



KANEM-BORNO CALIPHATE

**A Pictorial Addendum To The
Lead Paper Presented To The
International Kanem-Borno
Cultural Summit**

By

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**Holding Between
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At Maiduguri, The Titular Capital Of
Kanem-Borno And The Capital City
Of Borno State Of Nigeria**

KANEM-BORNO WAS A CALIPHATE AND NOT AN EMPIRE!

Pre-Islamic and the early Muslim Rulers of Kanem-Borno had the local Titles of “Mai” (King) from around 700 AD to around 900 AD when Islam was introduced. The first very devout Muslim Ruler, Mai Humme took the title of “Sultan” in 1075 AD, he declared an Islamic State and was the first Ruler to perform the Hajj in West Africa! The title of Sultan was continued with the subsequent Rulers of Kanem-Borno up to 1846 when the title of “Shehu” was introduced. An Empire refers to an un-Islamic State like the British Empire, French Empire, Roman Empire, Mongol Empire, etc. While a Caliphate or a Sultanate must always be an Islamic State like the Abbasid Caliphate, Sultanate of Oman, etc! The Ottoman Caliphate had all its Rulers as Sultans, but Europeans called them the Ottoman Empire.

All ancient and pre-colonial records from around 1100 AD on Kanem-Borno were written in Arabic or in Kanuri or Kanembu languages using Arabic alphabets and they bore Caliphate insignia and the Rulers bore the Titles of “Sultan” or “Amirul Mumineen”. Surprisingly, colonial records from around 1900 AD referred to Kanem-Borno as an Empire and the Rulers as Mai or Shehu thereby making the title of Sultan extinct! Kanem-Borno Scholars must rise to change this unfortunate secular title on Kanem-Borno!

This Addendum gives a brief history of the Kanuri People who established the great Kanem-Borno from the period of the Kanuri progenitor Sayf Di Yazan (c516-578 AD). It also gives a brief history of the famous Kanem-Borno right from its founding around 700 AD to date. The Pre-Islamic and the early Nominal Muslim Rulers of Kanem-Borno had the local Titles of “Mai” (King) while the first very devout Muslim Ruler took the title of “Sultan” in 1075 AD, which was continued with the subsequent Rulers of Kanem-Borno up to 1846 when the title of “Shehu” was introduced and is still being used. The Kingdoms, States and Fiefs; and the hundreds of Tribes, Languages, Cultures and Traditions that came under the rule or the influence of Kanem-Borno, at one time or the other, historically combined to make it the largest of the Caliphates or Empires on the African Continent. In addition, the Duguwa, the Sayfawa and the Shehu Houses ruled Kanem-Borno under Kanuri Hegemony from c.700 AD to Date, 2024 AD, (1,324 years) thereby making it the longest recorded un-interrupted Dynastic Reign in African history. Kanem-Borno was also the only Caliphate or Empire in Africa that had Diplomatic Relations with the Ottomans of Turkey; with Egypt, with Libya, with Tunisia and with Morocco. All ancient and pre-colonial records from around 1100 AD on Kanem-Borno were written in Arabic or with Arabic alphabets and they bore Caliphate insignia and the Rulers bore “Sultan” or “Amirul Mumineen” Titles. Surprisingly, colonial records from around 1900 AD referred to Kanem-Borno as an Empire but the Rulers were never called “Emperors”. This Lead Paper sets the ball rolling on this important academic discourse.

KANEM-BORNO CALIPHATE

A PRE-COLONIAL CALIPHATE THAT WAS RENDERED A COLONIAL SECULAR EMPIRE

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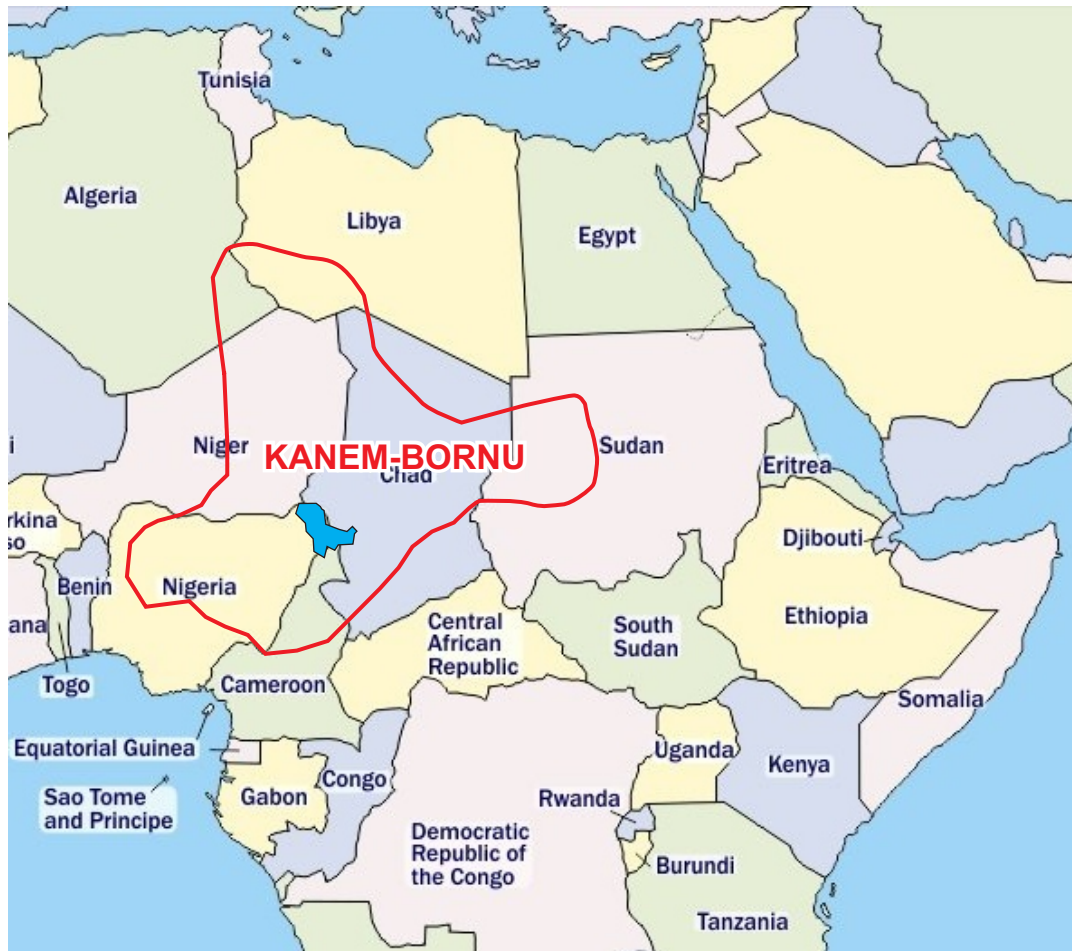
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THE FAMOUS KANEM-BORNO: THE LARGEST OF THE CALIPHATES OR EMPIRES IN AFRICA



Kanem-Borno had undoubtedly the greatest history, the largest landmass and the longest lasting recorded dynastic reign in Africa. Kanem-Borno, at its zenith, included the entire region around the Lake Chad, which was its central point. On the northern parts, it extended from present Chad Republic and stretched as far north as the Fezzan and Libya; and a small part of Algeria. In the south of the Lake Chad, Kanem-Borno covered several present-day North-Eastern Nigeria, Adamawa Highlands some Kwararrafa Lands and some parts of today's Northern Cameroons and the Central African Republic. The western parts of Kanem-Borno included most parts of today's Niger Republic up to Air and other Tuareg Lands; and a large portion of Hausaland in today's Nigeria. The Darfur Region of the Sudan up to the River Nile formed the eastern flank.

SAYF IBN DHI-YAZAN, THE PROGENITOR OF THE KANURI PEOPLE, FOUNDERS OF KANEM-BORNO



A 1935 Illustration of the Himyarite King of Yemen, Sayf ibn Dhi-Yazan, asking for military assistance from Khosrow Anushiruwan, the Shah of Persia, against the Abyssinians who were occupying his Country.

Unknown Author- Scanned image from Akram Zu'aytir (1909-1996) & Darwish Al-Muqdadi's (1898-1961)

The Girgam Book records that, Abu Murra Sayf bin Dhi Yazan al-Himyarite was the progenitor of the Kanuri People. The Sayfawa Dynasty strongly believed that the Dynasty's title was coined from the name of Sayf (Sayfawa). Hoyland Robert (2002) avers that, Sayf bin Dhi Yazan was a legendary Himyarite King of Yemen who lived between 516 AD and 578 AD, known for ending Axumite rule over Southern Arabia with the help of the Persian Empire. To reconquer Yemen, Sayf asked Khosrau I, Shah of the Persian Empire, to help him fight the Aksumites. According to Al-Masudi (translated 1979), Khosrau agreed and sent 800 men with Wahriz as their leader. The Persians advanced and conquered the Aksumites who had earlier occupied San'a, the Capital of Yemen and Sayf was installed as King on the understanding that he would send taxes to Shah Khosrau I. According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica, the Himyarite Kingdom of Sayf Dhi Yazan, historically referred to as the Homerite Kingdom by the Greeks and the Romans and its subjects called Homeritae, was a polity in the southern highlands of Yemen, as well as the name of the Region which it claimed. Until 110 BC, it was integrated into the Qatabanian Kingdom, but afterwards being recognised as an independent Kingdom. According to classical sources, their Capital was the ancient City of Zafar, relatively near the modern-day City of Sana'a.

HIMYARITE KINGDOM OF SAYF AT ITS HEIGHT IN 525 AD (Sources: en.wikipedia.org)



The "Himyar Kingdom" or "Himyarite Kingdom" is described in the Southern Tip of the Arabian Peninsula in the 1st Century Periplus Of The Erythraean Sea. The Map above is of the Arabian Peninsula according to the Periplus Of The Erythraean Sea. The Bronze Statue below is of Dhamar'alīy Yuhbabirr "King of Saba, Dhu Raydan, Hadhramawt and Yamnat" (Himyarite Kingdom) 170-180 AD. The Coin below is of the Himyarite Kingdom, Southern Coast of the Arabian Peninsula, in which ships passing between Egypt and India would stop. This is an imitation of Augustus Coin (1st Century AD).



**SEA AND LAND ROUTES SHOWING MOVEMENT
OF BANU SAYF FROM THE YEMEN AREA TO
KANEM-BORNO AREA OF THE LAKE CHAD**



CITADEL AT THULA, YEMEN, THE CAPITAL OF THE HIMYAR KINGDOM OF SAYF



Located in the Amran Governorate, just 54 kilometres northwest of Sana'a, Yemen, the beautifully preserved Thula City Citadel stood at the foot of the ancient Muttahar Gin Sharaf Uddin Fort and was surrounded by a stone wall. Thula was popular for its amazing stone houses, narrow lanes, rock cut fortress and fame of being unconquered in Yemeni history even when held under siege. It was said to house the Palace and Capital City of Sayf bin Dhi Yazan al-Himyari, the King of ancient Yemen. (Images: ancient-origins.net)



THE ANCIENT FIRST CITY OF THE KANURI PEOPLE AT DJADO IN PRESENT DAY NIGER REPUBLIC



Djado is an ancient ruin at Bilma in present day Niger Republic. The settlement lies on the plateau with the same name. According to the Kanuri tradition, they founded Djado. It was the most important ancient city of Kanuri culture. Djado was part of the Caliphate of the Sayfawa Dynasty of Kanem-Borno at least since the reign of Sultan Dunama Dibalemi (1203–1243). For some part of the time, they were independent, but they re-joined the Caliphate of Idris Alooma (1564–1596) whose conquests through the desert were from Fachi to Bilma, 260 kilometres south of Djado. (Images: Wikipedia.org)

ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF THE GREAT CAPITAL CITY OF KANEM-BORNO, NGAZARGAMU (image: afrolegends.com)

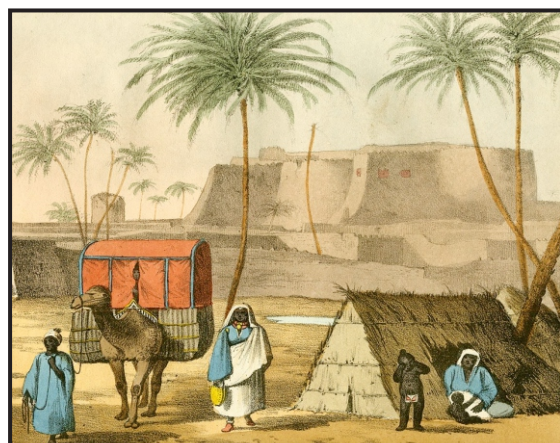


KANEM-BORNU FEZZAN CITY OF MURZUK IN LIBYA WEST AND NORTH AFRICAN TRANS SAHARAN TRADE STOP



Murzuq is an Oasis City and today's Capital of the Murzuq District in the Fezzan Region of Southwest Libya. Murzuq developed around an oasis which served as a stop on the north-south Trans Sahara Trade Route across the Sahara Desert. By 1300 AD, the area was ruled by the Kanuri Kanem Caliphate. The Fortress (ABOVE), now in ruins, was built around this time. By 1400 AD the City was ruled by the Borno Caliphate, and the legacy of Kanem-Borno sovereignty is still evident, as some streets have names in the Kanembu and the Kanuri Languages. (Images: George Francis Lyon - Lyon (1821); britannica.com and commons.wikimedia.org; destimap.com)

**LEFT: SLAVES GAGES AT MURZUK FORTRESS
RIGHT: ARTIST'S DRAWING OF MURZUK IN 1821**



DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCES ON THE SIZE AND THE CALIPHATE NATURE OF KANEM-BORNO

KANEM was the original Nation that was created c.700 AD by Susam (ruled c.692-725 AD) with Capital City at Njimi on the eastern side of Lake Chad. BORNO was later founded by Sultan Ali Ghaji in 1460 AD with Capital at Nagazargamu on the western side of Lake Chad. Sultan Idris Katakarmabe merged the two Sultanates in 1507AD, thereby giving rise to the coinage of KANEM-BORNO later.

Encyclopaedia Britannica, Urvoy (1949), Lange Dierk (2006), Shillington, Kevin (2012, Al-Fihrist Book I and Levzion Nehemia (1973) were all quoted by Wikipedia (under Kanem-Borno retrieved April 18th 2023:9.30pm) in the following two paragraphs:

***KANEM'S** expansion peaked during the long and energetic reign of Dunama Dabbalemi (1210–1259). Dabbalemi initiated diplomatic exchanges with Sultans in North Africa, sending a giraffe to the Hafsid Monarch, and arranged for the establishment of a Madrasa ar-Rashiq and a Hostel in Cairo to facilitate pilgrimage to Mecca. During his reign, he declared Jihad against the surrounding tribes and initiated an extended period of conquest with his Cavalry of 41,000. He fought the Bulala for 7 years, 7 months, and 7 days. After dominating the Fezzan, he established a Governor at Traghan. He delegated military command amongst his sons. As the Sefawa extended control beyond Kanuri Tribal Lands, Fiefs were granted to Military Commanders.*

***BORNO** peaked during the reign of Idris Alooma (1545-1603) reaching the limits of its greatest territorial expansion gaining control over Hausaland and the people of Air and the Tuareg. Military innovations included the use of mounted Turkish Musketeers, Mailed Cavalrymen, and Footmen. This Army was organized into an advance guard and a rear reserve, transported via camel or large boats and fed by free and slave women cooks. Military tactics were honed by drill and organisation, supplemented with a scorched earth policy. Ribats were built on frontiers and trade routes to the north were secure, allowing relations to be established with the Pasha of Tripoli and the Turkish Caliphate. Between 1574 and 1583, the Borno Sultan had Diplomatic Relations with the Ottoman Sultan Murad III, as well as with the Moroccan Sultan Ahmad al-Mansur. Imam Ibn Furtu called Alooma Amir al-Mu'minin, after he implemented the Shari'ah, and relied upon large Fief-Holders to ensure justice.*

The great Ibn Battuta (1304-1368 AD) writes of Kanem as:

A Moslem Country of excellent slave-girls, eunuchs, and fabrics dyed with saffron; whose Sultan never shows himself to his people nor talks to them except from behind a curtain.

Another great, Al-Magrizi (1364-1442 AD) describes Kanem at the height of its power as follows:

The inhabitants of Kanem cover the head with a veil. The Sultan does not show himself to the public except at the time of the two religious festivals (Eid El Kabir and Eid El Fitr); and in the morning and in the afternoon at the Palace; and those who talk to him are placed behind a screen... They are of the sect of the Imam Malik. They are particular in enforcing justice and extremely severe as regards the Islamic Religion. In the year 640 AH (1242 AD), they built in the town of Fustat (Cairo, Egypt), a College for people belonging to the sect of the Imam Malik known as the College of Ibn Rashid. It is in this College that members of this Nation reside if they come to Cairo.

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406 AD) states that:

In Sultan Dunama Dabalemi's reign, Sultan Al-Mustansir of Tunis received a gift of a giraffe from the Sultan of Kanem and the Master of Borno

Palmer (1936), Urvoy (1949), Smith, Abdullahi (1972) and Meredith Martin (2014); aver that, Sultan Ali Ghaji established a new Borno Capital at Ngazargamu around 1460 AD. He publicly declared Borno as a Caliphate and himself as a Caliph. Sultan Idris Alooma (ruled 1571-1603) was the most famous of Kanem-Borno Rulers. He was the World's outstanding figure of the period and during his reign all the neighbouring tribes were subdued, and conquest followed conquest.

The very influential, powerful and authoritative Encyclopaedia Britannica (www.britannica.com) records that,

Kanem-Bornu: Ruled by the Sef (Sayf) Dynasty that controlled the area around Lake Chad from the 9th to the 19th century. Its territory at various times included what is now Southern Chad, Northern Cameroon, North-Eastern Nigeria, Eastern Niger Republic and Southern Libya. Kanem-Bornu was probably founded around the Mid 9th Century, and its first Capital was at Njimi, northeast of Lake Chad. Toward the end of the 11th century, the Sef Mai (King) Umme (later known as Ibn Abd al-Jalil) became a Muslim, and from that time Kanem-Bornu was an ISLAMIC STATE. Because of its location, it served as a point of contact in trade between North Africa, the Nile Valley, and the Sub-Sahara Region.

**AT THIS STAGE, IT CAN BE ASKED:
WAS KANEM-BORNO AN EMPIRE OR A CALIPHATE?**

It is appropriate here to define and briefly explain what an Empire was and what a Caliphate was. Their nomenclatures, their modes of administrative operations and even the Titles of their Rulers are hereby proffered below:

AN EMPIRE evolved, developed and got its name from a purely pagan or secular attribute, with the domination and exploitation of a Capital Nation over other Inferior Nations, such that the others and their inhabitants were subjugated by the dominating Nation. The Greek Empire, the Roman Empire, the French Empire, the British Empire, the German Empire, the Portuguese Empire, etc., were all clearly built on secular systems of domination, exploitation and subjugation. Empires were always ruled by Emperors or Empresses; or by Very Senior Kings like the King of England in the British Empire.

The British Empire certainly and very glaringly portrayed this phenomenon during its colonisation of, for example, Nigeria. And the French Empire did the same to its colonies, like the present Republics of Chad, Niger and Cameroons.

A CALIPHATE evolved and developed purely from Islamic perspectives. The Shari'ah was the guiding system in a Caliphate, as clearly portrayed by the Fatimid, the Umayyad, the Othmani (Ottoman), the Kanem-Borno and the Sokoto Caliphates. Caliphates had always been ruled by a Caliph, an Amirul-Mumineen or a Sultan. Examples here are Caliph Abubakar (RLA), Ottoman Sultans and Sultan Idris Alooma of Kanem-Bornu. The Caliphate always assimilates all its subordinate Territories as equals to itself and had their local Leaders who handled all territorial activities with the Caliph's authorities.

Thus Cordoba in Al-Andalus (present day Spain) rivalled Baghdad the Caliphate Capital, in terms of wealth, learning and in technology. Likewise Kanem-Borno under, say Idris Alooma, allowed its territories to maintain some degrees of autonomy. The Hausa States of Katsina and Kano and the Berber Lands of Air and Agadez only had to send annual tributes but had their local Rulers in office. So, the various Islamic Nations under a Caliphate were autonomous and they individually prospered under an overall Caliph, Sultan or Amirul-Mumineen.

IN CONCLUSION:

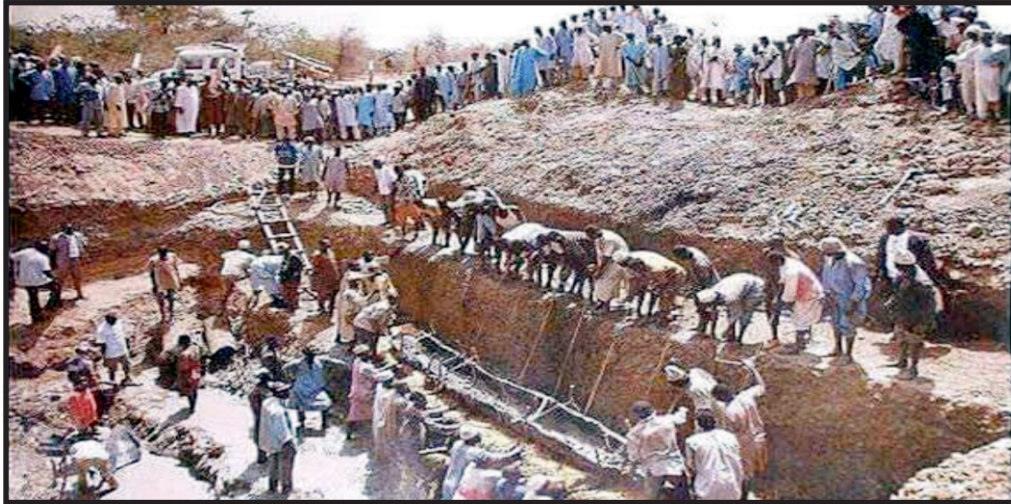
The Non-Muslim and the Nominal Muslim Rulers of Kanem carried the local titles of “Mai” (King) from its founding around 700 AD. The Devoted Muslim Rulers of Kanem, Borno and Kanem-Borno called themselves “Sultans” or “Amirul Mumineen” from 1075 AD up to 1846 AD when the new Rulers took the title of “Shehu” (Sheikh), a title that is still proudly in use. Also, the Land they ruled was called “Caliphate”.

Of great note was that, all the documents in history that were before those of European Colonisers were written in the Arabic Language or in local Languages using the Arabic Alphabets and numerals. Such Arabic documents recorded all the Kanem-Borno Rulers from the advent of Islam with the Titles of either “Amirul Mumineen” or “Sultans” and the Land as a “Caliphate”. However, European documents emphasised the “Mai” Titles for all the Kanem-Borno Rulers except the later “Shehu” Title, and such documents called the Land as an “Empire”. Surprisingly, there was no Kanem-Borno Ruler who they called an “Emperor” even though the Land they ruled was erroneously called an “Empire”!!!

THEREFORE, without any iota of doubt, Kanem-Borno was a CALIPHATE and not the Empire, which colonialists popularised in their deceptive writings!

PLEASE NOTE THAT REFERENCES TO THIS WRITEUP HAVE BEEN PLACED AT THE END OF THIS PUBLICATION

**DAFUNA CANOE, YOBE STATE, NIGERIA: EVIDENCE
OF HUMAN HABITATION AND CIVILIZATION IN THE
KANEM-BORNO LAND FOR OVER 8,000 YEARS
CHALLENGING THE EGYPTIAN CIVILIZATION**



In 1978, a peasant farmer in the semi-desert environment of the town of Dafuna some few kilometres from the City of Damaturu the present Capital of Yobe State of Nigeria discovered an ancient Canoe buried underground while digging a well to source for water. The Radio-Carbon dating of that Canoe showed that it was over eight thousand (8,000) years old; making it the World's second oldest Canoe ever discovered in human history. That directly translated the civilisation in the ancient Kanem-Borno Area to be among the earliest in human history. In fact, with that canoe discovery, Kanem-Borno now stands to challenge even the history of Egypt which is famous for its ancient Pyramids that gave it a strong civilisation. (Images: Wikipedia.org) BELOW: The Canoe at Damaturu, Yobe State, Nigeria



WONDERFUL WILD-LIFE AT LAKE CHAD AREA OF THE FAMOUS KANEM-BORNO

(Sources: naturalworldsafaris.com;
chadtravelsandtours.com; steemit.com;))



**LAKE CHAD AND ITS ISLANDS:
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
CENTER OF KANEM BORNO**



**FISHING: THE ECONOMIC
MAINSTAY OF THE LAKE
CHAD BASIN INHABITANTS**



**LIVESTOCK REARING WAS THE MAJOR
OCCUPATION AND THE ECONOMIC MAINSTAY
OF INHABITANTS OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN**

(Images: jamestown.org; theguardian.com)



**MIXED FARMING WAS A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE
MAINSTAY OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN INHABITANTS**



**CAMELS: THE TRAINS OF THE DESERT: THE MAJOR MEANS
OF TRANSPORT AND IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE MOUNTED
TROOPS OF THE KANEM-BORNO ARMY**



TYPICAL KANEM-BORNO ANCIENT MARKETS



**MIXED FARMING WAS A MAJOR FEATURE OF THE
MAINSTAY OF THE LAKE CHAD BASIN INHABITANTS
OF THE FAMOUS KANEM-BORNO**



PETROLEUM PROSPECTING AT THE LAKE CHAD BASIN IN NIGERIA: A MAJOR KANEM-BORNO AREA



The Kanem-Borno Areas that currently fall under Northern Nigeria are reputed to be very rich in petroleum products. Currently, Nigeria has struck large reserves of oil in the Gombe and Bauchi States borders. For several years, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) set in motion oil exploration in the Lake Chad Basin of Borno State. The NNPC Management in November 2020 assured that the Company has seen a lot of prospects in the Chad Basin to commence exploration and drilling activities.

URANIUM MINING IN NIGER REPUBLIC: A MAJOR KANEM-BORNO AREA



Uranium was discovered at Azelik in Niger republic in 1957 by the French Bureau de Recherches Geologiques et Minières (BRGM), looking for copper. The French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) initiated further studies. Further discoveries in sandstone followed including at Abokurum (1959), Madaouela (1963), Arlette, Ariege, Artois & Tassa/Taza (1965), Imouraren (1966) and Akouta (1967). In the midst of this, Niger became independent of France in 1960. Currently, Niger Republic has two significant uranium mines providing about 5% of World mining output from Africa's highest-grade uranium ores. Niger's first commercial uranium mine began operating in 1971. There is strong government support for expanding uranium mining.



THE SORAZ PETROLEUM REFINERY NEAR ZINDER IN NIGER REPUBLIC: A MAJOR KANEM BORNO AREA



The history of oil exploration and discovery in Niger Republic goes back to the 1970s. The first tangible discovery occurred in 1975 at the Tintouma field near Madama. It was in the Agadem Basin, located in the north-east of the Niger, that exploration began earnestly in 1970. However, it is only recently in 2011 that the petroleum industry of Niger Republic was born with the opening of the Agadem oilfield and the Soraz refinery near Zinder (Damagaram). The oil and gas extracted from the Agadem field are processed at the Soraz refinery and products (gasoline, diesel and liquefied natural gas) are primarily for domestic consumption. Since the beginning of the oil extraction, it appears that the reserves have been underestimated; from an estimate of 324 million barrels reserves in 2008, it is believed that reserves are three times higher, near 1 billion barrels in 2013. With the increase in reserves, Niger Republic anticipates an increase in its production from 20,000 to 80,000 barrels per day by 2016 with 60,000 barrels per day for exports.



NJERMAYA OIL REFINERY, CHAD REPUBLIC: A MAJOR KANEM-BORNO AREA



Oil exploration in the Nation of Chad began in the 1950s while the country was still under French colonial administration. About three oil rich areas were discovered in the country, however due to the high cost that would have been incurred in exploiting the finds; the French opted not to develop them. In 1960, Chad achieved its independence from France, and Francois Tombalbaye took over the country as its first President. He enlisted an oil and gas company to search for oil reserves. The company found oil in several areas in 1973-1975, notably at the Doba Basin and the Sedigui areas of Lake Chad. Currently, the Chad Republic maintains sizable reserves of crude oil. Producing around 100,000 barrels of oil a day, most of Chad's crude comes from its reserves in the Doba Basin in Southern Chad. There is an estimated one billion barrels of oil in Chad Republic.

DOBA OIL FIELD AND PIPELINE, CHAD REPUBLIC



SALT MINING AT BILMA SALT MINES: A MAJOR REVENUE EARNER FOR KANEM-BORNO



BELOW: CLOTHS MAKING AND CLOTHS DYING ARE MAJOR PROFESSIONS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN AREA



LEFT: BLACKSMITHING IS A MAJOR PROFESSION FOR MAKING FARM IMPLEMENTS AND WEAPONS IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN AREA

**KANEM-BORNO KANURI, SHUWA-ARAB AND BERBER
SCHOLARS SPREAD THE ISLAMIC RELIGION TO
ALL PARTS OF SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
MORE THAN WHAT OTHERS DID**



KANEM-BORNO ARMoured CAVALRY

(Images: gettyimages and pinterest)



IMAGES OF TURKISH MUSKETEERS LIKE THOSE WHO WORKED WITH; AND TRAINED SULTAN IDRIS ALOOMA'S GREAT MILITARY IN KANEM-BORNO

(Images: pinterest)

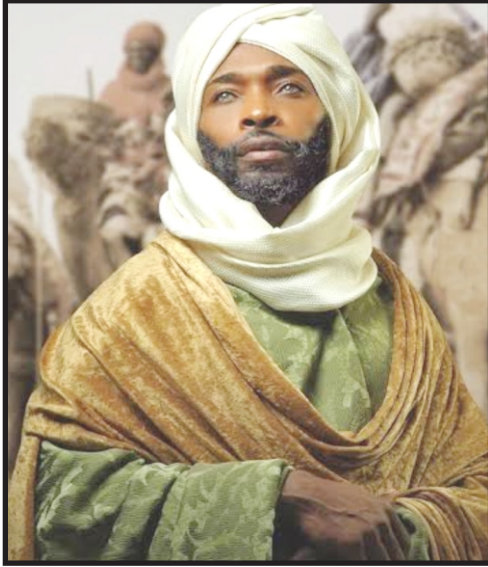


**THE FAMOUS LOGO OF KANEM-BORNO DEPICTING
THE GREATNESS, THE RESILIENCE AND THE POWER
OF ITS WONDERFUL ARMED FORCES**



The greatness and the fame of Kanem-Borno were predicated on its over 1,000 years of history. The Caliphate fought more religious, defensive and offensive wars than any Kingdom, State, Empire or Caliphate in Africa. That is why a well armed warrior on a well armoured horse formed the logo of the Kanem-Borno Caliphate. Kanem-Borno had undoubtedly the greatest history, the largest landmass and the longest lasting recorded dynastic reign in Africa. Kanem-Borno, at its zenith, included the entire region around the Lake Chad, which was its central point. On the northern parts, it extended from present Chad Republic and stretched as far north as the Fezzan and Libya; and a small part of Algeria. In the south of the Lake Chad, Kanem-Borno covered several present-day North-Eastern Nigeria, Adamawa Highlands some Kwararrafa Lands and some parts of today's Northern Cameroons and the Central African Republic. The western parts of Kanem-Borno included most parts of today's Niger Republic up to Air and other Tuareg Lands; and a large portion of Hausaland in today's Nigeria. The Darfur Region of the Sudan up to the River Nile formed the eastern flank.

THE GREATEST RULERS OF KANEM-BORNO



**SULTAN
IDRIS
ALOOMA
1545-1603**
**The Greatest Ruler
of Kanem-Borno
under the Sayfawa
Ruling House**

**SHEIKH
MUHAMMAD
AL-AMEEN
AL-KANEMI
1776-1837**
**The Founder
of Al-Kanemi
Ruling House of
Kanem-Borno**

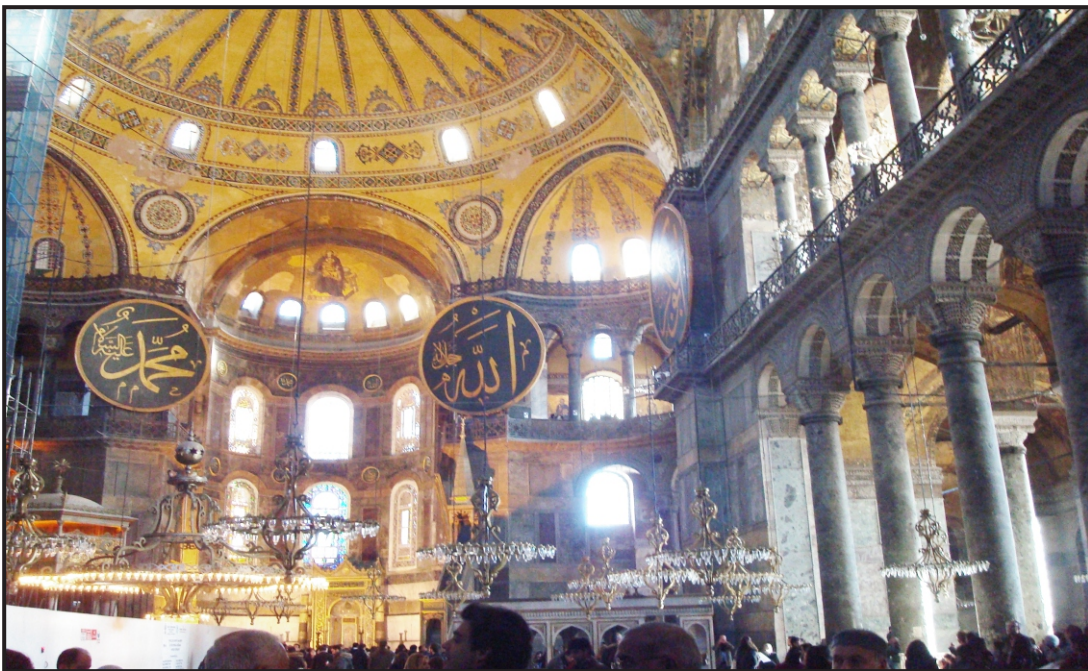


HIS EMINENCE SULTAN IDRIS ALOOMA: THE GREATEST RULER OF KANEM-BORNO

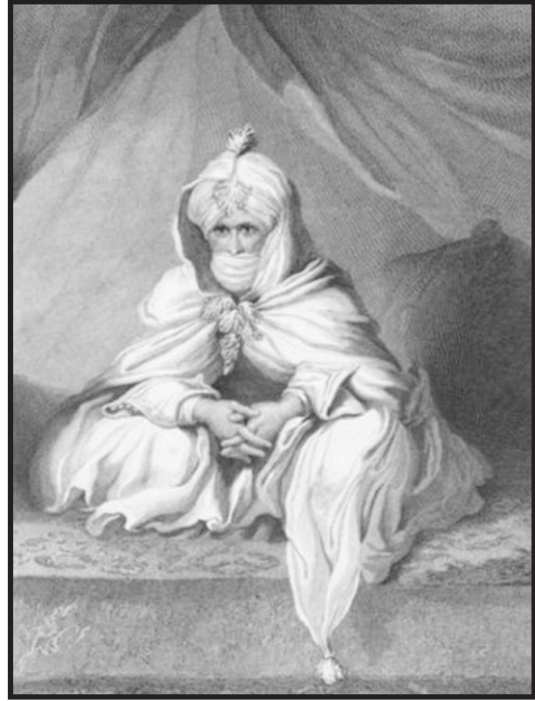


Sultan Idris Aloomaa (1571-1603) was the most famous of all the Leaders of Kanem-Bornu. He was the outstanding figure of the period and during his reign all the neighbouring tribes were subdued, and conquest followed after conquest. In contrast, was the tragic fall of Bornu's great rival in the west, the Askia of Songhai, before the forces of Morocco in 1591 AD. From that shattering event, he learnt the value of fire-arms, and from Tripoli he was said to have secured firearms and the services of musketeers to teach his men. After campaigns in the subjugation of the So tribes, he harassed the various settlements of the Hausaland including Kano, Katsina and Zazzau. There followed the defeat of the Tuareg of Air, and the Tubu in the north, which secured his communications with North Africa, and enabled him to make the Pilgrimage to Mecca as befitted a great Muslim Potentate. To the end, he continued to make successful war against the Mandara and other hostile tribes; and with frequent State visits, he displayed his power in Kanem and Bornu and other parts of his vast Kanem-Bornu Empire. He met a warrior's death in action in 1603 AD, and was buried near Lake Alo (hence his Aloomaa name), not far from modern Maiduguri.

THE AUTHOR AT TODAY'S OTTOMAN HAGIA SOPHIA MASJID IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY, THE VENUE OF THE DIPLOMATIC UNION BETWEEN SULTAN IDRIS ALOOMA OF KANEM-BORNO AND SULTAN MURAD III OF TURKEY, WHICH WAS SEALED ON 5TH RABIU AWWAL 985 HIJRAH (23RD MAY 1577 AD). THERE WAS NO ANCIENT AFRICAN NATION THAT HAD EVER SIGNED SUCH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN HISTORY.



SHEIKH AL-HAJJ MUHAMMAD AL-AMIN BIN MUHAMMAD AL-KANEMI: THE FOUNDER OF THE AL-KANEMI RULING HOUSE OF KANEM-BORNO CALIPHATE



Sheikh Al-Hajj Muhammad Al-Amin ibn Muhammad Al-Kanemi was a great Islamic scholar, teacher, religious and political leader who advised and eventually supplanted the Sayfawa Dynasty of the Kanem-Bornu Caliphate. Muhammad Al-Amin, also known as Laminu or as the Shehu, was born in 1189 AH/1776 AD. His father took him along to study in Birnin Ngazargamu, the Capital City of Kanem-Bornu, where they stayed in the house of Imam Abd Al-Qadir. The young Laminu accompanied his father on the Hajj in the early 1790's and he returned to the Chad Region around 1803 by way of Wadai. He settled in Ngala in 1805 where he was given a daughter in marriage by the King of Ngala. He was in correspondence with Imam Yusuf bin Abd Al-Qadir in the Birnin Ngazargamu, and his child (Abba Yusuf) by his new wife was named after and given to Imam Yusuf to raise. Undoubtedly, it was Imam Yusuf who advised the Sultan of Kanem-Bornu to call Sheikh Laminu to aid him against the encroaching Fulani Jihadists led by Sheikh Usman Danfodio. As elaborated in this Book, in 1846, Al-Kanemi's son Umar ibn Muhammad Al-Amin became the sole Ruler of Kanem-Bornu, an event which marked the end of the Duguwa/Sayfawa Dynasty's over one thousand years Rule. Born to a Kanembu father and an Arab mother near Murzuk in what is today Libya, Al-Amin rose to prominence as a member of a rural religious community in the Western Provinces of what was then a much respected Kanem-Borno Caliphate.

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



H.E. General Sani Abacha,
Military President
Federal Republic of Nigeria



H.E Alhaji Kashim Shettima,
Vice President
Federal Republic of Nigeria



H.E. Prof. Babagana Zulum
Executive Governor
Borno State of Nigeria



H.E. Alhaji Abubakar Umar Garbai
Al-Kanemi, Shehu of Borno
Titular Ruler of Kanem-Borno



H.E Alhaji Sir Kashim Ibrahim,
Only Civilian Governor of
Northern Nigeria



H.E. General Hassan Usman Katsina,
Only Military Governor Of Northern
Nigeria: A Kanuri Maternally

SOME PRESIDENTS OF CHAD AND NIGER REPUBLICS FROM AREAS THAT WERE UNDER THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO CALIPHATE



His Excellency, President
Tombalbaye The First
President of Chad Republic



His Excellency Hissein
Habre, The President
of Chad Republic



His Excellency Mahamane
Ousmane, The 4th President
of Niger Republic



His Excellency Idriss
Deby Itno The President
of Chad Republic



His Excellency Mahamat
Deby The President of
Chad Republic



His Excellency Mamadou
Tandja, The 7th President
of Niger Republic



His Excellency Hadj Mamane
Oumarou The Prime Minister
of Niger Republic



His Excellency Mohamed
Bazoum, The 10th President
of Niger Republic

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



HE Deputy Governor of
Borno State, Alhaji
Umar Usman Kadafuri



HRH Shehu of Dikwa
Alhaji Ibrahim ibn
Umar Al-Kanemi



HRH Shehu of Bama
Alhaji Umar Ibn Kyari
Al-Kanemi



HRH Emir of Biu, Alhaji
Mustapha Umar
Mustapha Aliyu



HRH Emir of Askira
Alhaji Abdullahi ibn
Muhammadu Askirama



HRH Emir of Goza
Alhaji Mohammed
Idrisa Timta



HRH Emir of Shani
Alhaji Muhammad
Nasir Mailafiya



HRH Emir of Uba
Alhaji Aliyu ibn Ismaila
Mamza



The Waziri of Borno
Alhaji Shettima
Mutawalli Abubakar

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



His Excellency Mai
Mala Buni, Governor
Yobe State, Nigeria



HE Deputy Governor of
Yobe State, Hon.
Idi Barde Gubana,



HE. Dr. Ahmad Lawan
Former Senate President
Federal Republic of Nigeria



HRH Emir of Fika,
Ahaji Muhammadu Ibn
Abali Muhammad Idrissa



HRH Emir of Bade Alhaji
Abubakar Umar
Ibn Sulaiman



HRH Emir of Damaturu
Dr Shehu Hashimi II
Al-Kanemi



HRH Emir of Machina
Dr Bashir Albishir Bukar



HRH Emir of Ngazargamu
Alhaji Tijjani Saleh



HRH Emir of Gujba Dr. Mai
Mukhtar Ibn Ali Gangaram

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



HRH Emir of Nguru Alhaji
Mustapha Ibn Mai Kyari



HRH Emir of Tikau Alhaji
Muhammad ibn Grema



HRH Emir of Potiskum
Alhaji Umaru Bubaram



HRH Emir of Fune Alhaji
Saleh Idrissa ibn Usman



HRH Emir of Yusufari Alhaji
Muhammad Ibn Zakariya



HRH Emir of Gudi Alhaji
Isa Bunuwo



HRH Emir of Jajere
Alhaji Hamza ibn Buba

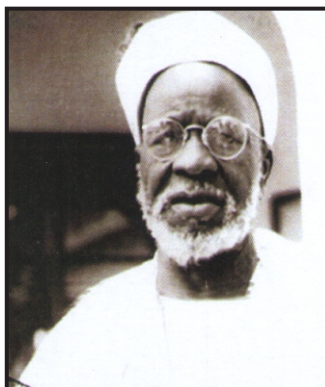


HRH Emir of Ngelzarma
Alhaji Muhammad Maiyari

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



HRH late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Bukar Garbai
(1902-1922)



HRH late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Umar Sanda
Kyarimi (1937-1967)



HRH late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Umar Ibn Abubakar
Garbai (1968-1974)



HRH Late Shehu of Borno
Alhaji Mustapha Ibn Umar
(1974-2009)



HRH late Shehu of Dikwa
Alhaji Mohamed Ibn Shehu
Al-Kanemi



HRH Late Shehu of Bama
Alhaji Kyari Ibn Umar
Al-Kanemi



HRH late Emir of Biu
Alhaji Umar Mustapha
Aliyu



HRH late Martyr Emir of
Goza Alhaji Idrissa
Timta



HRH late Emir of Fika
Alhaji Abali ibn
Muhammadu Idrissa

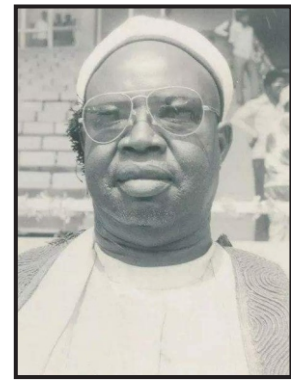
THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



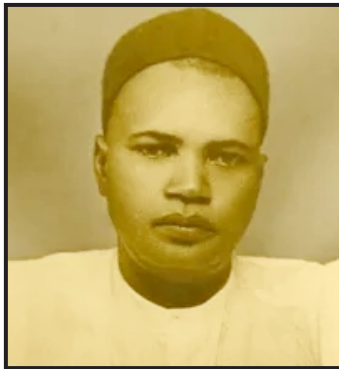
HRH late Emir of Zazzau
Malam Jafaru Dan Isiyaku
(1937-1959)



HRH late Emir of Lafia
Alhaji Isa Mustapha Agwai I
(1974-2019)



HRH late Emir of Bade
Alhaji Mai Umar
Ibn Suleyman



Alhaji Aliyu Mai Bornu first
indigenous Governor of
the Nigerian Federal
Central Bank



Dr Shettima Ali Monguno,
First Petroleum Minister
for Nigeria and respected
Elder Statesman.



HRH late Emir of Damaturu
Alhaji Bukar Ali ibn
Al-Kanemi



General Muhammadu Shuwa,
First General Officer to
Command a Nigerian
Army Division



The Late Waziri of Borno
Alhaji Yarima Mustapha
Ibn Mukhtar



Malam Adamu Ciroma, Federal
Minister, Administrator,
Governor of Central
Bank of Nigeria

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



Alhaji Waziri Ibrahim
Nigeria's First Republic
Minister for Health and
Presidential Candidate



Alhaji Mohamed Kam
Salem First Northerner
Inspector General of
Nigeria Police Force



Gen. Zakariya Maimalari first
African at Sandhurst UK, first,
Nigerian Regular Army Officer of
Colonial Nigerian Army in 1950



Malam Liman Ciroma, Ciroma
of Fika, Federal Extra Ordinary
Civil Servant Secretary to the
Federal Government



Alhaji Zanna Bukar
Dipcharima (1917-1969)
Nigeria's First Republic
Minister for Works



Dr. Adamu Fika, Federal
Super Permanent Secretary
and Secretary to the
Federal Government



Alhaji Ibrahim Biu,
Wazirin Biu and
Northern Nigerian
Minister for Information



Alhaji Musa Daggash,
among first Civil Servants
and a Federal Super
Permanent Secretary



Alhaji Abba Habib,
Wazirin Bama
Northern Nigerian
Minister for Trade

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



Air Marshal Al-Amin Daggash, the first non-Army Officer to become the Chief of Defense Staff in Nigeria



Admiral Sulaiman Saidu Second Northern Nigerian Chief of Naval Staff Nigerian Navy



IGP Usman Alkali Baba Former Inspector General of Police Nigeria Police Force



General Alwali Jauji Kazir Military Governor, Kwara State Chief of Staff, Nigerian Army



Gen. Abba Kyari the first Military Governor of former North-Central State of Nigeria



Prof Umaru Shehu first Professor Emeritus of Medicine from Northern Nigeria



Alhaji Ibrahim Imam (1916-1980) Secretary of NPC and Patron of BornoYouth Movement and Minister



Alhaji Balarabe Mahmud Administrator of Kaduna and Commissioner in North Central State



Malam Macido Dalhat Secretary to North Central State Government (Kaduna and Katsina States)

THE GREAT KANEM-BORNO



HRH Emir of Lafia Justice Sidi Dauda Bage. Justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria



HRH Emir of Gumel Alhaji Ahmed Mohamed Sani II. Of Kanuri Descent



HRH Emir of Minna Alhaji Umar Farouq Bahago. He is of Kanuri descent



His Royal Highness Emir of Jama'are Bauchi State, Alhaji Nuhu Ahmed Wabi



Alhaji Munir Ja'afaru, Madaki of Zazzau and son of Emir of Zazzau Malam Ja'afaru of Kanuri Royal Ruling House



Alhaji Muhammadu Kabir, Ibrahim, Emir Of Azara Nasarawa State of Nigeria



Amb. Baba Ahmad Jidda, Secretary to Borno State Government and Nigeria's Ambassador to China



Alhaji Dr. Umaru Aliyu Shinkafi, Head of Nigerian Security Service and Presidential Candidate.



Dr. Kalli Alkali Yusuf Gazali of the Elders Forum and Registrar of Yobe State University

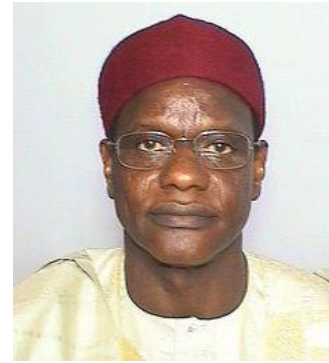
THE CIVILIAN GOVERNORS OF BORNO



H.E. MOHAMED GONI
1979-1983



H.E. ASHEIKH JARMA
OCTOBER 1983 TO
DECEMBER 1983



H.E. MAINA MA'AJI LAWAN
1992 TO 1993



H.E. MALA KACHALLA
1999 TO 2003



H.E. ALI MODU SHERIFF
2003 TO 2011



H.E. KASHIM SHETTIMA
2011 TO 2019

THE GREAT BUSINESSMEN OF BORNO



Alhaji Muhammadu Indimi,
renowned businessman
in Maiduguri, Federal
Republic of Nigeria



Alhaji Mai Ahmed Deribe,
renowned businessman
in Maiduguri, Federal
Republic of Nigeria



Alhaji Bukar Bolori,
renowned businessman
in Maiduguri, Federal
Republic of Nigeria

SOME GREAT SCHOLARS OF KANEM-BORNO



Sheikh Dr. Ibrahim Sharif Saleh Al-Husainy
Borno Shuwa Arab Scholar of international
repute and Nigerian Grand Mufti



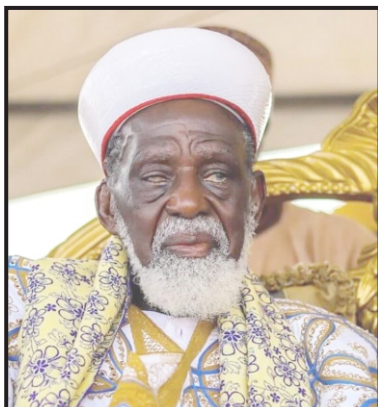
Chief Imam of Borno, Sheikh Ibrahim
Ahmad Wubchama, a great Scholar
who died at the age of 90 years



Sheikh Ahmad Abul Fatahi, a great
Borno Muslim Scholar who died at
the age of 85 years



Sheikh Abubakar El Miskin, a great
Borno Muslim Scholar who died at
the age of 115 years



Sheikh Osmanu Nuhu Sharubutu
the National Chief Imam of Ghana
and of Kanuri descent (100 yrs +)



Sheikh Sir Muhammad Awad, first
Grand Qadi of Northern Nigeria and
a Kanuri-Sudanese Arab

THE WORLD'S FIRST BLACK PILOT WAS FROM KANEM-BORNO



Ahmet Ali Çelikten (1883 – 1969) was a Turkish aviator, of Kanuri origin and Afro-Turkish ethnicity, regarded as the first black pilot in history. He was one of the first black males becoming a fighter pilot, receiving his “wings” in 1914. He was one of the few black pilots in World War I, like African American Eugene Jacques Bullard (flying for France), William Robinson Clarke from Jamaica (flying for Britain), Pierre Réjon from Martinique (flying for France) and Domenico Mondelli from Eritrea (flying for Italy). As the first black pilot ever, he received his license from Fédération Aéronautique Internationale on February 20, 1914. Ahmet's maternal grandmother was a Kanuri born in Borno (now in Nigeria) and was brought to what is now Turkey as part of the Ottoman slave trade.



THE WORLD'S FIRST FEMALE MUSLIM ASTRONAUT WAS FROM KANEM-BORNO



Rayyanah Al-Barnawi was born in September 1988 in Jeddah Saudi Arabia to Kanuri parents of Borno State descent. She is a biomedical researcher and the first Female Muslim Astronaut in the World. She was selected for Axiom Mission 2 as a Mission Specialist. She is pictured above at the International Space Station on 22nd May 2023.

THE WORLD'S FIRST WOMAN TO ORGANISE AN OPERATION IN ISRAEL FOR PALESTINE WAS FROM KANEM-BORNO



Fatima Mohammed Bernawi (1939 to November 2022) was a Palestinian militant of Kanuri descent who was involved in the Palestinian Freedom Movement of the mid-1960s. She was known as the first Palestinian woman to have organised an operation in Israel; the attempted bombing of a movie theatre in October 1967. Though she was sentenced to life in Israel prison, she was released in a prisoner exchange in 1977 after having served 10



His Eminence the Shehu of Borno, Alhaji (Dr) Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Kanemi , CFR, during his historic visit to Turkey in November 2011

His Eminence, the Shehu of Borno Alhaji (Dr) Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Kanemi paid a historic visit to Turkey starting on 21st November 2011 where he met with Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. That visit was to reopen and to foster the centuries old relations between Kanem-Borno and the Ottoman Caliphate. The relationship between Kanem-Borno and the Ottomans dated back to the 16th Century in recorded history when Sultan Murad III of Turkey in a correspondence with Sultan Idris Alooma of Kanem-Borno on 5th Rabi'u Awwal 985 Hijrah (23rd May, 1577) sealed International Diplomatic Relations between the two Caliphates. No African Nation had ever entered into such Diplomatic Relations before or after that during ancient times.



LEFT: His Eminence the Shehu of Borno, receiving the Saudi Arabian Prince Abdulaziz Ibn Faisal who was on a visit to Maiduguri on 21st January 2024. RIGHT: His Eminence the Shehu of Borno giving the Prince copies of a Kanem-Borno History Book written by Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga

KANURI DIASPORA ACHIEVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

Establishment of the First College in Northern Nigeria



Sheikh Alhaji Haruna, (1857-1937) a Kanuri Scholar and Prince who was appointed the first Waziri of Katsina. The first College in Northern Nigeria, the famous “Katsina College” (now Barewa College) was established in Katsina during his tenure as Waziri in 1921. The farmland of the Emir of Katsina Muhammadu Dikko and the farmland of Waziri Haruna were donated for the project

Establishment of the First University in Northern Nigeria

Alhaji Dr. Isa Kaita, Waziri of Katsina and the son of the first Waziri of Katsina Sheikh Haruna. He was the Northern Nigerian Minister for Education who presented the Bill to the Northern Nigerian Parliament for the establishment of Ahmadu Bello University in 1961. He also nurtured the University up to its first Convocation in 1965 under Alhaji Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto and Northern Premier



Establishment of the First Islamic University in Nigeria



Professor Sani Abubakar Lugga, the 5th Waziri of Katsina and the grandson of the first Waziri of Katsina Sheikh Haruna. He was the key founder and the beacon behind the establishment of the first Islamic University in Nigeria, the Al-Qalam University Katsina. He shouldered the major responsibility for its establishment and lectured there for several years without receiving any salary or allowances

GREAT KANEM-BORNO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN NIGER REPUBLIC



His Eminence Hadj Aboubacar Oumarou Sanda,
the Sultan of Damagaram



Mai Inoussa Mai Manga Soumai
Chef de Canton N'Guigmi



Alhaj Maman Sani Daoda
Chef de Canton Kanem Bakache



Dr. Chetima Boucar Amsagana
Chef de Canton de Chetimari Diffa

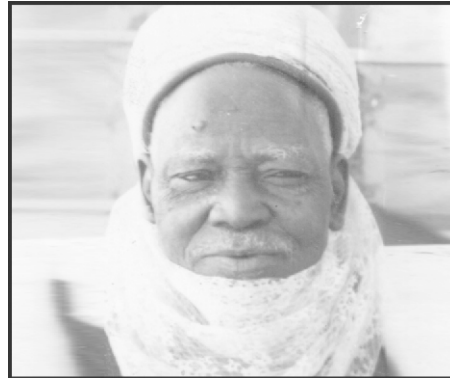


Mai Mousa Mai Saley
Chef de Canton de Kelle

KANURI DIASPORA IN KATSINA EMIRATE



Alhaji Abubakar Lugga, the Sarkin Dawa of Katsina and son of Wazirin Katsina Haruna



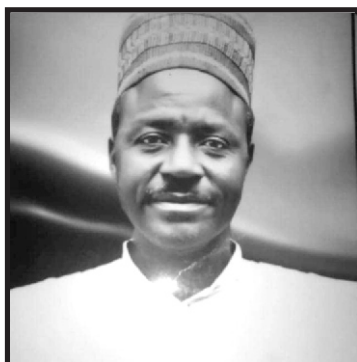
Alhaji Ibrahim Mashi, the Talba of Katsina, pioneer Teacher and son of the Kanuri Iya Zakari of Katsina



Alhaji Abu Jika, Wazirin Ayyuka of Katsina and first generation masons from the family of Wazirin Katsina Haruna



Alhaji Isma'ila Damale Kaita the Sarkin Fada of Katsina and son of Wazirin Katsina Haruna



Alhaji Abubakar Sarkin Malaman Katsina. A veteran educationist and author. A son of the first Waziri of Katsina Haruna



Alhaji Mamman Kisagare Kaita First Northern Chamber of Commerce Chairman and son of Waziri Haruna

GREAT KANEM-BORNO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN NIGER REPUBLIC



His Eminence Hadj Ibrahim Oumarou, the Sultan of Agadez
the Titular Head of Kanem-Borno Air Tuareg Territory



Alhaj Abdou Gasso Katiellou
Mai Maine Soroa



Alhaj Kazelma Mamadou Abba Kiari,
Chef de Canton Komadougou Diffa



Alhaj Ibrahim Mai Gambo
Chef de Canton Bosso



Mai Mahamadou Mai Moussa
Chef de Canton de Goure

GREAT KANEM-BORNO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN CHAD REPUBLIC



His Eminence Sultan of Baguirmi
Hadji Woli Mahamat,



His Eminence Sultan of Kanem-
Mao Hadj Mouta Ali Zerzerti,



His Emience Sultan of Waddai
Sherif Abdelhadi Mahadi



His Emience Sultan of Ndjamena
Hadj Mahamat Idjile Kasser



His Eminence Sultan of Gaoui
Hadj Hassan Mahamat

GREAT KANEM-BORNO TRADITIONAL LEADERS IN CHAD REPUBLIC



His Eminence Sultan of Dar Sila
Hadj Moustapha Seid Ibrahim



His Eminence Sultan of Dar Tama
Hadj Mahamat Abdoulaye



His Eminence Sultan of Dar Kapka
Hadj Mahamat Ali Abdoulaye



His Eminence Sultan of Zaghawa
Hadj Tahir Abdrahamane Haggar



His Eminence Sultan of Dar Bilia
Hadj Sidik Timan Deby

GREAT KANEM-BORNO LEADERS IN FEZZAN CITY OF MURZUK, LIBYA



After changing hands from Kanem-Borno to several ancient Nations including the Ottoman, Fezzan was occupied by Italian colonialists in 1911. Free French troops occupied Murzuk on 16th January 1943, and proceeded to administer Fezzan through notables of the Fezzan family of Sayf Al Nasr. However, when the French military control ceased in 1951, all of Fezzan became part of the Kingdom of Libya. With the recent Civil War in Libya, Fezzan was a stronghold for Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi through much of 2011. It was only in 2015, with peace gradually returning to Libya, that a Mayor was appointed for Murzuk. Ibrahim Shawish was sworn into office along with seven Members of the Municipal Council who included three Tebu Kanuri Clan Members. The Mayor, Ibrahim Shawish, is seen in the two pictures (TOP and BOTTOM) receiving donation of two intensive care ambulances from UNDP through a EU-funded project from Ms. Amal Elmoghrabi, UNDP Programme Analyst.



GREAT KANEM-BORNO LEADERS IN DARFUR REGION OF SUDAN



The Darfur Region of the Sudan is mainly inhabited by the Baqqara Tribe best known as the Shuwa Arab. The Region was an integral part of Kanem-Borno that stretched up to the River Nile in the Sudan. The United Nations African Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) has been working tirelessly to bring peace to the Region. The picture above shows UNAMID Joint Special Representative (JSR), Jeremiah Mamabolo, accompanied by senior UNAMID Staff during a visit to El-Daein, East Darfur. While in East Darfur, JSR Mamabolo held discussions with Local Authorities, Native Administration Leaders, displaced persons and women and youth representatives. The Wali (Governor) of East Darfur, Dr. Hashim Elwagee (third from LEFT), is seen here briefing the JSR on progress made in the security situation across East Darfur through fruitful collaborations with UNAMID and reiterated his government's gratitude for the Mission's steadfast support. Furthermore, Dr. Elwagee called for continued partnerships with the Mission to ensure the successful implementation of the Sudanese Government's stabilization and development agenda.

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