

CHAPTER 17

EXAMPLES OF SOME PERSONALITIES WHO RESISTED COLONIAL RULE IN EAST AFRICA

- a) **CHIEF AWICH OF PAYIIRA.**
- b) **KABAKA MWANGA OF BUGANDA.**
- c) **CHIEF MKWAWA OF THE HEHE.**
- d) **ABUSHIRI, THE LEADER OF THE COASTAL ARABS.**
- e) **OMUKAMA KABALEGA OF BUNYORO.**

(a) CHIEF AWICH OF PAYIIRA

1. Chief Awich was the chief (Rwot) of Payiira in Acholi.
2. Awich came to power in 1880's after the death of his beloved father Rwot Can moo.
3. Chief Awich was one of the greatest resistors, who resisted the British rule.
4. Chief Awich carried constant attacks against the British Commissioner at Nimule in Southern Sudan.
5. He gave asylum (refuge) to Kabalega as the British were hunting for him which intensified British hostility to him.
6. It was chief Awich of Payiira who refused to endorse (sign) any treaty of co-operation in Acholi land whereas other Acholi chiefs had done so in 1892.
7. Awich assisted Kabalega's soldiers against the British which made the British to force him to expel the soldiers of Kabalega, but he refused.
8. The British attacked him in 1901 under the command of Harman. He was defeated and imprisoned in Kololo in Kampala.
9. As he was kept under lock, his people greatly revolted and claimed for his release, especially because the British had practically failed to establish effective rule in their area.
10. Before April 1902, chief Awich was returned to lead his people of payiira.
11. Whereas, the British through Colonel Macdonald made threats to chief Awich of Payiira to refrain from resisting the British, the chief refused.

12. In 1912, the British alleged that chief Awich had kept several guns from Arab traders, when the British insisted that the Acholi in his areas should register their guns, Awich refused the demand.
13. Chief Awich inspired his people into a rebellion against the British known as the Lamogi rebellion.
14. Upon all the above activities chief Awich was charged again at Nimule. While the court proceeded or was going on, it is said that chief Awich lost his temper and only reacted by slapping, other writers say by boxing the British prosecutor Sollven.
15. Chief Awich was again imprisoned in Kololo, given a fine of a number of heads of cattle and ivory
16. Unfortunately chief Awich died in 1920s having tried tooth and nail or in vain to resist the British rule in Acholiland.

b) KABAKA MWANGA (1866-

1. Mwanga was born, in 1866 and he came to power when still a youth of only 18 years.
2. Kabaka Mwanga came to power in 1884 after the death of his father Mutesa I.
3. Mwanga inherited the throne when there were different religious groups, that is to say the Catholics, Protestants, African traditionalists and Muslims.
4. Mwanga under the influence of traditionalists was totally against Europeans.
5. Mwanga tried to maintain his authority by killing three Christian converts in 1885.
6. In 1885 still, Mwanga ordered for the killing of Bishop Hannington who was approaching his Kingdom from the Eastern direction, yet the soothsayer had predicted that whoever would be approaching his Kingdom from that direction would be the one to overthrow him.
7. Mwanga's hardened heart character had been partly a result of Mwanga reigning (ruling) at a time of real troubles in Buganda.
8. The poor man ruled when there were serious religious factions in his Kingdom.
9. Bunyoro his neighbouring state was growing from strength to strength each and everyday.
10. The European powers were increasing their hold all over E. African territories.
11. Mwanga's anger with the Christians was still exemplified by his act of killing 30 Christians at Namugongo for refusing to denounce Christianity.

12. In September 1888, Mwanga was deposed by combined Muslim, Catholic, Protestant forces and replaced by his brother Kiwewa.
13. In October 1889 Mwanga regained the throne after deposing Kiweewa with the Moslem supporters.
14. Mwanga emphasized traditional laws against British law which greatly up-set Frederick. Lugard.
15. Mwanga managed to overcome the struggle of the WaFransa- Wangereza Wars (religious wars in Uganda).
16. In 1897, Mwanga staged a rebellion against Lugard and after failing, he fled to Tanganyika.
17. He had joined with chief Awich to fight against British in Northern Uganda.
18. Still Mwanga joined hands with Kabalega in Northern Uganda, Lango at a place called Kangai to fight the British.
19. Mwanga and Kabalega were captured by Semei Kakungulu who handed them over to the British.
20. Mwanga was exiled in Seychelles Island.

a) CHIEF MKWAWA

1. Mkwawa was the leader of Hehe Society.
2. He came to power in 1878 after succeeding his father Mungyigumba.
3. Mkwawa led one of the greatest resistances against German authority during the 19th century.
4. Mkwawa had his own problem with the Germans, that is to say the Germans had wanted to depose him; they were not at all comfortable with Mkwawa's prosperity from trade.
5. It was therefore the above factors and others that forced Mkwawa to rebel against the Germans.
6. In June 1891, a German force of more than one hundred troops advanced from Kilwa to attack Mkwawa.
7. M kwawa, the Hehe chief was ready for them, but still hoping that war could be avoided, he sent un armed men with presents to meet the visitors and assure them of his friendly intentions
8. The Germans instead completely frustrated Mkwawa only by opening up fire against them and several of Mkwawa's men were killed.

9. Mkwawa's hope for peace was surely got eliminated.
10. Mkwawa was too quick to ask his soldiers to attack with a lot of rapidity or speed; the German invaders including their leader "Zewlesky" were completely damaged.
11. The German garrison at Kilosa was attacked and all its occupants were killed.
12. A fresh German expedition led by Von Prince attacked Mkwawa's fort at Kalenga and captured it in 1804 after fierce resistance.
13. At this very stage, Mkwawa escaped and resorted to prolonged guerrilla warfare that ended in 1898.
14. The German from 1898 onwards tried hard to crack down Mkwawa, seeing that life had become so precarious (risky and dangerous), Mkwawa committed suicide.
15. The Germans still got his dead body, cut off the head and took it to Germany only to return in 1954 after his people had made a lot of noise.
16. His death marked the end of the Hehe resistance.
17. No doubt, Mkwawa was a great resistor in the eyes of German invaders, and he will remain in the history of East Africa for quite a long period.

b) CHIEF ABUSHIRI

1. Chief Abushiri was a leader of the Arab coastal resistance to the German and British Colonisation in East Africa.
2. Chief Abushiri was born in 1845 to an Arab Father and from a Galla mother.
3. He was a descendant of one of the first Arab settlers on the coast of East Africa and a member of a group who had come to regard themselves as local people.
4. Like many others, he opposed the influence of the Sultanate of Zanzibar on the coast and even advocated for independence.
5. As a young man, Abushiri had organised expeditions into the interior of East Africa to trade in ivory.
6. From the profits he made out of trade, he bought himself a farm and planted sugarcane.
7. He was also engaged in a campaign against the Nyamwezi which enabled him to assemble warriors who were later to be used against the Germans.

8. Under Abushiri's leadership the coastal people fired on a German warship at Tanga in September 1888 and gave the Germans two days to leave the coast, they later attacked Kilwa and killed two Germans there.
9. But the Germans who termed this, the Arab revolt sent out Hermann Von Wissman, who reached Zanzibar in April 1889, attacked Abushiri in his fortress near Bagamoyo and drove him out.
10. Abushiri escaped northwards to Uzigua where he was betrayed and handed over to the Germans who hanged him at Pangani on 15th December 1889.
11. The coastal resistance finally collapsed when Kilwa was bombarded and taken by the Germans in May 1890.

c) OMUKAMA KABALEGA OF BUNYORO

1. Kabalega was born in 1850 to Omukama Kyebambe Kamurasi IV who reigned from 1852-1869. Kabalega's mother was called Nyamitaligwa.
2. Kabalega spent his early life in Bulega with his mother when his father was deposed briefly.
3. When in Bulega, he was referred to as "Akana ka Bulega" meaning "the stubborn child from Bulega" because of his doggedness, hence the name Kabalega.
4. It was life in Bulega that shaped kabalega's character and made him developed love for his people.
5. In 1870 Kabalega rose to power after defeating his brother Katigumire in a succession struggle when their father died in 1869.
6. He faced problem from the European imperialists, for example in 1872 Sir Samuel Baker fought Kabalega in a battle of Isasha in Mubende but Baker's forces were defeated.
7. Lugard also made several attacks on Kabalega in 1891 but never succeeded.
8. In 1894, colonel Colville was sent to defeat Bunyoro.
9. Kabalega was therefore forced to fight war of resistance against the British because of such attacks.

The causes of Kabalega's resistance:

10. The need to protect his kingdom's freedom.
11. Kabalega had adopted the character of his father who was naturally a fighter.

12. Besides he had just organised his army and conquered a number of areas like Buddu. There was need to protect those changes.
13. The experience Kabalega underwent when he saw his father being overthrown made him to re-organize himself to take over Bunyoro leadership.
14. Kabalega believed so much in his army, the Barusura.
15. Kabalega had heard about the dangers of the whiteman, for example they had led to Buganda's loss of independence, taken over trade, land and abused their culture. Kabalega therefore could not accept the same in his Kingdom.
16. Bunyoro's enemies Tooro and Buganda had collaborated with the British, hence need to crush them.
17. Kabalega fought the British because he wanted to protect loss of his resources like minerals, land among others.
18. Bunyoro was feared all over the great lakes region as a super power, hence there was need to protect this pride.
19. The Banyoro were united and it was easy to organise for war.
20. Bunyoro had fought very many wars. The wide experience in war therefore assisted her to resist the whites.
21. They were encouraged by the defeat of Samuel Baker at the Isasha battle in Mubende.

THE COURSE OF KABALEGA RESISTANCE

1. Sir Samuel Baker had signed an agreement with Kabalega in which Baker promised to protect Bunyoro against her enemies.
2. Kabalega later realized how dangerous the whiteman could be dangerous and he decided to fight Baker.
3. Baker brought his Egyptian forces against Kabalega and they were defeated at Isansha in Mubende.
4. Kabalega attacked and captured Tooro under Kasagama in 1890 because he believed that he was collaborating with the British, his enemies.
5. Lugard later organised a large force against Kabalega and defeated him. He then built a number of Forts on the borders between Tooro and Bunyoro to prevent any further attacks on Tooro by Kabalega.

6. Kabalega then signed a peace agreement with the British but it was short lived because he later attacked Tooro.
7. In 1894, combined forces of British, Sudanese and Buganda soldiers under colonel Colville were sent to Bunyoro to crush Kabalega's resistance.
8. He was overpowered and later hid in Budongo forest where he employed guerilla warfare (hit and run military tactics) between 1893 and 1897.
9. Kabalega was later smoked out of Budongo forest by Colville's forces.
10. Apparently Kabalega escaped to Lango where he took refuge at a place called Kangai in Dokolo. He was joined by his counter part Mwanga of Buganda kingdom that was also experiencing similar problems.
11. In 1879 a group of soldiers under the commander of Semei Kakungulu, a collaborator was sent to capture him.
12. Kabalega and Mwanga were captured at Kangai and exiled in the Seychelles Island in the Indian Ocean Island.
13. Kabalega was later return at the age of 73 years when he could not resist but he died on his way to Bunyoro at Busoga.

EFFECTS OF BUNYORO RESISTANCE

1. Bunyoro kingdom lost the resistance to the British and a result lost her independence.
2. Kabalega therefore was exiled in the Seychelles Island after his defeat.
3. Peace returned to Bunyoro's neighbours like Tooro and Buganda.
4. There was loss of independence of Bunyoro under Kabalega.
5. There was massive loss of lives of the Banyoro.
6. Property too was destroyed.
7. Bunyoro was then ruled with the assistance of Buganda agents.
8. There arose hatred and enmity between Buganda and Bunyoro because Buganda assisted the British to have Bunyoro defeated.
9. When Kabalega died Bunyoro lacked a leader and that marked the end of Bunyoro's resistance.
10. The Banyoro learnt a lesson that the British were stronger in all aspects and that force will never wind back their independence.

11. The chiefs who rallied behind their leader Kabalega were arrested and jailed.
12. The Bunyoro resistance laid a foundation for other rebellions in Bunyoro like the Nyangire rebellion.
13. Forced cotton growing was introduced in Bunyoro after cotton was grown.
14. The people in Bunyoro lived in fear and panic.

Revision question

- i. Describe the response of any TWO of the following personalities to the establishment of colonial rule in their areas: a) Chief Awich b) Kabaka Mwanga c) Omukama Kabalega d) Chief Mkwawa e) Chief Abushiri.
- ii. Why did Kabalega resist against the British?
- iii. Describe the course of Bunyoro resistance under Kabalega.
- iv. What were the effects of Kabalega's resistance?