

his activities on his home country of Gobir in the period, 1794-1804, generated conflict with the ruling elite. It was this conflict that helped to spark the *jihād*, making it possible for the caliphate to start taking shape territorially and politically. The success of the *jihād* in Gobir made it possible for the uprisings in other parts of Hausaland and beyond to take off and succeed. The successes of the *jihādists* all over resulted in the establishment of the biggest federation in the 19th century Africa. So, by the time the Shehu died in 1817, at the age of 63, he along with his very close associates, particularly Abdullahi and Bello provided the administrative, political and intellectual foundations for the vast caliphate, deeply rooted in Islamic principles.

Islamic Revivalist Movements and the Transformation of Islamic Traditions in Northwest, Central and Southwest Nigeria

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There is an immense corpus of literature on the *jihād*ist movements in the areas of north-west and south-west Nigeria, but apparently none is specific on the role of the movements in the transformation of Islam and Islamic traditions in the region. The *jihād*ist movements led to migrations; which itself was a dynamic theme in Nigerian and West African History. Migrations transformed and reformed towns and cities in these areas, trade flourished and proper Islamic practices and traditions came to be established.

Early Revivalist Movements

In the Nupe Kingdom, the early reform movement was led by a man of widely acclaimed repute, regarded as a saint, and a patriot. Sheikh Abd al-Rahman, Muhammad b. Abd al-Rahman, better known as Shehu Abd al-Rahman Chacha (d.1830), was the leader of this earlier reform movement that took place in Nupeland before the *jihād* led by Uthman Dan Fodio, which broke out in Gobir in 1804. This *jihād* led by the Sheikh Abd al-Rahman started in c.1796-7 when the Etsu Mohammad (c.1795-1797) died in a civil war.¹ Captain Hugh Clapperton in 1826, also heard of Abd al-Rahman, "who overran the country and took possession of the capital for six months" and that Abd al-Rahman was much "feared by the Mohammedans (Muslims) and Kaffirs."²

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¹ See Goldsmith's list in, E. G. M. Dupigny, *Gazetteer of Nupe Province, London, 1921, p. 8.*
See also L. Frobenius, *The Voice of Africa: Being an Account of the Travels of the German Inner African Exploration Expedition in the Years 1910-1912, vol. II, Hutchinson Co., 1913, p. 576.*

² H. Clapperton, *Journal of A Second Expedition, Cambridge University Press, 2015, p. 133.*