

## Gurnah (1)

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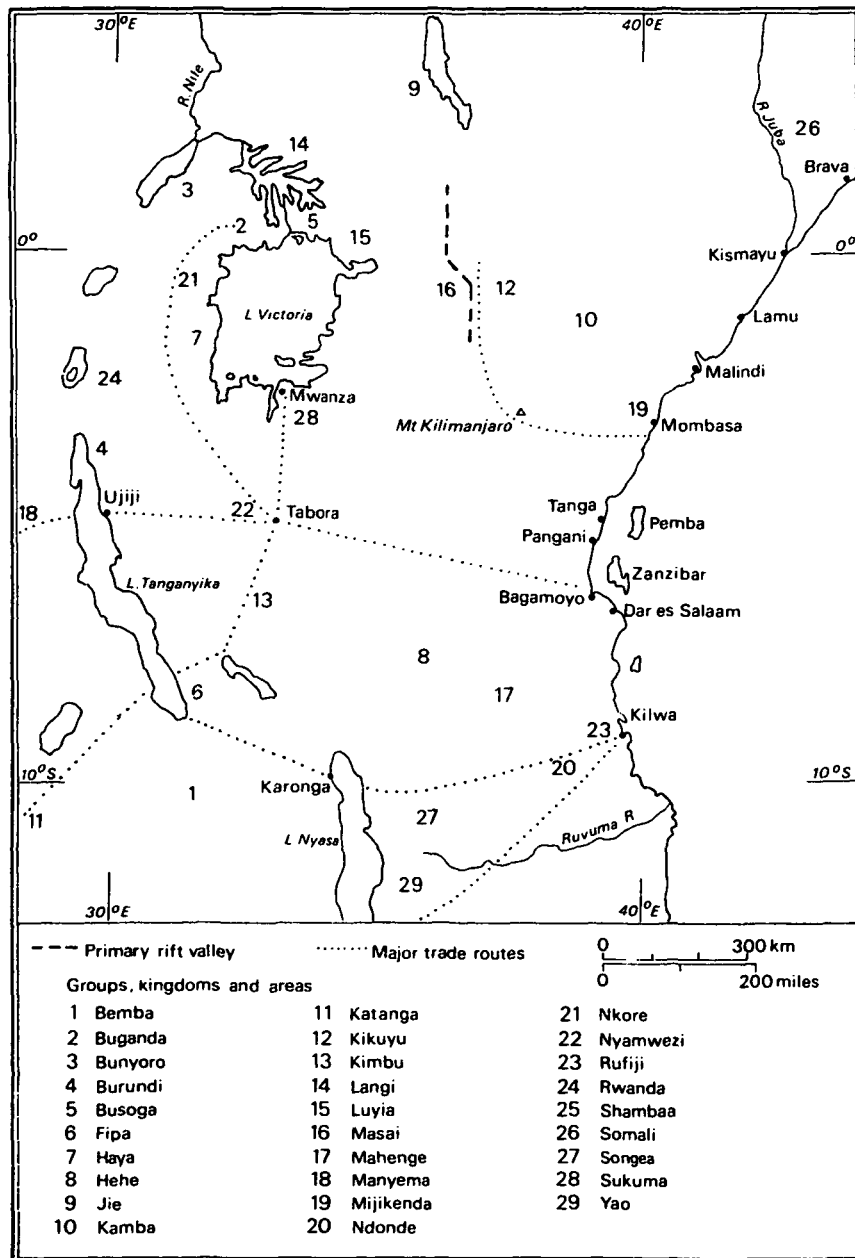
by 100CE ca. 800	Indian ocean trade links Arabia, East Africa, and India Swahili likely emerges as a distinct language among coastal people (Arabic <i>sabil</i> , coast)
1500	Portuguese begin domination of East African coast
1698	Portuguese driven out by Omani sultanate
1840	Sayyid Sa'īd, the Sultan of Oman, moves his capital to Zanzibar, the main commercial center for East Africa (cloves, gold, ivory, slaves) Indian traders ("banyans") settle in greater numbers
1885	German East Africa Company and Imperial British East African Company founded: the "Scramble for Africa"
1890	Zanzibar Sultanate becomes British protectorate
1891	German colonial rule established over present-day Tanzania: railroads, rebellions, and repression
1919	Treaty of Versailles transfers German territories to British mandatory control as Tanganyika Territory
1948	Abdulrazak Gurnah b. Stone Town, Zanzibar
1961	Tanganyika gains independence, led by <a href="#">Julius Nyerere</a>
1963	Zanzibar becomes formally independent
1964	Sultan of Zanzibar is violently overthrown; massacres of Arabs; Zanzibar unites with Tanganyika to form Republic of Tanzania, under Nyerere's program of "African Socialism"
1968	Gurnah leaves for London with his brother: "There was no going back"
1976	B.Ed., University of London
1982	Ph.D., University of Kent; joins English faculty
1987	<i>Memory of Departure</i> (London: Jonathan Cape)
1994	<i>Paradise</i> (London: Jonathan Cape)
2021	Nobel Prize

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Sources: Felicity Hand, "Abdulrazak Gurnah," in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, vol. 510, ed. Jennifer Stock (Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2023), [Literature Resource Center](#); Julian Lucas, "Children of the Coast," *New Yorker*, October 24, 2022, [Literature Resource Center](#).

Some people correct anyone who says, “I speak Swahili,” insisting that the language is Kiswahili, not Swahili. They place a Swahili prefix on the word *Swahili* to mean the language or the Swahili manner of doing things. Two similar prefixes, *m-* and *wa-*, as in *Mswahili* or *Waswahili*, denote a person or persons who are Swahili. Another prefix, *u-*, makes *Uswahili* the abstract notion of what being Swahili means.

John M. Mugane, *The Story of Swahili* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2015), 108, [ohioopen.library.ohio.edu](http://ohioopen.library.ohio.edu).



“East Africa, late nineteenth century,” in Marcia Wright, “East Africa 1870–1905,” in *The Cambridge History of Africa*, vol. 6, ed. Roland Oliver and G. N. Sanderson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985), 542, [Cambridge Core](#). “Their real destination was the other side of the lake, the country of the Manyema” (Gurnah, 119).