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Background of British colonial control over Uganda 1894
خلفيات السيطرة الاستعمارية البريطانية على أوغندا 1894م.

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Abstract:

Throughout the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the Ugandan kingdoms experienced intense conflict and terrible Imperialist competition between Germany, France, and Britain, due to the aspirations of European countries and their competition to obtain strategic areas that serve the interests of their governments and people at the expense of the local population. Therefore, this study aims to expose the true intentions of colonial Britain and other European imperialism countries, by identifying the most important factors that strengthened the European colonial tendency in Uganda, as well as the methods adopted by Britain, through which it was able to overcome its European competitors to declare its control over Uganda in 1894. The descriptive approach was adopted primarily, and the interpretive approach was also used. From the results of this study, we concluded that the presence of Christian missions, geographical discoveries, and Britain's adoption of the abolition of the slave trade as a humanitarian principle in Uganda, was nothing but a prelude and consolidation of British colonialism in the region, and that the claims of European imperialism, and British in particular, to defend humanity and spread civilization in Africa, were nothing but lies promoted For her, and far from the truth. British colonial policy in Uganda also reinforced tribal ethnic divisions and entrenched the colonial masters' culture of racial superiority, thus keeping the local population at the bottom of the social pyramid and on the margins of colonial society.

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Keywords: Buganda; Christianization; Nile Valley; European scramble; British diplomacy; 1890 agreement; colonialism; Lugard; protectorate.

الملخص:

عاشت الممالك الأوغندية طيلة الربع الأخير من القرن التاسع عشر صراعا شديدا ومنافسة إمبريالية رهيبة، بين كل من ألمانيا، فرنسا وبريطانيا، بسبب تطلعات الدول الأوروبية وتنافسها حول الحصول على مناطق استراتيجية، تخدم مصالح حكوماتهم وشعبهم على حساب السكان المحليين، ولذا تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى فضح النوايا الحقيقية لبريطانيا الاستعمارية وغيرها من الدول الأوروبية الإمبريالية، من خلال الوقوف على أهم العوامل التي عززت النزعة الاستعمارية الأوروبية في أوغندا وكذا الأساليب التي اعتمدتها بريطانيا واستطاعت من خلالها تجاوز منافسيها من الدول الأوروبية لتعلن سيطرتها على أوغندا سنة 1894، وقد تم اعتماد المنهج الوصفي والتفسيري، ومن نتائج هذه الدراسة وصلنا إلى أن تواجد الإرساليات التنصيرية والكشوف الجغرافية وتبني بريطانيا إلغاء تجارة الرقيق كمبدأ إنساني في أوغندا، ما هو إلا تمهيد وترسيخ للاستعمار البريطاني في المنطقة، وأن ادعاءات الامبريالية الأوروبية والبريطانية خصوصا، بالدفاع عن الإنسانية ونشر المدنيّة والحضارة في إفريقيا، ماهي إلا أكاذيب روجت لها، وأبعد ما تكون إلى الحقيقة. بل إن السياسة الاستعمارية البريطانية في أوغندا، قد عززت الانقسامات العرقية القبلية، ورسخت ثقافة التفوق العنصري للسادة المستعمرين وبالتالي إبقاء السكان المحليين في أسفل الهرم الاجتماعي وعلى هامش المجتمع الاستعماري.

الكلمات المفتاحية: بوغندا؛ التنصير؛ وادي النيل؛ التدافع الأوروبي؛ الدبلوماسية البريطانية؛ اتفاقية 1890؛ الاستعمار؛ لوغارد؛ الحماية.

- Introduction:

The last third of the nineteenth century witnessed an increase in European interests in East Africa, including the Great Lakes region. This region witnessed several events and movements, resulting in a struggle for colonial expansion and effective control over it. Indeed, the region became a primary target sought by Britain, France, and Germany, due to its known natural wealth and resources, as well as the presence of the main sources of the Nile.

Geographical discoveries and missionary activity reinforced European colonialism in the region. Both Britain and Germany believed that the best way to achieve their interests in the Great Lakes region was to seize the Kingdom of Buganda. Britain was thus able to infiltrate the kingdom and forge friendly relations with tribal chiefs under the guise of abolishing the slave trade, enabling it to implement its covert project of invading the region and exploiting its natural, human, and strategic resources. Each time Germany attempted to achieve colonial supremacy and woo one of the Ugandan kingdoms, British diplomacy was able to tip the scales and thwart the Germans' plans. This was achieved through the British Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, who understood the importance of controlling Uganda, especially after the British Company proposed its expansionist project in the region, which could only be achieved by putting an end to German and French expansion in the region. Based on this, the main problem addressed in this article is to answer the following question: How was British policy able to outstrip European imperialist powers in controlling Uganda ? Several sub-questions fall within the framework of this problem, including:

- What is Uganda's position in light of the European imperial competition over it?
- What mechanisms did Britain adopt to control and dominate Uganda?
- How can I understand British colonial policy in Uganda?

The subject has been studied by historians and researchers interested in the history of East Africa in general and Uganda in particular. To understand the details of this topic, we relied on a range of primary sources contemporary to this historical event, such as: Hertslett, Sir Edward : "A Map of Africa under the Treaty," vols. 1-2 (1894), vol.3 (1896), and Lugard, F: "The Rise of Our Empire in East Africa: Early Efforts in Nyasaland and Uganda", vol. 2, and Kilty, S.J: "The Partition of Africa", and a research paper entitled "The Colonial Roots of Internal Conflict in Uganda" by Samwiri Lwanga-Lunigo, and the doctoral dissertation of Mugambwa, John Tamukidi, entitled "The Development of British Legal Authority in Uganda with Special Emphasis on Buganda: 1890-1938".

To cover the various aspects of the subject, the historical approach was adopted to study the context and development of the history of Ugandan kingdoms during the second half of the nineteenth century. The descriptive approach, and specifically the interpretive approach, was used to attempt to explain the causes of many of the events that Uganda witnessed.

1- The Beginnings of European Interest in Uganda:

The peoples of the kingdoms of Uganda had developed a sophistiquâtes political, economic, and social organization since before British colonialism. The region also preoccupied many thinkers, explorers, and even traders, with the question of how to access it. This was due to its connection to the sources of the Nile, attempts to discover which date back to ancient times and even to the Middle Ages and modern times. Several expeditions to the region were conducted by Christian expeditionary groups, including the Germans, the English, and the French. Each group worked to strengthen the influence and interests of their respective countries.

It is worth noting that the Germans were the first Europeans to reach East Africa. In 1843, the British Missionary Society sent the German missionary John Ludwig Krapf, who landed in Mombasa in January 1844 (Tucker, 1911, pp. 1-2). That same year, he established a missionary center in Rabia, Uganda. Krapf was able to convert some pagan tribes to Christianity after learning Swahili. In 1849, he also discovered Mount Elgon on the eastern border of Uganda (Oliver R. , 1965, pp. 7-8). He prepared a detailed report of his journey and sent it to the Royal Geographical Society in London. Through this report, he was able to motivate Europeans to explore the African continent, especially since his report contained important information about the geography of East Africa.

In the same context, we note the British government's support for the campaign of Officer Richard Burton and John Speke, after they were chosen by the British Royal Geographical Society. They traveled to the East African coast and were able to conduct extensive scouting campaigns on the coast and the areas near it, such that they were able to discover the Ujiji River and prepare a report on the possibility of trade in

the interior regions. Upon his return to England, he began promoting the idea of establishing a colony in the interior regions (Oliver R. , 1965, pp. 7-8), especially in the kingdoms of Bunyoro, Karagwe and Buganda, drawing their attention to the region's rich people and fertile soil, which could meet their economic needs.

Since the reign of Muhammad Ali, Egypt had worked to control the Great Lakes region. With Ismail the Khedive's rise to power in 1863, he began sending envoys to Bagamoyo, King of Onyoro, and Mutesa, King of Buganda, to implement his expansionist policy. In 1869, the Suez Canal was opened. Since the majority of the canal company's shares were held by France, Ismail the Khedive saw a need to strengthen British influence. That same year, he appointed Samuel Baker and tasked him with conquering Uganda, or what he called the Equatorial Directorate. It is noteworthy that the arrival of Egyptian forces in the Upper Nile, their annexation of the Kingdom of Onyoro in 1872, their protection of the Kingdom of Buganda in 1873, and the establishment of numerous fortified military outposts in the Upper Nile meant protecting these regions from falling under European control. This compelled the British to act to stay ahead of others. What further encouraged them at the time was the presence of the Englishman Captain Frederick Lugard at the head of the Egyptian administration in the Equatorial Directorate.

He succeeded Baker and worked in the region to advance British interests at the expense of Egyptian interests, even making the region an arena for British expansion. In fact, the succession of these two Britons to the Equatorial Directorate was no coincidence. Indeed, Britain had a hand in appointing Baker and then Lugard, demonstrating that it was aware of the region's importance and was seeking to establish a strong foothold there.

It is worth noting that Britain initially aimed to eliminate the Egyptian presence in Sudan, the Upper Nile, and the East African coast, freeing itself up to deal with competing European powers in those areas. This forced Egypt to withdraw its campaign to conquer the East Coast in 1875. There is no doubt that this campaign was a favorable event for John Kirk to implement his policies and provide practical evidence to Sir Barghash, the Sultan of Zanzibar, by virtue of his influence in the region.

It demonstrated to him the extent of Britain's interest in protecting his interests and preserving his possessions from external threats, which would increase his confidence in them.

At the same time, missionary activity resumed and Christian missionary delegations began to arrive in the region. This happened with Stanley's arrival in the Kingdom of Buganda on March 8 of the same year, where he met with Mutsa, the King of Buganda, who treated him with hospitality. Because the king was known for his interest in religious matters, he often entered into discussions regarding the Christian teachings he received. He expressed his satisfaction with the Christian religion and even wanted to present new teachings to the people. Therefore, he asked Stanley to invite missionaries from Europe (Peter, 1910, p. 47).

Accordingly, the first group of Christian missionaries dispatched by the Missionary Society arrived in June 1877, and another group arrived to reinforce them in February 1879 via the Nile River northward. A week later, a Catholic mission arrived in the region via the east coast of Africa (Taylor, 1958, pp. 19-20).

The British missionaries continued their work despite the activity of the French missionaries, who, over the course of fifty years, had succeeded in implanting Christianity and spreading its teachings throughout the kingdoms of Uganda. Indeed, Catholic missions operated in Buganda, Bunyoro, Busoga, and Gojon, alongside Protestant missionaries, with the goal of eradicating Islam from the region. These missionaries also watched with concern the activity of Egypt in the region, working to prevent the expansion of its influence.

In parallel, Britain relied on increasing its influence throughout the region through the Sultan of Zanzibar, using him as a means to consolidate its presence and an easy route to penetrate the interior regions. This was especially true after Sultan Barghash realized the extent to which his sovereign interests were intertwined with those of British trading companies. He felt that these interests would be best secured and strengthened in the future through closer contact with William Mackinnon, who in 1877 proposed to him the establishment of a regular channel of communication and contact with various ports in the

East and West (Lugard, 1893, pp. 1-2). This was aimed at exploiting the interior regions of East Africa and linking them with the coast by railway lines. However, Lord Salisbury, upon assuming the premiership in 1878, rejected this project, considering it premature and even drawing the attention of major European powers to the importance of the region (Edward, 1975, p. 58).

Many British historians consider this a mistake that delayed Britain's acquisition of vast areas of East Africa, and even its interior regions, because had MacKinnon succeeded in implementing his project, it would have guaranteed Britain's undisputed control over a vast area of East Africa extending along 1,150 miles of coastline.

2- The European Imperial Scramble for Uganda:

During the 1870s, Britain adopted a very cautious policy in East Africa, particularly regarding matters that might involve it in engagements beyond its capabilities or that did not enjoy parliamentary support. This was because European countries at that time showed no willingness to assert territorial claims over the Sultanate of Zanzibar. Therefore, there was no need for a major shift in its imperial strategy. Instead, it focused on its good relations between the Sultan and John Kirk, the protector of British interests in the region. This provided Kirk with the opportunity to acquire significant influence in the Zanzibar court and ensure the absolute supremacy and influence it had established through its political and economic control of the region, through its fight against the slave trade in the name of humanity.

However, Britain was unable to seize the region alone. In 1884, Germany entered the colonial race, relying on its growing commercial activity in Africa, which resulted in a growing colonial spirit and an overwhelming desire to acquire colonies on the continent. This period also saw a rise in imperialist sentiment among the German people, and the increasing influence of merchants, capitalists, and explorers. They demanded that the Reichstag deputies pressure the government to establish colonies for Germany overseas (Kaltie, 1895, pp. 194-206). This prompted German Chancellor Otto Bismarck to accede to the demands of the people and take effective steps, guiding Germany toward

colonialism and imperialism, having previously opposed German expansionism outside Europe (Fisher, 1936, p. 1051).

This led to British discontent and drew the attention of the head of the African Department, Percy Anderson, and the Assistant Secretary of State, Villiers Lister, to the sudden shift in Bismarck's policy, urging a rapid shift in British imperial policy.

As imperial competition for Africa reached its peak, German Chancellor Bismarck called for the Berlin Conference to establish international laws regulating navigation and trade in West Africa and achieving international balance among European countries in dividing the African continent without armed conflict (Edward H. , 1894, pp. 20-40).

It is clear here that Britain, after the increase in German colonial activity in East Africa, realized that it could not rely on protecting its interests in the region and maintaining its influence by strengthening its relationship with the Sultan of Zanzibar. This was because its situation following the Egyptian crisis and the developments in Sudan following the assassination of General Gordon obliged it to pursue a policy of appeasement and seek the possibility of resolving the outstanding issues between the two parties amicably until Britain could emerge from its crises.

On this basis, Lord Granville believed it was necessary to appoint a committee to define the respective spheres of influence of Germany and Britain in East Africa. He therefore proposed to German Chancellor Bismarck that they enter into negotiations to settle the outstanding differences between them and reach an understanding regarding the conflicting interests in the region. After the German government ascertained that the British government's proposal for the exploitation of East Africa did not conflict with its colonial interests in the region, it notified the British ambassador in Berlin of its approval in late June 1885. An international commission (Arne, 2004, p. 106) consisting of Germany, Britain, and France was appointed to examine all issues (Reginald, 1939, p. 428).

However, the two governments' commitment not to interfere in each other's sphere of influence, as stipulated in the Anglo-German

Agreement of 1886, was circumstantial. The imperial ambitions of both Britain and Germany extended beyond their respective spheres of influence east of Lake Victoria. The interior lands west of the lake were of greater importance. This agreement even opened the door to competition between the British and German companies, which explains their pursuit during this period of absolute freedom to gain control of the interior regions, especially Uganda, which was the primary goal of Carl Peters and William MacKinnon.

The ambiguity of the Anglo-German agreement of 1886 regarding Uganda opened the way for the two companies to attempt expansion and seek to annex it and place it within their sphere of influence. On this basis, after the conclusion of the 1886 agreement, MacKinnon and his English colleagues, on the one hand, and his German competitors, Carl Peters, on the other, resumed their imperial struggle. Their activities were not limited to the area designated for them. Rather, during the years 1887-1890, each of them sought to implement an expansion program to acquire the interior lands, as they were the most important region in East Africa, especially the Kingdom of Buganda, which was the object of the ambitions of the European powers (Evans, 1929, pp. 303-304).

To reach Uganda, it was necessary to control all the regions surrounding the Great Lakes region, especially the Equatorial Directorate, which represented the heart of the three empires of Britain, Germany and Belgium. The isolation of Emin Pasha, the Equatorial Director, led these countries to compete to include the directorate in their recognized area of influence. Accordingly, William MacKinnon took advantage of this opportunity and informed the British government to send a mission to rescue Emin Pasha, in order to benefit from his experience and include the Equatorial region in the influence of the British East Africa Company, as well as to obstruct the Germans from reaching and controlling the region. Britain, through this action, which appears to be humanitarian on the surface, will achieve many of its political goals.

Meanwhile, the German East Africa Company was also seeking to control the territories surrounding the Great Lakes region. It established a rescue committee led by Karl Peters, who arrived on the East African

coast in mid-June 1889. Peters then headed to the regions north of Lake Victoria. In mid-February 1890, Peters reached the Kingdom of Buganda, where he met with King Mwanga and signed a treaty of friendship and protection with him (Georg, 1898, pp. 321-328). Peters also met with Emin Pasha on June 19, 1890, in the Mpwapwa area. Peters informed him of the German government's interest in him and its formation of a special committee to rescue him. However, this was delayed due to the outbreak of the Swahili Arab Revolt on the Indian Ocean coast (Manning, 1985, p. 206), He also presented Emin Pasha with the most important treaties he had concluded with the sultans and sheikhs of the Great Lakes region, in addition to the friendship treaty he had signed with Mwanga, Sultan of Buganda (Georg, 1898, pp. 57-63).

Based on this, Emin Pasha decided to enter. In the service of the German company, he refused to work for the British company, as well as Stanley's previous offers (Casati, 1891, pp. 161-162). Thus, the Germans were able to seize large parts of East Africa, enter the equatorial region, and control the sources of the Nile. Peters also penetrated Uganda, establishing administrative and military centers and stations in all the areas he passed through (Robert, 1969, pp. 35-36).

Therefore, the British company, whose primary objective behind protecting the coast was to reach the sources of the Nile and control Uganda, was obliged to put an end to the German claims to the region. This was especially true after the political shift in Germany in mid-March 1890, with the departure of Bismarck's government and the arrival of von Kapperwey's government. Unlike his predecessor, he was not enthusiastic about colonial expansion (Townsend, 1930, pp. 160-161), but rather eager to gain Britain's friendship. Consequently, the two countries entered into new negotiations, which culminated in the conclusion of the Helgoland Treaty in July 1890 (Dermott, 1893, p. 313).

It is worth noting here that the British company, headed by MacKinnon, proposed its expansion project in Uganda to the British government after learning that Germany was experiencing a period of governmental renewal, headed by Von Capriv, who wanted to focus on securing and protecting Germany's interests within the European continent, especially after the alliance between France and Russia. The

latter's obtaining a financial loan. As a result of these conditions, the German Chancellor decided to ally with Britain, which was welcomed by Lord Salisbury and even increased his conviction of the necessity of annexing Uganda.

Germany agreed to reduce the northern borders of its sphere of influence in East Africa by relinquishing its claims to Uganda, which thus fell within the British sphere of influence (Reginald, 1939, pp. 484-485). In return, Germany gained Mafia Island, along with Britain's ceding of the strategically located island of Helgoland to Germany, which it sought to annex. This was considered a victory for Germany (Lewin, 1915, p. 200).

On this basis, the German government sent the text of the treaty, with its envoy, Rochus Schmidt, to the mission of Emin Pasha, who was then in the southern Buganda Kingdom. The mission arrived in August 1890, stipulating the cessation of all colonial activities he had begun in Uganda and the Equatorial Lakes region. Karl Peters considered Germany's ceding of Uganda, given its strategic and economic importance, in exchange for Helgoland in this treaty, to be a waste of the efforts of the German company, which was seeking to annex new territories in East Africa (Townsend, 1930, p. 163).

Accordingly, the spheres of influence of the two imperial governments were defined, with the British East Africa Protectorate extending from the coast of the Indian Ocean to the equatorial region surrounding Lake Victoria, and the German East Africa Colony extending from the areas between the Ruvuma River in the south and the Umba River in the north. Here, the superiority of British diplomacy, headed by Lord Salisbury, becomes apparent, as his government controlled Uganda, the most important region, and prevented Germany from having a presence in the Great Lakes region. At the same time, this treaty established the beginning of the era of colonialism and natural and human exploitation, ending the independence and freedom of the peoples of the region.

It is clear that after this agreement and the removal of the German presence from Uganda, Britain, through the British East Africa Company, sought to invest in and benefit from the country's resources.

However, it found itself facing another phase of conflict over Uganda, this time a religious one, between its Protestant missions and the French Catholic missions on the one hand, and the persecution of Muslims on the other.

In the same context, we note that King Mutsa was aware of the increasing missionary missions to the Kingdom of Buganda and the activity of English and French missionaries and their desire to spread their doctrines and convert the people of Uganda to Christianity, each according to their own sect. Because he was particularly wary of the British missionaries, he decided to place his kingdom under French protection and declare allegiance to the Catholic Society of the White Fathers. However, France was unprepared at the time due to its preoccupation with North Africa and Indochina (Zoe, 1961, pp. 99-100).

On this basis, British missionaries intensified their work in Uganda. Missionary Mackay strengthened his relationship with King Mutsa and became close to him by deceiving him into believing that Britain intended to serve and assist the kingdom, eventually becoming his personal advisor (Oliver. & Sanderson, 1985, p. 423). Catholic missionaries also worked to consolidate their presence by attracting Uganda's people and leaders to Christianity. As a result of this intensive missionary activity, two opposing groups emerged among the Ugandan population: those affiliated with the English Protestant community and those affiliated with the French Catholic community.

It is clear that this conflict was the result of political competition between Britain and France to usurp Uganda and seize its resources. However, the emergence of Arab Muslims and their Sudanese supporters as a third force attempting to win over King Mutesa led to increased tensions in the region, especially after Mutesa's death in 1884 and the accession of his son, Mwanga. Mwanga was weak in managing the kingdom's affairs and initially failed to deal effectively with the religious conflict between the various religious sects. Mwanga decided to confront missionary missions, especially Protestant ones, and in 1885 ordered the arrest of Bishop Huntington, in addition to the execution of a large number of missionaries (Zoe, 1961, pp. 99-100).

One of the repercussions of this conflict between Christian sects in Uganda was the emergence of opinions calling for Britain to withdraw from Uganda and refrain from undertaking any expansionist projects there. This was a period during which the British government and companies became more interested in Uganda, especially after it received recognition from Germany, which included Uganda within the British sphere of influence.

3- British Colonial Control of Uganda in 1894:

Given the tense situation in Uganda and the escalation of religious conflict, Britain saw the appropriate solution as the need to annex Uganda before French influence there escalated. Therefore, the British East Africa Company was called upon, which did not miss the opportunity, primarily because its primary goal was to invest in and exploit the country's resources. It sent a mission to Uganda led by Captain Frederick Lugard, whom the British government considered a hero for his significant role in establishing British hegemony over Uganda.

In the same context, we note that the British Company focused on Lugard's recommendation to strengthen British influence in the region by strengthening the position of Protestants and working to win over Catholics with the aim of reducing tensions between them. This also aimed to make King Mwanga aware of the strength of the British Company, as well as prohibiting the import of arms and ammunition (Evans, 1929, p. 307).

Accordingly, upon Lugard's arrival in the Kingdom of Buganda on December 18, 1890, the Protestant missionaries began to recognize him as the British Company's representative in the region. This was met with strong opposition from the Catholic missionaries. However, this did not prevent Lugard from obtaining the signature of a treaty from King Mwanga on December 26, recognizing the British Company's protection and sovereignty over the kingdom, its right to intervene in internal affairs, and its responsibility to maintain order and security (Thomas & Scott. R, 1935, p. 30). The treaty also obligated King Mwanga to halt the slave trade and accept freedom of religion and trade. The British Company also had the right to monitor the arms trade and appoint a

representative in Kampala. In return, the company would develop trade along the coastal strip (Ward, 1972, p. 58).

It is worth noting here that Lugard was aware of the importance of subjugating King Mwanga in controlling the Kingdom of Buganda, a kingdom that represented the beating heart and center of interest and colonial activity of the East African Protectorate, in addition to its great potential, from its leadership position, to its connections with Sudan, and its fertile lands adjacent to the Nile. Hamilton Stanley considered it the key to Central Africa, which controlled the Nile Basin.

It is clear that Lugard was aware of the danger that continued conflict between Christian religious denominations would undermine British interests. He therefore sought to persuade the Christian leaders to reach an agreement and to put aside their differences and unite against their common enemy, the Muslims, who had gathered on the Bunyoro border since 1890 and had become a threat to both Christian factions in Buganda and to Lugard's position. In this regard, Lugard expressed in his book: "No longer will there be one Christian against another and we, Lugard, against both. Rather, we have become more friendly, stand by each other, and are on the verge of becoming comrades in war" (Lugard, 1893, p. 112).

On this basis, Lugard left Kampala in April 1891, accompanied by a large army of British Company soldiers and Christians. He placed the Katikiro Apolo Kaguga at their head (Mukasa, 1904, pp. 1-2), to overthrow the Muslim Baganda tribes fleeing to Bunyoro. Lugard was able to defeat the Muslims in May (Ward, 1972, p. 59). Aware of the remnants of Emin Pasha's army, who had left the region for Germany, Lugard believed they were among the best elements to be guaranteed to serve the British Company. He also needed to increase his military strength, so he began coordinating with the Sudanese forces stationed near Lake Albert, led by Sudanese officer Salim Bey. This agreement was concluded in Cavalli on September 13, stipulating that Salim and his men would join the British Company (Samwiri, 1987, pp. 3-4). Lugard also established five to seven forts, stationing Salim Bey's forces along the southern border of Bunyoro, to act as a buffer between them and the

Muslims and to prevent any clashes with Kabarega, the King of Bunyoro (Oliver. & Sanderson, 1985, p. 575).

To ensure British sovereignty, Lugard ordered Kampala to be secured and fortified and the British flag raised there. He and his soldiers then continued an exploration expedition for new commercial resources in the western regions on the one hand and to support the influence of the British Company on the other hand. He followed the method of concluding treaties with the leaders of the Ugandan kingdoms, where he was able to subjugate the kingdoms of Ankole and Toro by concluding agreements with them stipulating the protection of the British Company (Ward, 1972, p. 59).

What is striking is that Lugard built his colonial strategy by combining military force with political cunning to achieve economic interests. Sometimes he used military force through a trained army armed with modern weapons to spread terror and suppress any resistance. At other times, he adopted a policy of divide and rule, exploiting religious divisions between Muslims, Catholics, and Protestants, making each group dependent on his support to ensure its survival, which facilitated his control over everyone else.

In the same context, we note that during the period Lugard spent exploring the western regions of Uganda, the people of Buganda were under the yoke of a civil war between the two Christian sects. Lugard had distributed a number of rifles and ammunition to the Protestants, leading to a massive massacre on January 24, 1892, in which many French Catholics were killed, some of whom fled with King Mwanga to the Bodo region, where a large group of Catholic immigrants resided. This religious conflict continued throughout February and March, but Lugard was soon able to finally end the conflict in favor of the British Company on March 30, after Mwanga ascended the throne of the Kingdom of Buganda and declared his conversion to Protestant Christianity (Ashe, 1894, pp. 310-312).

It is worth noting what the French writer Darcy noted regarding Lugard's methods in quelling the unrest between Protestants and Catholics, which he described as oppressive. He claimed that Lugard killed many unarmed French people and even burned down areas that

were home to Catholic churches. He thus effectively eliminated the French influence in Uganda, which they had been working to build for years, thus consolidating British hegemony over large parts of Uganda (Darcy, 1904).

Every time Lugard concluded a treaty with a Ugandan leader, he sought to force them to recognize the influence of the British Company. He did the same with the Protestants and the remaining Catholics after the war between them. On April 5, 1892, he concluded a settlement treaty between the leaders of the two Christian parties, which included dividing the region into seven provinces, six for Protestants and one for Catholics (Deshamps, 1969, p. 282). A few days later, Lugard approached Mwanga on April 11 and concluded a new treaty with him, according to which the king recognized the sovereignty of the British Company over the entire Kingdom of Buganda and raised the Company's flag over his country. This treaty also required the Kabaka not to deal with or grant any concessions or concessions to any European country without informing the Company. In return, the Company pledged to protect the Kingdom of Buganda from any external aggression. Through this agreement, Mwanga was eternally bound to the British Company (Lugard, 1893, pp. 34-36).

If we examine Lugard's astute colonial policy, we find that he presented the agreement with King Mwanga as a kind of partnership rather than complete submission. This left Mwanga with two options: either submission on terms that preserved his formal status, or confrontation and defeat. Because he faced strong internal conflicts with Muslims, Catholics, and Protestants, and realizing that the Christians were inclined to ally with the British, given their military strength, and to stand up to and oppose them, King Mwanga would end up either in exile or deposed. Therefore, he saw that he was no longer able to impose his authority alone, which prompted him to seek a settlement that would preserve his status. Therefore, signing the agreement was a means to remain king, albeit with limited powers.

In order to ensure effective British control over Uganda, Lugard had to reach an agreement with the Muslims gathered in the northwest, considering them a problem of concern to Lugard. On this basis, he concluded an agreement with Mbogo, the leader of the Muslim Baganda.

This agreement enabled Lugard to implement his plan, with the Muslim leaders pledging to abolish the slave trade, respect religious freedom, and, most importantly, renounce their claim to rule Buganda. In return, Lugard granted the Muslims and their followers three small territories located between the areas designated for Protestants and Catholics. In doing so, Lugard created a balance between the three sects by reducing the risk of potential clashes between the two Christian sects on the one hand and the threat posed by the Muslims on the other (Harlow & E. M. Chilver, 1965, p. 67).

It is clear that the religious division and the multiplicity of factions between Muslims, Catholics, and Protestants in Buganda, enabled Lugard through his colonial policy, to win over the party he saw as the most dangerous to him. Therefore, we see that he began with the Muslim elements among the Buganda and worked to delude them into believing that they were the weakest element in the region, and to promote the idea of a union between Protestants and Catholics. The Muslim leaders had no choice but to choose to negotiate and then form an alliance with Lugard, fearing marginalization and exclusion from power, and to avoid losing in a nearly impossible military confrontation.

During this period, when Lugard had tightened his grip on Uganda, he was surprised by a decision calling for withdrawal from the region. As a result, on June 16, 1892, he traveled to England to explain to Britain how important it was to remain in Uganda and that their withdrawal after they had succeeded in establishing dominance over it would inevitably result in a great loss for them. The Archbishop of Canterbury agreed with him on this proposal, asking them to unite to help the company so that it could continue to acquire the regions of importance to the British government (Lugard, 1893, p. 547).

In mid-August 1892, the British government learned of the renewal of Gladstone's tenure as prime minister, along with Lord Rosebery as Foreign Secretary. Rosebery, like his predecessor, was a colonialist, and was therefore strongly convinced of Lugard's view regarding remaining in Uganda. He took swift action (Gardiner, 1923, pp. 192-197), resulting in the British government sending its Consul General in Zanzibar, Sir Gerald Portal, as a special envoy to Uganda. The envoy was intended to

provide a report explaining the general situation in the region, so that the British government could decide whether to remain in Uganda or abandon it (John, 1986, p. 39).

Portal began his journey on January 1, 1893, accompanied by Colonel Owen, Berkeley, the British Company's manager in Mombasa, and two hundred armed men from Zanzibar (Portal, 1894, pp. 5-7). On April 1, Portal arrived in Kampala, where he raised the British flag in place of the British Company's. This effectively ended the role of the British Company and replaced it with the British government, which assumed full responsibility for governing and controlling Uganda.

At the same time, Portal began preparing detailed reports on the situation in Uganda and sending them to the British government. Perhaps the most important of these was the one on November 1, 1893. In it, he summarized all the reasons for holding on to Uganda, beginning with a description of its geographical location, highlighting its natural importance, as it dominates the northern and western shores of Lake Victoria, the waters of the Upper Nile, and Lake Albert. He added that this region was considered the richest among the regions of Central Africa, containing fertile lands and a forest belt extending from 70 to 200 miles (Eliot, 1905, p. 7). Moreover, Brutal emphasized that Britain's withdrawal from Uganda would be a major loss, especially since the British government had secured Germany's recognition in the Heligoland Treaty as part of Britain's sphere of influence (Oliver. & Sanderson, 1985, p. 571).

It is worth noting that Portal played a pivotal role in convincing the British government of the need to impose control over Uganda. He even warned the British government against abandoning the region, as this would give Germany, France, and even Belgium the greatest opportunity to expand their control. In doing so, he presented Uganda as an important geographical area linking British influence between the East (Kenya) and the South (the colony of Rhodesia), thereby guaranteeing Britain a strategic corridor to the sources of the Nile. He also emphasized that controlling Uganda meant controlling the sources of the Nile, which was vital to protecting British interests in Egypt and Sudan. In addition, he highlighted Uganda's agricultural potential (cotton, coffee, rubber) and

the possibility of integrating it into the British economy, making it a significant source of wealth. Therefore, British control over Uganda and the seizure of its resources would position Britain as a commercial power.

Moreover, Portal's visit to Uganda as a commissioner allowed him to present detailed reports to the government highlighting the dangers of leaving the region without British protection, using the language of diplomatic persuasion supported by facts on the ground. As was typical of British colonialists, Gerald Portal attempted to present a humanitarian and civilized justification for intervention in Uganda, arguing that British protection of Uganda was the solution to ending chaos and religious and political divisions. In other words, his request to the government to declare a protectorate over Uganda was not simply a colonial expansion, but a strategic, economic, and political necessity to maintain Britain's global standing.

In the same context, it is noted that Brutal had explained in one of his reports to the British government the appropriate method for tightening control over Uganda, by requesting the British government to send some British officers, provided they were fluent in Arabic, to oversee the country's administration. The government agreed and, following his request, sent four officers, headed by Sir Henry Colville, who arrived in Uganda on November 10, 1893 (Edward H. , 1894, pp. 395-403).

It is clear that these reports prepared by Brutal, which he sent through his messengers in Zanzibar to the British government, influenced Sir William Harcourt, and were agreed with by Lord Rosebery, who took over the Prime Ministership in March 1894, succeeding Lord Gladstone. This made him hasten the occupation of Uganda, where a British Council of Ministers was held, in which they discussed this matter in detail. The members of Parliament agreed by a majority of 218 votes to place Uganda under British protection, which they officially declared on the eighteenth of July 1894.

Based on the above, the study indicates that Lugard was able to significantly strengthen British influence in Uganda and impose his hegemony over all, particularly after he eliminated Muslim influence in

the region, confining them to Protestant and Catholic areas. Furthermore, Portal's arrival in Kampala and his raising of the British flag ended the role of the British Company, which was replaced by the British government, which assumed full responsibility for the administration and control of Uganda.

- **Conclusion:**

This study concludes that Ugandan kingdoms, with their natural, human, and political characteristics, were able to establish a distinct civilization in East Africa. Their history predates British colonialism by many years, as confirmed by a number of European explorers. This made them the most targeted colonial outpost by the major European powers to implement their colonial policies and meet their economic needs.

The period of European colonial competition over Uganda was due to political imperialist reasons. The country's subjugation to British occupation was a result of the pretext of combating the slave trade and geographical discoveries, as well as Christian missionary activity, which, in its entirety, distorted and weakened the traditional institutional system of the Ugandan kingdoms.

The use of religion in Uganda as a destructive and divisive sectarian political tool was employed and exploited for the benefit of the British government. As much as European Christian missionaries were pioneers of colonialism in Africa, and East Africa in particular, they were also instigators of division and intolerance, deeply rooted in their religious history, between Protestants and Catholics.

The British control over Uganda was nothing but the construction and consolidation of an exploitative and oppressive legal system, in which the ignorance of the local population was exploited to understand the laws that were tainted with the taste of suspicious treaties, as a result of which the Kingdom of Buganda and other parts of Uganda lost their sovereignty. However, this does not mean that foreign penetration into the region and its subjection to colonial control was easily and without resistance. Rather, the Ugandan kingdoms were aware enough to express their rejection through several uprisings and resistances through which they confirmed the individual’s adherence to his land and traditional tribal system.

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