

# DV435 Economic and Political Geography of Tanzania

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### Introduction

The United Republic of Tanzania is a country in East Africa, situated within the African Great Lakes region. This poster examines Tanzania through four lenses: Location Endowment Population, Colonial Economy and Institutions, Economic Geography, and Political Geography in order to establish a baseline knowledge on the effects that colonialism had on the state and the legacies the post-colonial state inherited.

### Location Endowment Population

#### I.1 Location

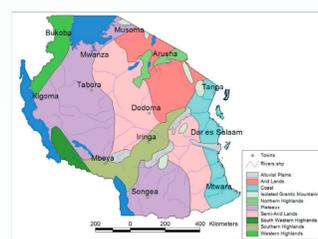


F. 1 Ezilon maps: The Physical Map of Tanzania

The United Republic of Tanzania is located in East Africa. The territory is 945,749 Km and it consists of 30 administrative regions -25 are on mainland 5 on the Island- (Kitonga and Bonafé, 2015). Tanzania is relatively rich base of land and water resources (i.e. lakes and rivers): water body's cover 61, 495 km<sup>2</sup> (URoT, 2014; Mkonda and He, 2017). Overall, the country is not landlocked (access to the sea, *also see II.3*) and there is presence of rivers "leading into the interior of the country"; however they are mainly not navigable hence with medium transport costs (Bloom and Sachs, 1998).

Agricultural land is estimated to be about 40 million ha. As of 2014, only approximately 32% of the this land was cultivated (FAO, 2016 and World Bank, 2017). Tanzania has an uneven distribution of arable land with hotspots of extremely fertile land (i.e. near Lake Victoria or Arusha region) and arid areas (i.e. Dodoma region) -see I.2.

#### I.2 Agro-Ecological Zones



F. 2. URoT, 2014: Tanzania's Agro-ecological zones

High climatic variability results in a wide range of agro-ecological conditions, which allows for diverse agricultural livelihoods.

As per Figure 2., Tanzania's agro-ecological zones range from higher rainfall areas (i.e coast and highlands in the north), to arid and semi-arid areas in the interior -influence on population density (URoT, 2014 and Farrow, 2014)

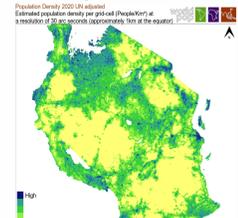
#### I.3 Mineral Resources Endowment



F. 3. UNECA: Generalized Location of Mineral Deposits of Tanzania

Tanzania is endowed with mineral resources (i.e gemstones, industrial minerals). Although, Tanzania is described as a *coastal, resource-scarce* country (Ndulu and O'Connell, 2008), in 2008, it was the 4th African country in terms of mineral resources richness and it is Africa's third largest exporter of gold (UNECA, 2008 and Mkonda and He, 2017). The central-north /south-east of the country has high concentration of minerals (see II.2)

#### I.4 Population



F. 4. World Pop: Population Density estimated UN adjusted 2020.

Tanzania has a population of 58,552,845. It has one of the lowest population density in East Africa (Madulu, 2002). As of 2017, Mkonda and He estimated that around 80% of the total population lives in rural area. As per Figure 4., it is possible to see that population is heavily concentrated near large cities (see Figure 1.) and mineral/agricultural endowed zones (see Figure 2-3). Population distribution is in line with railway infrastructures (see II.3.) and spatial inequality (see III.1)

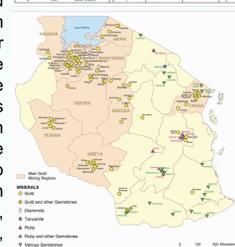
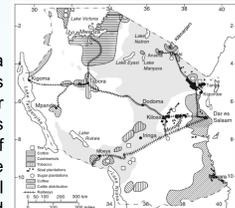
### Colonial Economy and Institutions

#### II.1 Colonial Institutions

Following German defeat in WWI, Tanganyika was integrated into the British Empire under a League of Nations mandate. In 1925, British officials abandoned Germany's system of direct rule, committing to the dogma of indirect rule as established in Nigeria. Contrastingly, however, the aim was not to create Europeanised Africans, but empower native authorities in the hope that they would thwart nationalist movements when they came. Identifying exactly what native institutions were was made difficult by supposed German effort to "crush the existing social system" (Iliffe, 1979). Therefore, they reverted to dividing the population by tribe, as Europeans assumed that every African belonged to a tribe, whilst Africans built tribes to belong to (Iliffe, 1979). In reality, Tanganyika was acutely fractionalised, and groups and identities were amorphous in nature.

#### II.2 Land Division and Movement of Labour

Amin (1972) characterized colonial Tanzania as a labour reserve economy, in which internal migrants from impoverished regions provided cheap labour in European "plantation zones". The reality was more complicated. Between the wars, a process of regional differentiation occurred. A tripartite relationship of exchange between geographical regions emerged in which towns, cash-crop and plantation regions drew on resources from peripheral regions which supplied migrant labour and intermediate regions supplying food. These categories were not wholly exclusive nor were specialisations immutable. Generally, plantations were located around Mwanza, the Northern Highlands (Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Oldeani) and the Southern Highlands. Similarly, cash-crop production was concentrated in the Northern Highlands (Kilimanjaro, Meru, Usambara, Arusha, Shambaa), the Lakeshore area (Mwanza, Buhaya, Ukerewe, Geita, Sukuma), the fertile mountains of Southern Tanzania, and along the central railway in the Tabora, Morogoro and the Luiche Delta.



Map 1 (Top): Small-scale Mining Sites. Source: Bryceson et al (2012).

Internal labour exporting regions were often remote, arid areas in the Central Province (Kondoa, Singida, Mkalama), the West bordering Zambia and Burundi, and Bena around Lake Nyasa. Food production coincided with cash-crop production in the Northern Highlands and Lakeshore region. However, meat was also supplied by pastoralists in Masailand, Kondoa, Mbulu, and Rungwe, groundnuts from Tabora, charcoal and cassava from Uzaramo (Iliffe, 1979, Ch.9), and cashews from the South and coastal region (Map 1).

#### II.3 Mining and Infrastructure

Railway construction began under German rule in 1896 as a means of attaining development and profit. The Tanga line was built through the projected plantation area around Usambara to Kilimanjaro, the central line was built along the central caravan route and the Uganda line connected the central line to the arable lands of Lake Victoria (Iliffe, 1979, p.135). The introduction of motor transport in the interwar period was crucial in extending the area in which crops could be grown profitably (Iliffe, 1979, p.287). Following independence, the TAZARA Railway was constructed to transport Zambian copper to the port of Dar es Salaam so as to avoid routes through white-settler minority ruled Zimbabwe and South Africa.

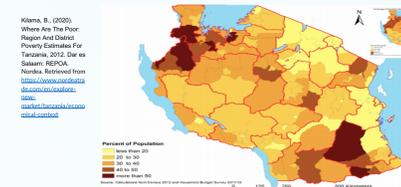
Mining activities in Tanzania were periodical, with a gold boom occurring during the Great Depression when world market prices were high, followed by a practical standstill in the immediate post-war years, only to pick up again from the 1980's onward. Tanzania's mineral endowments were not systematically exploited under colonial rule or Nyerere's post-colonial state, but today it is one of Africa's main gold producers (Bryceson et al, 2012).

### Economic Geography

#### III. 1 Spatial Inequality and poverty incidence

There is a strong spatial dimension to poverty and inequality in Tanzania. The economic disparity between regions continues to widen and in rural areas increased interregional inequality has created a cycle of self-perpetuating poverty. The most deprived regions are Dodoma, Lindi and Kagera shown in deep red in the map below which shows the percentage of people living below the basic poverty line by region (Kilima, 2016; Mkonda and He, 2017). The wealthiest region is Dar es Salaam is located on the East coast where poverty is the least prevalent, followed by Ruvuma and Kilimanjaro (ibid.). According to the most recent census the percentage of residents living below the poverty line is eight times higher in rural areas than in the largest city, Dar es Salaam (Matotay, 2014). This disparity can be attributed to two factors. Firstly, the distribution of human capital endowments and demographic characteristics. Residents in Dar es Salaam have rapidly become more educated than those living in other regions and have greater access to family planning, higher education and formal employment than those in rural areas. Tanzania's urban schools are four times more likely to have electricity, water and sanitation than rural schools (ibid.). Secondly, Tanzanians in rural areas have far less access to productive employments and private assets. The less developed local economies simply do not generate the same returns as Tanzanians in Dar es Salaam where a larger percentage of households with greater endowments i.e. education experience the benefits of economic growth to a greater degree than their rural counterparts. Regionally there are grounds to suggest that Ujamaa village policies, a brand of socialism which quickly became draconian in nature, held back the poorest regions.

The enforcement of 'Operation Dodoma' and others inflicted a great deal of suffering on peasants living on that land and the policy became a tool for rich peasants to make themselves richer (Egras, 1980). The great failure of Ujamaa policies to realise promises of improved socio-political and economic welfare left a legacy of major disruptions to the agricultural sector and exacerbated inequalities in the poorest parts of the country (Mkonda and He, 2017; Egras, 1980).



Where Are The Poor? Report And Dataset: Poverty Estimates For Tanzania, 2012. Dar es Salaam: IFPRI.

Rukwa is located on the midwest border. Ruvuma is located on the far south-west border. Kilimanjaro is located on the north east border. Dar es Salaam is located on the mideast border (pale yellow.)

### Political Geography

#### IV.1 Administrative Boundaries and Political Economic Significance



Tanzania is a union of not only mainland Tanzania but, the semi-autonomous Zanzibar islands. In order to achieve fair representation the Tanzanian constitution states the President and Vice President, has to alternate—meaning that if the president was from Zanzibar, the Vice President has to be from mainland Tanzania. (Anyimadu, 2016) With independence, Julius Nyerere ushered in a centralized state power following his tenant of African socialism or 'Ujamaa.' (Ingham, 2020)

#### IV.2 Resistance and Political Mobilization in Colonial Era

As a result of a colonial rule imposed by the Germans to grow cotton for export purposes, a revolution known as the Maji Maji Rebellion occurred (Iliffe, 1967). It not only severely had economic impacts, but the Germans decided to silence the rebellion by employing a man-made famine (ibid.). Some scholars believe that the Maji Maji Rebellion was preceded by the Abushiri Revolt of 1888–1889 which happened when the Germans put their flag in the place of the Zanzibari flag (Oxford Reference, n.d.) and the Wahehe Rebellion of 1891–1898 which occurred as a result of indigenous people fighting the Germans as they were expanding further into the territory (Gabriel, 2012)

#### IV.3 Geographic Electoral Patterns and Territorial Cleavages

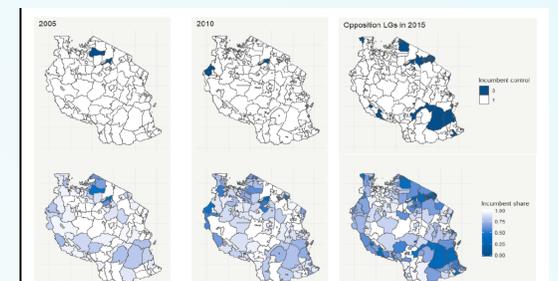


Figure 11: Opposition control and support by local government in 2005, 2010 and 2015 local elections

Tanzania transitioned from being a one-party state to a multiparty with the 1995 election. Despite multiple opposition parties running in that election, the main party, Chama cha Mapinduzi maintained power. As demonstrated by the figure above, there is a steady increase for opposition support and it began to take root from 2005. (Ingham, 2020) In 2014, four opposition parties came together under an umbrella named Umoja wa Katiba ya Wananchi.

The four parties are Chama cha Demokrasia na Maendeleo, Civic United Front, The National Convention for Construction and Reform, and National League for Democracy. (Anyimadu, 2016) The call for a multiparty system was a domestic one started by the urban elites which is why the opposition base are in relatively more wealthy areas like Kilimanjaro. (Whitehead, 2000)