

# NZINGHA MBANDE



A historical figure, Nzingha Mbande (1583-1663) was the African Queen of Ndongo, now Angola. She developed the country as a trading power to provide it with longevity.

As monarch of the Mbundu people, she fought against the colonisation of the Portuguese who were raiding the territory for slaves. In 1621, she went to the Portuguese to negotiate a peace treaty. During that meeting, it was recorded that she was only offered a mat to sit on so her maid got on all fours to act as a seat so they could negotiate on equal footing. Though successful, the Portuguese did not honour the terms of the treaty forcing Nzingha, who was newly queen of the Mbundu, into a difficult position.

She spent her life leading her armies against the Portuguese and refused to relinquish control of the nation. Eventually she allied with Portugal, bringing an end to slave raiding in the kingdom. She lived long into her 80s and died on good terms with the Portuguese. To this day her memory and relentless leadership still stand as an inspiration to the oppressed in the struggle for independence.

diplomatic

resilient

African queen

relentless

**NOMINATED BY: REBECA GOMES**

"She is inspiring to me because she was resilient. Because of the freedom she fought for, my mother was born as a free child. She set an example to her country. I am proud to be connected by blood to Angola. I am a child of Africa."