by an enclosure or orurembo.

The Omukama had a standing army for protection and expansion purposes.

The Bachwezi had royal regalia consisting of spears, stools, drums and crowns which were symbols of power.

Economically, the Bachwezi were pastoralists who kept long horned cattle from which they got milk, meat, and hides.

They grew coffee which they chewed and used for blood brotherhood purposes.

They also involved themselves in pottery where they made round bowls, jars, shallow basin and decorated dishes.

They also carried out bark cloth making on a small scale this was for domestic and sometimes exchanged for other products.

Salt mining was also carried out as well as basket weaving. This was done mainly by women.

The Chwezi also carried out iron working, made various iron tools and weapons such as spears, arrows, bows, hoes etc... for defense and agriculture.

They were great hunters who used long spears and wore cow hides sandals.

Socially the Chwezi were great sportsman who involved themselves in games like board games (omweso), wrestling etc...

They built grass thatched huts smeared with cow dung and decorated inside with a variety of handicrafts.

These people believed in many gods and could perform miracles eg they would disappear when annoyed.

They had social class i.e. Hima who were a pastoral and ruling class and the Iru who were cultivators and subjects.

Marriage between relatives, across social classes was highly discouraged i.e. brother-sister, mother-son, Iru-Hima etc...

## **THE IMPORTANCES OF THE BACHWEZI IN THE HISTORY OF EAST AFRICA / WHY THEY ARE REMEMBERED**

The Chwezi brought many changes which were political, social and economic.

They introduced a centralized system of administration with the king at the top, which was adopted in Buganda, Toro, Bunyoro, etc...

They introduced the long horned cattle for milk similar to those present day Ankole cattle for meat and hides for either consumption or trade.

They introduced the art of bark cloth and decorations.

They introduced iron working in which they manufactured iron tools and weapons like hoes and spears for agriculture and defence.

They introduced the idea of constructing trenches around their palaces bringing the idea of protection and defence.

They were great sportsmen who introduced games like wrestling, omweso.

They introduced the idea of royal regalia like drums spears which were symbols of authority and power.

They also introduced the idea of building round grass thatched huts smeared with mud and cow dung and decorated which were adopted by the people of East Africa.

They made and wore cow hides sandals which were copied by the Bantu in the region.

They introduced the system of constructing royal palaces using reeds where they kept their wives and slaves.

Bachwezi introduced coffee cultivation which was for chewing by men and also for blood brotherhood.

They introduced the idea of making pottery i.e. dishes, bowls with decorated patterns.

The Chwezi introduced class system based on occupation i.e. Bairu-farmers and Bahima-Pastoralists.

They introduced earth work fortifications and built their capital at Bigobyamugenyi.

The Chwezi are believed to have been the founder of Bunyoro-Kitara Empire.

They had royal enclosures-orurembo to protect their large herds of cattle.

They were miracle performers as they were referred to as demi gods.

## **REASON FOR THE COLLAPSE OF THE CHWEZI EMPIRE/BUNYORO KITARA**

At the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Chwezi Empire collapsed due to both internal and external reasons. These were also political social and economic.



The empire became too large to be ruled effectively under a centralized authority leading to its collapse.

Natural calamities like drought which led to famine weakened the population and the army leading to death of people and animals.

Diseases such as small pox, Nagana, render pest, which attacked people and animals forced the Bachwezi to move leading to its collapse.

Constant civil wars especially during the rule of Wamala which weakened the internal administration led to its collapse.

Increased misfortunes forced the Bachwezi to withdraw for example the death of the darling cow Bihogo which belonged to one of the princes forced them to leave.

Succession disputes among the princes caused confusion and chaos and those who were dissatisfied might have migrated to form their own empire hence the decline.

The army weakened due to constant wars where many lost their lives and it became difficult to defeat rebellions and keep the empire together.

Local revolts and rebellions from the subjects might also have led to the collapse of Chwezi Empire. This led to the breaking away of some states e.g. Buganda, Ankole etc...

After the death of Wamala the empire lacked able and competent rulers to keep the empire together hence the collapse.

The rise of new states in the interlacustrine region e.g. Bunyoro, Buganda weakened the empire as it could no longer maintain unity and fight rebellious provinces.

It is also believed that the Bachwezi withdrew and disappeared southwards and established new dynasties leading to its collapse.

The Luo invasion from the North accelerated the collapse of the Chwezi Empire as they established the Luo Bito dynasty.

Declaration of independence by some princes to form their own kingdoms led to its collapse e.g. Toro.

Decline of the central administration due to its collapse and dictatorial leaders led to collapse.

### ***Question***

***Who were the Bachwezi?***

***How were the Bachwezi organized between 1350 – 1500 AD.***

***Explain the contribution of the Bachwezi to the history of the interlacustrine region.***

***What led to the collapse of the Chwezi Empire?***

***Explain the origin of the Bunyoro-Kitara Empire***

***How was the Bunyoro-Kitara organized by 1500 AD?***

## **BUNYORO KINGDOM**

### **ORIGINS**

Bunyoro kingdom rose up after the collapse of Bunyoro Kitara Empire. It was founded by the Babito who had conquered the Chwezi Empire.

It was established in the 16<sup>th</sup> century Isingoma Rukidi Mpuga who became the first ruler of the kingdom.

By the time of Kamuransi's rule, Bunyoro included parts of modern Buganda, Toro Ankole plus Busoga.

### **FACTORS FOR THE RISE AND EXPANSION OF BUNYORO KINGDOM**

Bunyoro kingdom rose due to a number of reasons which were political, economic and social and they include the following:

The kingdom had competent leaders who managed to expand and defend the empire e.g. Kamulasi, Kabalega etc...

The kingdom had a centralized system of administration with the Omukama at the top. This ensured order and stability which led to its expansion.

Bunyoro had a strong, well organized army i.e. Abarusura who were equipped with guns from the Arabs which were used to carryout raids, expand, and maintain law and order.

Bunyoro also carried out raids on her neighbors and expanded the empire e.g. they conquered the rich areas of Buddu and Kooki from Buganda.

The kingdom was located in a fertile region and suitable climate which favored agriculture; they grew food crops to feed the population and army.

Bunyoro also participated in trade in which they acquired a lot of revenue and guns they used for expansion.

The collapse of the Bunyoro Kitara Empire Paved the way for the rise of Bunyoro kingdom in the interlacustrine region.

They were also good iron workers who made iron tools like spears, arrows that were used in the expansionist wars.

Bunyoro was surrounded by weak neighbors' who could not resist raiding forces of Bunyoro

## **ORGANISATION OF BUNYORO KINGDOM**

Bunyoro was highly organized politically, economically and socially.

Politically, Bunyoro had a centralized system of administration with the Omukama as the head who had absolute powers over his subjects.

He ensured law and order, safety of his people and could appoint and dismiss chiefs at his will.

Below him was the prime minister and a number of chiefs who assisted him in the administration of the kingdom.

The kingdom was divided into districts and counties each under a chief. The chiefs were hereditary but sometimes could be appointed by the king.

They were expected to provide gifts to the king such as cattle, beer, ivory, servants to work in the palace and army. They were also to collect taxes and tributes as well as maintenance of law and order in their areas of Jurisdiction.

The kingdom had a strong standing army the Abarusura that was used to expand and defend the kingdom against both internal and external attacks.

The system of succession was hereditary i.e. from father to son and the king was the highest court of appeal.

Bunyoro had royal regalia like spear, drums, stools which were symbols of power and authority of the Omukama.

Economically, the Banyoro cultivated crops such as millet sorghum, potatoes etc.

They also kept animal s like cattle, goats and sheep for the milk, beef and paying dowry.

They participated in trade with their neighbors e.g. Ankole and Buganda through which she exported salt and crop products hence got a lot of revenue and promoted good relation with the neighbors.

They participated in the LDT and was able to get guns which they used to expand and defend the kingdom.

The Banyoro were involved in salt mining in the areas near Lake Katwe which was used for both human, animal consumption and perhaps trade purpose.

They also carried out pottery which was of high quality and sold to their neighbors e.g. Buganda, Ankole and Toro.

The kingdom practiced iron working and made iron weapons like spears, arrows and hoes for defense and agriculture.

Hunting was also carried out as they hunted elephants and rhinos for their ivory and horns which were sold to the Arabs.

Fishing was carried out on Lake Albert and the nearby rivers.

They also carried out raids where they captured women, cattle and strong men for slave trade.

They collected tributes from the conquered states, imposed taxes on traders which increased their source of income.

Socially, the Banyoro believed in many gods e.g. Ruhanga who was the creator, Wamala; god of plenty, Mugizi; god of Lake Mwitanzige (Albert) etc. The gods could be asked for help and sacrifices were made.

They were divided into social classes' i.e. Babito-ruling class and Bairu- commoners who were cultivators. Intermarriages between the two were discouraged.

They were identified by pet names i.e. Amooti, Adyeeri, Akiiki etc.

They had a number of clans each under a clan head and were united under similar cultures and languages.

## **DECLINE OF BUNYORO KINGDOM**

There were social, political, economic, short and long term but also external and internal factors that contributed to the decline of Bunyoro kingdom. They include;

The kingdom became too big to be effectively administered i.e. it included most parts of Buganda, Busoga and Ankole.

The growth of Buganda at the expense of Bunyoro as they waged successful wars and conquered most of Bunyoro's areas of importance also contributed to the collapse of Bunyoro kingdom.

The rise of weak and incompetent leaders especially after Kabalega who could not rule effectively contributed to its decline.

Succession disputes led to increased power struggles in the kingdom which led to chaos in the kingdom leading to its collapse.

The Babito rulers were discriminative to their Bairu subjects who became hostile and unfriendly to their leaders which led to rebellions hence decline.

Due to the many wars, Bunyoro's army weakened and could not suppress rebellions and defend the empire against enemies e.g. Buganda.

Agriculture was disrupted because of internal wars, which led to famine making it difficult to feed the population and the army leading to the decline.

Revolts from the conquered states made her lose important areas e.g. she lost Karagwe which was rich in iron, Bulemezi and Singo which were for grazing to Buganda hence the decline.

The Banyoro chiefs had a lot of powers and many broke away to form their own kingdoms leading to its decline e.g. Kaboyo broke off and established Toro Kingdom.

Sudanese invasions on Bunyoro also weakened her hence contributing to her decline.

The arrival of Arabs who supplied guns to Buganda increased her strength militarily which contributed to the final defeat of Bunyoro.

The coming of the British in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who collaborated with Buganda to fight Bunyoro led to her decline as many areas were taken over by Buganda.

In 1967, Obote abolished kingdoms in Uganda which affected the survival of Bunyoro Kingdom hence the final decline of the kingdom.

### **Sample questions**

*How was the kingdom of Bunyoro organized during the 19th century?*

*What led to its decline by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century?*

