

# THE IMPORTANT ROLE PLAYED BY PRE COLONIAL AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS IN TRANS ATLANTIC TRADE AND POLITICS

*They played significant roles in their societies' religious, political, social, and . Leadership and power were not alien to West Africa women in pre-colonial society. promoted and protected women's industry (marketing and trade especially), .. 5: Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Â 6: Christian Missionary Activities in West Africa.*

Igbo women were enraged at the persecutions, extortions and corruption of the warrant chiefs and Native Court members. The same was the case for African philosophy, which, according to Western philosophers, had never existed. The devastation of Africa through transatlantic slavery was accompanied by the ignorance of some historians and philosophers to negate its entire history. Isert remarked in the late 18th century that the people there " knew better how to use firearms than the stupid Krepis whose masters they became " Some scholars have called this a dual-sex political system. Former slaves could rise to high social and political positions in Dahomey and even become ministers of state. Years of resistance and pressure, especially under the umbrella of the Anti-Slavery Society, eventually led the European governments to abolish slavery and emancipate or free the slaves, although it took a long time for this to happen in practice. Their leader, Anasi, was the most senior wife in the community. The authors of these chapters largely used oral evidence, archaeology and cultural and linguistic evidence to support their positions and arguments, thereby strengthening the new theory in African historical scholarship as championed by Dike. There was great diversity across the continent and therefore societies at different stages and levels of development. In the precolonial era Abere operated as an integral part of the legal system and actively functioned as an agent of social control. We were not many days in the merchant's custody, before we were sold after their usual manner, which is this: On a signal given, as the beat of a drum the buyers rush at once into the yard where the slaves are confined, and make choice of that parcel they like best. Likewise, when there is a female goddess, a male priest serves the goddess. Their fate was worse than that of Agotime who was at least sold into slavery for the possession of magical powers. The chapter contributors were experts in the areas they wrote about, which gave the volumes the strength and authority they command. The regency of King Akaba's sister Ahangbe is a convenient starting point. The Arabic language also provided a script that assisted the development of literacy, book-based learning and record-keeping. However, she philosophized on the propriety of subjecting another human being to share her destiny by compulsion. Areas that were hit hardest by endemic warfare and slave raids suffered from general population decline, and it is believed that the shortage of men in particular may have changed the structure of many societies by thrusting women into roles previously occupied by their husbands and brothers. Dike believed that subjecting oral history to systematic criticism and supplementing the resulting residue with evidence from written documents after the fashion of Western historiography, as well as with evidence derived from archaeology and other ancillary historical sciences, would put old-style African history through a process of rebirth. Afigbo, 3. The omu appointed a police woman called the awo. As every object was new to me, every thing I saw filled me with surprise. It divided the colonized society and rendered all its members weak. John M'Leod stated that the king of Dahomey demanded Mr. Ogbo associations or Age Grade associations. Age grades were groups of women of same age, who came together in order to provide incentives toward ambition and hard work. Before they could proceed with the purchase of the bulk of their slaves, the European traders were compelled to buy first a number of the king's slaves at an inflated price. In short, while these societies varied greatly and were governed in different ways, they were all developing according to their own internal dynamics. It does this by dividing male and female politicking in precolonial West Africa into two broad analytical categories, namely, the human political constituency, and spiritual political constituency. Enslaved at an early age, he eventually became the regent of the Indian kingdom of Ahmednagar, famous for his military campaigns against the Mughals. West African women and the female spiritual principle, did not however, take this sitting down. All the earliest evidence of human existence and of our immediate hominid ancestors has been found in Africa. His writings inspired many in Africa, especially during the anti-colonial campaigns. According to District Officer Captain Hill who had just returned from leave: The women numbering over 10, were shouting and

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yelling round the office in a frenzy. Finally, the increased exchange with Europeans and the fabulous wealth it brought enabled many states to cultivate sophisticated artistic traditions employing expensive and luxurious materials.