

QUEEN AMINA: THE WARRIOR QUEEN

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BACKGROUND INFO

- ❖ Born in 1533 in Zazzau, now known to be present-day city of Zaria in Kaduna State.
- ❖ Amina's full name was Aminatu Mohammad.
- ❖ She was born to King Nikatau and Queen Bakwa Turnuku.
- ❖ Amina had 2 younger siblings. (Brother, Karama and sister, Zariya.)



FAMILY LIFE

- ❖ Queen Amina's father was the 22nd ruler of Zazzau.
- ❖ After his death, his wife, Bakwa, took over the throne from 1536-1566.
- ❖ Then, Queen Amina's brother, Karama took the reign from 1566- 1576.
 - ❖ Finally, Amina became the queen of Zazzau from 1576- 1610.
- ❖ The current name of the city was renamed after Amina's sister, Zariya. The city was renamed by the British in the 20th century.



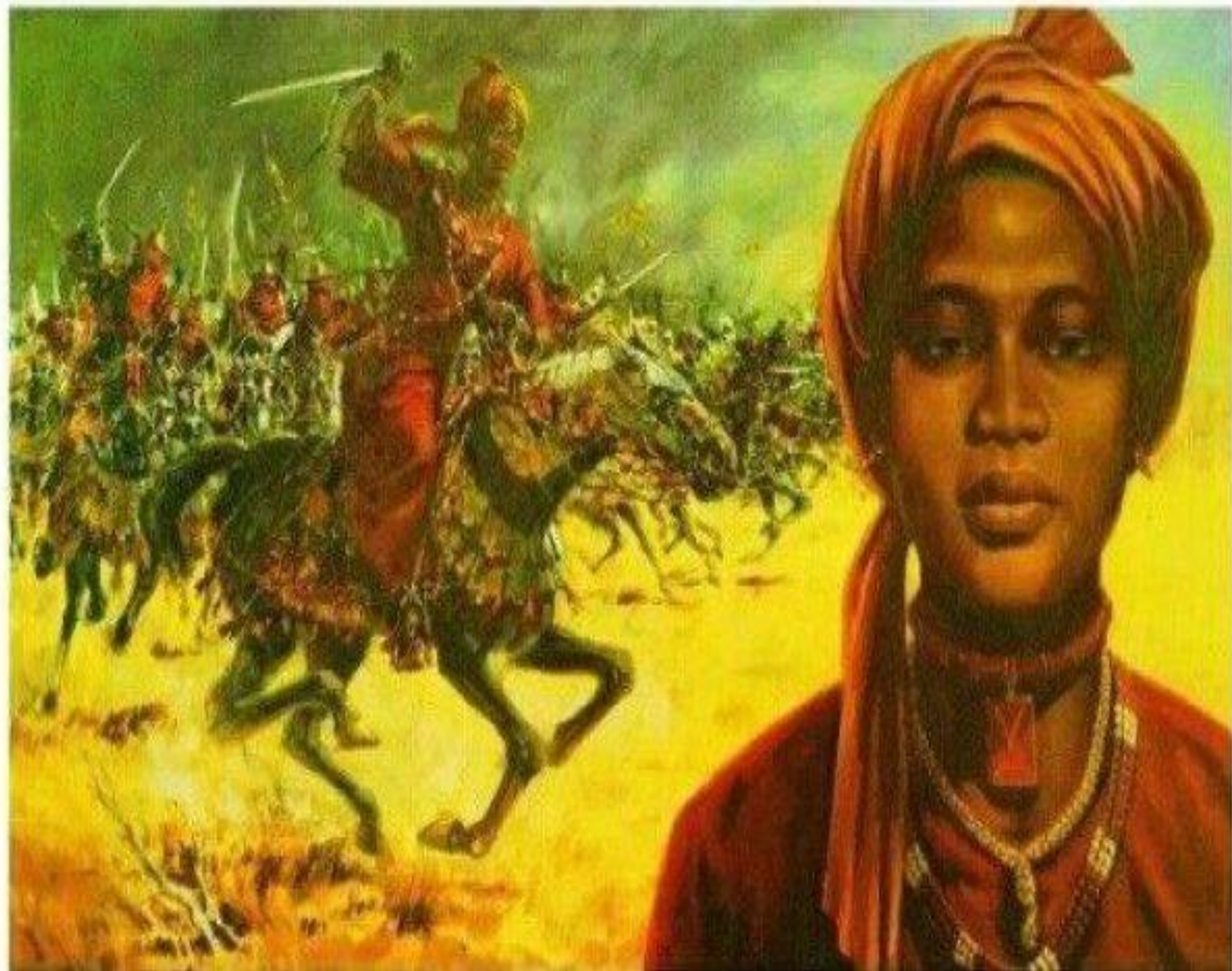
POLITICAL LIFE

- ❖ Queen Amina was involved in political and governmental affairs at a young age.
- ❖ Queen Amina acquired knowledge about politics from her mother and grandfather.
- ❖ Her grandfather was another Hausa monarch who was also known to be a politician as well.

MILITARY LIFE



- ❖ At a young age, Amina developed a keen interest in fighting.
- ❖ She underwent intensive military training.
- ❖ By the age of 16, she became a leading warrior in her brother's time of reign.
- ❖ This form of aptitude set Amina apart from the rest of women within the society.
- ❖ Amina's ability as a fearless warrior contributed to her image of a woman just as capable as a man.



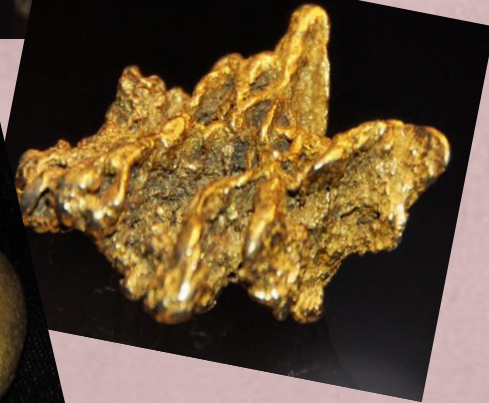
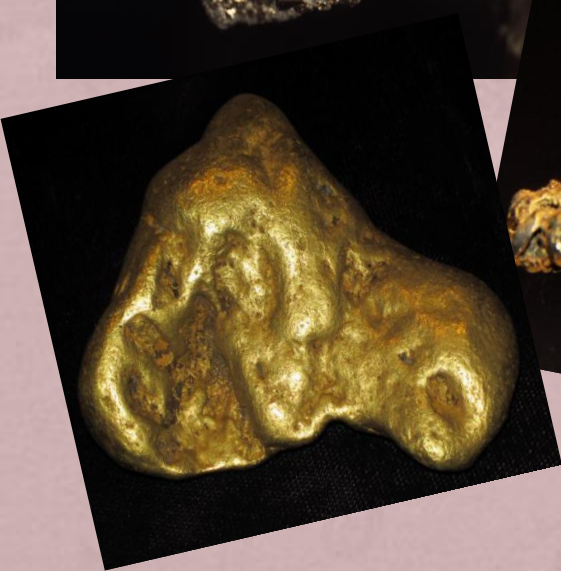
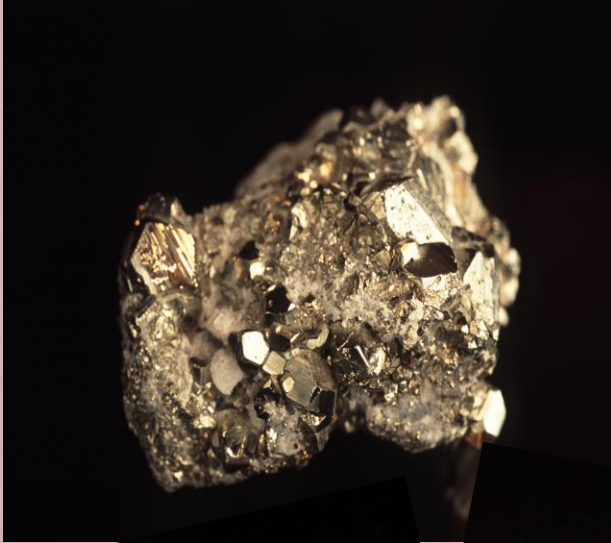
ASCENDING THE THRONE: BECOMING QUEEN AMINA

- ❖ In 1576, Queen Amina finally became the Queen of Zazzau.
- ❖ She became the Queen during the pre-colonial era in Nigeria.
- ❖ The pre-colonial era took place in the 16th century to the 18th century.
- ❖ Being that Queen Amina was first known as a warrior princess, it was no brainer to make her the next ruler of the kingdom.
- ❖ Queen Amina was one of the few known Queens to fight in military combats alongside with her soldiers.

CONTRIBUTIONS

- ❖ Queen Amina was a ruthless warrior queen who commanded an army of 20,000 men.
- ❖ Queen Amina expanded the Zazzau territory just like her brother wanted to when he was the King. She created trade routes throughout Northern Africa.
- ❖ Queen Amina boosted her kingdom's wealth and power with slaves, gold, and new crops. Kola nuts were a very popular and essential crop in her territories.
- ❖ She was known to be a very crafty woman who knew how to build structures. Queen Amina did in fact build walls around the city of Zaria to mark her territory. The walls are called "Amina's Wall." But the walls have been removed.

GOLD



KOLA NUTS



LEGACY

- ❖ Queen Amina ruled the kingdom for over 34 years.
- ❖ In honor of Queen Amina's accomplishments, a statue was built and placed in the Natural Arts Theatre in Nigeria.
- ❖ Educational institutions were named after her.
- ❖ Postage stamps were also created in her honor as well.
- ❖ Queen Amina's legacy symbolizes the strength and courage of Black womanhood.



CONCLUSION

Throughout the entire course, I have been enlightened about many factors about Black people, specifically Black women. Though I've heard about some historical figures and organizations, Queen Amina of Zazzau stood out to me the most. Queen Amina's profile ties in with the course content of weeks 3, "Women in Traditional African Societies," and week 4, "Political, Social, and Economic Positions of Women in African Societies." I had no idea that African women had authoritative roles within their successful societies, such as queens, princesses, and warriors, until I started taking these courses. I walked into this Black Studies course initially believing that men acquired and obtained all authority while women were compliant and unassertive. Even through the adversity of being a Black woman in society, I learned that Black women paved the way for future generations to obtain the opportunities they did not have. It is up to us as a young generation to push through and not take the Black woman's experience in vain.

REFERENCES

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