

**POLITICS AND THE MILITARY IN UGANDA,
1890-1985**

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Amii Omara-Otunnu

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**For Larib Lapyem
May future generations learn
from past mistakes**

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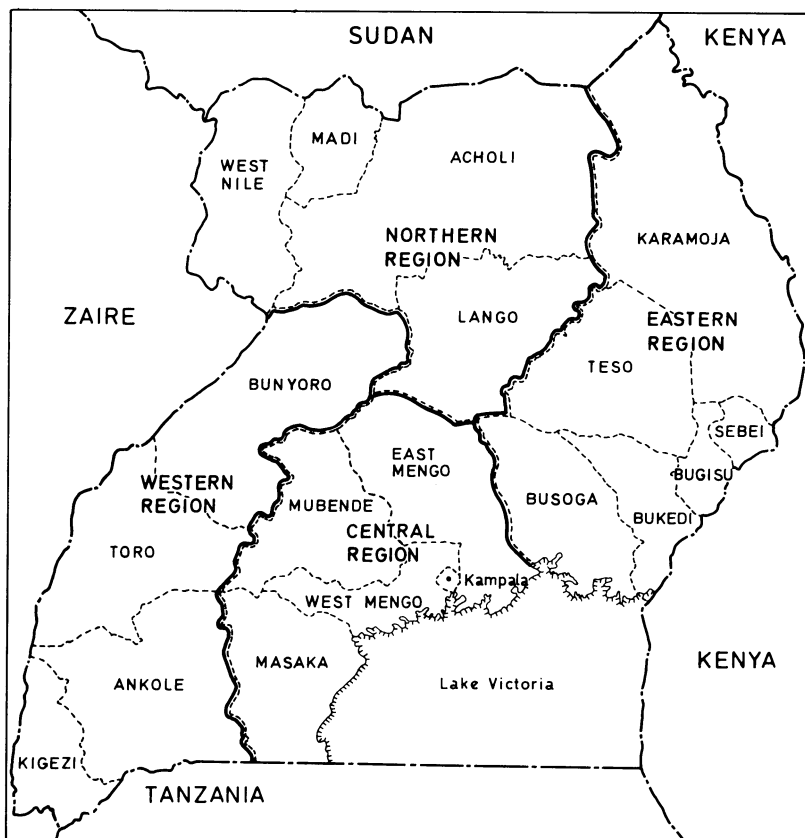
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All these people have made my life exciting. May the sun shine on them.

AMII OMARA-OTUNNU

List of Abbreviations

APC	Armoured Personnel Carriers
CO	Colonial Office
DP	Democratic Party
FEDEMU	Federal Democratic Movement of Uganda
FO	Foreign Office
FUNA	Former Uganda National Army
GAO	General and Administrative Order
GSU	General Service Unit
IBEA Co.	Imperial British East Africa Company
KAR	King's African Rifles
KY	Kabaka Yekka
NASA	National Security Agency
NCC	National Consultative Council
NEC	National Executive Council
NRA	National Resistance Army
NRM	National Resistance Movement
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
TANU	Tanganyika African National Union
UFM	Uganda Freedom Movement
UNLA	Uganda National Liberation Army
UNLA RO	Uganda National Liberation Army Records Office
UNLF	Uganda National Liberation Front
UNRF	Uganda National Rescue Front
UPC	Uganda Peoples Congress
UPDM	Uganda People's Democratic Movement
UPM	Uganda Patriotic Movement
WM	Wireless Message



Uganda, Showing International, Regional and District Boundaries in 1985

Key:

- District boundary
- Regional boundary
- · - · - International boundary

Scale: 1 inch = 100 miles

Calendar of Important Events in Uganda's Military History

1852		Kabaka Mutesa I of Buganda began his reign.
1862		Speke became the first European to reach the source of the Nile at Jinja.
1864		Baker reached Lake Albert – the first European to do so.
1870		Omukama Kabarega ascended to the throne in Bunyoro.
1872	May 14	Baker declared Bunyoro annexed to the Egyptian Government.
1885	January 26	The fall of Khartoum to the Mahdi; General Gordon killed.
1889	May	Stanley (with Emin Pasha) left the Lake Albert area <i>en route</i> to the East African coast.
1890	December	Captain Lugard arrived in Kampala as representative of the Imperial British East Africa Company.
1891	September 13	IBEA Co. took over Emin Pasha's troops.
1893	April	Uganda provisionally proclaimed a British Protectorate by Portal.
	December	Colonel Colvile declared war on Kabarega and his people in Bunyoro.
1894	June 19	A British Protectorate formally proclaimed over Uganda.
1895	September	Colonel Colvile formed the Uganda Rifles.

1896		Uganda Protectorate extended to Bunyoro and Busoga.
1897	August	Kabaka Mwanga of Buganda fled his capital in order to avoid capture by colonial forces; Daudi Chwa (one year old) chosen as Kabaka and regents nominated.
	September	Outbreak of Sudanese mutiny (otherwise known as the Uganda mutiny).
	December	Indian troops called in to quell the mutiny.
1898	May	Mutiny brought to an end.
1899	April	Kabarega of Bunyoro and Mwanga of Buganda captured. Sir H. H. Johnston arrived in Uganda as Special Commissioner of the British Imperial Government.
1900	March 10	Uganda Agreement signed.
1902	January	Uganda Rifles merged into the King's African Rifles Regiment. Eastern Province of Uganda, consisting of Mau Plateau and Rift Valley as far as Eastern escarpment, transferred to Kenya.
1905		Control of Uganda transferred from Foreign Office to Colonial Office.
1914		Lado Enclave (West Nile District) taken over from Sudan in exchange for Gondokoro and Nimule Districts.
1914-18		First World War: about 30 000 Africans from Uganda in KAR and 178 000 carriers participated.
1922		Makerere College founded as a technical college.

1939–45		Second World War: about 77 000 Africans from Uganda in the Armed Forces took part.
1947	December 19	The East Africa High Commission (including the East Africa Defence Committee) established by Order in Council.
1950		Makerere College constituted as University College of East Africa.
1952–6		Uganda Rifles (4th Battalion KAR) deployed in Kenya against Mau Mau.
1954	May	State of Emergency in Buganda.
1957	July 1	Effective responsibility for the defence of East Africa transferred from War Office (London) to East Africa High Commission.
1959		National Census: population recorded as 6 536 531.
1962	October 9	Uganda gained independence from British rule.
1963	October 9	Kabaka Mutesa II became President of Uganda (titular Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces).
	November 14	2nd Battalion formed at Moroto.
1964	January 23	African troops mutinied at Jinja; British troops called in.
		Swift promotion of African officers (e.g. Opolot from Major to Brigadier, and Amin from Major to Colonel).
	August	Termination of UPC-KY coalition.
	November	Referendum in the 'lost counties' of Bunyoro.

1965	February 13	A Congo (Zaire) aircraft bombed two Ugandan villages.
1965	February, March, April	Formation of 3rd and 4th Battalions of Uganda Army and the Brigade Signals Squadron.
1966	February 24	Suspension of 1962 Constitution by Obote. Brigadier Opolot made Chief of Defence Staff, an advisory position only; Amin made Army Chief of Staff.
	April	Obote introduced new Constitution (interim) and proclaimed himself Executive President.
	May 24	The Army (led by Amin) overran the Kabaka's palace.
	May	Kabaka Mutesa II fled to London.
	October	Brigadier Opolot dismissed.
1967	January	Uganda Military Police formed; Amin promoted from Colonel to Brigadier.
1968	April 12	Amin promoted from Brigadier to Major-General.
1969		Obote published his ideological blueprint <i>The Common Man's Charter</i> .
	December 19	Attempted assassination of Obote.
1970	January 25	Murder of Brigadier Okoya and his wife; Amin implicated.
	September	Obote stripped Amin of most of his powers and appointed Brigadier S. Hussein and Colonel Musa to assume responsibility for running the Army.
1971	January 25	Military coup led by Major-General Amin.

	April	The remains of Kabaka Mutesa II (died 1969) were entombed near Kampala.
	July	Serious clashes in the Army between troops loyal to, and those opposed to, Amin.
	July	Amin's trip to Israel and Britain.
1972	March	Amin unilaterally terminated diplomatic relations with Israel.
	August 4	Amin ordered all Asians holding British passports to leave the country.
	August	Amin declared 'economic war'.
	September	Unsuccessful invasion of Uganda by Ugandan exile forces in Tanzania.
1975	July	Uganda hosted the 12th Summit of OAU and Amin elected Chairman of the Organisation (for 1 year).
1976	July	Israeli commandoes raided Entebbe International Airport.
1977	February 17	Amin murdered Archbishop Janani Luwum and Cabinet Ministers Oboth-Ofumbi and Erinayo Oryema.
1978	October	Invasion of Tanzania by Amin's troops sparked off retaliation from the Tanzania Defence Force, which was joined by Ugandan exile forces.
1979	March	Moshi Conference of Ugandan organisations outside the country, and formation of Uganda National Liberation Front (UNLF).
	April 11	Liberation of Kampala.
	April 13	Yusufu Lule proclaimed President by UNLF.

	June 20	Godfrey Binaisa appointed President by the UNLF to replace Yusufu Lule.
1980	May 13	Military Commission toppled Binaisa and established a Presidential Commission.
	December	General Election held under observation by a Commonwealth team. Obote returned to power after UPC victory.
1981		Museveni mounted guerrilla resistance against Obote's regime.
1983	December	Death of Oyite Ojok in a plane crash.
1984		Opon Acak appointed Army Chief of Staff.
1985	July 27	Obote's second administration overthrown by soldiers led by Bajilio Olara Okello.
	August	Fighting groups other than NRA reached agreement with UNLA and joined Military Council.
		Peace talks began in Nairobi between Military Council and NRA.
	December 17	Peace accord signed in Nairobi between Military Council and NRA.
1986	January 25	Military Council overthrown by NRA.