Social, political and Economic developments and Challenges in Congo and Tanzania

Content

1. Social Economic and Political developments in selected African countries
   a) Democratic Republic of Congo – DRC
   b) Tanzania .
2. Social, Economic and Political challenges in Africa since independence.

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- It was formerly known as Zaire
- It was a colony of Belgium and it gained independence in 30th June 1960.

Political Developments

A. There was an army mutiny in July 1960, where the Belgian commanders resisted attempts to Africanize senior ranks
B. The country was thrown into lawlessness and disorder as Belgians fled t*" The government had to promote inexperienced Africans to fill vacant positions
C. In July 1960 Katanga and Kasai provinces wanted secede. The government sought UNO help
D. The existed political differences between Patrice Lumumba the Prime Minister and Joseph Kasavubu the President which finally led to Lumumba's assassination in December, 1960.
E. By 1960 Zaire had disintegrated into three regions i.e. Katanga under Moise Tshombe, kisangani under Lumumba's supporters and kisangni under Kasavubu

F. In July 1961, a coalition government was set under Cyrille Adoula but Tshombe refused to send representatives. Tshombe was forced submission by 1963
G. A new constitution was formulated and when Adoula's term ended in 1964, Kasavubu invited Tthombe to form a government. Lumumba's up rebelled and formed Peoples Republic of Congo. Kasavubu forced Tshombe to resign Sylvester Kimba replaced him on October
H. November 1965, Joseph Mobutu organized boodless coup and he declared himself life president
I. Tribal rivalries continued to be a political challenge for DRC. There were about 150 different
J. In 1970's there were more troubles. Katanga was invaded by troops from Angola in 1977
K. S In 1980, Mobutu was criticized due to his authoritarian style of government that is his personal

L. fortune, corruption, political prisoners and torture S In 1990, Mobutu promised to allow multi-party system but by 1993 he had not done it. By 1994.
M. there was a political deadlock between Mobutu and his greatest opposition rival Etienne
N. Tshishekedi
O. y In 1996, Mobutu's health began to fail. Meanwhile rebel forces led by Laurent Kabila started a guerilla movement
P. S In May 1997, they ousted Mobutu who died in exile in Morocco on 7th September 1997. S Laurent Kabila declared himself president and renamed the country Democratic Republic of
Q. Congo (DRC). He was assassinated in January 2001 and his son Joseph Kabila took over.
R. Kabila's government agreed on power sharing with opposition groups.

Economic Developments

I. DRC is endowed with a lot of minerals and therefore its economy is mineral based
II. Foreign investors were encouraged and the revenue from mining was used to expand agriculture
III. The government had to improve transport and communication i.e. roads, railways, water, transport and telecommunications.
IV. There was also construction of Hydro-elect power stations
V. Small informal enterprises were also encouraged
VI. From 1973, the economy began to slump due to:
    a. Corruption
    b. High oil prices
    c. Inflation due to power struggle
    d. Lack of a sound economic policy.
    e. Fall in copper prices

Social Developments

I. In 1971, Mobutu introduced a cultural revival programme which outlawed all European names in favour of African names.
II. The government supported Zairian culture especially in music and sports
III. The government also started a national insurance programme for the sick and pension schemes for workers
IV. Hospitals were built
V. Primary and secondary education were expanded and higher education provided

Tanzania
Political Developments

I. In 1964, Political union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar created the Republic of Tanzania. Nyerere became president of the united republic while Karume became 1 St vice president, while retaining the title of president of Zanzibar. The union government was responsible for public services, foreign affairs and defense. The island retained autonomy in their domestic affairs.

II. In 1977, the two parties i.e. Afro Shirazi Party (ASP) and TANU merged to form Chama Cha Mapinduzi (C.C.M) headed by Julius Nyerere

III. In February 1967, mainland Tanzania followed the principles laid down in the Arusha Declaration. Through it the country was run on socialist lines

IV. 1973 — the government started planning the transfer of the capital from Dar-es-Salaam to Dodoma to ease administration problems

V. Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya maintained the East African Community between 1967 and 1977. It collapsed in 1977.

VI. Tanzania waged a war against Uganda in 1979 to overthrow President Idi Amin of Uganda.

VII. In the year 2005, a new president was elected, Jakaya M-Kikwete who is the current president of Tanzania.

VIII. Tanzania had closed her border with Kenya for sometime, but reopened it in 1983. Since 1984, her relations with Kenya and Uganda have improved

IX. Tanzania has supported African liberation movements e.g. in Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia through material and financial support

X. Zanzibar joined the Arab League without informing the mainland Tanzania and this threatened to break up the union

XI. Tanzania has been a prominent supporter of non-alignment
XII. In 1985, Nyerere retired as president, he was succeeded by Ali Hassan Mwinyi
XIII. Nyerere was the chairman of OAU between 1984-1985
XIV. He remained chairman of the party until 1990
XV. 1995 with introduction of multipartyism, Benjamin Mkapa of C.C.M was elected as the country's president and re-elected again in the 2000 elections

Economic Development

I. The Arusha declaration led to increased agricultural production both for domestic and export requirements
II. From 1970's she has been facing farming problems e.g.
III. Drought
IV. Inadequate commitment to cultivation hence food shortage
V. Declining international prices
VI. Insufficient investment in agriculture
VII. Nationalism was misinterpreted to mean laxity in places of work leading to low production
VIII. Foreign investors avoided Tanzania due to reduced profits and insecurity of their investments.

IX. Corruption of government officials
X. Rising oil prices used up almost half of her earnings from exports
XI. The war against Idi Amin of Uganda was very expensive
XII. Loans from the International Monetary Fund brought her the added problem of how to meet interest payments
XIII. The collapse of the East African Community in 1977, an economic alliance with Kenya and Uganda was another set back to her economy
XIV. From 1985, the Government relaxed its economic policies and encouraged private investors
XV. In 1993 there was the re-launch of the East African Co-operation, with headquarters at Arusha. This may boost Tanzania's economy
XVI. There has been major improvement in transport network and this has boosted development in many parts of the country.

Social Developments Education

1. There was expansion of education facilities and free and compulsory education from primary level was introduced
2. University of Dar-es-salaam was founded in 1961, and Sokoine University at Morogoro to teach agriculture
3. Education had to accommodate the socialist ideals and it therefore emphasized self-reliance
4. Adult literacy programmes were promoted
5. There was a lot of emphasis on agriculture and technical subjects -Kiswahili was the medium of instruction and National Language
6. On health, a number of hospitals, dispensaries and clinics were established to improve people's health especially through better nutrition
7. The role of women was greatly appreciated and they were offered same educational and employment opportunities as men
8. Freedom of worship was granted.

Social, Economic and Political Challenges in Africa since Independence

Social Challenges

1) Poverty and unemployment: Poverty levels are too high, and opportunities for employment are very rare
2) Population explosion in most African countries
3) Inadequate/Poor health care. The governments in Africa have not been able to provide adequate health care for her population. The HIV/AIDS scourge is another challenge on African government on how to cope with it.
4) Civil wars. There have been a lot of civil wars in Africa i.e. Somali, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries
5) Illiteracy
6) Refugee menace
7) Crimes
8) Terrorism
9) Conflicts
10) Environmental pollution

Economic Challenges

I. Overdependence on foreign aid. Countries in Africa have been over relying on foreign aid which has led to a high debt burden. The donors give this aid with a lot of conditions
II. Over reliance on primary exports (agriculture) instead of diversifying
III. Poor transport and communication network which leads to lack of efficiency
IV. Poor economic planning
V. Adverse climate leading to crop failure, drought & famine. There are also large desert regions that are of little economic use.
VI. Neo-colonialism/Colonial hung-overs:- Many of the in dependent African countries still look upon their mother countries for economic aid.
VII. Corruption
VIII. Unemployment
IX. Population pressure

Political Challenges

1. Political instability . Many governments have experienced military coups, and internal squabbles because of leadership
2. Border disputes
3. Refugee problem
4. Multi-party democracy that was adopted with a lot of pressure
5. Ideological differences and neo-colonialism
6. Ethnicity, that has led to inter-ethnic wars
7. Maladministration/Poor leadership leading to formation of underground movements that threaten peace in the African countries.
8. Conflicting interests
9. Strained international relations
10. Cold war

KCSE SAMPLE QUESTIONS