

## **Capitalism, Globalization and New Forms of Accumulation in Nineteenth-century Tanzania**

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The nineteenth century was a critical point in East African economic history. Owing to the development of the ivory demand coming from the international markets, the areas of the interior began to be systematically connected to the commercial world of the Indian Ocean. New forms of accumulation, wealth and exchange developed in the regions of the interior, which were connected in an unprecedented way to the world economy. New imported goods became part of the daily lives of many Africans, and among them Venetian glass beads reached a capillary diffusion in the interior, being used as a means of exchange by small traders and local producers. The penetration of a capitalist economy in Africa during this period has been often seen as a one-way-process, where Europeans were the main actors, whereas Africans were only passive receivers of what was originating outside the continent. However, in many cases, Africans maintained the power to shape their relationships with the outside world, in the framework of a new market economy. The aim of this paper is to analyse the response that African consumers and producers gave to the development of a capitalist economy in the nineteenth century. This will be done through the case study of the glass bead trade between Venice and East Africa, with special reference to how the production in Venice was influenced by and had to respond to the detailed and complex demand coming from East African societies.