

Social and Economic Developments during the Colonial period in Kenya



Content

1. The Uganda Railway
2. Settler farming in Kenya
3. Colonial land policies
4. Devonshire White Paper
5. Urbanization

The Uganda Railway

The construction started in 1896 at Mombasa.

By 1899 it had reached Nairobi and in 1901 it had reached Kisumu.

Reasons for the construction of the Uganda Railway

- 1) To establish effective control over British East Africa
- 2) To facilitate maximum economic exploitation of the region
- 3) To link Uganda with the coast and the outside world
- 4) To stop slave trade and promote legitimate trade
- 5) For easy movement of Christian missionaries
- 6) For Britain to protect her strategic interests in the region
- 7) To facilitate movement of troops and government administrators into the interior parts.

Problems encountered during construction of Uganda Railway

1. Lack of labour
2. Tropical diseases
3. Attack by lions
4. Varied weather
5. Hostile communities e.g. the Nandi who resisted the construction of the railway across their territory
6. The terrain across the highlands into the Rift Valley
7. Lack of basic needs e.g. food, water and medicine
8. Transportation problem, and communication barrier between London and the protectorate
9. Inadequate funds.

Effects of the construction of Uganda Railway on Kenya

1. Opened up interior of Kenya
2. Led to coming of European settlers
3. Growth of towns e.g. Mombasa, Nairobi etc.
4. Africans lost their land to the construction the railway
5. Asian community settled in Kenya and developed early trade
6. It encouraged the spread of Christianity missionaries were able to move into the interior

7. Introduction of cash crops e.g. coffee, tea, pyrethrum etc.
8. First modern currency, the rupee was introduced by Indians
9. Africans were employed as semi-skilled workers
10. Other forms of transport and communication developed along the railway e.g. roads, telegraphs, postal services
11. It led to redrawing of boundaries between Kenya and Uganda.

Settler Farming

Reasons why the Government encouraged Settler Farming

1. The government wanted to make Kenya Whiteman's country by encouraging white settlers to form the backbone of the economy
2. To help finance administrative costs without involving the British tax payers
3. To pay for the construction costs of the railway, and maintain it
4. To produce raw materials for British industries
5. Kenya lacked any other resources to be exploited
6. Africans lacked funds and knowledge of large- scale farming
7. To check Indian/Asian migration and influence by settling more whites.

Methods used by the Colonial Government to promote Settler Farming

- 1) Provision of land
- 2) Provision of labour
- 3) Technical assistance
- 4) Building and maintenance of transport and communication system to ease marketing and delivery of farm produce and inputs
- 5) Formation of co-operatives was encouraged by the government and establishment of financial institutions
- 6) Provision of security by the government to the settlers
- 7) Control of African agricultural activities to reduce competition for market, labour and land
- 8) Removal of trade tariffs and custom duties to help the settlers to trade.

Problems encountered by Settlers in Kenya

- 1) Hostility from the Africans
- 2) Lack of labour
- 3) Lack of experience in farming
- 4) Lack of funds
- 5) Poor transport networks
- 6) Marketing problems
- 7) Crop and animal diseases
- 8) Unfavourable and varied climate.

Main crops grown by European settlers in Colonial Kenya

Wheat

- ❖ In 1903 Lord Delamere tried wheat farming in Njoro but was affected by wheat rust disease
- ❖ In 1912, he harvested a good crop
- ❖ 1908 he set up Unga Limited Company.

Coffee

- ❖ It was introduced in 1899 by French fathers of St Austin's Mission
- ❖ 1908, Lord Delamere founded the Coffee Planters Association to encourage many settlers to grow coffee
- ❖ Later coffee was grown in Thika, Kiambu and Murang'a
- ❖ By 1920 coffee was the most important export from Kenya but Africans were not allowed to grow it.

Tea

- ❖ Tea was first grown at Limuru in 1903
- ❖ 1907 it was introduced in Kericho
- ❖ By 1925 it was grown in plantations in Kericho and Limuru by two Indian companies e.g. Brooke Bond and Liptons
- ❖ Tea growing spread to Nandi Sotik and other parts of central province.
- ❖ From 1950's Africans were allowed to grow it.

Sisal

- ❖ 1893 sisal was introduced from Tanganyika
- ❖ 1904 it was first planted in Kalimon near Thika
- ❖ By 1920 it had become Kenya's second most important cash crop
- ❖ It was grown in Ruiru, Voi, Murang'a, Taveta, Donyo Sabuk and Koibatek
- ❖ In 1964 Africans were allowed to grow it.

Cotton

- ❖ It was first tried in Nyanza in 1906 but failed In 1923 the government encouraged growing
- ❖ of cotton in Coast and Nyanza
- ❖ Farmers were supplied with free seeds
- ❖ Africans were allowed to grow this crop
- ❖ In 1930's instructors were brought to train the farmers and production increased.

Pyrethrum

- ❖ It was introduced in 1930 and grown in Nakuru and Mob but later it was grown in Njoro, Kiambu, Londiani and Uasin Gishu. From 1950 Africans were allowed to grow it.

Dairy farming

- a) It was introduced by Lord Delamere
- b) He imported pigs, cattle and sheep from Britain and experimented with them at his Njoro farm
- c) He faced problems of mineral deficiency diseases like East Coast Fever and raids by Nandi and Maasai, most of the animals died
- d) He later established farms at Soysambu near lake Elementaita and in Njoro
- e) In 1925 Lord Delamere established the Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC) to encourage farmers and give out loans
- f) In 1930 Kenya farmers Association (KFA) was formed to market agricultural products and guard against African competition in agriculture.

Colonial Land Policies

1. Kenya was declared a Protectorate and the colonial government enacted laws to effect alienation of land and to encourage white settlement i.e.
2. The Indian Acquisition Act { 1896 } empowered the government to acquired land for railway building and other public purposes
3. British East Africa Land Regulations Act was passed in 1897. It allowed the government to offer a certificate of occupancy to settlers for 99 years
4. The East African Land Order in Council was passed in 1901. It defined crown land as all public land, which is not private. The government could take at will any land, sell it or lease it for settler use

5. The Crown Land Ordinance of 1902 allowed the government to sell all empty land at 2 rupees per 100 acres or rented at 15 rupees per 100 acre per year to Europeans. It stated that land must be developed or else forfeited.
6. The Crown Land Ordinance of 1904 allowed survey of empty land in southern Gikuyu land.
7. The First Maasai Agreement was signed 1904, The Maasai were pushed to two reserves Ngong and Laikipia. This agreement led to creation of first African reserves.
8. Four more African reserves were created in the Kikuyu and Nandi areas in 1905.

9. By 1916 15,540 km² of land had been alienated by the Europeans.
10. The government confirmed that the highlands were reserved for white settlers to oppose Asian attempts to buy land in the white highlands in 1906.
11. The Second Maasai agreement was signed in 1911. Laikipia reserve was alienated for white settlement
12. Crown Lands Ordinance was passed in 1915. Crown land was redefined to cover those areas occupied by Africans. It provided a land registration scheme for settlers.

13. 1920 Kenya Annexation Order in Council announced that Africans were tenants of the crown even in the reserves.
14. 1924 — Land Commission fixed the boundaries of reserves which were legalized in 1926.
15. Native Land Trust Ordinance of 1930 confirmed that reserve were permanent African property.
16. 1931-32 — more land was alienated in Kakan due to the discovery of gold 1932 — Carter Commission fixed bound I of the white highlands and removed Africans from their land 1939 — Kenya Highlands Order in Council L.. boundaries of the white highlands and res them for exclusive use of the Europeans foreigners.

Consequences of Colonial Land Policies

- 1) Loss of land for Africans
- 2) lost title to land even in the reserves
- 3) It brought to an end widespread migration and settlement of the African people who were confined to the reserves
- 4) There was land shortage within the reserves
- 5) Overpopulation in reserves

- 6) Overuse of land leading to soil erosion, cropping and overgrazing The policies brought misery, poverty and fear among Africans It created bitterness among the affected people e.g. Maasai and Kikuyu
- 7) Introduction of taxes — hut tax and poll tax ensure a constant supply of labour
- 8) Introduction of the kipande which restricted African movement
- 9) It led to rise of African Nationalist Parties.

The Devonshire White Paper {1923}

The Devonshire White Paper originated in the conflict between Asian and white settlers in Kenya because of social segregation between the two.

Asians Grievances

1. They were not allowed to own land in the white highlands
2. Lack of representation in the legislative council
3. Ban on their immigration. They demanded more Indians to be allowed to come to Kenya Lack of equal rights and equal opportunities for Indians
4. Prohibition against Indians using European markets in Nairobi
5. Accused Indians refused to face trial by jury

White Settlers Grievances

1. To retain the Kenya highlands and Asians to be stopped from buying land in Kenya highlands
2. Demanded that Asian migration into Kenya be stopped
3. Demanded self government to be granted to them
4. Advocated for separate development for all races in Kenya

- ❑ In 1922 the British government issued a report on the settlers-Indian conflict:
 - a. That there was not to be any racial segregation in Kenya
 - b. The highlands were to be exclusively for the whites
 - c. Indians were to be allowed to elect four members to the legislative council (Legco)

Both groups were unhappy with the report and sent a delegation to the colonial secretary Lord Devonshire who after listening to their petitions wrote the Devonshire white paper of 1923.

Terms of Devonshire White Paper

There was to be no racial segregation in all residential areas

- 1) Restriction on immigration was lifted
- 2) A missionary Dr. Arthur was to be nominated to represent African interests
- 3) The highlands were reserved for European settlement only
- 4) Indians to elect five members to the Legco and to have a representative in Municipal councils
- 5) European demand for self-government was rejected
- 6) Interests of the Africans to be given priority as Kenya was an African country
- 7) The colonial office was to exercise close control of the colony.

Effects of Devonshire White Paper

1. The paper did not please the Indians and Europeans
2. It saved Africans in Kenya from the harsh treatment received by their kind in Zimbabwe and South Africa
3. Indians were denied settlement in white highlands
4. Africans were recognized as the natives of the Kenyan land
5. Rivalry between the Indians and the settlers intensified

6. Africans were represented in the Legco by a missionary Dr. Arthur from 1924 to 1944 when an African Eliud Mathu was appointed
7. The paper failed to resolve African land and labour issues
8. It led to the Africans becoming politically aware and started forming political organizations e.g. 1924 - the Kikuyu Central Association (KCA) was formed.

Urbanization

Factors leading to urbanization in Colonial Kenya

1. The construction of the Kenya Uganda railway led to the growth of urban centres e.g. Nairobi, Nakuru, Mombasa, Naivasha, Kisumu, Voi e.t.c
2. Setting up of shops by Indians which grew into towns
3. Administrative centres set up by colonial government grew into towns e.g. Murang'a, Mumias e.t.c
4. Posts set up to house soldiers also led to growth of town centres e.g. Nanyuki and Gilgil.
5. Mining centres also grew into towns

6. Market centres also led to growth of urban centres e.g. Eldoret, Karatina, Sotik e.t.c
7. Agro-based industries changed surrounding areas into urban centres
8. Towns also grew along communication lines
9. Other urban centres grew around institutions like hospitals e.g. Chogoria, Maseno, Rabai
10. Towns also grew along feeder roads.

Factors leading to African influx into urban centres during the Colonial Period

1. Colonial land policies which led to loss of land
2. In search of job opportunities
3. Report of high wages in towns
4. Traders wanted to take advantage of wider markets in towns
5. They were attracted by better social amenities e.g. piped water, paved roads, electricity, medical facilities, modern sanitation and recreational facilities.

Consequences of urbanization during the colonial

positive consequences

- I. Many Africans were gainfully employed in industries
- II. It brought together Africans of diverse ethnic backgrounds promoting national integration during and after the colonial period
- III. They formed associations and trade unions
- IV. Promoted market gardening for communities which lived near towns e.g. Agikuyu of Kiambu
- V. Encouraged entrepreneurship for Africans who could not obtain wage labour.

Negative effects of urbanization

- a) Led to unemployment, poverty, immorality and other social crimes
- b) Lack of accommodation led to construction of slums
- c) Families broke up as some Africans moved to towns and settled there permanently
- d) Introduction of kipande system
- e) Africans got low wages. worked in unfavourable conditions, lived in overcrowded areas leading to disease outbreak
- f) There was segregation in residential areas of urban centres.

Education

Missionary Education

- ❑ Christian missionaries were the first group to start formal education in Kenya.
- ❑ They were able to move into the interior with the completion of Uganda Railway where they set up mission stations.
- ❑ Between 1906 and 1914, they managed to set up village schools managed by African teachers and central schools at the mission stations.
- ❑ In these schools, they taught the 3R's, simple agricultural education, religious education, hygiene and technical training.
- ❑ In 1911 the government set up the education department which offered grants- in-aid to certain missionary run-schools.
- ❑ Missionaries also offered advanced secondary education in schools like Maseno, Kabaa, St Mary's Yala and Alliance High School in 1925.

Aims of Missionary Education

1. To teach Africans agricultural skills to promote European farming
2. Teach Africans basic technical skills to imp their industrial knowledge
3. To enhance the spread of Christianity by training some African catechists
4. To offer basic literacy skills to enable Africans to read the bible and numeracy to do simple arithmetic
5. Teach Africans better methods of hygiene.

The Colonial Government

- ❑ In 1910, the government appointed a director of education
- ❑ 1913, the government established Machakos as its first school, as a central and teacher training school
- ❑ 1924, the government was empowered by an education ordinance to develop, control and supervise education
- ❑ 1925, Jeans training school in lower Kabete started offering, technical and trade subjects
- ❑ The government did not offer academic education to Africans and argued that the Africans:
 - Did not have the mental capacity to pursue academic education
 - That the Africans would be aware of their rights and arouse anti-colonial feelings among them.

The Asians

- ❑ 1904, the government set up the Railway Asian school in Nairobi
- ❑ By 1926, several Asian secondary schools were set up in Nairobi and Mombasa
- ❑ 1942, Asian boys education was made compulsory from ages 7-15 years
- ❑ Mombasa Institute of Muslim Education was set up to provide higher-level technical education
- ❑ 1958, Hospital Hill School accepted Asians, Africans and European pupils.

European settlers

- By 1910 schools had been established for European children
- By 1918 there were 3 boarding primary schools and one primary school for European children
- 1931, the Prince of Wales secondary school was started (Now Nairobi School), Lenana, Kenya High and Limuru Girls by 1940's.

Establishment of schools by Africans

- a. Between 1908 and 1910 John Owalo of Nomiya Luo mission was the first to set up schools in Nyanza
- b. Between 1913 and 1918 Chief Odera Okango set up independent schools in Gem, Luanda
- c. In central Kenya the first schools were started at Giathieko in Kiambu in 1913 and at Githunguri in 1923
- d. Between 1934 and 1939, the Kikuyu Karing'a Educational Association (KKEA) and Kikuyu

- e. Independent Schools Association (KISA) founded many independent schools
- f. 1939 — Kenya Teachers Training Centre (KTTC) was established in Githunguri, with
- g. the help of Peter Mbiyu Koinange to train teachers for Kikuyu independent schools and
- h. between 1948 and 1950 Jomo Kenyatta acted as its principal.

The Africans

Reasons why Africans started their own independent schools

1. To provide more educational opportunities for Africans
2. To have control over what was taught in their schools
3. To keep away European influence from their schools
4. To preserve their culture, and create job opportunities for educated Africans
5. To compete for white collar jobs on equal terms with other races
6. To create political awareness and a forum to air their grievances.

Levels of Education in Colonial Kenya

Primary Education

- ❑ Primary education was started by missionaries
- ❑ They offered elementary education from standard 1 —4 and technical skills from standard 5—8
- ❑ By 1930 there were about 2,000 primary schools.

Secondary Education

- ❑ Secondary education for Africans developed slowly as it was an exclusive right of Europeans
- ❑ After 1945, Africans demanded for provision of secondary education
- ❑ Missionaries set up the first African secondary school i.e. Alliance in 1926 and Mangu School in 1930. However, very few Africans managed to obtain secondary education.

University education

1. By 1949, University education was only offered abroad through government scholarships to European children only
2. Opportunities improved after 1949 when Makerere became a university
3. Royal Technical College was started in 1954 in Nairobi because of pressure for higher education by Africans
4. 1961, it started offering degree courses
5. In 1963, it became a university college, (Nairobi university today) Health

6. Administration of medical services started in 1903 when the Railways and protectorate government medical services merged
7. 1907 Church of Scotland Mission set up a medical mission at Thogoto
8. Church Missionary Society started medical work in Mombasa, Kaloleni, Kaimosi, Maseno and Nyeri
9. These medical services provided treatment for diseases that affected Europeans e.g. Malaria. plague, sleeping sickness e.t.c
10. During the First World War, the East African Medical Corps was formed. It trained African medical helpers

11. 1921 Public Health Ordinance empowered the medical department to use preventive rather than curative measures in the whole country
12. 1928, the medical department established health units in four native reserves
13. 1926, the Alliance Medical College was started as a training centre by missionaries. Many African boys were trained as laboratory and pharmacy assistances
14. Other mission health centres were established at Chogoria, Tumutumu, Mukumu, Kaimosi, Kilifi and Maseno. Young male nurses were trained and those who excelled went to Make'rere for a Diploma in Medicine

15. 1951 — The King George VI Hospital (today Kenyatta National Hospital) was set up
16. 1953 a home and training centre for female African nurses was started in this hospital
17. By 1955 nurses graduating from King George Vi Hospital were eligible to be registered as state registered nurses
18. By 1962 Kenya had over 100 rural health centres
19. The medical department undertook research in medicine.
20. African initiative in the field of Health

21. Africans viewed western medicine with suspicion as they were deeply rooted in traditional medicine
22. Vaccination campaigns were seen as a way of torturing them, they were also unwilling to be trained as nurses
23. Africans who had been converted to Christianity accepted to be trained as dressers
24. Later they started to co-operate with the government in treatment and inoculation measures when they realized the importance of western education

25. The chiefs played an important role in the campaign for western medicine as medical personnel used chief's barazas to address people

- Chiefs also helped in construction of dispensaries and child welfare centres
- Local native councils gave some tax money for medical care
- Education also enlightened people on importance of health.

KCSE SAMPLE QUESTIONS