

It is 14 years now since Ouko was murdered, and no one has yet been prosecuted for the crime. Meanwhile, Nicolas Biwott remains an important figure in Kenya's domestic politics. A book such as this reminds us that there is still much work to be done in restoring democratic, accountable government to Kenya, and that history may yet have a role to play in that process.

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DEMOGRAPHIC CRISIS IN WESTERN UGANDA

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Crisis and Decline in Bunyoro: Population and Environment in Western Uganda 1860–1955. By SHANE DOYLE. Oxford: The British Institute in Eastern Africa, in association with James Currey, 2006. Pp. xii + 276. £45 (ISBN 0-85255-432-6); £16.95, paperback (ISBN 0-85255-431-9).

KEY WORDS: Uganda, demography, environment, fertility, political ecology, population, state.

Shane Doyle contributes to a growing literature on African population history through an examination of the prolonged demographic decline in the East African kingdom of Bunyoro. Arguing that earlier explanations of demographic decline based solely on STDs are inadequate, Doyle directs attention towards the policies of states and the decisions of individuals. With careful detail, he demonstrates that malnutrition, child mortality due to malaria, and social causes of low fertility such as marital instability and social dislocation must also be considered. Doyle provides distinct chapters on political, economic and demographic change from the 1860s to the 1950s, so the book is not only an important contribution to historical demography and political ecology, but also an essential enrichment to scholarship on Bunyoro and colonial Uganda.

Doyle argues that Bunyoro's demographic crisis began before the arrival of long-distance traders, in conflicts between the centralizing state and clan-based centers of power: these local instabilities created the occasions for Ganda invasions of Bunyoro and Nyoro invasions of Buganda. Violence undermined fertility because people's flight from their homes exposed them to food insecurity and disease, population was lost to enslavement and, furthermore, the capture of thousands of Nyoro cattle diminished nutrition, through the loss both of milk and meat, and of manure for crops.

The colonial conquest of Bunyoro was the decisive factor in its decline. Doyle argues that Kabalega's ability to draw benefits for his kingdom from long-distance trade, and his skills as a guerrilla war commander led, paradoxically, to the almost complete depopulation of the kingdom. Hardly any people remained after the intentional use of famine as a weapon and the enslavement of Banyoro during the war. Early colonial taxation and forced labor lowered fertility because marriages were not sufficiently stable for people to bear enough children to replace the lost population, and children died in high numbers. According to Doyle, colonial rule had a greater negative impact in Bunyoro than elsewhere because of enduring colonial antipathy and because the Banyoro who succeeded in holding onto chiefships were extremely conservative and ultimately self-serving.

Poverty, malnutrition, undernutrition and endemic disease prolonged population decline. People emigrated to districts with more economic opportunity. Bunyoro's cattle economy never recovered from the transformation of the disease

environment which resulted from relaxed state ecological control and the drastic loss of cattle in the nineteenth century. High taxes and cheap imports completely devastated the Kibiro salt industry. In the middle and late colonial periods, the combination of low population and misguided colonial environmental policy caused the spread of heavy bush, trypanosomiasis intensified, and Bunyoro had exceptionally low levels of small stock as well as cattle. Economic development created wealth that benefited elites but left most of the population desperately poor. Doyle highlights the degree to which population decline resulted from struggles surrounding marriage, as women sought to renegotiate its terms and young men avoided the burden of bridewealth by contracting informal relationships instead. The conditions that held down population growth turned around only in the late 1950s, as outmigration ceased and levels of maternal and child nutrition improved.

Doyle's analysis is built on extensive and close reading of written sources. Interviews with 68 oral informants also contribute, but these would have been more useful with a greater consideration of the degree to which the informants' own social positions might have influenced their recollections of the stories handed down to them of precolonial times. In essence, this is a comprehensive study which makes important arguments regarding African historical demography, political ecology, colonial gender relations and political and economic change in Bunyoro.

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FRESH CONTRIBUTIONS TO AFRICAN ARCHAEOLOGY

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KEY WORDS: Archaeology, historiography, research.

Until 1983 and the appearance of the *African Archaeological Review* (AAR), African archaeology was a sub-discipline without a dedicated journal. There were of course regional periodicals such as the *West African Journal of Archaeology*, *Libya* (for northern Africa) and *Azania* (for eastern Africa); there was also the prospect of publishing in multi- or extra-disciplinary Africanist journals such as the *Journal des Africanistes*, *African Arts* or *Journal of African History*. However, AAR provided the opportunity, in a single annual issue of around eight contributions, to publish weighty summaries of long-term research or more comprehensive reports on smaller projects, as well as thematic pieces on issues of debate. It continued in this way until 1995/6 when the journal was moved to Plenum Press from Cambridge University Press and began to be published quarterly, while not increasing in approximate annual page length or page size.

The continued growth of African archaeology and increasing dissatisfaction with the publishing back-log, size limitations and language restrictions of AAR led to the emergence of two new journals during the present decade. The first to appear was the francophone *Afrique: Archéologie & Arts* in 2001, edited by Professor Jean Polet of the University of Paris I. The second to appear, and the primary subject of this review, was the anglophone *Journal of African Archaeology*. This journal made its first appearance in 2003, edited by Professor Peter Breunig and Dr. Sonja Magnavita of J. W. Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt, its format being of an A4