Benin civilization

Timeline

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| The Ogiso period | 40BC  800AD  1100 AD | A group of villages join together to form Igodomigodo.  They are ruled by the Ogiso or the sky kings.  Construction of a defensive moat begins around Igodomigodo.  31 Ogiso kings in total rule.  The last Ogiso King is banished. |
| The Oba era  The golden age | 1100  1200  1200 - 1235  1255 -1280  1280 - 1295  1299 - 1334  1440 – 1473  1472  1504 – 1550  1550 -1578  1553  1578 - 1606 | Commoner administrators rule Igodomigodo  Prince Oranmiyan changes the name of Igodomigodo to Ile Ibinu.  Eweka I begins the Oba era.    Oba Ewedo changes the name of the kingdom from Ile Ibinu to Ubini.  The Portuguese are later to corrupt this name to Bini.  Oba Oguola completes the 1st and the 2nd moat.  He engages in numerous wars.  During the reign of Oba Udagbedo Ubini kingdom has expanded right across the West African coast to Ghana.  Oba Ewuare the Great becomes the first warrior king. He promotes brass casting. He receives the first European visitor.  Ruy De Sequire visits Benin city.  Ivory and wood carving become royal art.  Reign of Oba Esigie-  He could speak, read and write Portuguese fluently.  The kingdom is further expanded across the West African coast.  Christianity is established in Edo Kingdom.  Many churches and the first cathedral are built in Edo kingdom.  Many ambassadors are exchanged with the king of Portugal.  The position of Queen Mother (Iyoba) is created.  Oba Orhogbua is educated in the Portuguese educational system.  The kingdom is expanded westwards and Lagos is founded.  British explorers like Windham start to visit Edo land.  Oba Ehengbuda becomes the first Oba to receive English explorers. He is the 5th and last warrior king of the kingdom. |
| Troubled Times | 1641  1641 – 1661  1700 – 1712  1712 – 1713  1735 - 1750 | No royal successor for the throne,  power struggles and infighting between chiefs begin to weaken the kingdom.  The kingdom’s treasures are wasted and gambled away during Oba Ahenzae’s reign.  Turmoil in the kingdom, the subjects revolt against the reign of king Oba Ewuakpe.  Civil war breaks out in the kingdom.  During Oba Eresoyen’s reign, prosperity returns to Benin once more.  A banking system called Owigho (house of money) is established. |
| New era | Late 1800s  1897  1914  Present day | Events in Europe (scramble for Africa) interfere with Benin progress.  The British sack Benin. They burn down the palace and loot the Benin Bronze plaques.  Oba Ovoranmwen is exiled. He dies in exile in 1914.  British rule is imposed on the kingdom. This ends the kingdom.  Britain restore the Benin throne but without a kingdom to rule.  The Benin Kingdom is amalgamated into Nigeria as part of British interest areas of Southern and Northern Nigeria by Frederick Lugard.  The Nigeria government has jurisdiction over all of Nigeria. |