

Glossary: Spellings and Usage

The following glossary list represents a selection of the most frequently used terms. Most of the German and Kiswahili terms, however, are discussed further in chapter notes with source and secondary literature references. For simplification, most all Kiswahili terms are Anglicized (with English plural equivalents) to avoid confusion. For example, the Kiswahili plural form of akida is maakida. Throughout the book I apply the direct article “the” and signify the plural forms with an “s”.

Akida high-ranking official in East African settlements and small towns. During the German period, akida were mobilized as supervisors in charge of overseeing individual neighborhoods and specific streets in Daressalam.

Askari Arabic term for soldier, police officer, or security guard.

Banyans Also spelled Banians (German: *Banyanen*) petty trading Hindus originating from South Asia, many of whom settled in East Africa for generations.

Barra Rasta Main thoroughfare in Daressalam (today: Samora Avenue), Arabic for a complete road.

Boma A Kiswahili term for fort or fortification.

Dangoroni Hybrid of brothel and social club. This is the Kiswahili conjugation of “to be located at” the brothel.

Daressalam I use Daressalam to refer to the Omani “stone town” adjacent to Mzizima in the eastern harbor during the period of ca.1865–1885. I also use the spelling Daressalam to refer to the entire city during the German period of 1885–1917.

Dar es Salaam I use this British spelling to refer to the city under the British mandate up until the present. Also used when referring to the city and its broad history, e.g., “Dar es Salaam’s original settlement of Mzizima.”

Fundi Kiswahili term for skilled craftsmen, house, and boat builders.

Ismaili Khoja Diaspora and Shia Muslims from South Asia whose spiritual leader is the Aga Khan. In contrast, the majority of East Africans were Sunni Muslims.

Jumbe A high-ranking official in East Africa who often claimed foreign “Shirazi” ancestry to Persia or South Asia. The plural form majumbe is used in the dissertation as an exception to my English plural equivalents.

Makuti A kind of plant roofed East African dwelling (thatched palm), façade is usually constructed in either cylinder or rectangular shape, either out of coral stone or mud/brick. This roofing material was used on all homes except for wealthy or exclusively stone structures.

Mjimwema Also spelled Mji mwema, means the healthy city. Mji connotes city in Kiswahili.

Mrima East African coastal strip between Pangani and Magagoni, directly west of the islands of Pemba and Unguja (Zanzibar).

Mzizima Kiswahili name of original settlement in Dar es Salaam. Can be translated as either the complete or healthy town.

Mzizima-Daressalam To avoid confusion I use this formulation to refer to the “dual settlement” which existed roughly between 1860 and 1890.

Ngoma East African dance with music and drumming. Ngomas often accompanied religious festivals and were incorporated into official celebrations organized by the colonial administration. Dancing societies that participated ngomas were given the opportunity to display political and social authority. Ngoma is also the word for drum itself.

Shamba A plantation (used for commercial tree crops, especially coconut trees) and larger housing plots that were individually owned and could be inherited. In contemporary language use, shamba refers to fields in general.

Shauri East African court proceeding and presentation of witness testimony.

Shirazi A social and ethnic status as elites/patricians. Swahili-speaking East Africans (Mrima coast) who claimed foreign as “Shirazi” ancestry to Persia or South Asia.

Shomvi Ethnic group in the Dar es Salaam region between the settlements of Kunduchi to Magagoni. Elites who also claimed “Shirazi” ancestry. Shomvi claimed that their ancestors arrived around the beginning of the nineteenth century and founded Mzizima. Over the course of the century, Shomvi elites increasingly intermarried with local autochthonous Zaramo and Shraha groups.

Shraha Autochthonous Swahili-speakers along the Mrima coast, socially subordinate to Shomvi elites.

Wali (Swahilization: Liwali) The highest-ranking Omani Arab official who served as a governor for a region or district. In the case of Sulayman b. Nasr, who served as the wali of Daressalam during the German period, was regarded as a “mayor” or “*Bürgermeister*” for the non-European population.

Washenzi Plural form of Kiswahili term for strangers, non-urban and non-Muslim African peasants from the interior. Term was used before and during the German period to also refer to pagans (pejorative: barbarians) and newly arriving slaves.

Zaramo Autochthonous ethnic group in the upcountry region surrounding Dar es Salaam.