

**What led to the decline of this trade towards the end of the 19th century?
Why did the Long Distance Trade decline by the end of the 19th century?
Explain the reasons for the decline of the Long Distance Trade by the end
of the 19th century.**

- 1) The Long Distance Trade was the trade over long distances to and from the interior as well as within the interior of East Africa
- 2) The Long Distance Trade was also known as the pre-colonial caravan trade or the interior trade
- 3) By the end of the 19th century the trade had declined due to a number of political, economic and social reasons

Body of the essay

- 4) The death of prominent leaders like Mirambo, Nyungu ya Mawe and Muteesa 1 in 1884 led to the decline of the trade
- 5) The scarcity of some of the items like ivory, led to the decline of the trade

- 6) The industrial revolution which occurred in Europe made the acquisition of slaves useless since machines had replaced human labor. This led to the decline of the trade
- 7) The coming of Christian missionaries who continuously preached against the trade eventually led to its collapse
- 8) The introduction of the cash economy which replaced the barter system led to the decline of the trade
- 9) Tropical diseases like malaria, sleeping sickness which scared the traders led to the decline of the trade
- 10) The increasing conflicts and wars in the interior which disrupted the trade eventually led to its decline
- 11) The increased penetration of the Arabs into the interior who replaced the role of the African chiefs created a lot of rivalry leading to the decline of the trade
- 12) The unfavourable climatic conditions in the interior characterized by heavy rains and prolonged droughts led to the decline of the trade
- 13) The Ngoni invasion which disrupted the trade led to its decline
- 14) The heavy taxes imposed on the coastal merchants by the interior chiefs scared the traders leading to its eventual decline
- 15) The introduction of legitimate trade provided an alternative to the trade hence leading to its decline
- 16) The abolition of slave trade in East Africa caused the decline of the trade
- 17) Insecurity created by the Ruga – Ruga and the Maviti bandits led to the decline of the trade
- 18) The stiff competition among the communities involved in the trade gradually killed the trade
- 19) The limited transport and communication network in East Africa led to the decline of the trade
- 20) The construction of the railway lines in East Africa (the Uganda Railway) made slaves useless. They were no longer needed to carry/transport goods. This led to the decline of the trade
- 21) The problem of language barrier affected the traders negatively, leading to the decline of the trade
- 22) Hostile tribes like the Masai and the Nandi attacked the traders scaring them away. This led to the decline of the trade
- 23) The Arabs interfered in the political affairs of some East African societies forcing African chiefs to turn against them

- 24) Wild animals like lions and leopards were a threat to the traders. This led to the decline of the trade
- 25) The Indian Banyans lost money because their debtors were either killed or defaulted and failed to pay back the money lent to them. This led to the decline of the trade.
- 26) The high interest rates charged by the Indian Banyans was a source of discouragement. This led to the decline of the trade

In conclusion, the Long Distance Trade declined due to political, social and economic factors

OR, the factors responsible for the decline of the Long Distance Trade were both internal and external

OR, the Long Distance Trade declined due to short and long term reasons

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