

ASSIGNMENT DQ3: COLONIZATION

*neededessays.com*

Name

Course

Date

## Colonization of the Eastern Africa

Colonialism is one of the past phenomena that has most lasting impacts on East African communities. Colonization of the Eastern African countries brought systematic and radical transformations in the local institutions, political, cultural and economic structures<sup>1</sup>. In simple terms, colonialism refers to creation, exploitation, maintenance as well as the expansion of colonies in a given territory by persons from a different territory<sup>2</sup>. As a result, different relationships between the colony and their colonial power. While colonization of Eastern Africa was executed using similar mechanisms and motives as the rest of Africa, certain occurrences created made it unique.

The first phase of colonization of Eastern Africa can be traced back in the 1500s when Portuguese arrived at the East African coast. The pioneer of Portuguese conquest of the Eastern Africa region was Vasco Da Gama who was a trader and a sailor. However, unlike the majority of other parts of Africa, Portuguese found that Arabs and Asians had already established territories and trade along the East African coast and some parts of interior<sup>3</sup>. The Portuguese established monopoly rights which enabled their firms to control trade especially the slave trade. In a few years, other European nations borrowed Portuguese attitudes and practice. However, it is important to note that Portuguese never attempted to establish territories in the East African region.

---

<sup>1</sup> Shillington, Kevin. *History of Africa*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

<sup>2</sup> Rashid, Nazifa. "British colonialism in East-Africa during the nineteenth century." *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)* 19, no. 1 (2014): 08-11.

<sup>3</sup> Iliffe, John. *Africans: The History of a cOntinent*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

The other phase of East African colonization can be traced back to the mid-nineteenth century. The period was characterized by notable events such as the decline of Portuguese power while British was becoming more influential, the arrival of missionaries and explorers such as David Livingstone, Ludwig Krapf, and Joseph Thompson among others who represented interests of their countries and missions<sup>3</sup>. One of the greatest significance of this period is that it played a crucial role in the establishment of the colonial map of Eastern Africa region. The mission stations that were established by missionaries and geographical discoveries made by explorers served as boundaries for colonizing powers mainly Britain, Germany, and Italy. The peak of this period was the Berlin conference that was held in the 1880s that lead to the formalization of the geography of East Africa colonial territories. The event which came to be widely known as “scramble for Africa” saw Britain gaining control of Kenya, Uganda, and Zanzibar territories while Germany was given Tanganyika<sup>4</sup>.

The last phase of East Africa colonization was the liberation period. Optimism characterized the period, which occurred between 1950 and 1980 among the natives. The spirit of nationalism emerged and gained pace among young elites who were determined to destroy European rule and create national states. Other positive developments that were observed among the natives included an increase in life expectancy from 39 to 51 years, eradication of killer diseases such as small pox and an overall increase in population<sup>3</sup>. As a result, the cost of repressing nationalism became higher as compared to that of modernizing colonialism. Back in Europe, technocrats and economists started viewing colonies as a burden to the economic growth that was being brought by the industrial revolution. However, the actions of the nationalists

---

<sup>4</sup> Craven, Matthew. "Between law and history: the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 and the logic of free trade." *London Review of International Law* 3, no. 1 (2015): 31-59.

highly determined how colonial powers would react. Educated elites orchestrated the fight for independence with the East African countries gaining full independence between the 1950s and 1960s. Drawing knowledge from the major events that occurred during colonization, it is clear that the phenomenon played a crucial role in establishing the foundation of the East Africa region as it is known today.

[needessays.com](https://www.needessays.com)

Bibliography

Craven, Matthew. "Between law and history: the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885 and the logic of free trade." *London Review of International Law* 3, no. 1 (2015): 31-59.

Iiffe, John. *Africans: The History of a cOntinent*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Rashid, Nazifa. "British colonialism in East-Africa during the nineteenth century." *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)* 19, no. 1 (2014): 08-11.

Shillington, Kevin. *History of Africa*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.

needessays.com