

## Collo (Shilluk) tribe in Sudan

Thursday, 22 January 2009

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Considerable controversy surrounds the topic of the history and origins of the Shilluk. Indeed, the "origin" and history of all of the Nilotic peoples of the southern Sudan remains an enigma in the field of African prehistory. According to Shilluk oral traditions, the early descendants of these people began to migrate into their present country some three to four hundred years before the present.

The quasi-mythical or epic leader of the first settlement is known as Nyikang, an individual with both divine and secular powers. At one time, Nyikang and his brother Gilo had a disagreement, and, as a result, Gilo and his supporters separated to migrate south and east.

The kingdom of Shilluk is located on the west bank of the Nile, with a population of 600,000 (2002 estimate). Shilluk country covers approximately 320 kilometers on the west bank of the White Nile, from 10° to 12° N and from 30° to 33° E. Its inhabitants speak the Eastern Sudanic Language of the Chari - Nile branch of the Nilo-Saharan family. They are part of the Nilot Culture.

Nilotes are members of east-central Africa living in southern Sudan, northern Uganda, and western Kenya. The name refers to the area as they live on the Nile. Of the Nilotic people the Shilluk are the most organized. They have a divine king which symbolizes the whole realm. Similar ruler ships can be found amongst some other Nilotic tribes although some have no rulers. The Shilluk created life sized representations of their first king, Nyikang. They also made clay pipe bowls, hyena figurines, and masks.

The Shilluk are agriculturalists and herdsman. They raise cattle, sheep, and goats. The men hunt, herd the animals, and milk the livestock. Both men and women take part in the agricultural work. A community is commonly made of several hamlets with an elected headman. A council of the hamlets made up of the dominant lineage in the area elects the headman.

Historically they were unified under one King or Reth chosen from the sons of previous kings. The king's physical and ritual well being was believed to foretell good or bad fortune for the kingdom.

When the king was well the kingdom prospered. When he was sick, angry or depressed the kingdom would experience a

similar fate. The social status was divided into commoners, royal retainers, and slaves. The royal clan was also traced back from their first king and hero Nyikang.

Read more on : <http://lexicorient.com/e.o/shilluk.htm>