

# The Women Warriors of Dahomey

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→ Exhibit trifold

1st Draft

# CONTENT OUTLINE

1. Thesis
2. Introduction and/or background
3. Subtopic 1: An Elite Group
4. Subtopic 2: Fierce Fighters
5. Subtopic 3: Their Demise
6. Conclusion

# Thesis

The Women Warriors of Dahomey were a triumphant, highly regarded military elite due to their training and experience, even though their loss to the French led to the colonization of Dahomey.

# Introduction

The Women Warriors of Dahomey were a group of women who fought for the kingdom of Dahomey and its king. They were fearless women who weren't afraid to die in battle. Although there is no evidence of when they first came into existence, it is known that they existed in the 17th Century and by 1720 were palace guards. The women warriors underwent a lot of training. They were known to climb thorny walls, fight hand to hand combat, they executed prisoners. They did all this training so that they could be the best and have no fears. The first battle against the French started around 1890 and there were about 23 separate battles and 2 major wars. The Dahomeans lost the French battle and the women were the last to surrender and that shows bravery and fearlessness.

## Subtopic 3: Their Demise

- The First Franco-Dahomean war began on February 21, 1890. This first war lasted two months, the amazons played a primary role in this first war.
- There were two major battles. The Battle of Cotonou and the Battle of Atchoupa. The amazons were the first to fire and many died during these battles.
- The second war took place on 1892. Dahomey attacked the French.
- Many Women Warriors fought in both the first and second Franco-Dahomean war.
- The Dahomeans were the ones that lost the war and then France was able to colonize Dahomey because of their loss.

# Evidence

- “The war lasted two months and included two major engagements” (Alpern 194).
- “What became known as the Battle of Cotonou started before dawn on March 4” (Alpern 194).
- “The other major engagement of the first Franco-Dahomean war was the Battle of Atchoupa” (Alpern 195).
- “The second Franco-Dahomean war was sparked by a relatively minor incident” (Alpern 198).
- “It is impossible to say exactly how many women soldiers participated in the final campaign” (Alpern 199).

# Conclusion

The Women Warriors of Dahomey were a triumphant, highly regarded military elite due to their training and experience, even though their loss to the French led to the colonization of Dahomey. The Women Warriors of Dahomey were very successful in war until they fought against the French. They lost and then Dahomey got colonized by the French. This topic is important because it is amazing that women played a role in the Franco-Dahomean war and they were the last ones to surrender. Even though, Dahomey got colonized by the French the Women Warriors fought to the death to prevent that and they fought for their King.