

# History: Resistance to the German rule in Cameroon

Resistance means **refusal**. Not all the Cameroonians accepted the German annexation. The chiefs who refused the German made their administration difficult. This opposition is called **resistance**.

The **reasons** of their resistance:

- 1) Power was taken away from the traditional chiefs
- 2) Native lands were seized by the Germans
- 3) Natives were forced to obey German laws
- 4) They were forced to pay taxes.
- 5) The middle men wanted to maintain their middle man monopoly. They did not want the German to bypass them and buy directly from the natives.
- 6) The natives were forced to work in the German plantations and to construct roads and railways.
- 7) They were administered by flogging when there was a least mistake.
- 8) The Germans were cancelling the natives' laws and imposing but theirs.

## Groups that resisted the German rule

The following groups resisted the German:

- 1) The Lamidos of the three northern parts of Cameroon resisted the German because they did not want the spread of Christianity in the north.
- 2) The Douala, Bassa and the Bakoko resisted the German because of conflicts of trade. They wanted to maintain their middle man monopoly. This led to the arrest and **killing of king Douala Manga Bell on August 8<sup>th</sup> 1914**.
- 3) The Bakweri resisted the German because they accused a woman of performing witch craft and the Germans tried to interfere in their tradition. The German and the Bakweri then broke into fighting. The Bakweri led by chief Kuva Likinye cut off the head of The German Gravenreut.
- 4) Also the Bangwa people led by chief Asonganyi resisted the German because the Germans begged for young boys from the village to help them carry their goods to the coast; on coming back, they came without the children and the natives declared war on the German.
- 5) The Mankon and the Bafut people resisted the German because they believed that Zingraff proposal of friendship was because he was pretending to invade them. They started fighting him
- 6) In the south region, Paul Martin Samba earlier supported the Germans. But as time went, he became unhappy and started resisting them.
- 7) The Douala people also resisted the German because of the seizures of their lands.

## Exercise

- 1) Give the reasons why the Bangwa people resisted the German.
- 3) The Douala chiefs were the people who handed over Cameroon to the Germans, according to you why were they resisting the Germans again
- 3) Who led the Bakweri resistance?