

The Role of Mbe in the Congolese Area Nineteenth-Twenty-First Century

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Abstract

From the nineteenth century, several European powers embarked on the conquest of Africa in order to establish the zones of influence and what became a few years after the colonies. These powers had thus engaged several explorers with secret missions. In Central Africa one can quote Stanley working on the side of Belgium under the domination of Leopold II king of Belgians, and on the side of France it was Savorgnan DEBrazza who founded the vast French empire in Central Africa. In 1880, he arrived on the Teke ground, here he established friendly relations with the Teke. Brazza signed with the Teke Kingdom a convention called Mbe. October 3, 1880, which later gave birth to Brazzaville in 1884, French Congo in 1902 and French Equatorial Africa in 1910. Mbe played a major role in the history of the current Congo. It is a small town that has existed for several years, remains today the seat of the Teke kingdom and continues to assume multiple functions on the economic, social and cultural level.

Keys wods: The role of Mbe, Congolese area, economic activities.

Introduction

Brazza commenced his acquaintance with the African world in 1879. In 1880 he made his first appearance in 1880 and formed strong friendly relationships with the inhabitants. Brazza signed Teke Mbe agreement. This agreement formed the basis for the emergence of Brazzaville in 1884, the French Congo in 1902 and then the French Equatorial Africa in 1910. Mbe is both a royal capital and a tray on which was played the fate of many African countries.

Mbe has a long standing, history that dates back to centuries ago. It occupies a small section of the country and has about some thousand of inhabitants as at the last census year. It is the land of royals and all the Kings are chosen from this land. Mbe tray is part of the central highlands and runs hundreds of kilometers north of Brazzaville at an average altitude of 600 to 700m. Mbe attracts a lot of tourists who visit the land to take a glance at the royal court, the king and also it is of economic significance to the country. This research seeks to contribute to the knowledge of the Kings of Congo as well as revive its history within the perspective of modern Congo.

I/Tea Mbe

The Mbe tray is part of what the central highlands we agree to call that occur hundreds of kilometers north of Brazzaville at an average altitude of 700m ... 600A. The plateau of Mbe, large and massive covers nearly 6.500km, from north to south is 180km account, and from east to west 110 to 130 km per location. The flatness of Mbe tray is broken to the south by the hills of Djiri and north by the depression of the Lefini. The east is limited by the course and the river corridor Unum (Congo)¹. This space was the agreeable to the European explorers and today it continues to generate a lot of interest for the populations. In effect this space deserves further study following the various changes made. We must first note that the Teke live on the central highlands before the year zero of our era, they are installed in habitats this involves considerable organization. Vansina observes that: the Teke were well organized and the basic unit

of the state was the chiefdom. The typical chiefdom consisted of a field, a main town ruled by the chief and other villages under the authority of local governors, chiefs who were related to all their villagers². Teke in the development of the land is the fundamental element. This is the basis of the administrative and political organization. We will Nzo hamlet of the village, and the village to the ground represented by an Mbe city and the earth kingdom with its capital Mbe Unko the city of the king. The administration and political power are represented by Ngola village chief, the head of Ngatsie earth Nga nkobi the province chief and Unko King. But it goes without saying that this organization has suffered several shocks since the plateau erupted in several socio-political and administrative entities. A region is created incorporating the set of Mbe. This is the Pool region with districts and heads are appointed by the modern administration and thereby undermining the morale and spiritual traditional authority of Unko. This space has been fragmented and redistributed to peasants in the foreign Kongo occurrence in Mati area. The Teke are losing their monopoly on their land. The territory includes several village Mbe entities of varying importance demographically. It has more than 40,000 individuals distributed among the districts on the edge of Ngabe Unlum river Inie, Ngabe south and east. It should be noted that Mbe tray of the population has been increasing seriously in 1997 following the so-called war of June 5, 1997. This migration took a Brownian great with ebbs and flows in the sense that after the war, population of these villages were divided into about five. The population of Mbe plateau seemed to stagnate until 1972 because of the remoteness of this area. Since 1972, with the construction of the new paved road (National Highway 2) and now with the construction of the hydroelectric dam Imboulou, there is massive rural migration. The population is now redirected to Brazzaville; the reverse movement occurs occasionally.

¹ Okouya (G), Speech Mbe in *Revue Nkara* No.1P.3

² Vansina (J), 1973: *The Kingdom of the middle Tio Congo (1880 to 1892)*, p.55

This is a time-related migration and forth carriers and peddlers. Parallel to this movement of people, many villages are moving their sites on the former non asphalted highway congregate along the new paved road, so Bamboo, Massa, Nkouo, Ingah and others. It can encrypt with a fairly significant margin of error, the people who left the Mbe tray to Brazzaville from 10 to 12,000 individuals.

The road away to fix the rural population has been thereof demobilization vector. In this migration is often the young population is uprooted from its bodied who has contributed to the production. This has created a vacuum in the hinterland as more of the youth are migrated forcefully. For example cliff Inoni in 1980 numbered nearly 300 people against 180 in the 90 many villages on the axis Inoni Brazzaville suffered the same fate. In fact outside the waterway formed by the river *Ullum-Brazzaville* road axis Inoni is the backbone of the Congolese economy to the north, as the Teke population living along this road is, it submitted its so varied shaking. It could not be otherwise in this little world in search of well-being, immersed in a formerly semi-closed economy Teke this axis are now facing multiple trading partners. Stagnant trade relations before the appearance of the paved road; Teke this space have moved to new forms of trade relations as G.Okouya highlights: *the Teke of Mbe tray is caught in a new network of trade relations with foreign partners themselves para Europeanization process. He enters new production system that is what explains the historical mutation. Agricultural products and those of predation, hunting, now involve speculation and money. This fact remains the key to the whole socio-political change that can be observed on the Mbe tray* ³.

II/Human activities

1. Economy of production

Agriculture has been in practice in Mbe since time immemorial by men and women. There are two types of plantations: the fields of savannah called *antsio*. This was a specialty for women but nowadays practiced by both sexes. They grow a variety of products including cassava which ranks first, peanuts, onions, sweet potatoes,

vegetables.... From the subsistence farming, there was an improvement and eventually, some farmers have entered into large scale commercial farming, supplying their farm products for sale at markets in Brazzaville.

³ Okouya (G) : *Servitude, slavery and dependence* , pp168-169

Fields of *angouni* called forests are the specialty for men .These fields formerly used for tobacco, sugarcane and eggplant plantation. Tobacco was a major income earner for the population, providing significant revenues in the order of 75,000 to 100,000 francs annually to each farmer. However the tobacco business declined in market between 1965 and 1975.This affected the demand for the crop and many farmers had to drop out of that business and opt for other cash crops. The evolution of agriculture was made through the installation of state farms from années70. They are: agro-pastoral farm Inie the farm Odziba which primarily vocation corn production, farm Mbe which aims cassava production, the farm Inoni cliffs; unfortunately, all these farms did not have a promising future due to mismanagement and all were liquidated. The companies responsible for the marketing of agricultural products; Congolese Office of coffee and cocoa (OCC) and the Office of Congolese food crops (OCV) also suffered the same fate and went bankrupt.

2. Predation activities

Predation activities are abundant on the plateau of Mbe and are characterized by collection of caterpillars and mushroom, hunting and fishing. The customarily collection of caterpillars and mushroom was the reserve of women's however in recent times; the men have also joined the exercise. This activity is generally intense between late September and April for caterpillars and late September and late October for mushroom picking. The accumulated products are destined for the market in Brazzaville. For these activities a person can earn on average between 100,000 to 250.000 XAF per year. Then comes the gathering of lawyers, safous and other fruits, this activity usually happens in anthropogenic forests. The hunting was formerly exercised by the members of a village community with traditional techniques and gear. The game caught used for local

consumption, but now professional fighter made its appearance with the 12 gauge type of gun; the game are sometimes supplied to the restaurants in the Brazzaville. Customarily, *Ngatsie* the land chief of Etaba had more control over this lucrative business. The shoulder of any game hunted on his territory was customarily and must by this his right, be given to him.

Fishing activities are restricted in the hallway kunzulu and the product (fish) no longer backs the tray as before; but regains Stanley-pool. Now we move from the traditional economy to the market economy. Europeanization is to say, the modernization of Mbe tray is thus accomplished by the rather complex system of trade in the supply of and demand for the currency.

The modern economy is well reflected in the installation along the national road No. 2 markets which crosses the southern Mbe plateau north. The products sold or traded are cassava, groundnut ... against manufactured goods came from *Brazzaville: This is another contrast between rural country town ... marked by the overwhelming role of the first and the second concentrating all services and all high school activities and by this fact creates in the hinterland human and economic desert ... well 4/5 of residents Mbe tray live in the urban center of Brazzaville* ⁴.

With the National Highway No 2, of Brazzaville and the southern Pool Nationals broke on the set of Mbe or they develop various economic and agricultural activities. Other social categories also saw their easy movement. The population of this road is undergoing temporary migration, it is unstable. It never happens one day no person shows up at the road edge 2 to wait for a bus, vehicle coming in Brazzaville to travel. The same movement takes place in Brazzaville and precisely Texaco Tsiémé or population stormed the bus stop to wait for opportunities to Mbe the tray. On this plateau there is also the immigration of Congolese from the DRC, Burundian, Rwandan and African west. The ethnic division on the ground is as follows: Kongo 20%, Ngala 7% with the highest concentration is Mbwambé Bridge Lefini, other groups 3%, Teke 70%.

Increasingly, the Mbe tray looks like a paradise that attracts thousands of people in search of space to engage in economic activities. The new rich, farmers are increasing their efforts to produce all kinds of agricultural products. After the closure of all state farms, private took over and tried to mechanize agricultural work especially regarding cassava production. In recent years we observe the timid return of the state in agricultural activities in the territory by the implantation of agricultural villages. What is clear is that the board is currently Mbe invaded by people coming from everywhere to engage in economic activities. So simple gifts, holiday or random purchases, the lords of the land went to large financial affairs and the earth was capitalized by the same through these illicit sales creating conflicts between the public administration and those private securities. Indigenous peoples are subject to this almost forced economy and are forced to go for kilometers to prepare their fields to meet the daily needs.

⁴ Okouya (G): *Djambala and rural country*, p52.

3-Mbé forgotten capital

Mbe, Teke village owes its peculiarity to the presence of the King. Indeed Mbe is the capital of the kingdom Teke in M'banza-Kongo image for the Kongo kingdom. Until 1880, there was no imagining that this village could have such a reputation. Mbe in the traditional lexicon Teke is the equivalent of a city, village capital of land, and there are a multitude of Mbe this is confirmed by G. Okouya that says *Royal Mbe is the seat of Unko; Mbwambé is the port village on the Lefini is a vassal village of the great Unko, the village holds a powerful instrument of power: nkobi; Ngäbe is the retreat of the kings and queens who are no longer in office. Mbe is not only a village, a city, Mbe also represents the territory where the king lives ...*⁵. This village of Mbe royal capital and residence of the king, during its existence has experienced constant travel. Teke The tradition was that the death of a king moving the village to be made. It is important to emphasize that the Ilo1er king who signed with Brazza is neither the first nor the last king of the Teke before him include among others the Ngantho kings Ndzaon Mbaon and after him, the Mbaïnde Ile II

kings (1892-1894), Oupfou'pfa (1894-1896), Ngayouoh (1896-1900), Ngantino-AEP (1900-1907), Moudzouani (1907-1915), Ngamboula (1915-1925), Andibi (1925-1937), Ngankia (1937-1943), Nkion (1943-1948), Nsalou (1948-1964), Illoh III (1964-1971), of 1971A, 1991, the institution will experience a suspension and it was not that 'the benefit of the sovereign national conference that will be rehabilitated. At the head of the kingdom will be placed King Mialani-Wawa (1991-1998), after the Ngouayoulou kings (1998-2004) and since 2004 our Nguempio days. The real story begins Mbe 28 August 1880, when the first European in the person of ESD Brazza crowd the floor of the territory of Mbe. It is here that will play the destiny of Brazzaville, French Congo and French Equatorial Africa (AEF). The most important event is without doubt the treaty signed by the king and Brazza Teke Elo1er. Indeed it is during these missions in West Africa that De Brazza reached the gates of the kingdom *Tio*. From 1875 to 1885 Brazza performed three missions in West Africa, one of the missions was decisive that of 1879-1882. During this Brazza Mission wants to get on the right bank of the Congo River before another explorer named Stanley.

Thus Brazza sailed the 27 décembre 1879 for Gabon, he founded in June 1880 Franceville and rushed to go deep into the unknown part of Africa.

⁵ Okouya (G): Discourse on Mbe *in review* Nkara No. 2 1p

this time unlike the first mission where he met with the resistance of hostile populations, it was well received by the Teke who had facilitated his passage. Led by the representative of Makoko, after four days of plodding, it happens to Mbe residence of Makoko where he was well received. Here's what Brazza himself says August 28, 1880: *three o'clock in the evening, we see the village of Unko. Men who lead me telling me to change myself and change my men because Unko is a great leader. Actually nice clothes, I have nothing, except that I put my coat. Men leave their rags to make the holding of sailors is clean. Finally 400 meter further from the village of Unko, NGIA told me to wait there and while we roast in the sun, he goes announce our arrival to the village of Unko and we heard that Unko asked why he had left*

the white sunlight with hunger and thirst and had not taken without waiting for the village. Those are good words that come to me for a chef. Preceded by the bugle and the French flag I arrive in the village ... in front of the door of the chief of the square, we paused, waiting for the chef to come to see me ... and light suspense Unko seems ... it ends, the fetish rises and kneels in front of me with the shield and the sword he picnic ground ... he puts his hands on mine as a sign of respect. So I did tell the chief that in my country I am a chef and when the two leaders meet they shake hands a sign of friendship. So I get up and go shake his hand and then sit on a bale beside him ⁶.

Throughout the holiday of De Brazza to Mbe village of Makoko it came every day to sit familiarly head of side's white, ensuring that his guest was still wearing the wrist strap and gold iron which he had given her. These feelings of good will and mutual friendship resulted in the conclusion of treaties September-October 1880. This is the first meeting between Brazza and sovereign *Tio*. The interpretation of the conversation is certainly difficult, but if the palaver was truncated by the translations, it does not have real clashes between Unko and Brazza. In Mbe Brazza *settled in the village and not returned in twenty-five days after a treaty which placed Makoko and states under French protection and would abandon France to a field to choose N'couna above the great falls of the River Congo ⁷.*

⁶ Brunshwig (H), 1965 Treaty Negotiations Makoko ECA 17, p 9

⁷ Gamache, 1941 *The French Equatorial Africa* p 212

The result of this long stay of the white man to the king Teke is the Convention of 10 September 1880 which states: *King Makoko, which the sovereignty between the source and the mouth of Lefini and N'couna, have ratified the cession of the territory made by Ngampey for the establishment of a French station, and made more sale of its territory to France, to which he made an assignment of hereditary rights of supremacy, desiring, as a sign of this sale, wear the colors of France, I was handed a French flag, and this paper is double coated and its sign and my signature given act of the measures it has taken to me, considering me as the representative of the French government ⁸.*

It was after this agreement signed with the king of Ilo1er *Tio* Brazza took the road to N'couna, on the right bank of the river Unlum the village of Mfoa, in the presence of the leaders delegated by the king, solemnly took possession of Brazza concession and sign with them on 3 October 1880 of the Treaty which reads as follows: *on behalf of France, and by virtue of the rights conferred on me the 10septembre 1880 by King Makoko, October 3, 1880, I 'took possession of the territory which lies between the river and Djoué Impila ...*

The terms of these treaties are clear, but the sovereign *Tio* never knew the true intentions of the French explorer. The causes of this signature and disposal are simple. Since the late fifteenth century, the Kongo in contact with the Portuguese seemed to radiate on Central Africa at the expense of the first *Tio* occupants. Evangelization which was quite enlightened Kongo State for Western had reached *Tio* weakly. Formerly the center of trade in the Congo basin, this monopoly was torn momentarily by their Kongo. The sovereign *Tio* therefore believed to rediscover the beauty of its territory in the treaty with Brazza and also protect against Stanley, whose passage to the other side of the river had appalling casualties. We are thus in the presence of a period during which the kingdom is looking to balance it's spatial, economic and *political: the treaty of September 10, 1880 is a solution to the sovereign Tio. He finally gets the immediacy of coastal prestige rather than as mediator for four centuries by the Kongo screen* ². Importantly, knowing the various resources available to the Teke, the Kongo

⁸Brunschwig (H), *Brazza explorer: Makoko treaties 1880-1882* p 279

⁹ Okouya (G), 1985 *Servitude, slavery and dependence among Tio of Congo*, p 231

in the late sixteenth century had closed the door of the kingdom to European Teke so that Teke go through Kongo intermediaries instead of being in direct contact with Europeans. This time with the treaty signed, the king believed in direct contact with European coast, but he did not know the real strategy of Brazza. The latter made fun of his benefactor Ilo1er, this treaty was cheating by the French, for Brazza is a real lure. Protectorate Brazza happening to the occupation. Thus says G. Okouya about the

writings of *Brazza's presentation policy on the occupation of Nkuna Brazza sent to Paris in août 1882 is as such clearly it, complete in this regard the writings of the sign 3 June 1874 the vessel in which Brazza is defined as the first to prepare the means of action of the french Equatorial Africa*¹⁰. It was during his third mission Brazza will return to Unko April 10, 1884 at Mbe, the official text of the 1880 treaty approved by the French parliament with a single article stating the following: *The President of the Republic is authorized to ratify and to ratify treaties and acts concluded the 10 septembre and 3 October 1880 between Mr. S de Brazza teaches one hand vessel; Treaty and Act, the text remains attached to this law. This deliberate act and adopted by the Senate and by the House of Representatives shall be enforced as law of the State*¹¹. As the senate no longer recognizes the titles of Teke king, sovereign happened to overlord the omen of the universe domination.

After treaties signed between King Teke, its delegates and Brazza, France had taken possession of the territory which extends between the Djoué and Impila river. July 1, 1881, a year later the name of Brazzaville is given to the French Nkuna station by the Geographical Society and the French committee of the AIA; it was not until May 23, 1884 that the first settlers set foot the floor of Brazzaville. The occupancy and implementation are important in the lives of natives who see their territorial space usurped by Europeans. The space becomes the city Teke white or anyone has the right to settle including Kongo and Mbosi which were previously held in respect. And since the implementation of European Mfoa to: *cities, buildings, shops, offices occupy the location of several Teke villages..*

¹⁰ Okouya (G), 1986: *Establishment and movements of peoples in the Congo from its origins to today* INSSSED-UMNG conference, Brazzaville.

¹¹ Okouya (G) *The Nzi the pageant test center of a civilization*, P549

*The immediate surroundings of Mfoa become a sort of neutral zone, a white country or anyone could install without accountable to anyone, otherwise white new masters*¹².

These circumstances allowed the Kongo and others who have long progressed by slow infiltration by gradually eroding the Teke territory to settle. Teke keep the material benefits of less certain prerogatives inherent quality of the first occupants and elders of the land.

Faced with this sudden migrations Teke are caught in their own trap that of the establishment of relations between France and the Teke world. Indeed France needed labor and that constituted by the Teke was insufficient in building Brazzaville, it was necessary to use labor Kongo more abundant and less expensive. With the implantation of settlers in Brazzaville, men Ilo1er are expropriated in their territory; by G. Okouya: *the Westernization process in Central Africa initiated by the Portuguese and Kongo in the late fifteenth century ends in the early twentieth century Nkuna by how skilful hand of French colonizers from the 29 June 1886 placed the Congo and Gabon, under the authority of a commissioner general. The April 30, 1891 all French territories of Central Africa took the name of French Congo; colonization is not just economic, it is also cultural. 28septembre1897 the appointment of a Lieutenant Governor for Congo. The king of the Teke now playing the second rank, that of an auxiliary*¹³.

The king not only permanently loses his men including his territory, but always clever, the French colonist holds a few levels of the administration certain customary notables. Now the royal authority disappears to make way for the French colonial authority. Teke become French subjects, this new situation imposed by capitalism in search of new opportunities marks the almost near total end of socio-cultural system and existing policy for a long time. The colonial occupation bears a fatal blow to the organization of the monarchy Mbe. The kingdom Teke is now divided into chiefdoms and administrative cantons led by chiefs appointed by the administration. Some Teke sovereign respected by people submitted were the subject of the abuses of the colonial authorities.

¹² Chavannes in Okouya (G): *The Nzi center* p 522

¹³ Okouya (G) *the Nzi center*, p 553

In 1894, during the reign of King Mbaindiele, a misunderstanding brews up between the royal army and their colonial master. On account of this, Mbe experienced its first clash between these traditional rulers and their foreign authorities in this year, for which a lot of blood was shed, women, men and children, lost their lives. The King was not spared his life as also received the bullet that ended his life. This is the first battle, known as the battle of Etiere. After this, peace and unity existed as monuments were erected in memory of the painful days, trees planted and weapons were buried.

III-Monarchy Mbe dependent

If we assume that, September 10, 1880 marks the beginning of the colonial era in Congo then March 23, 1884 marks the arrival of the first settlers of Congo. In a territory engulfed in vivacious poverty from social to economic, Brazza had to adopt a strategic approach to develop the new colony. Unfortunately the city declined the request and refused to support the development of the colony. In view of this, Brazza chose to implement his developmental agenda for Congo solo. Several companies sprang up in Congo in 1899, were the CFHBC Trechot Maluku and Ngäbe. These companies operated in the hallway. However another company, Nkeni exploited the high plateau with the aim of establishing Mbe as well as established a modern economy.

Dealers companies have based the development of the Congo on human exploitation of indigenous peoples. These companies forced indigenous people to bring their natural resources such as rubber, ivory, wild foods where forced labor, portering, the poll tax; it was an economy of *plunder*. *The limited resources of the concessionary companies required that production and delivery were performed by Africans. But they refused to intervene voluntarily in the new circuit. Limited requirements, prohibitive prices, harvesting techniques which they knew, everything does not incite to answer the call white too often brutal or clumsy, they had learned on major roads to flee their requirements* ¹⁴. Thus Coquery described the activities in the face of indigenous companies.

Dealers solicited the institution of forced labor act. This was a statutory order by which there was abundant labor force at a cheap quota. Here is how Soret (M) confirms *this*:

¹⁴ Coquery Vidrovitch (C), Congo during the great concessionary companies, p101.

it was the only way for dealers to have the workers for their companies, aware that the carrying system had decimated populations and had driven away from large public axes ¹⁵.

The colonial occupation bear a fatal blow to the organization of the monarchy Mbe during this period Teke kings no longer suffered the enthronement rituals and endless displacement of the royal capital at the king's death . Moreover, because these were impregnated modernism brought by *whites*. *Colonization has shaken the kingdom Teke, states freed themselves to fall into what we should call the districts and regions now belonging to the Republic of Congo in turn with the colonizers and the Congolese no longer necessarily the monarchy Mbe ¹⁶* written Okouya (G). From 1880 to 1960, this long period marked the conquest and exploitation of Teke land, and the land became the land of the white where the popular expression *Ntsié-undélé*. The Teke is expropriated in favor of the new master white. With the establishment and operation of a colonial economy Teke space was gradually robbed.

In 1960 the Congo became independent; the royal institution had withstood all attacks form the whites. For nearly a century the Teke lived a very troubled history. Indeed it was in 1971 that the royal institution of feudal treated was interrupted by the new government, which had opted for scientific socialism at development. A few decades later with the support of the national conference held in 1991, the royal institution was rehabilitated. Although receiving no attention from the rulers, customary power Onkoo remains an essential cultural landmark and highly respected by the Congolese in general and especially Teke in particular. Today : *this royal institution attracting envious and annoyed policies that dream have a stranglehold on that authority ¹⁷*. Since Mbe remained a shadow of herself, with a dearth of almost everything, no access to portable drinking

water, poor infrastructure absence of electricity from the national grid, lack of motorable of roads. It is a beautiful village quiet, very welcoming.

¹⁵ Soret (M), History of the Congo capital Brazzaville, p.149

¹⁶ Okouya (G), servitude, slavery and dependence, p.239

¹⁷ Opou Mouayini (E), the Kingdom Teke, p.22

This is a unique contrast, why such contempt for a historic village, here was signed the Treaty Makoko- De Brazza, erected a stele commemorating the signing of the treaty concluded in 1880 between King 10septembre of Teke, and Pierre Ilo1er Savorgnan de Brazza.

In the collective memory everyone should remember that it is in these places that French explorer Brazza arrived on foot and ragged Mbe concludes with the king of the Teke Treaty Mbe. This treaty that bound the kingdom to France coats implicitly throughout Central Africa for which Brazzaville was the capital of French Equatorial Africa (AEF).But note that throughout the year, heads of state, government leaders, traditional authorities of church officials, politicians, public and private, and journalists are eager to explore Mbe.

Conclusion

The arrival of the Europeans in Central Africa and their activities created major changes in the political structure. An entirely new political order was witnessed as the Europeans established their authority over these indigenes. The traditional system established for the ruler ship of the Teke kingdom got disintegrates. The treaties between Teke monarch and Brazza initiated the opening of the Congo Basin initiated by Kongo in the late fifteenth century. Events were so that it was a herculean task to jump start venting their authority over the Congolese territory. The end of the nineteenth century, the French government commenced instead a country re-organization process. The colonial master's chose their own leaders befitting and suitable for their administration and ignored the traditional order of selecting chief form the traditional dignitaries. Eventually, the

traditional authority of Teke kingdom started to decline. However, Mbe remains a famous village, noted for it as a hub of royals.

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