Political Power in Pre-Colonial Buganda

Economy, Society & Warfare in the Nineteenth Century

RICHARD J. REID
Asmara University

James Currey
OXFORD

Fountain Publishers

Ohio University Press

Contents

Acknowledgements	ix
Maps	xi-xiv
One	
Introduction	1
The political & territorial kingdom	3
The 'wars of religion' & the establishment of colonial rule	5
The secondary literature	7
The aims & structure of the book	13
D O	
Part One	17
Land & Livelihood	
A survey	
of the Ganda economy	
Two	
— · · · -	
Land & Cultivation	19
Introduction	19
The kingdom of the banana	22
Crops & plantations in the nineteenth century	25
The historical & cultural environment	31 32
'Queer foods' & famine in the nineteenth century Political turmoil & agricultural collapse in the 1880s & 1890s	36
Three	
Herdsmen & Hunters	40
Pastoralism in pre-colonial Buganda	40
Herds & herdsmen in politics & society	45
The consumption & utilization of livestock	50
Livestock disease in the late nineteenth century	52
The economics & culture of hunting in pre-colonial Buganda	55

The hunt for ivory Hunters of river & lake: the political economy of fishing The waters of Ganda history	60 64 68
Four	
Crafts & Craftsmen	70
Barkcloth production	70
The expansion of the barkcloth economy	72
Iron & the state	76
Pre-colonial pottery culture	86
Summary of Part One	89
Part Two	93
Labour & Liberty	
The state	
& its human resources	
Five	
Labour & Taxation	95
Taxation in the nineteenth century	98
Working for the state: the organization of public labour	103 107
The highways of Buganda Mwanga's reign: an abuse of the system	111
Six	
Slavery	113
Acquisition of slaves	116
Women & slavery	119
Slave hierarchies	124
Summary of Part Two	131

1	3	Q
	_	

Buyers & Sellers Developments in commerc

Developments in commerce	
Seven	
Domestic & Regional Trade	135
Local commerce & commodities	136
Pre-colonial currencies	144
Eight	
The Growth of Long-Distance Trade	149
Beginnings	149
Coastal merchants in Buganda	151
Commercial change in the late nineteenth century	160
Summary of Part Three	171
<i>y y</i>	
Part Four	175
War & Peace	
Nine	
The Rise & Decline	
of Ganda Military Power	177
Ethos & motivation	179
Military growth before the nineteenth century	185 190
'Restless warfare': conquest & consolidation under Kamanya Stability & decline in the nineteenth century, 1:	190
the reign of Suna	194
Stability & decline in the nineteenth century, 2:	134
the reign of Mutesa	198
110 101511 01 11141004	

Ten

Developments in Organization,	
Tactics & Weaponry	206
Structures & hierarchy	206
Structures & tactics	210
The new elite: from bodyguard to vanguard	214
The tools of war: weaponry & the role of firearms	218
Eleven	
Lake Victoria,	
the Final Frontier	227
Canoe construction	228
Naval developments c. 1700-c. 1840	231
The growth of naval power from c. 1840	234
The helots of Uganda': the Sesse & Ganda naval expansion	237
The expansion of ports	240
The organization of the fleet	243
Summary of Part Four	249
Twelve	
Conclusions	251
Sources & Bibliography	259
Inday	267