

The Spread of Islam in East Africa

1. Describe the East Africa Coast before the coming of Islam

- i. Before coming of Islam, traders from different parts of the world i.e. from China, Indian and Arabia were sailing to East Africa Coast.
- ii. They were using monsoon winds which blew their dhows across the Indian Ocean at two periods in a year:
 - a. North-East Monsoon winds brought them to these places during January to march.
 - b. South-West monsoon returned them from the month of May.
- iii. Traders were trading in ivory, timber and animal skins in exchange of clothes, carpets, utensils etc.

2. State the reasons for the coming of Arab Muslims to East Africa Coast

- i. They come to trade.
- ii. They migrated to establish themselves and practice their religion in peace.
- iii. To seek refuge from the civil wars in Arabia.

3. Discuss the modes of Islamization

- i. Through intermarriage between local people and the Arabs
- ii. Employment of local people by the Arabs
- iii. Settlement of the Arabs along the coast
- iv. Interaction of Muslim Arabs and Africans in trade.
- v. Establishment of Islamic Institutions i.e. Madrasa and mosque colleges where Quran and Islamic knowledge was taught.
- vi. Muslims local scholar who graduated from Islamic Institution move to many towns in East Africa to impart knowledge.
- vii. Muslim scholars wrote books which were translated into local dialects.
- viii. The influence of Swahili language which act as bridge connecting the local people and the Arabs

- ix. The Africans find that Islam was more appealing to their culture by allowing practices such as polygamy etc.
- x. The Africans admired the entire Islamic way of life and hence converted to Islam.

4. **Mention the first settlers of East Africa Coast**

- i. Two local chiefs Suleiman and Said who were brothers from Oman, they refused to submit to caliph Abdulmalik, they sailed together with their supporters and families and landed at Pate in 685 CE.
- ii. The followers of Zaid (grandson of Ali bin Abi Twalib), he was killed in the war at Kufah during caliph Hashim in 724 CE his followers flee away and landed in the coast of Banadir near Mogadishu and formed settlement.
- iii. The Hadramautes Arabs from Al-Hassa region of the Persian Gulf arrived at Banadar in 10th century.
- iv. The Shiraz group i.e. Hassan bin Ali, his sons and families, they left shiraz in 10th century and settled at Mombasa, Pemba, Kilwa and Comoro Islands

Swahili community

1. **Discuss the emergency of the Kiswahili**

- i. The word Swahili in Arabic it means Coast.
- ii. The Arabs and Shiraz intermarriage with the local people.
- iii. The children born out of this marriage were called waswahili.
- iv. The swahlli language called Kiswahili hence borrowed many words from the new comers.
- v. The language developed at different rates at different place- Various places developed different dialects
- vi. Movement of people from one area to another helped to form a common dialect as we have today.

2. **State the Factors which gave rise to the Swahili community**

- i. The intermarriage between Arabs and the local people.
- ii. The settlement of the Arabs on the East Africa Coast.

- iii. The contact between the Middle East traders with the people of East Africa.
- iv. The conversion of the African into Islam
- v. The migration of the Bantu speaking from the interior to the East Africa Coast

3. Discuss the influence of Swahili culture in the life of East Africa

- i. The Kiswahili language helped in communication between the various people of the region.
- ii. The Swahili etiquette e.g. greetings has been accepted by many people
- iii. The dressing up of kikoi, kanzu, kofia, kanga and makubadhi (sandals) is also common in other community.
- iv. Swahili cooking has also adopted by others.
- v. The architecture comprising of mabati roofs, pit latrines and the four cornered houses is carried out by others.
- vi. The domestic utensils e.g. mbuzi, woolen spoons, grinding stones, cooking pots and water pots are common in many other community.

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