STATE FORMATION IN PRE COLONIAL AFRICA

MWL MWINUKA, A 0745363909

State is an organized political community in a defined territory controlled by one government with administrative and military machinery, judicial functions and ability to collect taxes (tributes).

A state is a more complex political unit than clan organizations. It is a large political unit under specific government ruled by a chief or king, with administrative and judicial duties, commands of an army and collects taxes from the subjects who as well are obliged to be loyal to the ruler.

Types of states

Two types of states emerged in Africa which are

- Decentralized states
- Centralized states

1) Decentralized states

Decentralized states were state organization without a well-defined and complex centralized system of government. They were chieftainships (chiefdoms). They were societies that transformed from mere Clan Organizations to comprise a number of clans or communities. They were under Chiefs who were mostly appointed from the dominant Clan Heads. The leader/chiefs' position was often not hereditary. He was chosen from clan elders/heads by a council of elders basing on his reputation; excellent leadership and wisdom qualities and wealth.

The powers of the chief were checked by the council of elders. Such societies included; the Yao, Nyamwezi, Sukuma, Kikuyu, Makonde (East Africa), Lozi, Shona and Luba (central Africa)

Characteristics of Decentralized states

a) Leadership was not hereditary. Leaders were chosen by the clan councils by merit and considerable reputation on their leadership, wisdom and good judgment skills. Elected leaders could even be replaced if he proved incompetent or became unpopular.
b) There were no standing armies. The defense of the society was done by all able- bodied men of the society. Standing armies were not necessary because wars were very scarce due to the fact that these societies hardly involved themselves in expansionism.
c) There was no centralized authority to control society's affairs. Means of production like land and labour were communally owned. Members of the society regarded themselves equal. No one would therefore rise up to assume supreme powers over the others.
d) Decentralized societies had low population. This was due to low productive forces. The low population limited the rise of social differentiations and thus facilitated the communal living due high availability of resources like land - resources were not scarce to give way to classes.

Mwl. Mwinuka, A

e) These societies were more democratic. In the society's general assembly, decisions were passed by the majority vote. This was different from the centralized societies where the monarch made the final decision and their words were law and final.
f) The clan councils of elders and the society's General Assembly were the two bodies that governed the affairs of the state. The General Assembly was above the Clan Heads and the clan council hence the two were answerable to the General Assembly.
g) The clan elders were responsible to solve internal conflicts. Nonetheless, if case became more difficult for them, it was referred to the general assembly. Nevertheless, conflicts and crimes were limited by collective responsibility using society's sanctions. If a member of a clan committed a crime against a member of another clan, the clan members handed him to the offended clan to be punished.
h) They encouraged intermarriages. Members of the same clan were in most cases not allowed to marry each other and instead people were to marry from other related clans.

2) Centralized states

Centralized states were political organizations with a central ruling authority. They are political organizations whose administrative powers were rested at the specific identified centre. At the helm (centre) of administration was the king or Emperor (Monarch) with supreme powers, who in most cases governed with the assistance of a parliament and body of ministers. From 5th to 19th C Africa, centralized states included; Ghana, Mali, Songhai, Kanem Bonu, Asante, Dahomey, Benin, Oyo, Sokoto, Tokola and Mandika in West Africa; Bunyoro, Buganda, Toro, Ankole and the Hehe in East Africa; Egypt in North Africa; Ethiopia in North East Africa; Mwenemotapa, Ndebele and Gaza of Central Africa; Zulu, Swazi and Sotho of South Africa.

Characteristics of Centralized States

a) Centralized authority. At the centre of administration was a king with absolute authority to make all major political, social and economic decisions of the state. Also, he was supreme judge and controlled the wealth of the state. The Monarch was a symbol of Unity.
b) Hereditary succession. Centralized states had royal families from which kings came. A successor could be named by king before his death or appointed by a council of elders from the departed king's close relatives like his son or brother as per the customs of the state.
c) Standing army. Centralized states had specific military forces comprising of well bodied trained soldiers with the king as commander in chief to maintain the internal stability, defend the state against external attacks and also conquest of weak neighbours.
d) Parliamentary system. Due to complexity of administration, Kings ruled with the assistance of parliaments made of his appointed officials like ministers, nobles and clan heads whose duty was to advise the king on important matters. In Buganda for example was the Lukiiko under chief minister "Katikiro" and in Oyo was the Oyo Messi.
e) Covered large territory and high population. Centralized states were complex organizations that incorporating many clans and sometimes many tribes through conquests or alliance making. For effective control states were divided into provinces which were put under chiefs and governors or Clan Heads to represent the king.

Mwl. Mwinuka, A

f) Payment of taxes and tributes. The citizens of the kingdom and traders passing through the kingdom and vassal states were obliged to pay taxes or tributes to the metropolitan state. The king had full powers to direct the use of state incomes for example rewarding loyal officials.
g) Advanced productive forces. Improvement in productive forces consolidated division of labour and specialization, sometimes beyond the levels of age and sex. Specific areas of specialization were farming, industry and trade. All these were supported by improved technology, notably iron working that also led to production of surplus for trade.
h) Expansionist policy. Centralized States had a tendency of conquering their weak neighboring societies to expand their territories for land, labour and wealth. The conquered were absorbed to be integral parts of the state or could remain semi-independent as vassal states.

The pre-colonial African centralized states can be divided basing on the location as **East African states, western Sudanic states, central African states, the forest states, North Eastern African states, and South African states**

EAST AFRICA STATES

THE BUGANDA KINGDOM

The kingdom of Buganda was geographically located on the shores of lake Victoria (in the Interacustrine region) it grew to its apex by mid of the 19th century. This was highly centralized monarchy and was one of the daughter states that came into existence after the collapse of vastly expanded Bunyoro kitara kingdom. There existed two traditions that seek to explain the origin of Buganda kingdom,

The Bunyoro tradition which portrays and believes that the founder of Buganda kingdom was **Kato Kimera** the brother of **Isingoma Lukindi Mpunga** the author of **Luo Babito dynasty.**

The Buganda tradition on the other hand argues that **Kintu** was the founder of Buganda kingdom, today between thirteen and fourteen clans of Buganda accept this second tradition.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF BUGANDA KINGDOM

i. ***Geographical factor;*** Buganda had abundant rainfall and the suitability of her soil for productive cultivation, this ensured adequate supply of food and surplus to be used in trading activity.
ii. ***Good military;*** Buganda was able to acquire guns and the army was well disciplined, the army launched successful attacks against her neighbors, for example Bunyoro and Toro
iii. ***Good leadership;*** Kabaka Mutesa of Buganda was good, charismatic, ambitious and fore sighted leader who was well committed to develop his kingdom. Also Kabaka was believed to have divine power.
iv. ***Availability of iron technology;*** iron technology was a major raw material in making of tools and weapons.
v. ***Rapid population;***t his was due to high production of food, the population ensured availability of enough man power.
vi. **The decline of Bunyoro-kitara gave room to Buganda to rise quickly and undisturbed.**

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vii. **Polygamism;** the Buganda kingdom had approximately 52 clans, Kabaka married from almost very important clan. Hence intermarriage was a political weapon as it brought all clans together equality among clans and ensured loyalty to the kabaka's dictatorship.

viii. ***Trade*;** the Buganda developed trading contacts with her neighbors that were under the governance of Kabaka, also the long distance traders acted as a catalyst for the growth of Buganda.

ix. ***Agriculture*;** good climatic condition and fertile soils favored agriculture, the main crops included yams and banana, this crops sometimes used as trade items also as food.

x. ***Conquest;*** the Buganda kingdom conquered the weaker Bunyoro kingdom.

xi. ***Religious practices;*** Kabaka was a political leader who preceded over religious functions and was regarded by the Ganda as Semi-divine person LUBAALE (supreme God) possessed various gods, they included **Musoke** who was in charge or rain, **Mukasa** who was in charge of lakes and **Walumbe** who was in charge of death.

BUNYORO KITARA

- It originated from the tradition of Bunyoro, Batoro and Banyankole
- It was founded by chwezi
- Led by **mukama** as title of the king
- It declined in 1500AD

NYAMWEZI KINDOM

Nyamwezi who lived in central Tanzania area group of the Bantu societies.Each of these societies had their own settlements headed by a chief and tilled Mtemi (Ntemi).Ntemiship (chiefdom) was composed of people of shared background or kingship and believes. Each of the Nyamwezi kingdoms had a Ntemi at the centre who was helped by a council of elders the Wanyampala in administration.Towards themiddle of 19th century more dynamic political structure developed among the Nyamwezi under Fundikira ,Nyungu ya mawe and Mirambo.This led to the institution of the Ntemi becoming of the most powerful position;the several Nyamwezi settlements were united under one senior Ntemi.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF THE NYAMWEZI KINGDOM OR CHIEFDOM

Factors for the rise of the Nyamwezi kingdom or chiefdom can be explained below as follows

1) Ngoni invasions – the Ngoni invasions in Western Tanganyika made the Nyamwezi people to unite in order to resist the Ngoni attackers.
2) The expansion of real trade into the regional trade/long distance trade due to emergency of wealthy traders like the Mirambo who made the effective use of Runganga.
3) Penetration of the Europeans into the coastal interior trade.This introduced new trading pattern to the Nyamwezi traders who joined together to effective resist European pressure to stop slave trade.
4) The rise of Mirambo as trader and leader used their influence to unite the Nyamwezi land.
5) The use of the gun and gun powder by the Mirambo 's solders,this caused the weakening of watemi submissive to his rule.
6) Growth of the towns Example :Tabora and Ujiji.
7) Population growth.8. Unity among the people.

THE KING DOM OF UKIMBU

- Was led by Nyungu yam awe

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- ✈ Founded by Nyungu ya mawe
- ✈ It existed btn 1870 to 1880

KARAGWE KINGDOM

- It was found in the North west of the present day Tanzania
- It was also known as Bunyambo led by Omuggabe as a title of the leader

SULTANATES

Were centralized states that developed along the coast of east Africa, these were feudal states which emerged in 9th century AD, they were also called city states eg, Mogadishu, Barawa, Kilwa, pate, Lamu, Mombasa, Zanzibar, Sofala and Malindi.

NORTH EASTERN AFRICAN STATES

Ancient Egypt

Origins: According to archaeological evidence, the Egyptian state arose between 1500 and 500 BC. The evidence also show that by this time there were already villages of self sufficient producers who grew wheat, barley and kept animals. These producers formed permanent settlements as they increased in population. The kingdom was under the leadership of **Pharaoh** as a title of the king, **Menes** was the famous Pharaoh who led the development of Egypt

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE EGYPTIAN STATE

i. The development of agriculture and pastoralism Specialization of labour
ii. The rise of Menes who united the upper and the lower Egypt
iii. Development of local industries
iv. Taxation
v. Strong Army
vi. Development of productive forces, Therefore any one with the following rose to power:
    - Anyone who could control disasters by rituals and charms
    - Anyone who had experience and stored knowledge of floods
    - Anyone who had knowledge of predicting floods

CLASSES IN THE EGYPTIAN STATE

- **The ruling class**- Consisted of the Pharaoh who was at the top followed by the nobility, priests, court officials and other officials- Followed by administrators of the people called the Vizier.
- **The working class**, The peasants and slaves

THE KINGDOM OF ETHIOPIA/ axum

Ethiopia started as a small kingdom known as Axum, was founded near the red sea coast by a dynasty of Sabean from the other side of the Red Sea. The Ethiopia arose around 1000 BC, **Menelik 1** founded the Ethiopian empire in 1st century BC, and the kingdom was occupied by Axumites

FACTORS FOR THE GROWTH OF THE ETHIOPIAN STATE

- Strong leadership

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- Agriculture
- Unity among the people
- Growth of local industries
- Strong army
- Taxation
- Christianity

CLASSES IN ETHIOPIA

- Feudal Lords
- Peasants (tenants and serfs)
- Slaves.

Feudalism was consolidated by the introduction of Christianity (Ethiopian orthodox churh) during the 4th AD and **King Ezana,** was the first to be converted. King Zagwe built 30 churches. A descendant of King Solomon and Queen Sheba. Expansion done by 3 emperors (leaders): Zagwe Dynasty – 12th C – 13th C, King Theodore – 19th C – 1855 – 1868 Menelik II – 19th C – 1889 – 1913 Menelik II made Addis Ababa his Capital

THE KINGDOM OF NUBIA

Nubia lay in the area that cut across the borders of modern Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia. The Nubian State arose around 200 BC. It was called Kush and its capital was **Napata**. In 3rd C the capital shifted to Meroe.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE/GROWTHOF THE NUBIAN STATE

- Agricultural activities
- Trade
- Availability of valuable goods e.g. Gold and Ivory
- Development of local industries

DECLINE OF NUBIA

- Feudal lords were against the peasants
- Attacks by Muslims
- Disunity

WESTERN SUDANIC STATES

The early States in western Sudan were established in the region between the Sahara desert and the forest region of the South. The most important states are Ghana, Mali, Songhai and Kanem Bornu

GHANA EMPIRE

During its rise Ghana had two main towns, one occupied by Muslims and the other by Pagans. The rulers and the people were Soninke speaking group. The word Ghana as the King title emerged in 5th AD.The capital center of administration was Koumbi Saleh.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF THE GHANIAN EMPIRE

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Agricultural activitiesAvailability of valuable goods e. g goldTrans – Saharan trade in gold and saltGood leadership and efficient system of government.Common language.

FACTORS FOR THE DECLINE OF GHANA EMPIRE

- Almoravids constant attacks
- Disunity among people
- Jihad wars
- Lack of stable system of royal successions
- The rise of rural kingdoms e.g. Mali

MALI EMPIRE

Early in the 3rd C Ghana fell apart as a result of the war between Samangwa the king of Ghana and Prince Sundiata Keita the king of Kagaba. Ghana was defeated and Ghana fell under Sundiata's rulership. Sundiata formed a large kingdom known as Mali the capital was Niani and the title of the ruler was Mansa.

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF THE MALI

- The fall of Ghanaian empire
- Control of gold fields of Bure
- Strong army
- Agricultural activities
- Trans – Saharan trade
- Strong leadership of Sundiata Keita and later Mauna Kan Kan Musa
- Islamic faith which promoted libraries and Islamic universities.

DECLINE OF THE MALI EMPIRE

- Weak leadership after the death of Mansa Mahmud IV
- Empire became too large to control
- Lack of unity and the empire was divided into three spheres of influence and they fought against each other.
- Attacks by Tuaregs
- Civil wars The rise of Songhai empire

SONGHAI EMPIRE

In the late 15th Century the Songhai empire originally the Gao, conquered neighboring states under the leadership of Sunni Ali and formed the large empire of Songhai. Gao became its capital at around the 11th C and remained the capital under the empire. Its famous leaders were Sunni Alli, Askia Mohamed and Askia Daud.

FACTORS FOR THE GROWTH OF SONGHAI EMPIRE

- Agriculture activities
- Strong army
- Trans – Sahara trade
- Good administration

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- Taxation
- Islamic faith

DECLINE OF THE SONGHAI EMPIRE

- Weak leadership after the death of Askia Daud
- The Moroccan invasion
- The empire was too large to control
- Religious hostility between Islamic and traditional beliefs
- The shift in orientation of trade towards the Atlantic ocean

GENERAL FACTORS FOR THE RISEOF WESTERN SUDANIC STATES

- Good Geographical location
- Iron technology
- The growth of population
- Development of local industries
- Taxation
- Trans – Saharan trade
- Availability of valuable goods e.g. gold
- Good centralised government
- Capable leaders
- Strong army

FOREST STATES

THE BENIN EMPIRE

Benin empire was a very small state made up of the Edo speaking people. The highest authority at the time were chiefs known as **Ogiso** which meant the 'Kings of the Sky' and the administrative centre was Ubinu. Between 1388 – 1431 there was a series of civil wars which divided the Edo. After the death of the last Ogiso, his son Prince Ekaladerhan left for exile and established himself in Ile-Ife, so when the Edo people requested his return, he sent his son, Prince Oranmiyan who took up the throne.

EXPANSION INTO CITY-STATE EMPIRE

By 15th C the empire expanded into a city-state under the leadership of Oba Ewuare the Great

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE BENIN EMPIRE

- Some of capable rulers the greatest of whom was Ewuare
- Good centralized system of Government
- Trade
- Unity
- Development of Handicraft Industry

DECLINE OF THE BENIN EMPIRE

- Introduction of slave trade

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- Trans- Atlantic trade
- Firearms introduced through European trade caused tribal wars that led to the final decline of the Benin Empire.

THE EMPIRE OF OYO

Oyo empire began in the late 14th C or early 15th C likely 1388 – 1431. The people of Oyo were Oranmiyan/Oranyan, their capital was **Oyo-Ile** and the King of Oyo was called **Alafin** who shared power with **Oyo-mesi** (they were responsible for the selection of Alafin)**.** The **Bashoran** was the leader of the army.

Oyo conquered Nupe and Borga

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE OYO EMPIRE

- It had organized political system headed by a number of great Alaafins
- Strong organized army
- Agricultural activities
- Development of local industries
- Slave trade
- Dahomey tributary

DECLINE OF THE OYO EMPIRE

- Conflict between Alafin and Basharon
- Conquest from the Fulani and Dahomey
- Civil wars and disunity

DAHOMEY EMPIRE

Dahomey rose after the decline of Oyo in the 19thC. it was founded by the **Fon people**. It had good leaders such as King **Aguja** and **king Gezo** who built the Royal Palaces of Dahomey.

THE RISE OF THE DAHOMEY EMPIRE IN THE 18th C

- Growth of centralized and powerful monarchy
- Boyul succession system was effective
- Strong army
- Good leadership of **King Gezo** and later **Aguja**
- Control of slave trade

DECLINE OF DAHOMEY

Dahomey declined after the arrival of the French.

ASANTE EMPIRE

Asante or Ashanti empire was found as a result of emergence of several cities in the region of **Kumasi**. The people of Asante were **Akan** ruled by the **Oyuko clan.** The King was **Obiri Yeboa** who was **Osei Tutu**. The capital city of Asante or Ashanti was **Kumasi**. The symbol of Asante union and power was a **Golden stool**. The title of the ruler of Asante was known as **Asantehene** .

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF ASANTE

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- Agricultural activities
- Development of local industries
- Some of its capable rulers e.g. OseiTutu
- Well organized political system
- Trade

DECLINE – The state declined after the arrival of Europeans.

CENTRALISED STATES OF CENTRAL AFRICA

KONGO KINGDOM

Former kingdom in west-central Africa, located south of the Congo River (present-day Angola and Democratic Republic of the Congo). According to traditional accounts, the kingdom was founded by Lukeni lua Nimi about 1390. Originally, it was probably a loose federation of small polities, but, as the kingdom expanded, conquered territories were integrated as a royal patrimony. Soyo and Mbata were the two most powerful provinces of the original federation; other provinces included Nsundi, Mpangu, Mbamba, and Mpemba. The capital of the kingdom was Mbanza Kongo. The capital and its surrounding area were densely settled—more so than other towns in and near the kingdom. This allowed the *manikongo* (king of Kongo) to keep close at hand the manpower and supplies necessary to wield impressive power and centralize the state.

When Portuguese arrived in Kongo in 1483, Nzinga a Nkuwu was the *manikongo*. In 1491 both he and his son, Mvemba a Nzinga, were baptized and assumed Christian names—João I Nzinga a Nkuwu and Afonso I Mvemba a Nzinga, respectively. Afonso, who became *manikongo c.*1509, extended Kongo's borders, centralized administration, and forged strong ties between Kongo and Portugal. He eventually faced problems with the Portuguese community that settled in Kongo regarding their handling of Atlantic trade—in particular, the slave trade. As a result, in 1526 Afonso organized the administration of the slave trade in an attempt to ensure that people were not illegally enslaved and exported.

Kongo's system of *manikongo* succession was often prone to disputes, frequently between sons or between sons and brothers of former kings, and at times the rivals would form factions, some of which were long-lived. Significant struggles over succession took place after Afonso's death in 1542 and many times after that. In 1568, possibly as a result of such a struggle, Kongo was temporary overrun by rival warriors from the east known as the Jagas, and Álvaro I Nimi a Lukeni (reigned 1568–87) was able to restore Kongo only with Portuguese assistance. In exchange, he allowed them to settle in at Luanda (a Kongo territory) and create the Portuguese colony that became Angola. Relations with Angola soon soured and then worsened when Angola's governor briefly invaded southern Kongo in 1622. Later, Garcia II Nkanga a Lukeni (reigned 1641–61) sided with the Dutch against Portugal when the former country seized portions of Angola from 1641 to 1648. Further disputes between Kongo and Portugal over joint claims in the region led to skirmishes in the small district of Mbwila, culminating in the Battle of Mbwila (or Ulanga) on Oct. 29, 1665. The Portuguese were victorious and killed the reigning *manikongo*, António I Nvita a Nkanga, during the battle. Although Kongo continued to exist, from this point on it ceased to function as a unified kingdom.

After the Battle of Mbwila and the death of the *manikongo*, the Kimpanzu and Kinlaza—two rival factions that had formed earlier in Kongo's history—disputed the kingship. Unresolved, the civil war dragged on for most of the remainder of the 17th century, destroying the countryside and resulting in the

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enslavement and transport of thousands of Kongo subjects. These factions created several bases throughout the region, partitioning the kingdom among them. Pedro IV Agua Rosada Nsamu a Mvemba of Kibangu (reigned 1696–1718) engineered an agreement that recognized the integrity of the territorial bases while rotating kingship among them. During these negotiations, the abandoned capital of Mbanza Kongo (renamed São Salvador in the late 16th century) was taken by the Antonians (a religious movement, named after Saint Anthony, whose goal was to create a new Christian Kongo kingdom), led by Beatriz Kimpa Vita. Pedro subsequently tried and executed Beatriz as a heretic and then reoccupied the capital and restored the kingdom in 1709.

The rotational system of kingship worked moderately well in the 18th century, producing the long reign of Manuel II Nimi a Vuzi of the Kimpanzu (reigned 1718–43), followed by Garcia IV Nkanga a Mvandu of the Kinlaza (reigned 1743–52). Factional fighting continued on a smaller scale, and rotational succession was sometimes contested, as it was by José I Mpazi za Nkanga (reigned 1778–85), resulting in a weak monarchy. Portugal intervened in the succession dispute that followed the death of Henrique II Mpanzu a Nzindi (reigned 1842–57) and assisted Pedro V Agua Rosada Lelo (reigned 1859–91) in his installation. Eventually Pedro V ceded his territory to Portugal as a part of Angola in exchange for increased royal powers over outlying areas. A revolt against Portuguese rule and complicity of the kings led by Álvaro Buta in 1913–14 was suppressed but triggered the collapse of the Kongo kingdom, which was then fully integrated into the Portugue

FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF KONGO EMPIRE

- Technological development e.g. Iron **technology**
- Trade
- Taxation
- Development of local industries
- Emergence of traditional leaders with a strong belief in spiritual and magic power

DECLINE OF THE CONGO EMPIRE

- The arrival of the Portuguese
- Slave trade
- Weak leadership after Manikongo Mingo Mkuwa who acquired up an Embassy in Portugal. His son Mzingo Mbemba was baptized as Dan Alfonce. He was a puppet of the Portuguese and caused civil war in Kongo.

MWENEMUTAPA KINGDOM

Mwene Mutapa is Shona for Ravager of the Lands, and was also the title held by the dynasty of kings who ruled the territory, which was between the Zambezi and Limpopo rivers. Mutapa is thought to be established around 1430, and was eventually taken over by the Portuguese in 1760. The first Mwene was a warrior prince named **Nyatsimba Mutota** who discovered what was soon to be Mutapa when he was looking for a new source of salt. Mutota's successor, **Mwene mutapa Matope**, extended this new kingdom into an empire which contained most of the lands between Tavara and the Indian Ocean.

The Mwene mutapa became very wealthy by exploiting copper and ivory. In 1561, Goncalo da Silveira, a Portuguese Jesuit missionary managed to make his way into the Mwene mutapa's court and convert him to Christianity. This didn't go too well with the Muslim merchants in the capital, and the Muslims persuaded the king to kill the Missionary only a few days after the baptism. The only excuse the

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Portuguese needed to take over the gold mines and ivory routes. Mutapa used the Portuguese to their advantage (since they had made themselves a part of the kingdom by taking over the trade routes) to help them fight off other factions because they didn't have a very strong military.

By 1629 the mwenemutapa tried to throw out the Portuguese but he failed and in turn, he himself was overthrown. The Portuguese then took complete control and placed a man named **Mavura Mhande Felipe** on the throne.

Mutapa technically was still independent, but was practically owned by Portugal. Over the next several years Mutapa had many different rulers, the last being **the Rozwi**; the Rozwi quickly lost interest in Mutapa, as they sought to consolidate their position in the south. Thus Mutapa regained its independence sometime around 1720. In 1759 the last mwenemutapa died, sparking a civil war for the throne. It was very destructive and Mutapa never recovered, thus collapsing in 1760.

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF MWENEMUTAPA

- Agriculture activities
- Good leadership of Mutota
- Availability of valuable goods e.g. copper, iron and gold
- They controlled trade routes and Trading centers

REASONS FOR THE DECLINE OF MWENEMUTAPA

- The arrival of Portuguese who monopolized the gold trade
- The kingdom became divided into two parts Mutapa and Ruzwi
- Rebellion from local people After the death of Matope, his son Nyahuma took over. He was younger than the other chief who wanted power so that chief rebelled and caused civil war.

The Kingdom of Luba

Luba Empire (1585–1889) was a pre-colonial Central African state that arose in the marshy grasslands of the **Upemba Depression** in what is now southern Democratic Republic of Congo.

The Luba Kingdom was founded by **King Kongolo Maniema** around 1585. His nephew and immediate successor, **Kalala Ilunga**, expanded the empire over the upper left bank territories of the Lualaba River. At its peak, the state had about a million people paying tribute to its king.

The kingdom of Luba's success was due in large part to its development of a form of a government durable enough to withstand the disruptions of succession disputes and flexible enough to incorporate foreign leaders and governments. The Luba model of governing was so successful that it was adopted by the Lunda Kingdom and spread throughout the region that is today northern Angola, north western Zambia, and southern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Law and order were handled by the king, known as the **Mulopwe,** with the assistance of a court of nobles known as **Bamfumus**. The kings reigned over their subjects through clan kings known as **Balopwe**. The diverse populations of the Luba were linked by the Bambudye, a secret society that kept the memory of the Luba alive and taught throughout the realm.

The local economy led to the development of several small Luba kingdoms. Luba traders linked the Congolese forest to the north with the mineral-rich region in the center of modern Zambia known as the Copper belt. The trade routes passing through Luba territory were also

Mwl. Mwinuka, A

connected with wider networks extending to both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean coasts. With the formation of the Luba kingdom, the economy was complex and based on a tribute system that redistributed agricultural, hunting and mining resources among nobles. The ruling class held a virtual monopoly on trade items such as salt, copper, and iron ore. This allowed them to continue their dominance in much of Central Africa

Rozwi Empire

Rozwi Empire (Rozvi Empire) was a southern Shona empire founded by Dombo or Changa, after splitting from the Mutapa Empire.

Origins

Dombo or Changa, at the death of King Matope moved south and founded a new kingdom, the Rozwi Kingdom. Dombo had defeated the Torwa rulers of Guruuswa or Butua in founding the Rozwi Kingdom. The kingdom was named after the Rozwi military regiment, highly discipline and effective troops. Dombo took the title changamire and was known as Changamire Dombo. His successors would have the title mambos.

Expansion

Between 1684 and 1696, Changamire Dombo expelled the Portuguese from Mutapa and Manyika, making the Rozwi Empire the most important empire in the Zimbabwe plateau, Zambezi Valley. Changamire Dombo died in 1696. His dynasty would dominate the Zambezi Valley. Mutapa resorted to an insignificant kingdom. Powerful chiefs would build stone structures as Dhlo Dhlo, Khami, and Naletali.

Organization

The Empire maintained power and order by its Rozwi regiments. The regiments collected tribute from other Shona satellites. They guarded the king's herds of thousands of cattle. Rozwi regiments continually toured the empire with administrators called banyami .Banyami collected tribute, made decisions of succession for local Shona chiefs. Tribute was paid in ivory, skins, food, and most important cattle.

Economy

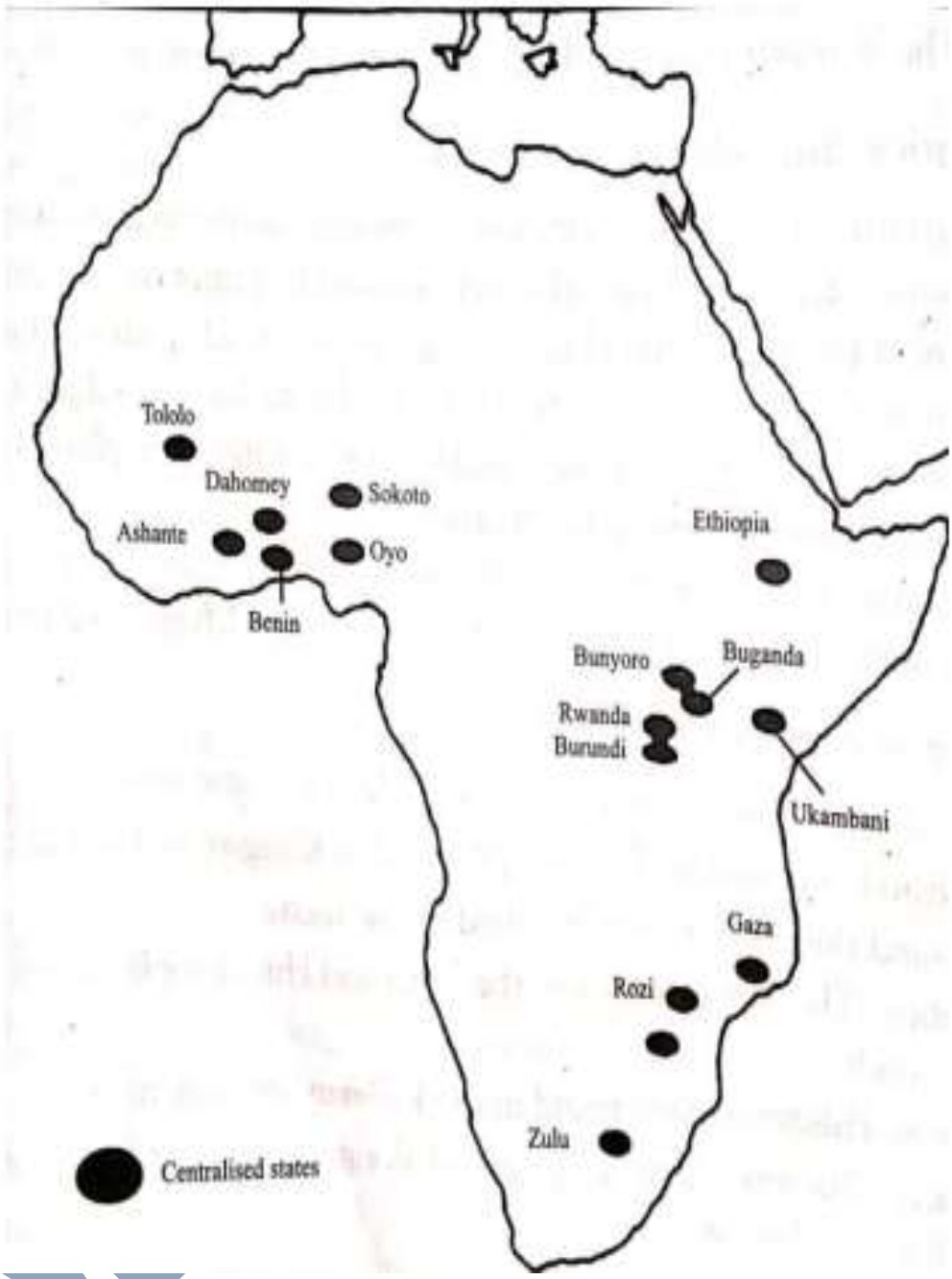
Gold production was a major activity. The state monopolized its production. The Portuguese was banned from entering the kingdom. The economic mainstay was cattle, agriculture, and hunting. The economy was not interdependent on outside trade.

ZULU KINGDOM IN SOUTH AFRICA

- It was located in the present day south Africa
- It emerged in the 19th century
- It was built in the northern part of the Nguni speaking areas to the north east of south Africa,
- Zulu was founded by Mthetwa later Dingswayo
- Dingiswayo was killed in 1818 by Zwide the Shaka controlled the state.

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Map 1; Distribution of centralized states in pre-colonial Africa

GENERAL FACTORS FOR STATE FORMATION (EXPANSION) IN AFRICA

State formation in Africa was to a great extent due to the internal dynamics - the material conditions within African societies. Nevertheless, the material conditions did not operate in isolation as they were in hand supplemented by the natural and external factors. So the important factors for the state formation were;

a) **Favourable geographical advantages.** This was a combination of good climate with reliable rainfall and fertile soils. Such a climate favoured permanent food crop production that developed permanently settled communities and population expansion. This explains the emergence of powerful states like Buganda, Bunyoro and Karagwe in the Interlacustrine Region and Oyo, Dahomey and Benin in the Equatorial Region of West Africa.

b) **2. Efficient leadership and administrative systems.** Societies endowed with ambitious leaders like Mansa Musa of Mali, Kabaka Katerega of Buganda and Mkwawa of the Hehe, rose to greatness. Such leaders put in place strong administration and armies, united their people and organised production and trade. Efficient administrative system enforced law and order. Typical examples are the Parliamentary systems of Buganda (Lukiiko) and Oyo (Oyo Messi).

c) **The role of trade.** Participation in trading activities mainly, long distance trades had vital implication in the making of powerful states in pre-colonial Africa. They accumulated wealth through profits and taxes/tribute from traders and also firearms which they used to strengthen their states. Remarkably, the Trans-Saharan trade with the development of states like Mali and Songhai and the East African Long Distance trade with states like Buganda and Nyamwezi.

d) **Strong armies.** The role of strong armies like the Rugaruga of the Nyamwezi and Abarusula of Bunyoro cannot be underrated. The armies were instrumental in keeping law and order, defence against foreign invasions, conquest of weak neighbouring societies for expansion and for collection of tributes/taxes. By powerful armies men like Samore Toure of the Mandika, Mansa Musa of Mali and Mirambo and Nyungu ya Mawe of the Nyamwezi and Mkwawa of the Hehe were able to build large commercial empires.

e) **Technological advancement.** Most significant was iron technology that definitely improved productive forces greatly. Societies with Iron works like Buganda and Bunyoro advanced economic activities like agricultural, industry and trade. As iron instruments improved efficiency, food production increased to support population expansion and production of surplus was realised to make trade possible. Most crucial also was improvement in weaponry for state defence and expansion.

f) **Population expansion**. Population increase was mostly due to reliable food supply and security. It led to intense land competition between clans or societies leading to conquest of weak ones. Large population availed abundant supply of labour and armies for state building. High population in the Interlacustrine Region led to powerful states like Buganda and Toro and in West African forest region states like Oyo and Dahomey.

g) **Migration.** The early migrations played a vital role in state building as the moving peoples carried with them new skills in new areas where passed or settled. Notable case is the Ngoni Migration with formation of states like, Sotho, Ndebele and Hehe in South, Central and East Africa. In the Interacustrine Region and the Congo, states like Buganda and Mani Kongo were largely due Eastern Bantu migration.

h) **Conquest.** Some clans or communities developed into powerful states by conquering weak neighbours to absorb their land and people. For example a small state of Kangaba expanded into weak neighbours like Kankan to form a large Mali Empire. Also King Shaka conquered the weak Nguni communities to build a strong Zulu Kingdom.

i) **The role of religion.** The influence of religion in state formation and growth was its uniting factor and significance in shaping leadership, administrative and judicial roles of societies. African

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traditional Religion, Islam and Christianity had greater role. Notable states where traditional religion was a strong factor include Buganda and ancient kingdoms of Ghana and Zimbabwe; Islam played a recommendable job in building of states like Egypt, ancient Mali, Songhai, Bornu and Mandika while Christianity was responsible for Ethiopia.

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