

last to the capital of the kingdom of Congo two hundred miles from the coast, which was forthwith named the City of the Holy Saviour (São Salvador). Here the king, queen and heir to the throne were baptized with the names of the then king, queen and crown prince of Portugal. For about a century, the Ba-kongo were, superficially, Christians of the Roman Church, though they soon mixed the elements of their own religion with such fragments of Christian dogma as they had been able to assimilate. But in the middle of the sixteenth century the kingdom of Congo was invaded by a devastating horde of Jaga warriors (the Ba-jok, or Va-kiokwe), and although the Portuguese assisted to expel these invaders they became later on suspected of wishing to conquer the country for themselves. Consequently, as in the case of the Japanese, Christianity became a religion too much identified with the pushing European. In the eighteenth century French and Italian priests attempted to reconquer the western Congo for Christianity. But they met with indifferent success, and the unhealthy conditions of life so weakened the mission that it gradually died away, leaving finally little results behind but the adding of the cross and images of the Virgin and Child to the numerous fetiches of Congoland.

Jesuit priests accompanied Portuguese military expeditions to the Zambezi and the south-east of Africa during the sixteenth