

**Title: Indigenous Salt Making Technology at Kibiro Gardens in Western
Uganda 1894 – 1997**

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Abstract

The study examines why the indigenous salt-making technology at Kibiro that dates back to over eight hundred year continues to endure. Kibiro is located in Bunyoro, western Uganda. In spite of the British attack efforts to disrupt the indigenous salt-making in the 1890s and subsequent technological development over the 20th century, the people of Kibiro continue to produce salt using indigenous knowledge. The following questions guided the study: what role did Kibiro salt play in the growth and expansion of the Bunyoro Kitara kingdom? What did the salt-making process involve? And what explains the survival of the indigenous technology in this area?

Ethnographies and diaries of early Europeans who visited Bunyoro and Kibiro, particularly during the ninth and early twentieth century, and archival and oral sources, were used. The study argues that the indigenous technology survived and continues to survive because of the common belief in Nyasimba and the region's geography. The study revealed that the people of Kibiro regard the practice as god-given because they traced it to their ancestral god, Nyasimba Nyamuhanga. Both perennialism and liberal feminism theories informed this study. This study contributes to the historiography of the Bunyoro Kitara Empire and how the Kibiro salt contributed to state building in western Uganda. Furthermore, it contributes to scholarship on divine power, environment and centrality of women in state building in Uganda