

TOPIC 3: MIGRATIONS AND SETTLEMENTS IN EAST AFRICA (1000 - 1880AD)

COMPETENCE: THE LEARNER UNDERSTANDS THE ORIGINS OF THEIR FAMILIES AS A RESULT OF MIGRATION & SETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE IN EAST AFRICA.



People migrating in Africa

In the previous chapter, you studied the origin of man. This man came into existence, he has continued to move from one area to another due to various political, economic and social factors.

Key words	Learning outcomes
Bantu Luo Ngoni Migration Settlement	By the end of this chapter, learners should be able to; Accurate Maps, tables and statistics expressions on the migrations of the Bantu, Luo, Plain Nilotics and the Ngoni in East Africa. Define migration. Rural urban migration. Urban rural migration. Rural to rural migration

Urban to urban migration.

Analyse the refuge crisis

Problems faced by refuges.

Effects of refuges.

**Solutions to the challenges faced by the
refuges**

**Migrations for greener pastures and
employment beyond the boundaries of
Africa.**

**How can the challenge of continuous migrations
be solved to enable people live settled lives.**

Understand the groups of people who lived in
east Africa before the 19th Century
migrations.

Know the origins of people in different areas of East
Africa.

Understand the origins of Bantu, Luo, Ngoni and
the Plain Nilotics people who came to East
Africa

Know the reasons for the migrations of these people
into East Africa.

Understand the course of the various groups of
people that came to East Africa.

Understand the results of the Bantu, Luo, Ngoni and
Plain Nilotics

	Effects of the different groups of people that migrated to East Africa.
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ACTIVITY TO EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN EASTAFRICA

Define the term migration.

Identify the earliest communities that lived in East Africa before 1000 AD.

Explain the causes of;

The causes of urban-to-urban migration today.

The causes of urban to rural migration today.

The cause of rural to urban migration today.

The causes of rural-to-rural migration today.

Describe the effects of migrations in the contemporary world.

Identify at least 3 organs/departments/ministries responsible for monitoring migrations and settlements in Uganda.

What are the cause of brain drain?

Explain the causes of brain drain.

Once upon a time, there was a man called Ntabazi, who lived in the Niger-Congo Basin. He had four wives and many children. For a number of reasons, conflicts developed among the children. There was shortage of land for cultivation and pasture for their animals due to increasing numbers of people and animals. Because the children loved adventure, they decided to leave their cradle land and move to other places.

Most of these children moved eastwards. One of them was Mukasa, who entered East Africa in the region between Lake Albert and Lake Edward. Some members of his family settled around Lake George, while others continued and settled in areas north-west of Lake Victoria. Another group moved and settled on the Tanzania plateau and the Taita Hills.

Another group became discontented and moved northwards, settling around Mount Kilimanjaro. There was also another group that entered East Africa between Lake Malawi and Lake Tanganyika.

Yet another group, led by Nyerere, entered East Africa between Lake Kivu and Lake Tanganyika and settled in central Tanzania. Other groups crossed to eastern Uganda and western Kenya. These settled around the Mount Elgon area.

From central Tanzania, other members moved northwards towards Mount Kilimanjaro and the coast. Some people settled around the Kenyan highlands and these were led by Ngugi.

Draw a sketch map of East Africa and show the movements of Mukasa, Nyerere and Ngugi and their families.

In a group, identify why Ntambazi's family moved away from their cradleland in Niger, in the Congo Basin.

From the story above, draw a simple table showing the reasons for their coming to East Africa.

Activity;

In groups:

Carryout a fieldwork study in the local area and ask people where they came from, why they migrated and why they settled where they are.

Using information from the fieldwork, draw a map of Uganda showing where a particular family or people came from to settle in your local area.

Qtn: Write a report of your findings and share it with the rest of the class.

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF EASTAFRICA BEFORE THE 19TH CENTURY MIGRATIONS

The earliest inhabitants of Eastfrican region were the Bushmen or Bushmanoid (hunter gatherer communities). Their origin and movements are traced from archaeological information. These are our early ancestors who later spread beyond East Africa. They survived on hunting and food gathering.

Much of the East African region was occupied by Khoisan speaking hunter gatherer communities. They occupied areas on the western borders of east Africa including parts of the current Rwanda and Burundi, Kenya, northern Tanzanian highlands and the shores of Lake Victoria. They were short, strongly built and slightly yellow skinned people. The Hadzapi and Sandawe are the last remnants of these people in east Africa. The bushmen of east Africa were later displaced following the arrival of the bantu. Many were absorbed but others decided to faraway places like southern Africa

The Cushites were recorded as the earliest immigrants into East Africa after the Khoisan. They were also stone age men but different from the bush men in many ways. They belonged to the racial group known as Caucasoid and might have come from north or northeast Africa in modern day Ethiopia Somalia Eritrea and Djibouti. They were cattle keepers as well hunters. Some remnants of the cushites include galla, boran somali of kenya, and mbungu of Tanzania. The iraqw of northern Tanzania are the largest of group of direct descendants from the cushites. They live in south-western Arusha and manyara regions of Tanzania near the rift valley.

Today there are the pygmies still living as African forest hunters and gatherers. They traditionally live a life style of subsistence hunter gatherers. They live in south western Uganda where they are known as Batwa.

ORIGINS OF THE BANTU PEOPLE

The term 'Bantu' was a group of people that spoke related languages with a common suffix 'Ntu', "Ndu" and "Nu" in their words referring to a person or something.

The Bantu speaking tribes in Uganda include the Bakiga, Baganda, Batoro, Banyankore, Bakonzo, Basoga, Banyoro, Basamya, Bafumbira, Banyarwanda and Bagisu, among others.

The Bantu speaking group in Kenya include the Kikuyu, Akamba, Meru, Embu, Taita, Giryama and the Digo.

In Tanzania, they include the Pokomo, Chagga, Yao, Nyamwezi, Segeju, and Zaramo among others.

Their origin and migration is not clear to the historians however some historians believe they came from west Africa around the Cameroon highlands.

The first account asserts that the Bantu came from West Africa around the Cameroon Highlands and Bauchi Plateau of Nigeria. They later migrated southwards and crossed the dense tropical forest of Congo and reached northern Katanga around 1000AD. This, therefore, points to the Niger Basin as the possible origin of the Bantu. This is the widely accepted account among scholars.

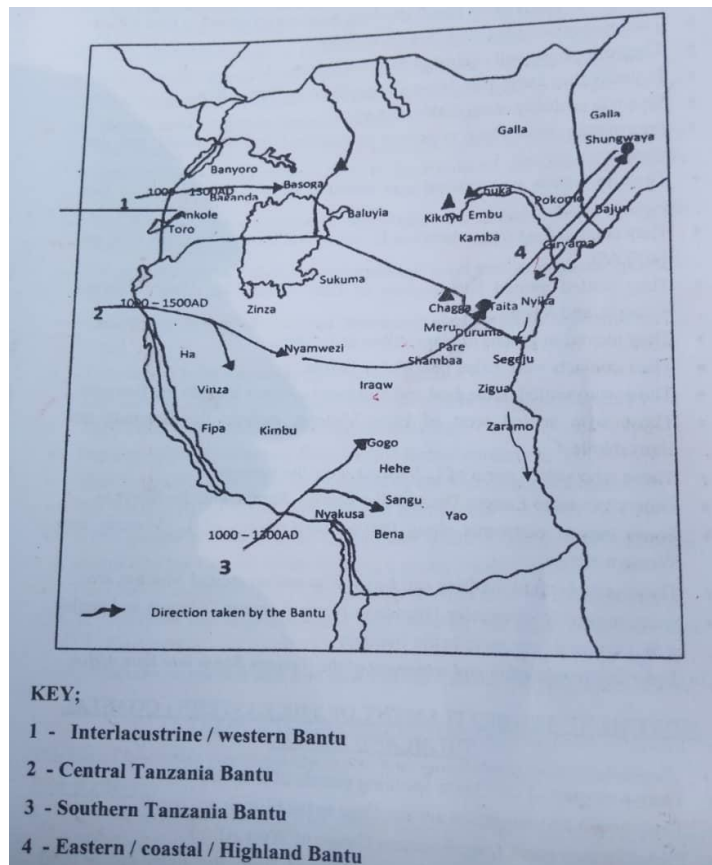
The second account claims that the Bantu came from the Katanga region in South-Eastern Congo. Gradually they spread eastwards north of the forest and southwards to the forest edge near the lower Congo or Zaire and lower Kasai.

There migration was slow, gradual and seasonal and they are believed to have entered east Africa by 1000AD. They entered east Africa through the western part using different routes.

The Bantu are believed to have moved in four groups, namely the Interlacustrine Bantu, the Central Bantu, the Highland Bantu or coastal bantu and the Southern Tanzania Bantu.

They were mainly agriculturalist who grew yams, millet, pumpkins and bananas among others. They include the Baganda, Banyankole, Nyamwezi, Luyia, Haya, and Kikuyu among others.

THE SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF BANTU IN EAST AFRICA



THE ORIGINS OF THE LUO/JONAM/RIVER-LAKE NILOTES

The Luo were a linguistic group of people called the River-lake Nilotics or the Jonam.

Originally, the Luo lived (Ethiopian Highlands) before moving to Bahr-el-Ghazel in South Eastern part of Sudan which became their cradle land (homeland).

The Luo lived around lakes and rivers because they were mainly interested in fishing and that is why they are referred to as the river-lake Nilotics / Jonam.

The Luo arrived in East Africa by around 15th Century.

They were the ancestors of the Langi, Acholi, kumam, Alur and the Kenyan Luo among others as well as the Japadhola.

They speak a related language and they are mostly identified by their black skin.

They were basically fishermen, pastoralists and also carried out some small scale farming.

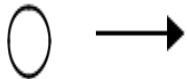
They lived in isolated communities along the banks of River Nile.

They are part of the Nilotic family who are closely related to the Nuer, Dinka and Shilluk of South Sudan.

A SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF THE LUO



KEY:



Original home land of the Luo.

→→→ The arrows showing the migration and settlement of the Luo

THE ORIGINS OF THE PLAIN NILOTES

The Plain Nilotes are said to have originated from southern Ethiopian highland.

These were people who preferred plain areas for settlement because they were pastoralists who moved from one place to another in search for pasture and water for their animals.

By 1000AD, they had started their movements and reached a wide area around Northern border of Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda.

They divided themselves into two district groups with related languages.

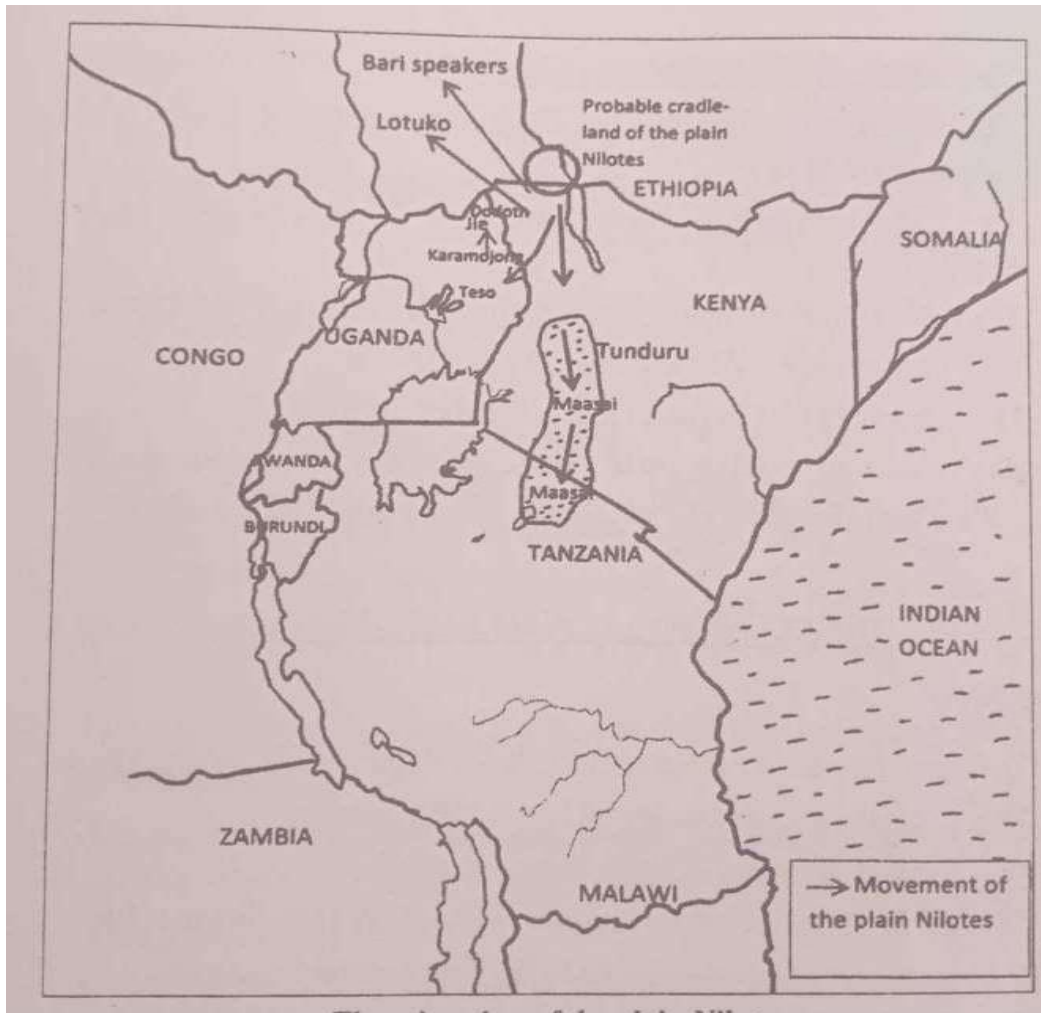
Their Cradle land is highly believed to have been Southern Ethiopia and Northern part of Lake Turkana in Kenya.

They moved Southwards and they are said to have made several impacts on the people of East Africa by the 19th Century.

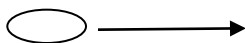
They were divided into different communities including; Masai, Karamojong, Jie, Dodoth, Turkana, Iteso, Donyiro, Samburu and Toposa among others.

Whereas most of these tribes settled in East Africa, some of them moved to Sudan.

THE MAP OF EAST AFRICA SHWOING THE MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF PLAIN NILOTES



KEY.



Original homeland of the Plain Nilotes.



Arrows showing the migration and settlement of the Plain Nilotes

REASONS FOR THE BANTU, LUO AND PLAIN NILOTES MIGRATIONS

Why did the Bantu, Luo and Plain Nilotes migrate from their cradle land to East Africa?

There were no clear reasons that were put forward to explain why the Bantu, Luo and Plain Nilotes migrated but the following were the probable reasons.

Population increase in their cradle land caused land shortage and its associated effects hence forcing some of them to migrate and look for new areas for settlement.

Infertile lands due over cultivation influenced some Bantu to migrate looking for fertile land for agriculture.

Exhaustion of pasture and water for their livestock which was caused by over grazing forced them to migrate to East Africa.

Internal conflicts amongst the various families and clans over land and succession disputes forced them to migrate to East Africa.

External conflicts and attacks from the neighbouring societies for example hostile neighbours like the Shilluk and the Nuer the pygmies forced the Luo and Bantu respectively to migrate to East Africa.

Over flooding of rivers for example, River Congo, River Niger, River Nile among others influence them to migrate from their cradle land to East Africa.

Natural calamities like prolonged droughts which led to famine in their home land forced many of them to migrate to East Africa in search of food.

Iron working knowledge and skills among the Bantu influenced some of them to migrate to East Africa to spread the iron working skill to other areas.

Inadequate market for the products in their cradleland forced them to migrate to East Africa looking for enough market for the iron products.

The outbreak and wide spread of human diseases like sleeping sickness and malaria in their home land forced the survivors to migrate to save their lives.

The outbreak and wide spread of animal diseases such as Nagana, Rinder pest, foot and mouth disease and others which killed many animals forced them to migrate looking for safer places.

Some of their leaders were dictators hence forcing their subjects especially the youth to migrate looking for other areas where they could establish independent authority.

Group influence/Peer pressure/Band wagon especially among the youth forced some to migrate from their homeland to East Africa because they saw relatives, neighbours and friends migrating.

In conclusion the political, economic and social reasons caused the migration of the Bantu, Luo and Plain Nilotes to migrate from their homelands into East Africa.

EFFECTS OF THE BANTU MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN EAST AFRICA.

The effects of the Bantu migration and settlement in East Africa were far reaching political, economic and social in nature and they include the following.

Population in the interlacustrine region greatly increased because the Bantu migrated in big numbers and settled there.

New crops were introduced in East Africa, hence improving the diet and living standards of people for example, bananas, yams, pumpkins, millet beans and cassava among others.

Iron working knowledge and skills were introduced in East Africa by the Bantu for example they made iron tools like spears, arrows, hoes ,axes among others for defence ,hunting and farming purposes which were adopted by other communities in East Africa

New farming methods were introduced in East Africa by the Bantu for example, irrigation, shifting cultivation, mulching and others since most of the Bantu were farmers.

Some East African people were displaced by the Bantu from their original settlement areas for example, the Bushmen were forced to infertile and dry land where life was complex.

The centralized system of administration was introduced by the Bantu and adopted by the other communities.

The Bantu intermarried with other early East Africans hence giving rise to new cultures and languages for example; the people who belonged to the coastal group intermarried with Arabs hence giving rise to Swahili culture and language.

The Bantu introduced the idea of building semi-permanent houses which encouraged a settled life.

The Bantu introduced new cultures and languages in East Africa for example Luganda, Lusoga, Lunyankole, Lunyoro and others.

New games were introduced in East Africa for example board games (omweso) which greatly boosted the leisure industry.

New fighting tactics were introduced in East Africa and weapons for example the short stabbing spears and cow horn formation method of fighting.

The Bantu introduced new political systems in East Africa for example, the Kabakaship, Omukamaship and Ntemship and others.

The system of hereditary of kingship and chiefdom was introduced by the Bantu in East Africa and adopted by other communities.

The Bantu boosted trade in East Africa, for example the Yao, the Nyamwezi and Akamba actively participated in long distance trade.

The Bantu increased slave trade in East Africa, for example the Ngoni disorganised Southern Tanganyika and actively participated in slave trade in Tanganyika.

The migration and settlement of Bantu increased insecurity in East Africa because of land and power struggle hence leading to life loss.

There was massive destruction of property due to raids and counter raids between the Bantu and other communities.

The Bantu traditional beliefs and religions were introduced in East Africa for example, the Lubaale, Katonda, and Ruhanga among others.

In conclusion, the effects of the Bantu migration and settlement in East Africa were positive and negative political, social and economic effects as explained above.

EFFECTS OF THE LUO MIGRATION IN EAST AFRICA

The effects of the Luo migration in East Africa were both positive and negative as explained below:

The population increased in areas where the Luo settled which provided market and labour in East Africa.

The intermarriages between the Luo and people of East Africa were formed hence, leading to the birth of new tribes like the Alur, Langi, Kumam and Acholi.

The new tribes came with new languages like the Alur, Japadhola and Acholi among others.

They traded with the local communities of East Africa for example; they exchanged grains for iron and weapons.

Their coming led to loss of cultures and languages by local people for example the Ateker, Sudanic Madi and Abasuba among others adopted the Luo cultures and languages.

In some areas, the Luo lost their cultures and languages also for example, in Bunyoro they were completely adopted into the Bantu cultures.

The Luo led to the decline of the Chwezi Empire of Bunyoro, Busoga, Buganda, Karagwe and Ankole among others emerged.

The Luo established the Luo Bito Dynasty which lasted until 1967 when Milton Obote abolished all kingdoms in Uganda.

They introduced new ideas of chiefdoms (Rwothdom) in areas where they settled for example Lango and Acholi sub-regions.

They introduced the idea of cattle keeping for example, the short horned hampless zebu which were widely adopted especially in Northern Uganda.

They introduced pet names commonly known as “Empako” for example, Amooti, Abwooli, Adyel and Akiika among others.

The Luo introduced a system of Royal burial sites for example; for “Abakama” – Kings which was adopted by the Bunyoro and Batooro among others. The Jaw bones were removed and buried alone

They introduced new crop types for example, simsim, millet, peas and sorghum which greatly improved the diet of the people.

The Luo introduced Royal regalia in East Africa for example, drums, shields, spears and Royal fire among others which were adopted by many communities especially Bunyoro, Tooro and Buganda.

There was heavy displacement of people in East Africa for example the Chweze in Bunyoro.

There was increased warfare and insecurity in East Africa the Luo fought for land and political power among others.

Their migration led to loss of lives as a result of wars hence causing depopulation in East Africa especially in areas where they settled.

There was massive destruction of property for example gardens and homes as a result of various wars which they fought with the local people (communities).

In conclusion, the Luo migration and settlement in East Africa had far reached economic, political and social effects which were both positive and negative as explained above.

EFFECTS OF THE PLAIN / HIGHLAND NILOTES ON THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA

The migration of the Plain Nilotes as well as their settlement had far reaching effects which were both negative and positive identified from social, political and economic life aspects as explained below.

They led to population increase in areas where they settled which provided market and labour hence leading to economic progress of the region.

They introduced new languages in East Africa for example, Ateso and Karamojong among others.

They introduced short horned cattle in areas where they settled since they were pastoralists. This diversified the economy of East Africa.

They intermarried with the earlier inhabitants for example, the Luo in Kaberamaido hence giving rise to the Kumam tribe.

They copied cultivation from the Bantu and the Luo for example, the Masai became mixed farmers; Iteso abandoned pastoralism and started growing crops on the fertile soils of Teso land.

The culture of the Royal Regalia for example, Karimojong stool was introduced.

They also carried out trade with other inhabitants based on barter system; for example, the Iteso exchanged cereals with the Bunyoro.

The system and culture of cattle rustling was introduced in East Africa since some plain Nilotics like the Karimojongs and the Turkana believed that all cattle belonged to them.

The new dressing code which involved wearing dresses made out of skins was introduced.

They introduced political systems of administration which consisted of segmentary leaders known as Emuron, Emorimor and Nyakanron among others.

In conclusion, the Plain Nilotes brought far reaching effects which were identified from social, political and economic life aspects as explained above.

THE MIGRATION OF THE NGONI INTO EAST AFRICA / THE NGONI INVASION OF EAST AFRICA

Origins of the Ngoni/who were the Ngoni?

The Ngoni were part of the Nguni speaking people of the Bantu.

They originally lived in South Africa North of the Zulu land in Natal Province.

They were the last Bantu immigrants to enter into East Africa.

They left South Africa in 1820s and reached East Africa in 1840s.

Their migrations were caused by Shaka Zulu's expansionist wars which caused Horror and confusion described as Mfecane.

They started their migrations after the death of the Zwide the chief of the Ndwadwe who were closely related to the Ngoni.

They moved Northwards through Central Africa and settled in South and Central parts of Tanganyika.

During their migrations, they absorbed young and energetic youths into their groups and by the time they entered East Africa, they were more than the original Ngoni.

They were farmers who practiced in crop growing and pastoralism.

They were fishermen especially those who settled around water bodies.

They had a centralized system of administration with the king as their political head.

They were warrior society that lived on plundering, looting and terrorizing their neighbours.

They were led by leaders like Zwangendaba, Maputo and Zulugama.

During their movement, they absorbed the Shona, Cewa and Songa communities among others.

REASONS FOR THE MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NGONI INTO EAST AFRICA

The Ngoni were the Nguni speaking people that belong to the Bantu group.

They originated from South Africa North of the Zulu land in the Natal Province.

They started their migrations from South Africa in 1820s and entered East Africa in 1840s.

The reasons for their migration to East Africa were political, economic and social in nature as explained below.

Shaka Zulu's expansionist wars that caused a situation of unrest in the period famously known as Mfecane which led to the Ngoni's migration to East Africa.

Population increase in the Ngoni cradle land which caused a lot of pressure on the land and conflicts could have influenced some Ngoni to migrate to East Africa.

The soil had become infertile in the Ngoni homeland as a result of over cultivation since they were farmers, thus they migrated to East Africa looking for fertile land to carry out farming.

The internal conflicts among the Ngoni in their Cradle land caused by land disputes and power struggles could have forced some of the Ngoni to migrate to East Africa looking for peaceful areas.

The rise of strong and charismatic leaders for example Zwangendaba, Maputo and Zulu Gama who mobilised, motivated them led to the Ngoni's migration to East Africa.

The outbreak and widespread of diseases for example, sleeping sickness and small pox among others forced the Ngoni survivors to migrate to East Africa.

Natural calamities like floods and drought in the Ngoni homeland must have forced Ngoni to migrate to East Africa.

Love for adventure especially among the Ngoni youth to find out what was beyond their cradle land could have forced them to migrate to East Africa.

Band wagon/peer pressure influenced some Ngoni to migrate to East Africa after seeing their friends, relatives and neighbours migrating.

The Boer Trek from the Cape Colony into Zulu land made many Africans lose their land hence they migrated to East Africa looking for alternative ways of settlements.

The Ruthless military training that was started by Shaka forced the Ngoni to move out of Natal Province and eventually settled in East Africa. The hostile climate that was characterised with extreme winter (hostile winter)

in Natal Province forced many Ngoni to migrate to look for friendly environment in East Africa.

Shortage of grazing land, pasture and water for their animals in Natal forced the Ngoni to migrate to East Africa looking for fresh pasture, water and land for grazing their animals.

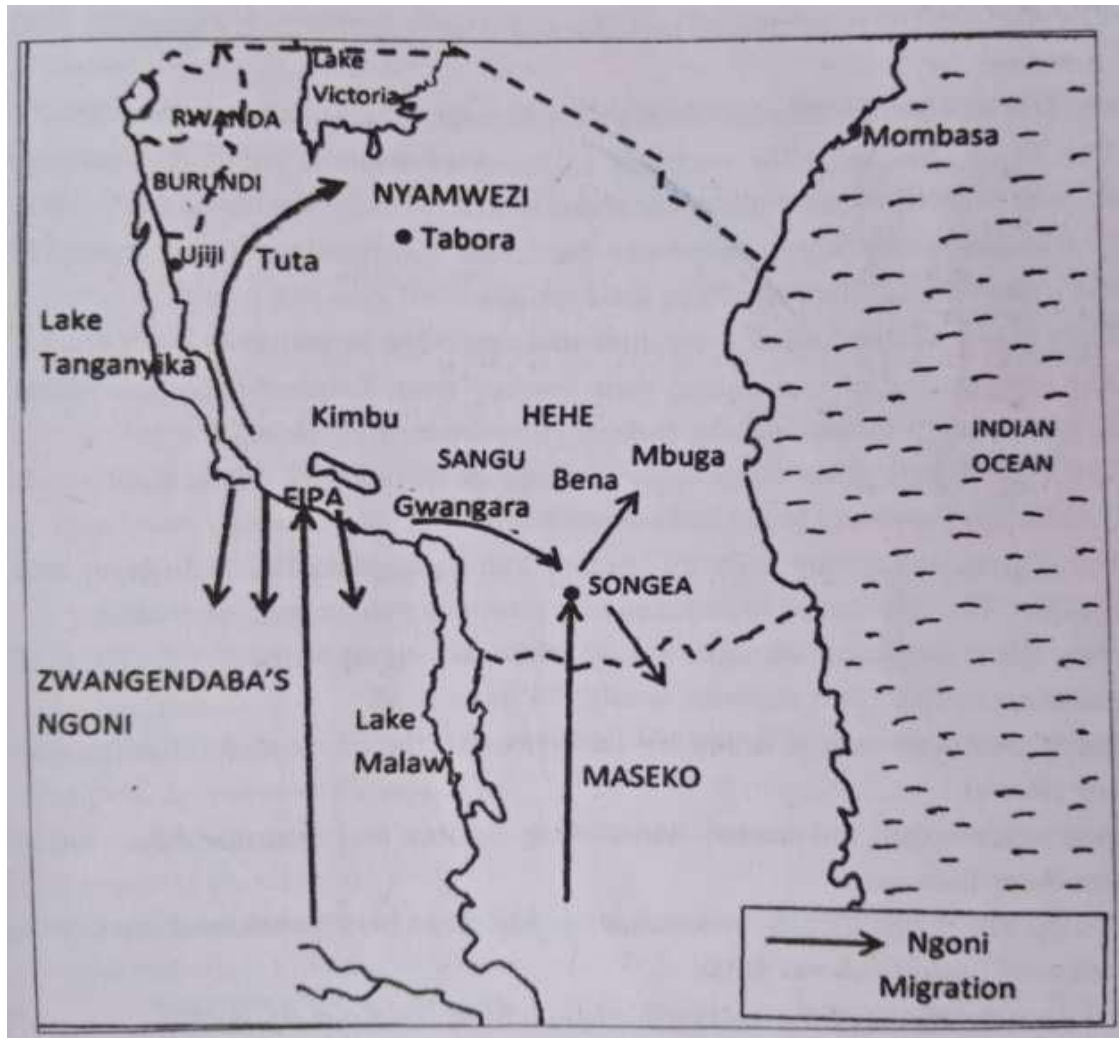
Animal diseases such as Nagana might have killed many of their animals in Natal hence they migrated to East Africa looking for disease free areas.

Since the Ngoni were naturally hostile and raiders, they migrated to loot and increase their herds.

The desire to export their iron working skills and tools to other areas influenced the Ngoni to migrate to East Africa.

In conclusion, the reasons for the migration of the Ngoni from their home land to East Africa were political, economic and social as explained above.

A SKETCH MAP SHOWING THE MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NGONI IN EAST AFRICA



KEY:

→→→ The arrows showing the migration and settlement of the Ngoni

EFFECTS OF THE NGONI MIGRATION AND SETTLEMENT IN EAST AFRICA

The Ngoni migration and settlement had many social, political and economic effects as below which were both positive and negative as explained below.

There was displacement of local people by the Ngoni for example, Ufipa, Yao and Nyamwezi among others who were displaced and forced to move away from their ancestral areas.

There was increase in the population in areas they settled peacefully as they came in large numbers.

They disrupted the long distance trade because of insecurity created in the trade routes especially the Central and Southern trade routes.

There was massive loss of lives due to constant wars by the Ngoni which led to depopulation.

Due to insecurity created by the Ngoni, agriculture was neglected which led to the outbreak and wide spread of famine.

Many people lost their property due to the scorch-earth policy of fighting which led to the destruction of gardens, villages were burnt down by the Ngoni.

The Ngoni introduced new fighting skills in East Africa and weapons for example, the short stabbing spears and the long cow hide shields which were adapted by the East African people.

The Ngoni also introduced new military tactics for example, the cow horn formation of fighting which was copied by most East African societies.

The Ngoni invasion created a period of wars and insecurity in areas which were previously peaceful.

Slavery and slave trade resulted and intensified as many people who were running away from them were captured and sold into slavery.

The Ngoni intermarried with the local people leading to the rise of new cultures which also influenced new languages spoken in Tanganyika.

Strong leaders emerged for example, Mirambo and Nyungu Ya Mawe who were captured by the Ngoni and later learnt the Ngoni military tactics which they later used to build strong empires.

The migration and settlement led to the creation of the Ruga-Ruga and Mviti robber bands who were used as mercenaries. Some societies reorganised themselves into larger communities/empires in order to resist the Ngoni invasion for example, the Nyamwezi and Sangu societies.

In conclusion, the effects of the Ngoni migration were political, social and economic as explained above