

A SUMMARY OF TWO PAPERS PRESENTED BY UGA MEMBERS
AT A GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR FOR A'LEVEL SCHOOLS AROUND
KAMPALA, HELD AT TRINITY COLLEGE NALBINGO ON 14/11/81

THE CHARACTERISTIC FEATURES OF THE
EVOLUTION AND SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF
INDUSTRY IN UGANDA

J.M. Were

Industrial development in Uganda on any significant scale is of very recent origin. There existed during the pre-colonial period several small-scale crafts industries producing items of everyday need. Some of these crafts did not survive the competition of imports and colonial regulations which discouraged industrial development. The economy of the country was made to concentrate mainly on the production of a wide variety of raw materials. Most of the manufacturing establishments set up before the Second World War were, therefore, concerned with valorization of export commodities. Valorization involved the carrying out of initial processing of raw materials with the object of removing waste matter, improving the quality or converting the produce into a form in which it could more easily, be stored and transported before these were exported. This meant the establishment of cotton ginneries, coffee curing factories and tea processing factories.

Only in the course of the fifties was a start made on the more intensive expansion of industrial production in Uganda. The Government's agency for developing industry was the Uganda Development Corporation (UDC). The UDC was established in 1952 with the objectives of facilitating the industrial and economic development of Uganda. Over the years the corporation carried out these tasks very satisfactorily. Through individual or joint investment efforts with local and foreign investors, UDC pioneered and developed enterprises in textiles, steel and mineral-based industries, chemicals, agriculture, hotels, real estate, financial institutions and civil aviation.

It is worth pointing out that the 'Economic War' of

1972 and the reorganization measures arising from it affected the UDC in a number of ways. In the first place, UDC was called upon in 1972 to manage many industries abandoned by the non-citizens. This added responsibility, had the effect of dissipating the management capability which UDC had managed to build up over the years. Secondly, in a major reorganization of parastatal corporations in 1974 and to a more limited extent in 1975, some thirty subsidiary companies were taken away from UDC and given to new parastatal bodies. The reorganization left UDC in a very shaky financial position. The UDC had borrowed large amounts of loans on behalf of its subsidiary companies; but when the new reorganization took over the former UDC subsidiaries, it is said they did not honour the loan repayment obligations.

The importance of UDC in industrial development was to some extent counter-balanced by a number of private investors, among which the Madhivani Group and the Metha Group occupied the most important place. The resulting 'mixed' structure of private and public participation in the manufacturing sector reflects the pragmatic approach which the Uganda Government had chosen towards industrial development.

According to 1979 estimates, the Industrial Sector comprises of some 850 establishments employing ten or more people, and a much larger number of cottage industries and small workshops scattered throughout the country. The larger establishments are essentially light import-substituting industries. These industries are found mainly within the following sectors: crop processing and food processing. The share of the manufacturing sector in total monetary GDP is therefore not very significant. Its contribution to GDP averaged, for instance, 10 per cent in the sixties. Thus employment in the industrial sector has had little impact on the population of Uganda.

With regard to industrial location, there is a regional imbalance in the distribution of industry. There is a concentration of industry in the Buganda and Eastern regions. There is also a concentration of industries in the towns of Kampala, Jinja, Tororo and Mbale. Generally, most industries

are

affe
had
so o
War
the
fore
popu
howe
indu
non-
bust
and
ever
The
bel
and
tha
30

indu
the
opp
how
ind
clo
sta

are market-oriented while others are raw material-oriented.

Since 1970 there has been a series of events which have affected industrial development in Uganda. The one which has had a most profound effect on the country's economy is the so called 'Economic War' launched in August 1972. The 'Economic War' was a package of measures which were intended to bring the control of the economy in the hands of Ugandans. The foreign community which made up only 0.8 per cent of the population of the country according to the 1969 census was however the dominant factor in the commercial, financial and industrial sectors of the economy. The departure of the non-citizens from Uganda and the subsequent allocation of their businesses which included industries, gave rise to widespread and mainly hostile external reactions against Uganda. These events had a profound effect on Uganda's manufacturing sector. The manufacturing activities registered growth rates far below the target rates. Thus industrial production declined and some industries actually closed up. It is estimated that by 1979 the operating capacity of most industries was only 30 per cent.

We can conclude by saying that the major obstacles to industrialization in Uganda include: the shortage of capital; the shortage of skilled labour; the narrowness of market opportunities and the political climate. The Government is however making strenuous efforts to increase the share of the industrial sector in the national economy since there is a close association between industrial development and high standards of living.

CONTROLS ON LANDFORM EVOLUTION IN UGANDA

Dr. P. Ojara-Ojunga

The development or evolution of landforms is a complex phenomenon. There are situations where landforms evolve fast and the process responsible is easy to specify; for example the outpour of lava, its accumulation and subsequent formation of a volcanic mountain. Yet there are many instances when several processes operate together and slowly change landscape appearance. In this case it is usually not easy to specify which process is at work and even to predict the final outcome. However in geomorphology we know that landforms evolve as a result of three major factors: (1) structure; (2) process and (3) time. These three factors interact in several and complex ways to determine the nature of landforms around us. Those of us here are well acquainted with the Buganda landscape which consists of flat-topped hills, steep scarps, sloping faces and valleys at the bottom of the hills. Those of you from northern Uganda know the generally flat landscape often described as monotonous except for occasional hills and minor undulations. Yet another unique landform is to be found in the then Teso district, particularly the Ngora area. These well rounded granite hills are called inselbergs and they often occur in areas of semi-arid environments.

We as physical geographers study these features not merely for knowledge's sake but in order to understand how their occurrence influence man's life, that is, man's numbers, man's economic activities and even man's history. Let us now examine the role of structure, process and time in controlling landform evolution.

Structure: Strictly speaking the word structure means many things to a geomorphologist. The word includes the arrangement or stratification of rocks, the nature of the dip of the beds, the presence of folds and faults, the chemical composition of rocks as these factors affect the relative

ud-
ged

ic

a

hardness of rocks and their permeability. These factors all vary from one rock to another and even within one rock type the factors vary from time to time. As a result studying every aspect of structure is difficult and requires elaborate technology - generally lacking in our schools. What is immediately important to us is that structure controls the type, rate and intensity of landform evolution.

Many of our landforms evolve as a result of the process of denudation, that is, weathering and erosion. Denudation will operate at different intensities and rates on different rock structures. Where there are alternating layers of resistant and less resistant structures hills and valleys are easy to form. Hills develop in more resistant structures and valleys develop on the more easily eroded structures. It is believed in the case of Uganda that the presence of laterite and other resistant structures such as granite and quartzites are responsible for the preservation of various hills around the country especially Buganda. Generally the resistance of a rock type to denudational processes depends on the hardness, permeability and the presence of joints in rocks.

Process: In geomorphology process refers to all the different agents of weathering, erosion and landscape deformation. Water, gravity, ice and winds are the more well known processes. In Uganda such other factors like tilting, warping, peneplanation, block faulting, volcanicity are significant processes that have shaped the nature of landforms. What is tricky is that several of these processes may be in operation simultaneously; for instance in Uganda at one time the land was being slowly uplifted and tilted while denudational processes were also taking place. In studying process we emphasize the rate at which they work. Slow processes of course take long to cause change, rapid processes tend to produce clear landscape changes within short periods of time.

Time: Time is a very significant factor of landform evolution. It is not that time can do work but because it allows processes to operate and produce their effects on landforms. Time allows the higher regions to constantly and gradually waste away while the lower levels are being slowly

built up by deposition.

You are probably aware that Uganda can be arranged into a number of plateaus whose altitudes vary. Each altitudinal level represents a different time period in the prolonged sub-aerial denudation. Time to Uganda is also important. Wayland for instance divided the country into peneplanes. He noted that the first peneplane was formed about 180 million years ago, and that succeeding peneplanes were formed during the tertiary time, that is about 70 million years ago. We also know that during the pleistocene climatic change, Uganda experienced a period of pluviation at which time rivers were rejuvenated and much erosion took place. Earlier on in the pleistocene period, glaciation covered the higher areas and caused the presence of such glacial features such as cirques and hanging valleys on the Ruwenzori.

To sum up, landform evolution is a slow and complex process. Structure, process and time interact to produce the features we observe.