

Fierce Women

**Exploring Strength,
Representation, and
Legacy**

Crystal M. Edwards
SPHEX Talk
February 8, 2024

Have You Seen the Barbie Movie?



Box Office Records

1. Highest-grossing film of 2023 in the U.S. and worldwide
2. Most successful global release in Warner Bros. history
3. Most successful domestic release in Warner Bros. history
4. Biggest opening weekend of the year
5. Top global and domestic opening weeks of 2023
6. Highest-grossing opening week for Greta Gerwig, Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling
7. Largest global opening for a female-directed movie
8. Biggest domestic opening for a film based on a toy
9. Highest-grossing Warner Bros. opening for a nonfranchise movie ever
10. Tie for fastest Warner Bros. film to hit \$1 billion
11. First solo female director with a \$1-billion movie
12. Highest-earning live-action movie globally from a female director ever
13. Biggest domestic release from a female director
14. Gerwig, Robbie and Gosling's biggest global hit
15. Highest-grossing Warner Bros. title ever globally
16. Fourth-ever \$300 million-plus weekend
17. Highest-grossing second weekend globally in Warner Bros. history
18. First time one film opened to more than \$100 million and another debuted to over \$80 million in the same weekend
19. Highest-grossing Warner Bros. title ever in 43 markets
20. Top film ever in Ireland

Childhood Superhero #1: 1969 - 1975



Crystal Murphy - 3 years



Julie Newmar – 1960s

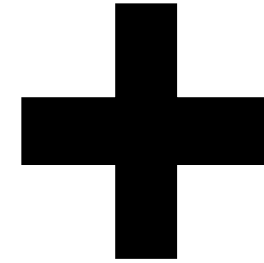


Lee Meriwether – 1966



Eartha Kitt - 1967

Childhood Superhero #2: 1975 - 1981



Cathy Lee Crosby – 1972

Linda Carter – 1975

Superhero Today – Inspiration



Cathy Lee Crosby – 1972



Linda Carter – 1975



Gal Gadot - 2016

Superhero Today – Inspiration

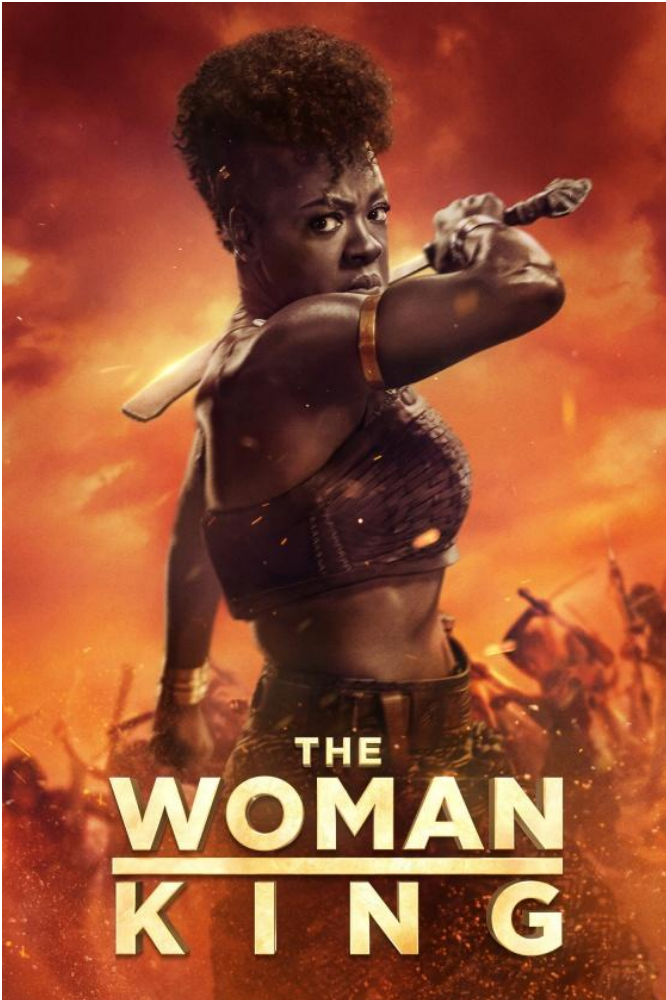


MARVEL STUDIOS
**BLACK
PANTHER**



**Famine
In
Africa**₆

Superhero Today – Inspiration



Viola Davis – 2022



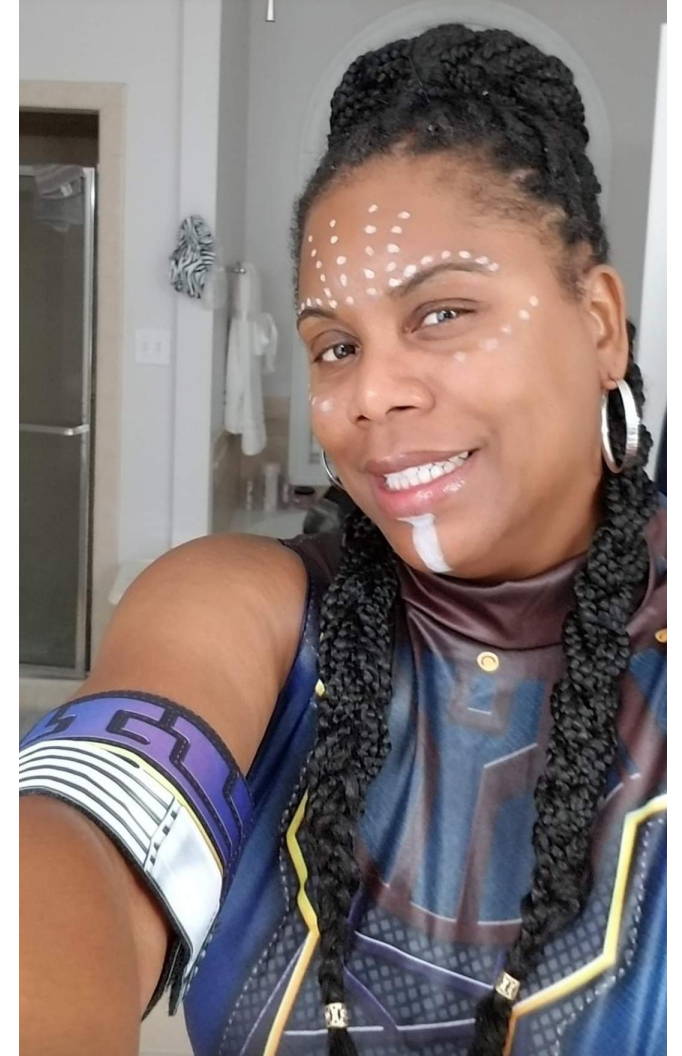
Top Movie = Top Merchandise \$\$\$ (Halloween Sales)



Top Movie = Top Merchandise \$\$\$ (Halloween Sales)



who
does
that



Barbie - Women Speech (America Ferrera)

YouTube · Movie Time · Sep 14, 2023

YouTube 



Barbie - Women Speech (America Ferrera)



Watch later



Share



Strong Women...Strong Message



Strong Women...Strong Message

Aaron





Strong Women...Strong Message

Strong Women...Strong Message





Strong Women...Strong Message

Controversy



POLITICS

The Story Behind Eartha Kitt's White House Visit, Which Derailed Her U.S. Career

It later came to light that President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered the CIA to keep a dossier on the iconic singer

By [Liz McNeil](#) and [Virginia Chamlee](#) | Published on April 9, 2021 02:12PM EDT



Controversy

Posting a heartfelt message on her official **Facebook** page in July 2014, Gadot shared a picture of herself and her daughter praying, with the caption:



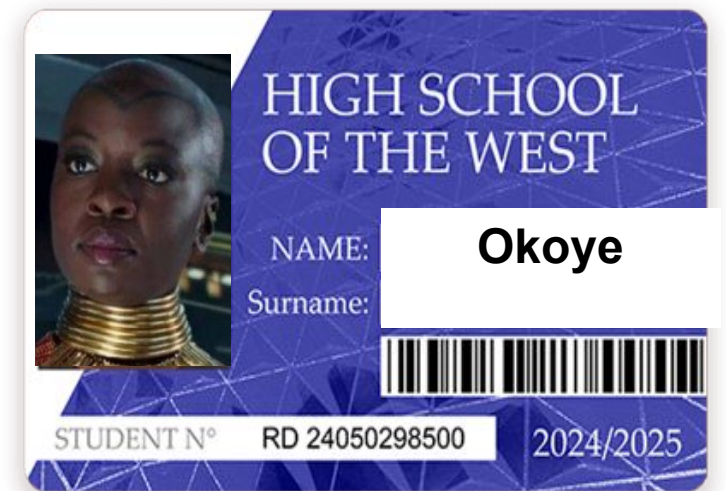
In October 2023, Gadot posted on **Instagram**: I stand with Israel and you should too.

May 2021, when a new outbreak of conflict flared in Israel. On May 12, Gadot issued a statement on social media expressing her distress and hope for a peaceful resolution:

My heart breaks.
My country is at war.
I worry for my family, my friends.
I worry for my people.
This is a vicious cycle that has been going on for far too long.
Israel deserves to live as a free and safe nation,
Our neighbors deserve the same.
I pray for the victims and their families, I pray for this unimaginable hostility to end, I pray for our leaders to find the solution so we could live side by side in peace.
I pray for better days.



Controversy



Controversy



The Woman King: The truth about slavery matters

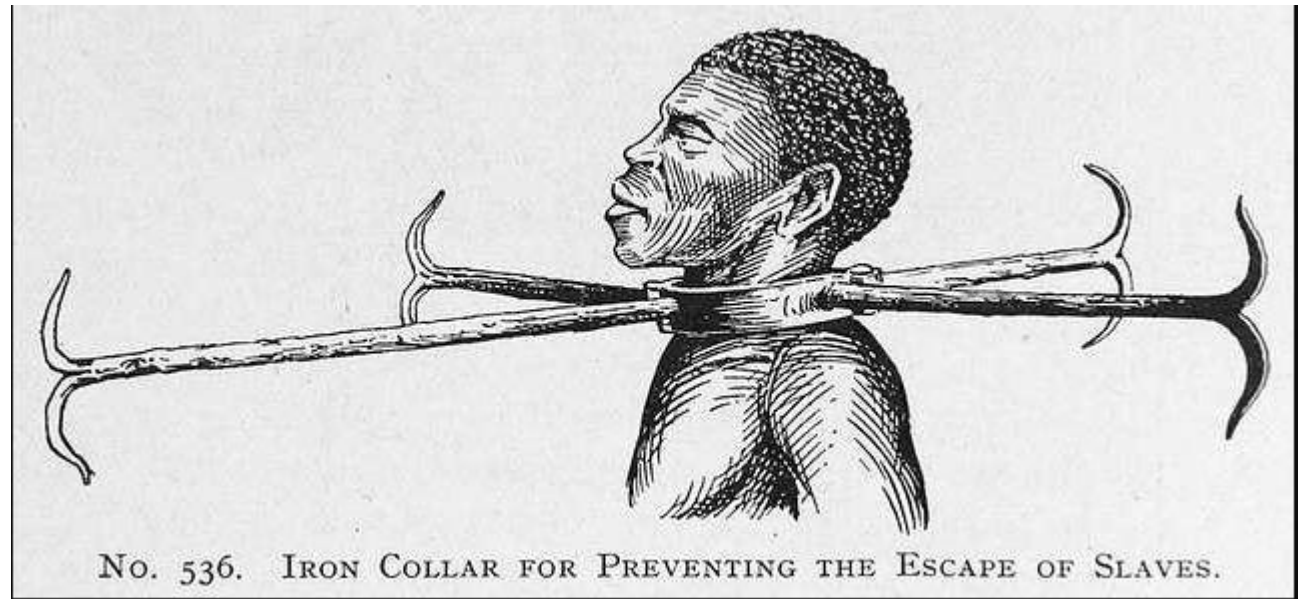
Africans too sold other Africans into slavery. By hiding that, Black filmmakers are breaking with a heroic legacy.



Tafi Mhaka

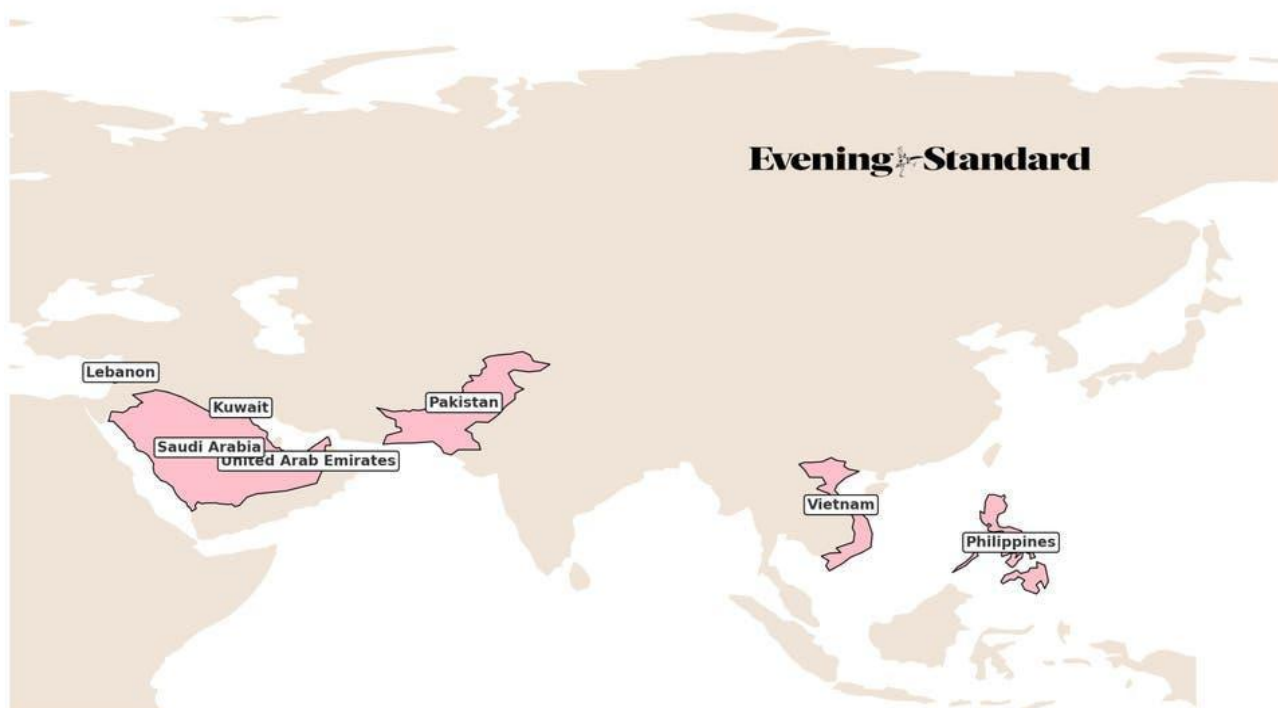
Al Jazeera columnist

7 Oct 2022



Controversy

Countries that have banned Barbie



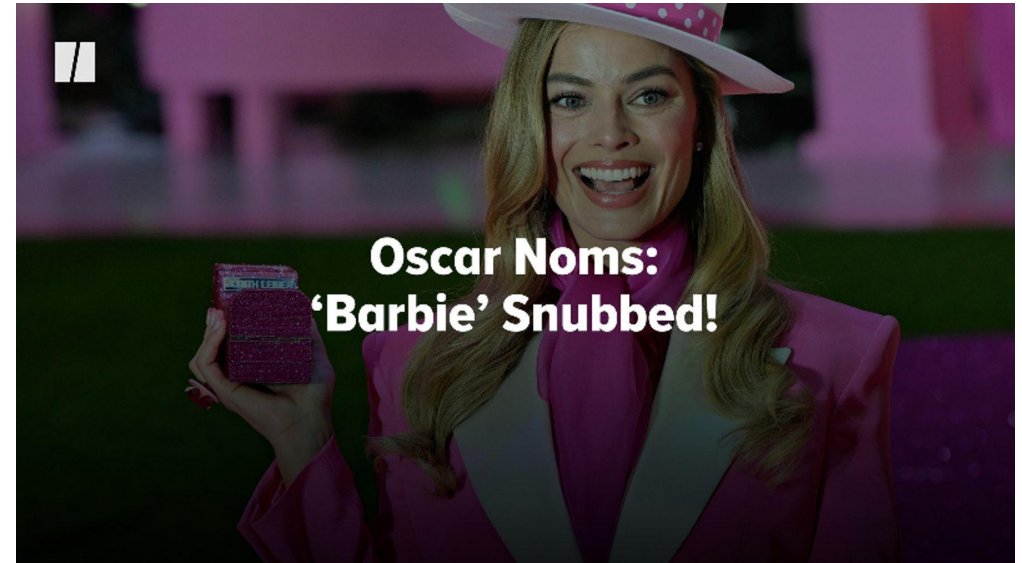
Controversy



NOMINATED FOR BEST DIRECTOR & BEST ACTRESS -

NO

Oscars: Sunday March 10



Oscar Noms:
'Barbie' Snubbed!



NOMINATED FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

YES

Fierce Women: Fact or Fiction?



The Barbie Movie doll, 2023.



A first-edition Barbie doll, with box and accessories, 1959.



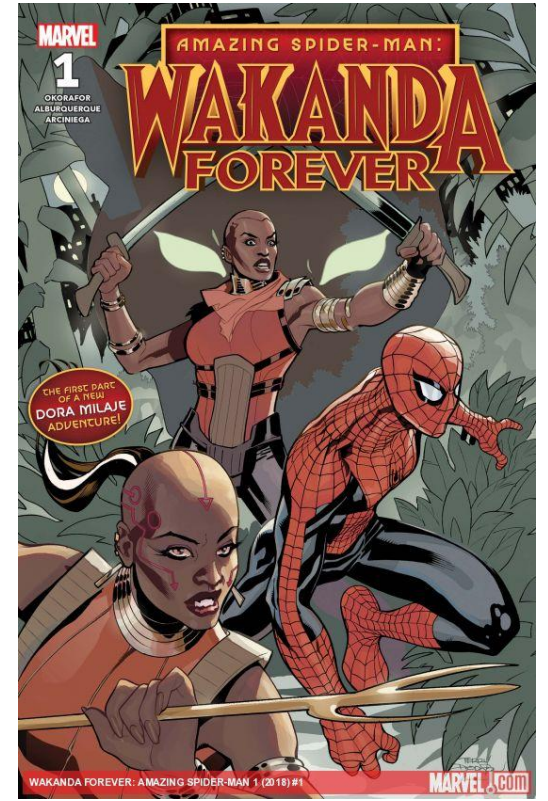
A very rare Bild Lilli doll, 1955.

Fierce Women: Fact or Fiction?



The legendary warrior women – depicted here on an ancient frieze battling the Greeks – became well-known through Greek mythology (Credit: Getty Images)

Fierce Women: Fact or Fiction?

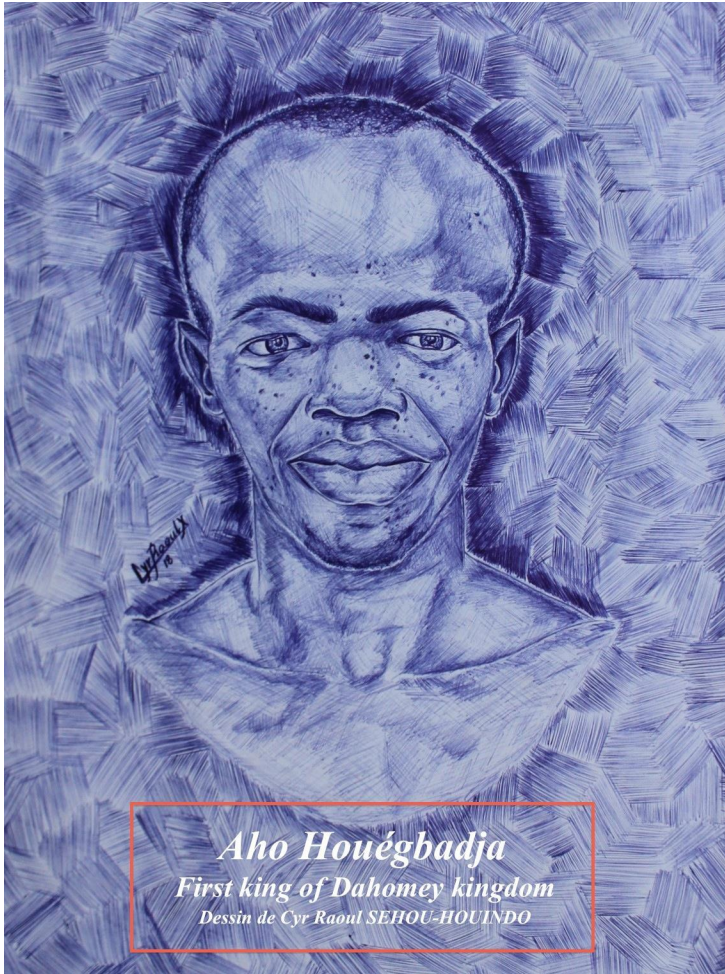




Fierce Women: Fact or Fiction?



History of the Kingdom of Dahomey



History of the Kingdom of Dahomey

The Rise of Female Dahomey Warriors (Agojie)



By Ivana Madzarevic - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0,

King Houegbadja
(1645-1685)

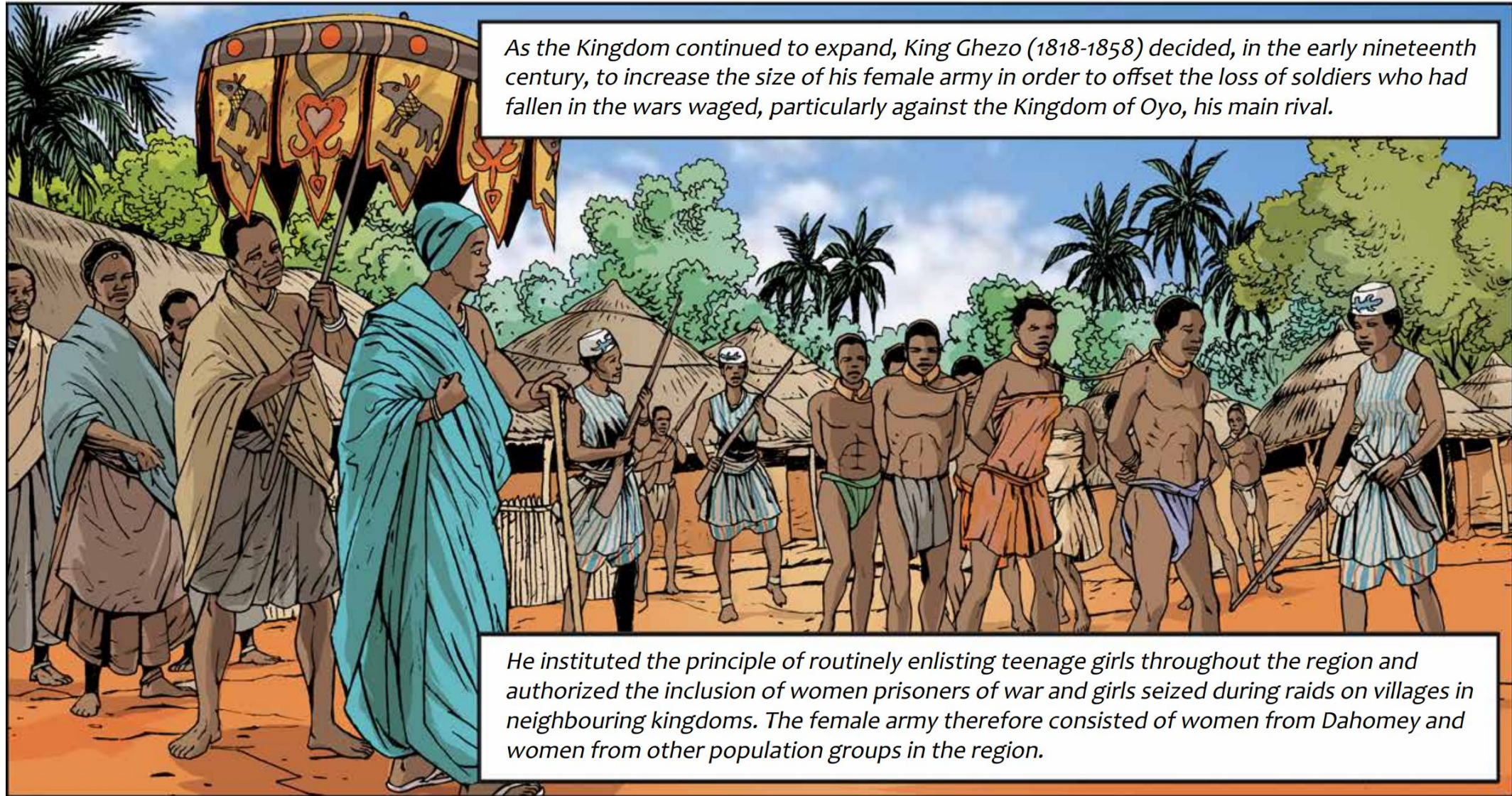


King Ghezo
(1818-1858)



Recruitment & Growth of the Agojie

Recruitment & Growth of the Agojie



Life as a
Dahomey
Warrior





Life as a Dahomey Warrior

War with Neighboring Kingdoms





The Center of the Slave Trade

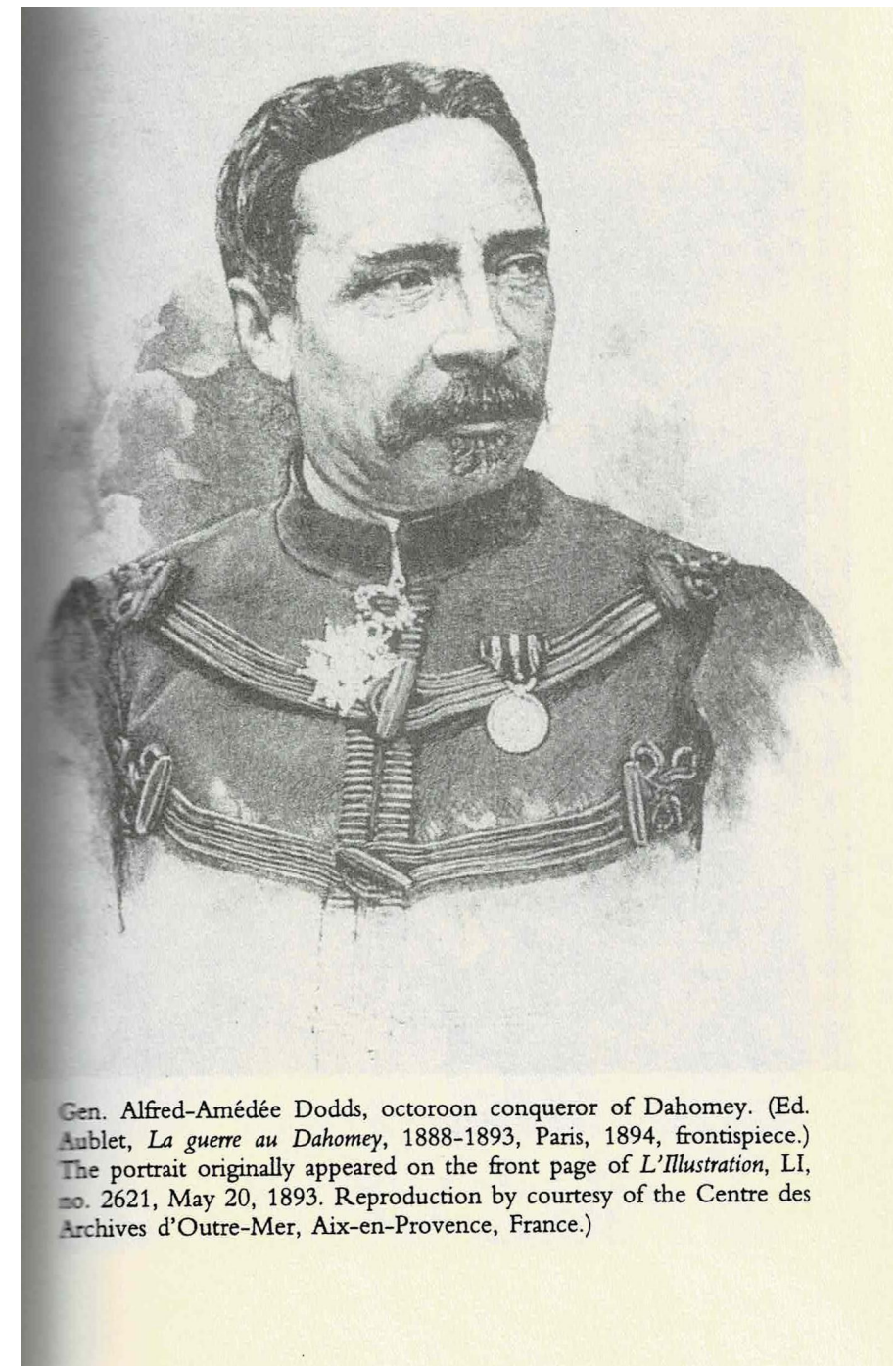
War with the French - Twice



First Franco-Dahomean War (1890)



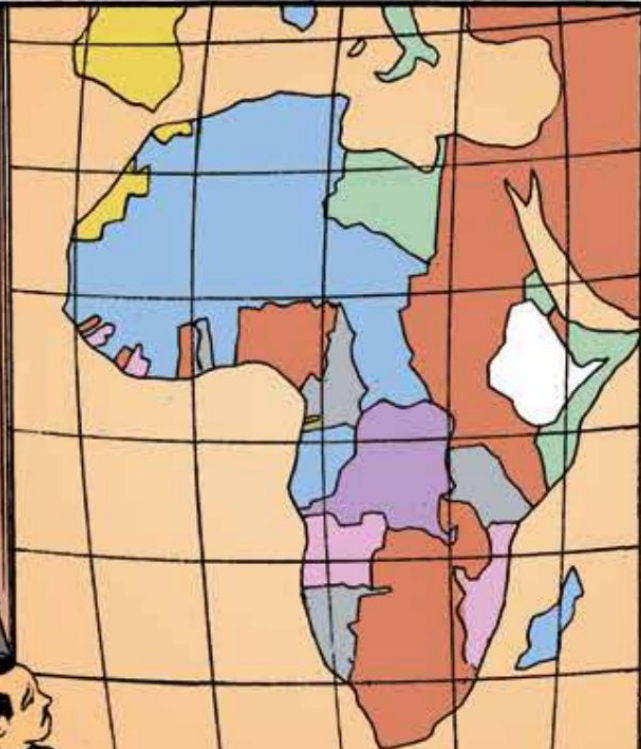
Second Franco-Dahomean War (1892-1894)



Gen. Alfred-Amédée Dodds, octoroon conqueror of Dahomey. (Ed. Aublet, *La guerre au Dahomey*, 1888-1893, Paris, 1894, frontispiece.) The portrait originally appeared on the front page of *L'Illustration*, LI, no. 2621, May 20, 1893. Reproduction by courtesy of the Centre des Archives d'Outre-Mer, Aix-en-Provence, France.)

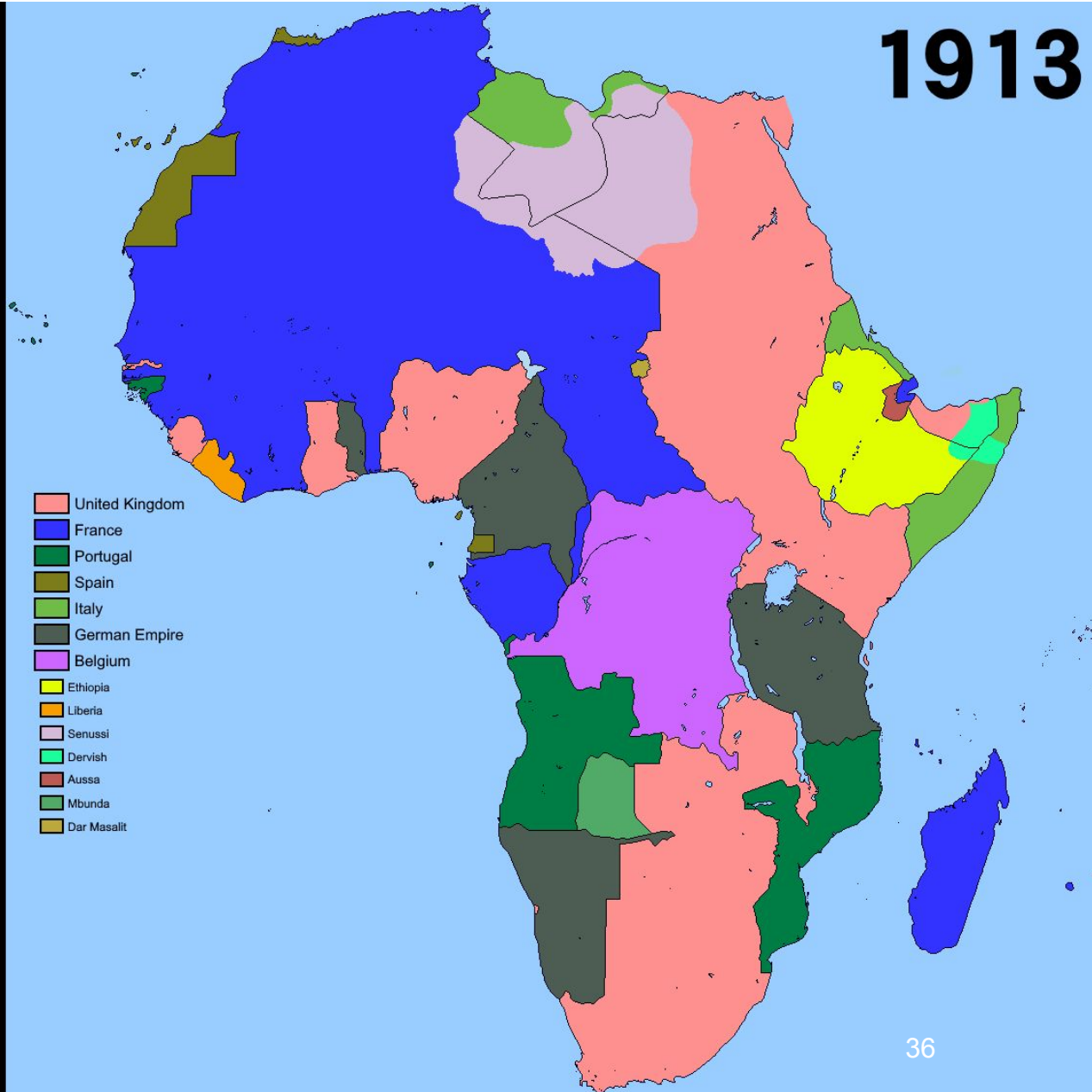
In the nineteenth century, after abolishing the transatlantic slave trade, and slavery, the European powers began the race to colonise Africa. Their goal was to seize the African countries' immense natural wealth.

Africa was carved up among Europeans on conditions agreed upon at the 1885 Conference of Berlin, attended by the major European countries. African rulers and peoples were excluded from all of the negotiations.

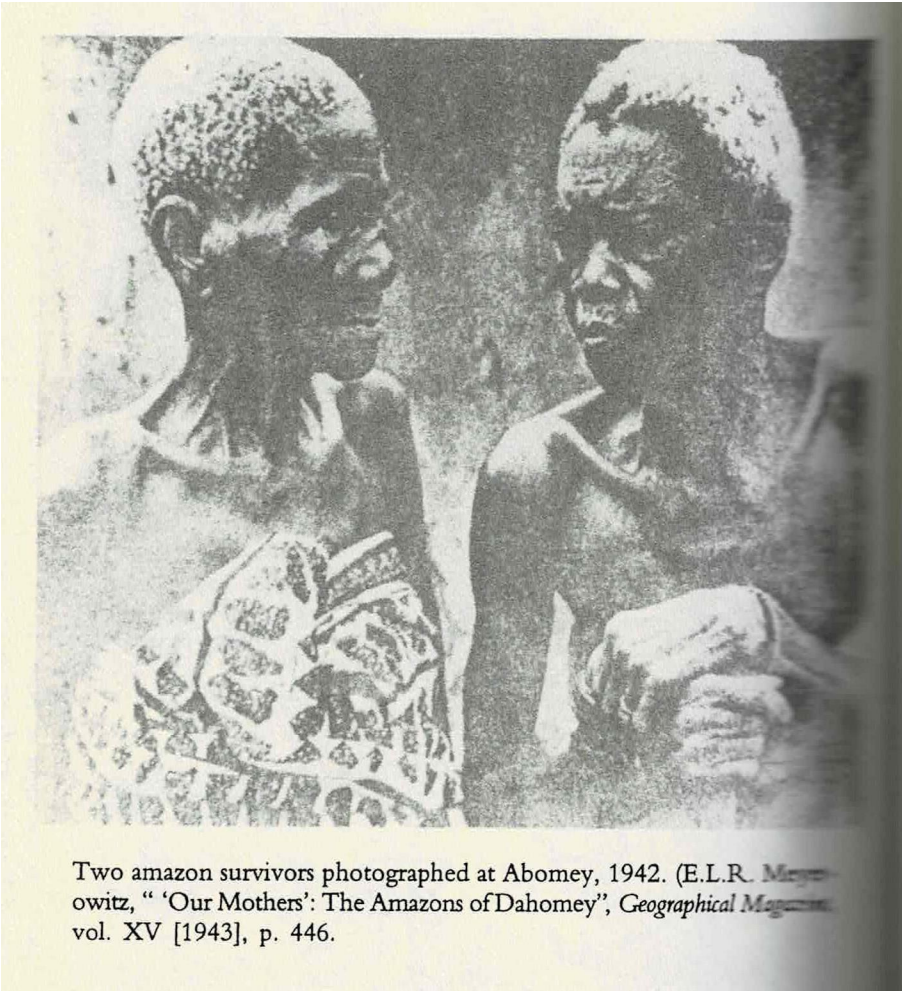


The Center of the Slave Trade

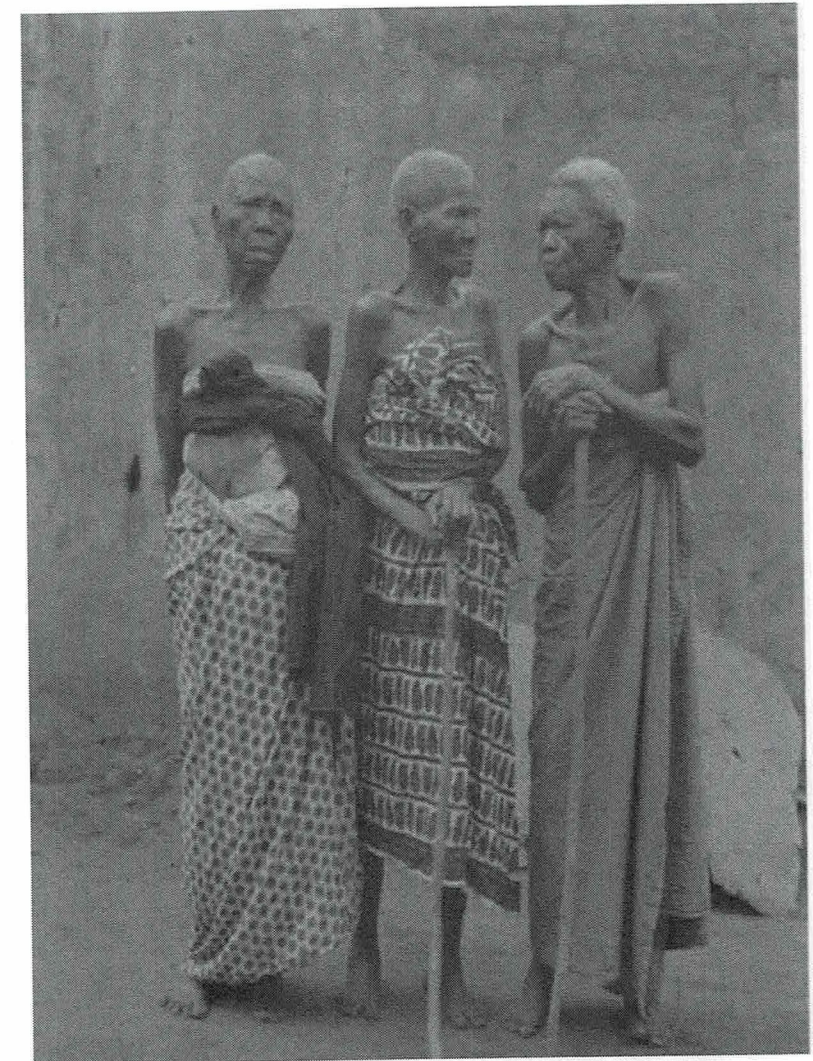
Dahomey Defeated



Where are they Now?



Two amazon survivors photographed at Abomey, 1942. (E.L.R. Mayhew, "Our Mothers': The Amazons of Dahomey", *Geographical Magazine*, vol. XV [1943], p. 446.)



A 1937 portrait of the only surviving Dahomey Amazons who had fought against the French in 1894.

Thank You

For Your Attention!

Any Questions

