Tippu Tip
Overview

- Arab-African Relations
- The Zanzibar Slave Trade
- Colonialism
- But first…
Tippu Tip (1837 - 1905)

- Full name Hamed bin Mohammed el Murjeb
- Both of his parents were Arab however Hamed was born with dark African features
- Father was a well established and respected Arab ivory and slave trader
Tippu Tip (1837 - 1905)

- Ambitious from an early age and eager to prove himself to his father and his father’s peers
- On his first trading trip at age 18 he established a reputation by not revealing his own fatigue
- Receives the name Tippu Tip because of the onomatopoeic sound of his rifle
Tippu Tip (1837 - 1905)

- Primarily known as a slave trader.
- “Today Tippu Tipp cannot be regarded as a hero since his exploits and gains were at the expense of other human beings” (Farrant 1975)
“He must however, be regarded as a brave and daring adventurer, a good administrator, and a great leader of men” (Farrant 1975)
Tippu Tip (1837 - 1905)

- Ivory Ivory Ivory!!!!
- Expanded knowledge of Central Africa
- Provided safe passage to Europeans through dangerous territories
- How does it end???
African-Arab Relations: A New Social Order

- Creation of a new hierarchy of relations - Arab, African converts, Africans

- Ability to gain status - conversion, concubinage, elite slavery
Loyal followers advance Tippu’s expansion

Islam used as a method of gaining support
  - Appropriation of culture
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- Tippu’s mother concerned that father would reject an African looking son

- Mentality of African inferiority
  - Complex social order
Zanzibar Slave Trade
Tippu Tip

- Started at 18 years Old from his fathers business
- Slave and Ivory trader
- By 1880s his trade empire stretched from the upper Congo to Lake Tanganyika all the way to Baganoy (on the coast) then from there they were shipped to the Island of Zanzibar
Where did the slaves come from?
Where did the slaves go?
End of Slavery in the Empire

- British Anti-Slavery laws
  - Two anti-slavery societies in Britain
  - Movements begins in the 1780s
  - End of slavery in the Empire 1830s
  - Evolve into international stage of anti-slavery
Berlin Conference (1884)

- Creation of German East Africa
  - Zanzibar and what is now Tanzania.

- Conflict with British interest

- Congo under Belgian rule (King Leopold)

Source: Thomas Nast, Harper’s Weekly, June 20, 1885 (adapted)
King Leopold

- Purchase of Slaves to Free them
- Measure to go with British/European sentiment against slavery
- Appointes Tippu Tip as Governor of Stanley falls
  - With pay of 40 pounds per month
“He was loyal to the sultan of Zanzibar” (Atmore 1994)

“Ostensibly, Tippu Tip owed allegiance to the Sultan of Zanzibar, but in reality he acted as an independent ruler with control over much of the eastern Congo.” (Meredith 2004)
“Tippu Tip resisted the European presence at first, but after negotiations with Henry Morton Stanley, Leopold’s agent in the Congo, he forfeited his empire in return for the governorship of what is now the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.” (Gates, Louis, & Appiah, 1999)

“He proved indispensable to H.M. Stanley” (BBC)
King Leopold

“In 1887, the king asked him to serve as governor of the colony’s eastern province, with its capital Stanley Falls and Tippu Tip accepted; several relatives occupied posts under him.”
(Hochschild, 1998)
Closing Comments

- Tippu Tip was a business person
- But he WAS a slave trader
Discussion Questions

- How does Tippu Tip’s career contrast with the idea of the White Man’s Burden?
- As a business person, how does Tippu Tip’s career parallel or deviate from contemporary examples?


Bibliography

http://books.google.com/books?id=cLaI1LH16GkC&dq=tippu+tip.
