

BUGANDA KINGDOM

1. What were the origins of Buganda?

- Buganda came up after the collapse of Chwezi Empire.
- The kingdom was established in the interlacustrine region.
- Its early inhabitants were Bantu from Congo.
- Original Baganda lived in Busiro, Kyadondo and Mawokota.
- The first Baganda ruler was Kintu.
- He is believed that have come from Mt. Elgon area around 1314 AD.
- He passed through Bugishu, Budama, Busoga to Buganda.
- Kintu came with 13-14 of the present clans in Buganda.
- Another theory says Kato Kimera found Buganda.
- Kato Kimera came from Bunyoro around 1374 AD.
- He was a twin brother of Isingoma Rukidi Mpuga, the founder of Bito dynasty.
- He is believed to have curved Buganda from Bunyoro Kitara which was collapsing.
- He is believed to have come with 5 to 6 of the present clans.
- Another source says Buganda came from Bantu clans who lived around 1000 AD.
- Buganda started as a small state of Busiro, Mawokota, Kyadondo.
- Baganda belong to the interlacustrine Bantu group.
- Buganda extended to Singo, Gomba, Butambala.
- The expansion was made by Kabaka Kateregga.
- Kabaka Jjunju also expended Buganda to Buddu, Kooki.
- Kabaka Mawanda captured Bulemeezi, Kyaggwe, Bugerere.
- By 19th century, Buganda was the biggest kingdom in the interlacustrine kingdom.
- British helped Buganda to acquire Buyaga and Bugangaizi from Bunyoro.

2. What factors led to the growth of Buganda kingdom during the 18th century?

- ✓ Buganda sprung up after the collapse of the Chwezi empire.
- ✓ It started as a small state of Busiro, Mawokota, Kyadondo.
- ✓ In the 17th century, Buganda started expanding due to the following reasons;
 - Conquest of neighbouring provinces like Gomba, Singo and Kyaggwe.
 - Strong kings like Kateregga, Jjunju, Mawanda and Muteesa I.
 - Her population increase due to conquests made her expend.
 - Conquest of mineral rich areas like Buddu which had iron.
 - Absorption of conquered people thus increase in her population
 - Fertile soils and reliable rainfall which facilitated agriculture.
 - Good climate which facilitated settlement.
 - Buganda's trade with coastal Arabs, Swahilis, Khartoumers made her develop.
 - Buganda acquired guns from Arab traders which she used to conquer other areas.
 - Buganda levied taxes from trade caravans which passed in her territory.
 - Buganda had good roads that rotated around the kingdom for easy movement and trade.
 - Had a well developed centralized administration with Kabaka on top.
 - Buganda had a strong army, equipped with Arab weapons.
 - Kabaka married from all clans of Buganda which created unity in the kingdom.
 - Kingship was hereditary thus no succession disputes.

- Buganda's neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga were weak.
- Conquered areas were ruled by chiefs appointed by the Kabaka.
- Conquered states paid tributes to Kabaka which he used to develop Buganda.
- Kabaka used tributes from conquered people to reward his officials and soldiers.
- Buganda's collaboration with the British made her strong against her enemies.
- Buganda's acquisition of Buyaga and Bugangaizi from Bunyoro increased her power and size.
- Missionaries who came to Buganda brought education and modernity hence development.
- Specialization in Buganda where women cultivated, plained and harvested while men concentrated on fishing, trading, hunting, fighting, iron working, bark cloth making etc.
- Good geographical location surrounded by lakes and rivers which gave Buganda security.
- Buganda had a naval army on Lake Victoria to monitor attacks from her enemies.
- Common origin, language and culture helped Buganda to grow.
- In the 19th century, Buganda was the strongest kingdom in the interlacustrine kingdom and Stanley called it the Garden of Eden.

3. Describe the organization of Buganda kingdom during the 19th century.

- Kabaka was the political head
- Centralized administration
- Kabakaship was hereditary
- Kabaka had absolute powers and his word was final.
- Kabaka appointed, promoted and dismissed his officials without consulting anyone.
- Next to Kabaka was Katikiro who also had a lot of powers.
- Other important chiefs were Mulamuzi (Chief Justice) and muwanika (Finance Minister)
- Buganda had lesser chiefs like clan heads, county heads, sub-county heads and parish chiefs.
- Buganda was divided into counties, sub-counties, parishes etc.
- Chiefs mobilized people for public works like road construction.
- Chiefs also collected taxes from Baganda.
- Chiefs mobilized Baganda in case of war and maintained law and order.
- Chiefs supplied firewood, timber, food, bark cloth to king's palace.
- Chiefs were answerable to the katikiro.
- Buganda had a parliament called Lukiiko.
- Lukiiko was supposed to make laws, advise the Kabaka and his ministers.
- Buganda had a strong Army of able-bodied men.
- Kabaka had a special army of (Abambowa)
- Buganda had a Navy on Lake Victoria to protect the kingdom from attacks.
- Kabaka had palace officials who acted as his ears and eyes (spies)
- Queen mother, queen sister were important persons in the kingdom.
- Buganda had royal regalia like spears, stools, drums and animal skins.
- Buganda practiced agriculture, growing yams, sweet potatoes, beans, cassava, vegetables, etc.
- Division of labour, women planted, harvested, white men traded, etc.
- Crop rotation after 3 years to maintain soil fertility.
- Kept animals like cattle, sheep, goats and chicken.

- Kabaka had large herds of animals and Hima took care of it.
- Practiced fishing in Lake Victoria etc.
- Hunting for meat (antelopes, pigs and buffalos)
- Hunted elephants for ivory.
- Hunted leopards, lions for hides and skins.
- Kabaka hunted for leisure.
- Bark cloth making.
- Iron working, knives, swords, bangles, axes, pangas and hoes.
- Participated in long distance trade with coastal Arabs.
- Traded with neighbors like Banyankole and Basoga.
- Baganda made canoes and craft like mats, beads and necklaces.
- Collected tributes from conquered states.
- Collected taxes from local people and from traders.
- Raided neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga, Kooki for slaves, cattle and ivory.
- Buganda had clans like lion, elephant, antelope, mushroom among others.
- Each clan had a clan head and burial sites.
- Kabaka was the head of all the clans.
- Kabaka belonged to mother's clan.
- Each clan supplied Kabaka with a wife.
- Buganda was divided into classes.
- Royal class of Kabaka, princes and princess.
- Noble class of chiefs and palace officials.
- Commoners/peasants who were not highly respected
- Slaves who were treated like property by their bosses.
- Kabaka was the spiritual leader of Buganda.
- Buganda had small gods like Ddungu, Musoke, Kibuuka, Mukasa
- Buganda had diviners who consulted spirits of the dead.
- Baganda practiced witchcraft to harm others.
- Baganda had herbalists who treated the sick.
- Baganda believed in a supreme being called Katonda.
- Baganda's religion was called Lubaale
- Baganda had shrines where they sacrificed for ancestors.
- Baganda dressed in bark cloth, animal skins and beads.
- Royal family members wore skins of antelopes, leopards, goats and cows.
- Baganda built bee-hives shaped houses that were wooden and grass thatched.
- Baganda had polygamous marriages.
- Sex and marriage between close relatives was not allowed.
- Marriage involved introduction ceremony where the girl introduced her husband to her family.
- Had burial grounds for Kabaka at Kasubi (masiro)
- Important chiefs were buried in houses.
- Respect for elders was stressed. Girls had to kneel while greeting them.
- Had games like boat racing and wrestling.

4. Why did Buganda kingdom decline?

- Started declining in the 19th century.
- Too big to be ruled by one king
- Due to big size, distant places like Busoga started breaking away.
- Coming of foreigners who colonized the kingdom (missionaries, explorers and colonialists)
- Poor leadership of Mwanga who was young and inexperienced.
- DaudiChwa who was only 3 years and ruled through regents.
- Mwanga's killing of missionaries and Christians made him hated by Baganda
- 1900 Buganda agreement that completely reduced the powers of the Kabaka.
- Buganda's neighbours like Bunyoro worked for the down fall of the kingdom.
- Baganda's army was too weak to defeat colonialists who had maxim guns.
- Missionary teachings softened the hearts of Baganda and started rebelling against Kabaka.
- Lake Victoria was used by white colonialists to conquer Buganda.
- Abolition of Buganda kingdom by Obote in 1967.

5. Describe Buganda's relationship with her neighbours

- Buganda's neighbours were Bunyoro, Busoga, Ankole, Toro, Kooki etc.
- Her relationship with some neighbours was good and others bad.
- Traded with Bunyoro giving her iron for salt.
- Baganda intermarried with Basoga and Banyoro.
- Baganda got mercenaries from neighbours for her expansion.
- Buganda constantly conflicted with Bunyoro.
- Buganda conquered Kooki, Buddu, Mawogola, Buruuli, Bulemezi from Bunyoro.
- KabakaKyabaggu also conquered Busoga.
- KabakaJjunju brought Kooki under Buganda's control.
- Buganda raided neighbours like Bunyoro, Busoga, Ankole and Toro.
- Buganda raided for slaves, ivory, women, cattle, grains to sell to Arab traders.
- Buganda used canoes to attack islands like Buvuma, Kalangala on Lake Victoria.
- Buganda also raided western Kenya.
- Loyal states like Kooki were not raided.

END