

The Collo (Shilluk) Country or Land in South Sudan

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ABSTRACT

The paper wanted to describe the background of Collo land or Country in South Sudan. The Study also would like to introduce the meaning of inhabitant, Shilluk, or Collo people in South Sudan. Moreover, the study aims to overlap on the extension of Collo Country or Land. On the other hand, the paper focused on physical features of the Country, Population activities, appearance, and Cloth dressing, as well as instruments used by Shilluk or Collo in their daily life. This study used a personal interview and questionnaire method to find accurate information from the historian experts in South Sudan. Nevertheless, the study also used secondary data sources such as books and previous reports. In addition, the study used the published scientific papers and colonization authorities in mother Sudan. In this paper, the qualitative and descriptive method was employed for a finding of the Collo Country or land background in South Sudan. The findings of the study will be used to help the government, the researchers as well as students in various public universities to find accurate data in their life future studies. The study recommended that government should establish research centers and strengthen them to search in issues of an ethnic group in the Country. Also, the study recommended that the researchers should be given incentives or allowances for their exports in writing reports of Collo Land. The paper suggested to entire geographers as well as historians to make the research in ethnic groups of South Sudan for future further studies.

KEY WORDS:-*Collo (Shilluk), Country or Land and South Sudan.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The Shilluk (Collo) people is one of the groups in South Sudan. The meaning of inhabitants are called Ocholo a Shilluk, plural word is wad Collo, which mean the children of Collo or Shilluk; the country is called fodhe Collo in local language of Collo, the Country of Collo or Shilluk. The word Collo perhaps means black. A second name of the people is Okang descendants of kang, this name is connected with Nyikang, the national hero of Collo (Shilluk). The name 'Shilluk' singular Shilkawi is given to them by the Arabs, and has now become the common designation. It is of course, derived from Ocollo. Other appellation which are in use among the neighbours of the Shilluk (Collo) people (Yor.A.O, 2020).

2. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study concentrated on the background of Collo (Shilluk) Country or land, meaning of Collo inhabitants in the land, their population as well as location of settlement and population activities which existed in the Country or their land. The study is conducted to answer the following questions:

- a. Give the background of Collo (Shilluk) Country or Land?
- b. Describe the meaning of inhabitants Collo?
- c. What are the main activities of Collo group in their land or County?
- d. Determine the culture of Collo or Shilluk people?
- e. Explain the physical features of Collo Country or Land?

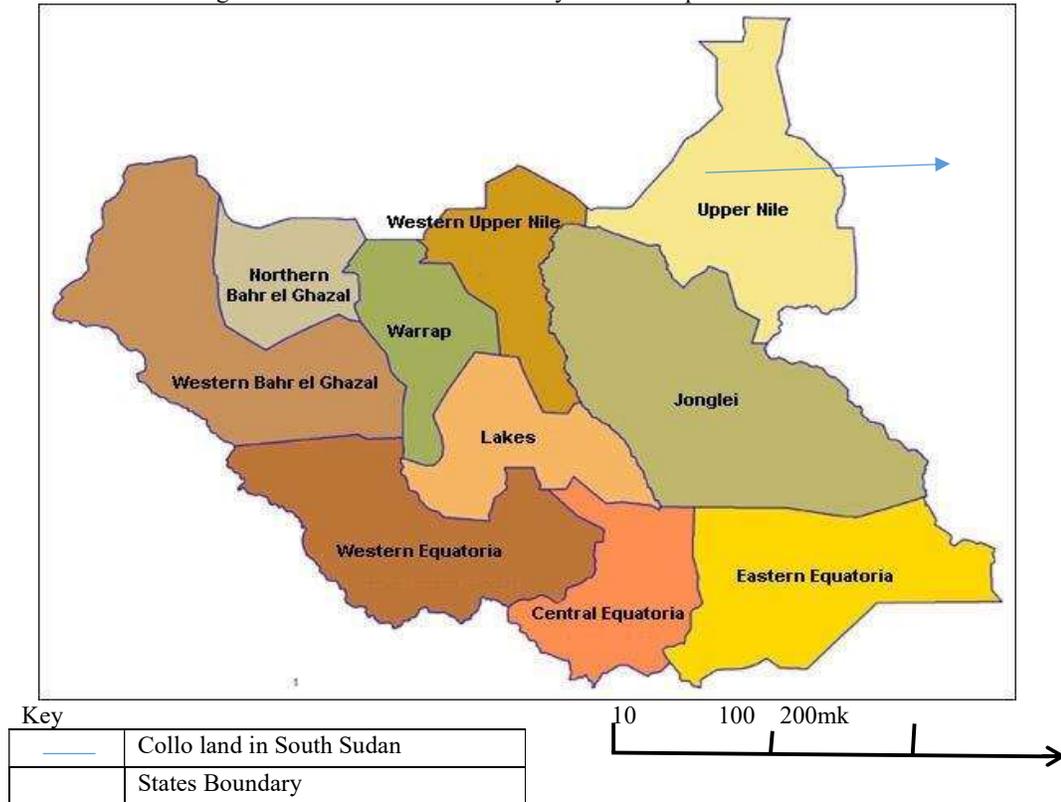
3. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

The objectives of this study are:

- a. To discuss the background of Collo (Shilluk) Country or Land in South Sudan.
- b. To explain the meaning of an inhabitant Collo people.
- c. To determine the main activities of Collo (Shilluk) ethnic group in South Sudan.
- d. To examine the physical features of Collo Country or Land.
- e. To update the culture of Collo population in South Sudan.

4. MATERIALS

Figure 1: Materials used in this study involve map of South Sudan



5. AREA OF THE STUDY

The Collo (Shilluk) Country or land is situated on both sides of west and east banks of the White Nile, from the Sudan’s boarder to Lake No. The Country or land is laying at latitude 10.°5 N and longitude 9.°5 E, and a length of nearly 350 km, and a width of 5 to 6 hours. Near the mouth of the Sobat (Bahr El Zaraf, Yellow River).

The group live on eastern and western shore of the White Nile, and on both sides of the lower Sobat River. Collo land or Country extended about 35 miles up to Nakdiar on the eastern side of Sobat River, which is consider as the last Collo village in the land or Country. The group also settled at Shakwa El Shilkawi, near Bhar El Zeraf in the south of the Country or land, Khor Atar as well as Tonga (Tung) in the south of the land .

Collo (Shilluk) settlements also are found on Aba Island on the north and south end of the land. Moreover, Collo (Shilluk) village are found near Masran Island on the right bank of the Nile. Another single settlements are found on Wad Dakona Island and the north end of the Gezira Wad Beiker. In former times the country of Collo or Shilluk seems to have been larger than it is now. According to older reports it not only extended farther northwards when Collo were driven back by Arab tribes, but Shilluk are also said to have in 17th century, inhabited both sides of the White Nile south of Kawa, which situated a little south of El Dueim; Collo (Shilluk) owned at that time a trait of territory nearly three times as great as that Collo inhabit to day (Diedrich, 1912).

7. Physical Features

The physical features of the country are

7.1. Climate

From January to April the climate of the country or land is dry and warm. April is hottest month of the year. June to September constitutes the rainy seasons, and from October to December the larger part of the country is flooded with water, but the marches and smaller Khors all dry up by April. From November to April the climate is not unhealthy to inhabit of the people. During the wet season mosquitoes are numerous. Malaria and black water fever are the diseases most dangerous to the people in the country (Diedrich, 1912).

7.2. Soil

The country or land is a plain with only inconsiderable elevations, on which the villages of the natives are built. The soil is black and fertile near the River and the Khors, black from the water courses it is in most places poorer, sometimes sandy. The land is flat lying plains surrounded the Nile. The Country or land has a moderate rainfall regime (Diedrich, 1912).

7.3. Vegetation

The chief vegetation is high grass, interspersed with shrubs. A light forest of acacia trees is found mainly along the Nile. The acacia is the chief representative of the tree-flora: heglig, sont- acacia, Talh and different kinds of gum-acacia. A characteristic feature of the landscape are groups of Dolieb and Dom-palms a beautiful tree is the mahogany tree; it is most useful as timber, but seems to be rather rare in the Shilluk country. Other notable tree are: different kinds of ficus, the ardieb tree, and nabag (a fruit tree). The vegetation on the river is most luxuriant. Though this is not the region of the Sudd, yet the river at most times largely covered with single plants and swimming islands, formed of papyrus, and ambach. Several kinds of vegetation such as reeds, lotus, Umm Suf, Potamogeton, Ottelia, and many others. The floating vegetation often serves birds for a fishing place. Trees are much hampered in their growth by the fire which the natives light while the grass in dry; the reason for burning the grass is to hunt up game and to get the ground cleared for agriculture or cultivation (Collins, Robert.O. (1898-1918).

8. Population:

The population amounts is about 600,000 people, who live in a little more than 1200 villages and 10,000 domiciles, each of which consists of three to five huts. Accordingly the average number of people living in a village is 50, and one home is inhabited by about six persons. The largest village is Athedhwoi in north district of Kodok. It consists of 120 domiciles. The villages generally lie in the belt between the swamp of the Nile bank and the forest. The country is, for its size, and considering the fact that on in higher parts settlements are possible, thickly populated. Right away from Kaka to Lake No is a continuous string of villages lying about a mile from the river. There are only two points in the whole of this distance, at which the interval between villages exceeds two miles and these are the points where grazing is bad, between Akurwa and Nuwn and between Nyilwak and Agwodo. According to Schweinfurt, the population was much larger formerly. In 1871, when the Egyptians had conquered the country of Collo, a census was taken; the villages on the left bank of the Nile were almost exactly 3000 people. The inhabitants of this part numbered one million, each village consisting of 45-200 huts, a hut comprising four persons. No part of Africa, not even of the world is so densely populated. The whole western Nile bank, as far as the boundaries of the country reach, is like on single village, whose parts are separated by a distance of only 500-1000 steps. The hut-clusters are built as astonishing regularity, and are so crowded together that from a distance they look like a cluster of mushroom. The Collo or Shilluk have suffered cruelly from wars, but in spite of this a decrease from one million to 60000 within a time of forty years is hardly thinkable. Since the time the people live under the peace of Anglo-Egyptian rule, they are increasing in numbers. Otherwise, the population will no doubt strongly increase. The capital of Collo Kingdom is Fashoda (Diedrich, 1912).

The other important Collo historical sites are in Papowojo, Nyilwal, Didigo, Wau and Akurwa. The major towns are Malakal (Makal), Kodhok, Tonga, Wad Akon as well as Doliehill and etc. The Collo Country or land is divided into north (Gar) and south (Lwak). Shilluk or Collo is a part of Luo nations. In 15 century Nyikang the founder of Collo Kingdom or Collo nation quarreled with Demo and they separated from each other in Wic Pac in Bahr el Ghazal region and came to where Collo are in today. Collo are agriculturalists, their main crops are sorghum, okra, sesame, maize, beans, and groundnuts. They rare cattle, goats, and sheep and practice fishing activities for fish which is the main source in their daily food system (Y, O, Angelo, 2020).

9. METHODS

Methods used in this study for data collection include:

9.1. Primary Data Collection

This study used a personal interview method for the purposes of data collection from the people in Collo Country or land. Data was collected usually from residents in the Collo land or Country after giving them a brief description of the purposes and procedures of the study and ensuring that they had properly understood, before beginning of an interview.

9.2. Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data vary and included: information from references, public records, organizational records, census data, previous studies, friends & colleagues, surveys.

9.3. Ethical Considerations

This study used a primary data analysis of survey. In order to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the information regarding respondents, names and house numbers were not identified in the

Questionnaire and in the data set. Permission to carry out the study was obtained from the local stakeholders of the land or Country.

9.4. Data Analysis Methods

In analysis of data sets, qualitative and descriptive method was employed for the purpose of getting the background of Collo land or County, using frequencies, percentages and distribution Tables.

10. DISCUSSION AND RESULTS

The discussion and results of this study are:

10.1. Appearance of Collo people

Based on Collo people appearance, Shilluk or Collo are tall in figure, the average height of the men being nearly 1.8 m. They are generally lean, rather narrow in the shoulders, and have thin calves. Their arms and legs are long, especially the legs below the knees and the forearms; hands and feet are small. A characteristic posture of the Collo (Shilluk) man is to stand on one leg, and bending the other, press the sole of foot against the inner surface of the knee, while on hand holds a spear stuck into the ground, he will stand thus for hours looking admiringly at his cattle. Collo are very clever in running, jumping, and capable of sustaining considerable fatigue. Collo skin is dark, almost black. The physical appearance of the Shilluk is not of pure Negroes, they may rather be called negroids in spite of their dark colour. Most of Shilluk or Collo have a fierce, sometimes haughty look. The cheek-bones and lips are protruding, the nose is flat. Young people of both sexes are finely built, while in old age is thin and bony. Shilluk used to painting their bodies as part of culture. The lower part is covered with ashes, the breast and head are painted with red earth or chalk if afford and with oil as well as butter. Sometimes the whole body is painted white or red, and lines or figures are drawn across the face. Shilluk have tribal marks, women as well as men are marked by dots across forehead in early time. The women wear either no or only short hair on the head. Both sexes scrupulously removed hair on the body by pulling it out with a kind of pincers. The men even pull out their beard and eye lashed. Shilluk do not circumcise their people. Young men are very fond adorning or decorating their hair with ostrich or other fine feathers (Field Survey, 2020).

10.2. Clothing dressing

In term of dressing, the men in the previous time are wearing a cotton cloths which is knotted on the left shoulder, and slung round the right hip as well as girls, and also women dressing in the same cotton cloths. The main clothing dressing is called Lawo. The most characteristic adornments of the men are thick, heavy bracelets and armlets of iron, brass, and ivory, twisted ambach as well as tree-bark. Women and girls also wear ambach. Men and women, chiefly pierce their ears at top, and wear rings of brass or iron in them. Many grown-up men and youths wear a necklace of a peculiar kind of small will-shaped, and marble-like stones which have about the size of a pigeon-egg. They are much valued, to Shilluk that always ask an ox in change for them. These stones are collected by the Arabs of Kordofan from the numerous mountains there.

10.3. Instruments use by Collo or Shilluk

A Shilluk or Collo man hardly leave his home without carrying a spear or two and a club. They have two kinds of spears, one whose blade has form of a laurel leaf, another with a cylindrical blade ending in a sharp point, the surface being either smooth or barbed. The spears often have a tuft of short ostrich feathers or of wool, and near butt. Spears are used not only arms, but also in fishing. Beside spears, Collo have two species of clubs, at least one of which a man always carries with him. One is simply a thick stick about one meter long, and heavy at one end. The other is about two feet and a half long, made in one solid piece of hard, heavy wood with a big round knob (Olwel) at one end. Collo or Shilluk are confidence gained and frank, open minded in his nature, and always ready to joke if possible, but also quickly offended (Y.O Angelo, 2020).

10.4. Arms

As warriors, Collo or Shilluk are brave, and make excellent soldiers in colonial troop's time, and they are renowned as the best soldiers in the old Sudan and South Sudan (Y.O. Angelo, 2020).

10.5. Main Activities

Indeed during the dry season Collo (Shilluk) group have no much to except hunting, fishing, building or repairing the houses. They practices also some craft. In rainy all people, including women as well as children engaged in farm work in which they are seem hard working in this season. In term of house building, the homestead is surrounded by a fence of Dura stalks. The villages are built in a circle, the open space in the center containing sometimes a meeting house for men small, narrow hut which is dedicated to Nyikang or some other ancient king (James Kwacikwan, 1995).

Table 1: Collo other activities

Response	Number of respondents	percentage
Cattle Breeding	30	30%
Goats	20	20%
Sheep	10	10%
Dogs keeping	10	10%
Blacksmith	10	10%
Music (Thom)	15	15%
Handcrafts	05	5%
Total	100	100%

5 % of respondents affirmed that Collo or Shilluk practiced a great number of crafts, which are carried on in families for generations. Whereas, 15% of respondents said Collo in musical practice they used instrument known as Thom in Collo language which is used in wars time or dance time. Moreover, 10% of respondents that Collo used to keep dogs as house watch from the animals as well as for hunting games. Also, 10% of respondents said that Collo or Shilluk rare sheep, and 30% of them affirmed that Collo breeding cattle as the source of dowry, proudness in the community. While, 20% of them raring goats as part of their population activities.

11. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Collo country or land is fall in South Sudan political map. It is significant to the entire global to learn about them as part of the ethnic group that inhabited in part of the world in general and in South Sudan in particular. They have independence system of kingdom which existed since the late of 16th century in old Sudan.

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