

Table 1.2
Percent Change in Overall Ethnic Category

	Zanzibar Island		Pemba Island		Protectorate	
	1924–31	1931–48	1924–31	1931–48	1924–31	1931–48
Swahili	-86%	-94%	-99.8%	*	-94%	-94%
Indigenous Africans	+47%	+44%	+6%	+246%	+34%	+96%
Ex-slave	-16%	-36%	-35%	-37%	-23%	-36%
Arabs	***	***	***	***	+77%	+33%
Shirazi	-36%	**	+151%	**	+55%	**
Mainland Africans	+35%	-8%	-11%	-34%	+15%	-17%
Overall Population	***	+8.5%	***	+17%	+8.5%	+12%

* Numbers too small to be of statistical significance.

** Claim of Shirazi ethnicity was disallowed in the 1948 census. All who identified as Shirazi were forced to claim either Hadimu, Tumbatu, or Pemba as their ethnicity.

*** The 1924 census enumerated only African households. Estimates of the “non-Native” population were made only for the Protectorate as a whole.

Based on *Report of the Native Census of Zanzibar, 1924*, BA 34/2; *The Report on the Census Enumeration of the Entire Population, 1931*, BA 34/3; *Notes on the Census of the Zanzibar Protectorate, 1948*, BA 34/4; R. R. Kuczynski, *Demographic Survey of the British Colonial Empire* 2 vols. (London: Oxford Press, 1949), 2:650-85.

ever, varied from town to town, and within each town over time. In the case of the island of Zanzibar (Unguja) in the nineteenth century, what differentiated the Swahili from other indigenous populations, including the Hadimu and Tumbatu, was the fact that the Swahili lived in town and worked largely in the commercial economy, while the Hadimu and Tumbatu lived in the eastern and northern parts of the island, respectively, and concentrated their labor in peasant agriculture. Throughout the East African coast the Swahili have historically been perceived as a very fluid population, both in terms of ancestry and residence. As the preeminent trading population of East Africa, Swahili families often had members living in numerous ports up and down the coast and as far away as Arabia. In addition to having