

TOPIC: European occupation of Central Africa.

Sub-topic: Agents instrumental in European occupation of Central Africa.

(Q) There were many agents instrumental in European occupation of Central Africa. Some of these are

(a) Missionaries: These were instrumental in European occupation of central Africa. The best example in central Africa was Dr David Livingstone, Jesuit missionaries from Portugal visited territories near Lake Malawi in 17th century.

(b) Hunters:

- From 1860s the number increased of European Ivory hunters entered the area from the south and from the coast. They visited Matebele and Mashonaland. When they returned to Europe with reports and vast gold deposits, the reports attracted many Europeans in southern Africa.

(c) The concession seekers:

- These Europeans frequently tricked illiterate African rulers into signing documents under false pretences. For instance in 1888, Matebele King Lobengula unknowingly gave British Businessman Cecil John Rhodes and his private mining company a mineral concession encompassing Shonaland to Cape Colony.

(d) John Cecil Rhodes and the British South Africa Company.

- Cecil Rhodes played a vital role as an agent of colonialism in southern Africa. He was a leader of diamond mining in the Cape Colony.
- These prospectors overcame African opposition and found new British colonies of Southern Africa and Northern Africa Rhodesia.

Exercise:

1. Which missionary was instrumental in the occupation of Central Africa?
2. What attracted the hunters to come to central Africa?
3. Name the British businessman who played an important role in the colonisation of southern Africa?

Research question:

1. Write three effects of colonialism to African countries.