

Bibliography

Primary Sources

Forbes, Frederick E. "Dahomey and the Dahomans." *Si.Edu*, 1 Jan. 2000,

<https://library.si.edu/digital-library/book/dahomeyadahomansb00forb>.

Frederick E. Forbes was a journalist who traveled to Dahomey in the years 1849 and 1850. He met the King of Dahomey and went to his palace which was in the capital. He documented his journey and gave a detailed depiction of Dahomey and the Women Warriors. He spoke of their training, their bravery, and fierceness both in and outside combat.

Secondary Sources

Alpern, Stanley B. "On the Origins of the Amazons of Dahomey." *History in Africa*, vol. 25, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 9–25, doi:10.2307/3172178.

Stanley B. Alpern worked as a sub-editor for the New York Herald Tribune. He then worked as a foreign service officer of the United States Information Agency for about twenty-two years, five of which were spent in West Africa.

"Amazons (Ahosi) of Dahomey • BlackPast." *BlackPast*, 2 Feb. 2019,

<https://blackpast.org/gah/amazons-ahosi-dahomey>.

In this source it talked about how the Amazons of Dahomey were a military Corp of women appointed to serve in battles under the direction of the Fon king. In the nineteenth Century, the Dahomey kingdom thrived on the slave trade. Much debate exists on whether the slave trade itself fueled Dahomeys wars with its neighboring nations or merely exploited and exacerbated existing conflicts. In addition, the French conquered Dahomey in 1892 and were ruthless toward the Amazons, executing many of them partly because the Amazons provided the last resistance to their conquest of the state.

"Dahomey, Women Warriors/Wives of the King | Encyclopedia.Com." *Encyclopedia.Com*, 1 Jan. 2000,

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/dahomey-women-warriorswives-king>.

In this secondary source it talked about the female armed forces that served in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. It also talked about how the Dahomey Women Warriors all originated, going into depth on what they wore and how they fought on battlefields.

Dash, Mike. "Dahomey Women Warriors." *Smithsonian*, Smithsonian.com, 23 Sept. 2011,

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/dahomeys-women-warriors-88286072/>.

Mike Dash is a history writer for Smithsonian.com. Before he wrote for Smithsonian.com, he authored for the award-winning blog A Blast From the Past. This particular piece of writing gives basic information about the Women of Dahomey. Dash speaks about their training, their sacrifices such as: celibacy and marital status. He talks about their lives before recruitment, he also talks about the

Franco-Dahomean war. He tells a story of a former Women Warrior who is still continuing the war in her head.

“Kingdom of Dahomey - New World Encyclopedia.” Newworldencyclopedia.Org, 1 Jan. 2007,

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Kingdom_of_Dahomey.

In this source, it talked about how these fierce warriors were the last of the traditional African Kingdom to resist any sort of Europeans colonization, making them very significant. The warriors were ruled by a form of absolute monarchy, enforcing very strict rules. Their society was surrounded by an assemblage of royalty, commoners, and slaves in a stratified society.

Law, Robin. “Dahomey and the Slave Trade: Reflections on the Historiography of the Rise of

Dahomey.” *The Journal of African History*, vol. 27, no. 2, Cambridge University Press, 1986, pp.

237–67, https://www.jstor.org/stable/181135?read-now=1&seq=2#page_scan_tab_contents.

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https://www.jstor.org/stable/40341664?Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=Dahomey&searchText=Amazons&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3Fwc%3Don%26amp%3BQuery%3DDahomey%2BAmazons%26amp%3Bacc%3Don%26amp%3Bgroup%3Dnone%26amp%3Bfc%3Doff&refreqid=search%3A831badf84195aa143772ff1ecc2c0366&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.

This article included the rise of these warriors, and the downfall. The events were very detailed explaining what happened throughout the lives of these warriors, shaping their legacy. They fought in a series of battles in which they triumphed over, but once they encountered the french, they fought long and hard, facing the unbearable pain. As a result, many of them were killed, and the fortunate warriors who survived this catastrophic event had to seek asylum in other countries

Macdonald, Fleur. “The Legend of Benin’s Fearless Female Warriors.” *Bbc.Com*, 1 Jan. 2018,

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20180826-the-legend-of-benins-fearless-female-warriors>.

In the article “The Legend of Benin’s Fearless Female Warriors” it talked about the recognition of the Amazons as frontline soldiers of Dahomey. Many people were interested on how they showed no mercy. Also, it talked a lot on how the last king of the Dahomey Empire burnt the palaces before the French arrived to make it seem like they didn’t lose a lot in the Franco-Dahomean war.

“The Amazons.” *Epa-Prema.Net*, 1 Jan. 2011,

<http://www.epa-prema.net/abomeyGB/resources/amazons.htm>.

This article explained how the warriors were well trained and how it was very hard to tell the difference between the men warriors. Many of the women volunteered to become a warrior because they were committed to protect their kingdom and ensure the Fon people were safe. The process of how they became elite fighters was long and crucial, explaining how they trained with men, the women being more fierce and stronger. Many people of their kingdom admired the warriors, even after their kingdom got raided by the French.

The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Dahomey | Historical Kingdom, Africa." Encyclopædia

Britannica, 6 Oct. 2015, <https://www.britannica.com/place/Dahomey-historical-kingdom-Africa>.

In this article it talked about a new king being acquired. Many of the warriors were not devastated, in fact, they were ready to take demands from any absolute monarch. They respected all and never attempted to hurt anyone they seriously cared about. They gained many techniques from their new king, making sure they were perfect warriors and nearly undefeatable on the battlefield.