

COLONIALISM AND ITS IMPLICATION FOR AFRICA  
SOCIO-POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

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ADEBIYI BRIGHT ADEMOFE  
MATIC NO: 080105005

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY,  
AKUNGBA-AKOKO ONDO STATE.

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**BY**

**ADEBIYI BRIGHT ADEMOFE**

**MATRIC NO: 080105005**

**BEING A LONG ESSAY SUBMITTED TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY, FACULTY OF ARTS,  
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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF  
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AKUNGBA AKOKO, ONDO STATE.**

**DECEMBER, 2012.**



## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research study was carried out by **Adebiyi Bright Ademofe** of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko, Ondo State, under my supervision.

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Mr. S.L.D. Itanrin

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Date

## DEDICATION

With great gratitude and joy, I dedicate this project work to God Almighty, who by His profound grace and mercy has kept me alive to this very day, I appreciate Him for His divine inspiration which has encouraged and inspired me all through my stay on campus and in the course of writing this project.



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## INTRODUCTION

Colonialism is the extension of nation sovereignty over territory and people outside its own boundaries, often to facilitate economic domination over their resources, labor, and markets. The term (colonialism) also refers to a set of beliefs used to legitimize and promote the system, especially the belief that more of the colonizers are superior to these of the colonized by development.

The colonial period is usually referred to as that period of history from the late 15<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> century when European nations established their own colonies on the other continents. During this period the justification for colonialism include various factors such as the profit they made, the expansion of power of the metropolis and various religious and political beliefs.

Colonialism can be said to be the establishment, maintenance, acquisition and expansion of colonies in one territory, by people from another territory. During the colonial time, African socio-political developments have been affected in which till date still play dominant role in African developmental system. African peoples had face series of injuries during colonialism or colonial era like poverty, hunger, Illiteracy, cultural confusion, mental subservience, technological backwardness, psychological paralysis and a growing sense of hopelessness. The loss of power for the various African states meant a reduction in the freedom of every individual as exemplified in the aim and view of point of the colonized.

Some of the problem associated with colonialism is the problem inherent in our social role, political rôle, cultural degradation, religion, economic life, racial

discrimination; ignorance from our traditional rules which metamorphose to Neo-colonialism which we are experiencing till date.

This research work looks into the problem inherent in colonialism, for example the socio-political development in Africa and see if their can in anyway be a way out of this problem of colonialism which is even parading African countries till date inform of Neo-colonialism.

The central focus of this work is to show that colonialism has done more harm than good to Africa's socio-political development in this regard, African's must see that the Europeans are nothing but a devourer to our values and traditions which we must regain.

In order to achieve the above stated purpose, the method of critical analysis, evaluation and conceptual clarification is employed and the conclusion is drawn as a consequence of the arguments advanced in the research work.



## CHAPTER ONE

### AN OVERVIEW OF COLONIALISM

A civilization which appears to be in capable of resolving the problem which disturbs its functioning is a decadent civilization. A civilization which chooses to close its eyes on its most crucial problem is a stricken civilization. A civilization which plays tricks with its principle is a moribund civilization.<sup>1</sup>

The historical phenomenon of colonization is one that stretches around the globe and across time, including such desperate people as the Hittites, the Incas and the British. European colonialism began in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with the age of discovery led by Portuguese and Spanish exploration of the Americas, the coast of Africa, the Middle East, India and East Asia. During the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, England, France and Holland established their own oversea empires, indirect competition with each other.

The industrialization of the 19<sup>th</sup> century led to what has been termed "the era of new imperialism", when the pace of colonization rapidly accelerated, the height of which was the scramble for Africa in which Belgium was a major participant and Germany a lesser participant. During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the over sear colonies of the losers of the World War I were distributed amongst the victors as mandate, but it was not until the end of world war II that the second phase of decolonization began in earnest. European and western hemisphere has its roots in Portuguese exploration. There were financial and religious motives behind these exploration. In the western hemisphere, the European colonization involved the migration of large numbers of settlers, soldiers, and administrators intent on owning land and exploiting the apparently

primitive indigenous peoples of the Africa race. The result was that the colonization of these colonies was catastrophic, native peoples were no match for the European technology, ruthlessness of their own diseases which decimated the indigenous population. The northern European colonialism was bolstered by those emigration for religious reasons. The motive of emigration was not to become an aristocrat or to spread one's faith, but to start a new society afresh. Structured according to the colonist wishes. The most populous emigration of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was that of the English, who after a series of wars with the Dutch and French came to dominate the eastern coast of the present day Canada and the United States of America.

However, the English, French and Dutch were no more averse to making a profit than the Spanish and Portuguese, and whilst their area of settlement in the Americas proved to be devoid of the precious metals sought by the Spanish, trade in other commodities and products that could be sold at massive profits in Europe, provided another reason for crossing the Atlantic. Due to the massive depletion of indigenous labour, plantation owners had to look elsewhere for manpower for these labour intensive crops. They turned to the centuries old slave trade of West Africa and began transporting Africans across the Atlantic on a massive scale. Historians established that the Atlantic slave trade brought between ten and twelve million Africans mostly of hard black skinned slaves to the new world for hard labour. The Islands of the Caribbean soon came to be populated by slaves of African descent ruled over by a white minority of plantation owners interested in making a fortune and then returning to their

home country to spend it. Africa became the primary target of the new imperialist expansion also known as the scramble for Africa.<sup>2</sup>

### **THE SCRAMBLE FOR AFRICA**

The scramble for Africa is also known as the race for Africa or the partitioning of Africa. This was a process of invasion, occupation, colonization and annexation of African territories by European powers during the new imperialism period between 1881 and World War I in 1914. As a result of heightened tension between European states in the quarter of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the partitioning of Africa may be seen as a way for the European to eliminate the threats of the European wide war over Africa. Attempt to mediate the imperial competition, such as the Berlin conference of 1884 to 1885 failed to establish definitively the competing powers claim.

Technological advancement facilitated overseas expansion. Industrialization brought about rapid advancement in transportation and communication, especially in the form of steam navigation, railway and telegraph. Medical advancement also were important especially medicines for tropical diseases. The development of quinine, an effective treatment for malaria enables vast expanses of the tropics to be accessed by European. Due to the negative and devastating effect of the deadly effects of mosquito bite on the European, Africa was tagged the white man's grave by the Europeans.<sup>3</sup>

The scramble and partition of Africa is yet another incursion of European into the political, economic, and socio cultural development of Africa. It should be clearly noted that the scramble for and eventual partition of Africa never paralyzed the conduct



of legitimate trade, but rather a proliferation strategy. The scramble of Africa was a conscious effort by the industrialized and powerful states of Europe which were in search for more market for their products and likewise involved in competition amongst themselves for more trade centers. Such European powers: Britain, Germany, Portugal, France etc, were interested in possessing political clout in Africa and claim areas for trading purposes.

The scramble for Africa had major effects on the political and socio economic development of Africa. Politically, Africa states were no longer sovereign as several European native institutions were established or used to supplant the existing ones. It led to the painful breakup of the Africa continent and the disintegration of the socio political co-existence. This arbitrary demarcation of territories which divided people of the same tribe and ethnic group led to thorough displacement of cultures and persons.

Economically, the scramble exercise was an open door for the exploitation of African mineral resources and forest products. The local Africa industries like black smithing, wood work, Pottery, soap product could not compete with the European commodities which resulted in the closure of most of the local industries instead of improving and trading in the locally made product.<sup>4</sup>

### **WHAT IS COLONIALISM?**

Colonization was not merely a system of exploitation, but one whose essential purposes was to repatriate the profits of the colonies to the so- called mother country. From the African view point, that amounted to consistent expatriation of surplus

product by African labour out of Africa resources. It meant that the development of Europe as part of the same dialectical process in which Africa was under developed.<sup>5</sup>

Colonialism is the extension of a nation sovereignty over territory and people outside its own boundaries, often to facilitate economic domination over their resources, labor, and market. The term also refers to a set of beliefs used to legitimize or promote this system especially the beliefs that more of the coloniser are superior to those of the colonized by development.

Advocates of colonialism argue that colonial rule benefits the colonized by developing the economic and political infrastructure necessary for modernization.

Also the critics of colonialism such as Frantz Fanon argues:

“ colonialism does political, psychological and moral Damage to the colonized as well.”<sup>6</sup>

Colonialism is a practice of demotion which involves the subjugation of one people to another.<sup>7</sup>

For Osterhammel, the essence of colonialism is the existence of colonies which are by definition governed differently from other territories such protectorates. Jergen osterhammel is a German historian. Osterhammel asks how can colonialism defined independently from colony?, he settles this definition:

“Colonialism is a relationship between an indigenous majority that are forcibly imported and a minority of foreign invaders. The fundamental decision affecting the lives of the colonized people are made and implemented by the colonial rulers in pursuit of interest that are often defined in a distinct metropolis. Rejecting cultural compromise with the colonized are convince of their own superiority and that ordained mandate to rule”.<sup>8</sup>

Colonialism means the development of Europe as part of the same dialectical process in which Africa was underdeveloped.<sup>9</sup>

Colonialism is a political-economic phenomenon whereby various European nations explored, conquered, settled and exploited large areas of the world.<sup>10</sup>

### **TYPES OF COLONIALISM**

Historians often distinguish between two forms of colonialism chiefly based on the number of people from the colonizing country who settle in the colony. There are some types of colonialism:

#### **SETTLER COLONIALISM**

This involved a large number of colonists, typically seeking fertile land to farm.

#### **EXPLOITATIVE COLONIALISM**

This involved fewer colonists, typically interested in extracting resources to export to the Metropole or mother country. This category includes trading posts, but it applies more to the much larger colonies where the colonist would provide much of the administration and own much of the land and other capital, but they rely on indigenous people for labour and survival.<sup>11</sup>



## PLANTATION COLONIALISM

This type of colonialism is normally considered to fit the model of exploitation colonialism, however, in this case, there may be other immigrants to the colony. Slaves are always present to grow the said crop for export.<sup>12</sup>

Some of the main purpose of colonialism are discoveries of abundant natural resources urge to spread religious and overall, their crave for power. These European nations have the covert purpose to exploit the colony natural resources raw materials and exploitation for the slave traders.<sup>13</sup>

According to the definition given by M. Fallot, colonization is the influence of a civilized people on a people of lower civilization, exercised with the aim of steadily transforming the latter by the development of its natural resources and by the improvement of the moral and material condition of the native people. From the definition given by M. Fallot, the European would say, they had come to their different colonies of the world to civilize the native of indigenous people. According to the European, they claimed to bring education, technology, religious which is Christianity and social advancement to the third nations (Africa) of the world.<sup>14</sup>

Exploitation of natural resources was high on the list. It was also a sort feeding frenzy, as nations did not want to be left behind in the acquisition of land and territories. Having colonies was a thing of prestige, demonstrating the power of the colonizing nation. Related to this, was the fear that other countries would gain too much power or wealth so by getting their own colonies a country deprived another of that land. Since the colonies country is politically, economically and educationally weak, the stronger

countries who are the colonized took advantage of these weakness to get raw materials for very cheap prices and these strong countries offers help to the weak ones losing. That is I give you something in order to get something better from you.

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## CHAPTER TWO

### COLONIALISM: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

This chapter discusses the colonial era in Africa their activities and its outcome with particular reference to Nigeria. The year 1900 was the beginning of colonial period in West Africa. It is generally taken to have lasted for about 1885 the year of the British West African conference to about 1951 which saw the beginning of responsible government in some West African states, notably Ghana and Nigeria, it was a period when the colonial powers regarded the West African territories as their "possession" "existing mainly for the economic social and political welfare of the "mother" country. It was therefore a period of economic exploitation and of political and social humiliation for the peoples of West Africa.<sup>1</sup>

Sola Owonibi however argues that Africa is a land that was beautiful at first when he says:

Generous mother of the universe  
Beautiful, simple unexplored  
Until you lost your innocence to  
Rapist across the seas  
An external stigma.<sup>2</sup>

What Owonibi was saying here is that Africa is the heart of the world which is sweet and beautiful for the development of all the state of Africa at this stage was that of exploitation by the westerners who rob Africa their God given blessing and Gift?

## NIGERIA EXPERIENCE DURING COLONIALISM

Portuguese explorers were the first European to begin trade in Nigeria in the port the named Lagos and in Calabar. The European traded with the ethnicities of the coast and also negotiated a trade in slave to the detriment and profit of many Nigerian ethnicities following the Napoleonic wars, the British expanded trade with the Nigeria interior. Consequently many of the citizens of the former slave nations of the British Empire are descended from Nigeria ethnic groups.<sup>3</sup>

In 1885 British claims to a West Africa sphere of influence received international recognition and in the following year the royal Niger Company was chartered under the leadership of Sir George trainman Goldre. In 1900 the company's territory came under the control of the British government which moved to consolidate its hold over the area of modern Nigeria.<sup>4</sup>

In January 1, 1901, Nigeria became a British protectorate part of the British Empire the foremost world power at the time. Many wars against subjugation had been fought by the states of what later became Nigeria against British Empire in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Notably of these were the British conquest of Benin in 1897 and the Anglo- Aro war from 1901-1902. The restraint or complete destruction of these states opened up the Niger to British rule.<sup>5</sup>

The name of the country "Nigeria" was coined in 1900 by flora Shaw former colonial correspondent of the times newspaper, who later became Lugard's wife.<sup>6</sup>

The first step in the British acquisition of Nigeria was the annexation of Lagos in 1861. J.F.A Ajayi submission expresses this. He opines that it mark the first major



step taken by the British government in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to acquire economic and political domination over the people of Nigeria.

In 1914, the area was formally united as a colony and protectorate of Nigeria administratively Nigeria renamed divided into the northern and Southern province and Lagos colony. During this period western education and the development of a modern economy progressed more rapidly in the south than in the north with consequence felt in Nigeria's political life ever since following the world war II it in response to the growth of Nigeria nationalism and demand for independence successive constitution legislated by the British government on a moved Nigeria towards self- government on a representative and in increasingly federal basis.<sup>8</sup>

The period of 1919-1935 was the colonial last territorial drive on Africa by 1935, all the area that were still holding out against the imperialist and clinging to their sovereignty were all brought under effective occupation and put under the colonial system this means that more African were feeling the pinch of colonialism by the 1920s than were by the 1910s.<sup>9</sup>

One would therefore expect corresponding changes in the scale of anti-colonialist or nationalist activities more over the new administrative measures and ordinances that were introduced during this period to underpin the colonial system. The "indirect rule" which gave more and more powers to the traditional rulers and the newly created chiefs to the exclusion of the educated elites. Frustration and disappointment therefore grew among the educated elite and since their number

increased during the period, ought right was not intensified and anti colonial but also anti tradition on all ruler.

At this particular time, the history and cultural and political standard of Africa was tempered with by the intruding westerners who found their way into Africa, subjected and subjugated them irrespective of the facts that they are native and original owners of the land. The real cause of the venture of the west into Africa was simply for economic reason and exploit.

However, it did upset the cultural milieu of Africa. The first colonial contact began when the sea routes between Europe and Africa and were immediately followed by the Spaniards, the Dutch, the French and the English. The Portuguese accorded the search for the gold in Africa, the highest priority partly on the basis of the medical legend that there was lot of gold in Africa and this made European envoys to acquire the gold because there was a pressing need for gold coins in their growing economy.<sup>10</sup>

Apart from gold, the Europeans were also interested in the conversion of Africans to Christianity. However, their effort to convert indigenous people failed as most African people held on to their traditional faith and social systems associated with them. This was partly due to the high mortality rate among the missionary and mainly because of their mission was by and large that of commence.<sup>11</sup>

Europeans at that time had problems on their large sugar and cotton plantation because of shortage of workers and Laborers. The need for laborers to do the hard agricultural work led to the exportation of captive from Africa who was used as slave in European countries. This slave trade made Africa valuable to the European powers. The

African continent and its people progress became drawn into the European slave trade and it's marked the beginning of western influence on Africa. The coming of the Europeans produced drastic and profound changes that are most irreversible giving us external stigma. The nature and character of Africa (Nigeria) at any given time were dictated by the westerners.

### **EXPERIENCES OF SLAVE TRADE IN NIGERIA.**

Due to the experience of Portuguese traders in Igbo land in 15<sup>th</sup> century, the British became interested in their significant resources and began to settle in Ibo land during the early sixteenth century. As the historian will write

“From them until 1960  
The British slowly imposed their government  
And the Christian religion on the Igbo's changing  
their way of life forever.”<sup>12</sup>

During the late part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century most of African continent came under the formal political control of European powers. In Nigeria things were not different and by 1905 the British had established rulers over all present day Nigeria. The slave trade made Nigeria violent and insecure lands for its inhabitants. Many were out rightly terrified over the prospects of being rounded up in slave raids. As such Nigeria during the colonial era witnessed political, cultural and economical changes during the colonial period.<sup>13</sup>

Chinua Achebe's book things fall apart centered on the phenomenon of colonialism. Achebe's used the death of Okonkwo and the activities that surrounded his



death to picture the reality of colonialism in Nigeria (Africa) and by that reveals the negative impact of colonialism on his culture.<sup>14</sup>

### **EFFECT OF THE SLAVE TRADE**

During the period of the obnoxious trade in human being African experienced a grievous and diversating moment which has a huge adverse effect on them. The number of African taken into slavery through the Trans-Atlantic slave trade along runs into millions, though there were varying estimates, the effect on Africa societies also varied depending very much on how slaves were kidnapped. The slave trade sowed a fear atmosphere of insecurity, bloodshed and discouraged the conditions which could foster peace in Africa.<sup>15</sup>

The effect of slavery on African societies was not limited to visible factors .It also has some invisible consequence such as political, psychology and social effect. The million of people carted away led to a drastic reduction in the productive in the productive capacity, especially when those sought after were those at the prime of their lives. Wars aimed at gathering slaves and other raids led to a serious rupture of economic and social life.<sup>16</sup>

In Nigeria (Africa) firearms that were received in exchange for slaves were seen as instrument for acquiring more captives. In all the legacy of the slave's trade was that of fear, social insecurity, violence and political instability. During this period powerful men became rich through the business and whose economic life depended entirely on

the trade vested interest was also generated in the continuity of the transaction. The truth is that slave trade brought stagnation to the Africa continent.

The labour exported deprived Africa of the prime of her youth. What Africa received in exchange were useless, quickly consumable, perishable goods and destructive wares like firearms that by their nature contribute nothing to the production process. Imperialism, despite some advantages which some have credited to it was the touch stone of many of the predicaments under which many parts of Africa groan today.

This is what Sola Owonibi says when he opines that:

“But the prodigal chiefs  
Turned their joy to sadness  
They now dance to the sardonic tunes of hissing,  
sighing, groaning, grunts and yawning”.....<sup>17</sup>

This was the out come and the gain of slave trade on Africa as Africans chiefs are one of the problems of their people.

### **COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA**

Nigeria was among the four territories in West Africa which British colonized during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The territories were Nigeria gold coast (Ghana) Sierra Leone and Gambia. Nigeria as a case study gained her independence in 1960.<sup>18</sup> T

The basic principle of British colonial administration is indirect rule. Indirect rule is a system of administration whereby the colonial administration adopted and utilized his traditional-political institutions of the people to govern in accordance with

their traditional norms and practices which did not conflict with British law but under the guidance and control of British government officials.<sup>19</sup>

Indirect rule was first introduced in Nigeria by Fredrick Lord Lugard. It was first experimented in northern Nigeria between 1900 and 1906 when Lord Lugard was the High Commissioner for northern protectorate. The emirs of the North, The Obas of the West and the Warrant Chiefs of the East were the main actors in the indirect rule system, in most; places the Emir, the Oba and the Warrant Chief each exercise all the powers of the native authority of his area. The British officials, resident and district officers provided supervision, guidance, and control to the native authority.

Colonial rule has adverse effect on Nigeria; some of these effects can be outlined as follows:

- a. The colonial masters imposed their cultures on people of Nigeria (Africa) and forced them to imbibe the alien cultures. This is assume to be the basis for cultural imperialism.
- b. They introduced European language (English), European Religion, Names, Education, Dresses, European Music, and Sports which replaced African ideology.
- c. The colonial master gained the ground to controls the economic of their former territories in Africa, in which as a result of their administration in Nigeria they carried the wealth of Africa to their home countries and thus improvised African countries. They dictated what were produced and exported in these countries where the goods are exported to and how much they were sold and were bought.



Consequently, they grossly exploited African nations which today are economically dependent.

Finally, to describe the activities of the colonial masters during the colonial era, Kwameh Nkrumah thus sees colonialism as the policy where by the imperialism power binds its colonies to the "mother country" by political ties so as to undertake effectively the prime task of imperial expansion, economic and political exploitation.<sup>20</sup>

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### CHAPTER THREE

#### THE NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE EFFECT OF COLONIALISM

It has been shown that using comparative standards, Africa and some third world nations today are underdeveloped in relation to western European and a few other parts of the world. The present position had been arrived at not by the separate evolution of Africa on one hand and Europe on the other but by exploitation. As it is well known, Africa had a prolonged and extensive contact with Europe and one has to bear in mind that contact between different societies changes their respective rate of development.<sup>1</sup>

The African continent reveals very fully the working of the law of uneven development of societies. There were indeed striking contrast within any geographical area, the moment that the topic of the Pre-European African past is raised, many individuals are concerned with various reasons to know about the existence of African civilizations. Mainly, this stems from a desire to make comparisons with European civilization of Europe. It is enough to note the behavior of Europeans capitalist from the epoch of slavery through colonialism, fascism and genocidal wars in Asia and Africa, such barbarism causes suspicion to attach to the use of the "word civilization" to describe Western Europe. As far as Africa is concerned during the period of early development it is preferable to speak in terms of cultures, rather than civilization.<sup>2</sup>

Due to the impact of colonialism and cultural imperialism, Europe and the third world themselves in the colonial period, lacked due regard for the unique features of the cultures of the colonized. Those features have a value of their own that cannot be eclipsed by European culture either in their comparable period before 1500 or in the

subsequent centuries. They cannot eclipse because they are not really comparable phenomenon. Furthermore, even in these spheres of cultures that are more readily comparable, such as the Art of Egypt, the Sudan and the Ethiopia were known to the rest of the world at an early date.<sup>3</sup>

### SITUATION OF THE COLONIZED

Just as the colonized cannot escape the colonialist's hoax, they could not avoid those situations which create real inadequacies. To a certain extent the true portrait of the colonized is a function of this relationship. It can be stated that colonized is a function just as we have seen that it creates the colonizer. The most serious blow suffered by the colonized is being removed from history and from the community. Colonization usurps any free role in either wars or peace, every decision contributing to its destiny and that of the world, and all cultural and social responsibilities.<sup>4</sup>

The colonized neither feels guilty, responsible nor skeptical, for he is out of the games. He is no way a subject of history any more. He carries its burden often more cruelly than other but always as an object. No matter how brief colonization may have lasted, all memory of freedom seems distant. The facts is that the colonized dies not govern, being kept away from power, he ends up losing both interest and feeling for control. How could he be interested in something from which he is so resolutely excluded?

A colonized society is a disease society, in which internal dynamics no longer succeeds in creating new structures. Its century hardened face has become nothing more



than a mask under which it slowly, smoothly and dies. Such a society cannot dissolve and resolve the conflict of generations, for it is usable to be transformed. Since a colonized society does not possess national structures and cannot conceive of a historical future for itself, it must be contented with the positive sluggishness of its present state. It must withdraw even that present state. It withdraws even that present from the conquering invasion of colonization which, gives it prestige.<sup>5</sup>

### **COLONIALISM AND MAN'S ALIENATION**

Colonialism alienates the colonized which will eventually lead to racial discrimination. Racial discrimination which is mediated by society determines the individual and social conduct of the colonized person both in his living together with the other colonized and in his relation with the colonizer. The reason for this can be found in the factual bi-partition of the colonial world characterized by domination and exploitation on the one hand and in the imposition of a foreign culture and civilization which is always a concomitant of oppression on the other. The culture conflict to which the individual is exposed by growing up in a family of the traditional type which conveys to him, his own culture and religion, while at the same time, being constantly confronted with the imported culture and its values lead to uncertainty and anxiety in his behavior. The colonized adapts to a large extent, the foreign norms suggested to him by the school, the press, the radio, books, films, and in the country side by the help of Christian missions. This means at the same time that the racial stereotype of the victim himself. Indications of alienated behaviors on the part of the colonized can be



discerned first of all in his attitude towards the institutions and norms of his own traditional society and those of the colonized mostly industrialization in society.<sup>6</sup>

### THE ATTITUDE OF THE COLONIZED TOWARDS CULTURAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Traditional social institutions such as local assemblies or tribunals were reduced to utter ineffectiveness by colonialism. The history of the colonized country is in serious danger of sinking into oblivion as the information media keep dinning into everybody's era that history happens only in Europe. The history which the colonizer writes is not the history of the country which he plunders but the history of his own nation in regards to all that the colonizer skins off all that the colonizer violates and starve. Traditionally, rite and customs have long lost their living content. Their contact with colonialism has deprived Africa their original functions and often changed them to mere escape mechanisms. In order to flee from the pressure of colonial reality, the natives take refuge in weird myths, spirit possession and ecstasies dance.<sup>7</sup>

At the beginning of the colonial period, science and technology as applied to production already had a firm base in Europe. It would be simple minded to say that colonialism in Africa caused Europe to developed, it would be entirely accurate to say that, the colonization of African and other parts of the world formed an indispensable link in the chain of events, which made possible the technological transformation of the base of European capitalism profit from colonialism mingled with profit every other source, to finance scientific research.<sup>8</sup>

## **BENEFITS OF COLONIALISM TO THE COLONIZED SOCIO- ECONOMIC SERVICES**

This argument suggests that, on one hand there was exploitation and oppression but on the other, colonial government did much for the benefits of their colonies. It is our contention that, this is completely false. Colonialism had only one hand, it was called "a one-armed bandit" "what did colonial government do in the interest of its colonies? Supposedly, they built rail roads, schools, hospital, provision of basic infrastructures and the likes, the sum total of these services were amazingly small. For the first three decades of colonialism, hardly anything was done that could remotely be termed a service to the African. It was in fact, only after the last world war that social services were built, as a matter of policy. The limited social services within the colonies during the colonial times were distributed in a manner that reflected the pattern of domination and exploitation. In pre-dominantly black countries, it was also true that the bulk of the social services went to the whites.

## **AGRICULTURE**

To a certain extent, it would have been in the interest of the colonial power to have had better agricultural techniques in Africa, leading to the increased quality volume and quantity of production. All colonial regimes sponsored some scientific research into tropical agriculture. The most decisive failure of colonialism in the colonies was its failure to change the technology of agricultural production. The most convincing evidence as to the superficiality of the talk about colonialism having

modernized Africa is the facts that the vast majority of Africans went into colonialism with hoes and came out with hoes, no improvement.

## NATIONALISM

Another supposed credit of the colonist is that they developed nationalism in their colonies. This is a superficial and mischievous claim which entirely ignores the numerous colonies on the eve of colonization, and the direction of their evolution. Nationalism is a certain form of unity which grows out of historical experience. For example it is true that the present African nationalism took the particular form of adopting the boundaries carved by the imperialist. That was an inevitable consequence of the facts that the struggle to regain African independence was conditioned by the administrative frame work of the given colonies. But it would showcase ignorance of the African past to say that colonialism modernized Africa politically, through nation states especially when the implication is that such a level of political organization would otherwise have been impossible. One colonialist proposition that are at least an air of plausibility is that capitalism and colonial rule meant greater individual freedom for many Africans. Colonialism is the negative of freedom, from the viewpoint of the colonized. Even in qualitative terms it could not possibly bring modern political liberation to African.<sup>9</sup>



## POWER

The decisiveness of the short period of colonialism and its negative consequences for the colonized sprung mainly from the fact that, the colonized lost power is one of the ultimate determined human societies. It implies the ability to defend one's own interest and if necessary to impose ones will by any means necessary and available. Africa was more affected by colonialism negatively, among the other continent that was colonized by European. The negative impact of colonialism in political terms was quite drastic. Overnight, African political states lost their power, independence, sovereignty and meaning to the Europeans. Political power had passed into the hands of foreign overloads. Of course colonial rule was different so long as it lasted, not a single African state could flourish. Sometimes, the African rulers who were chosen to serve agents of foreign colonial rule were quite obviously nothing but puppets. One can go as far as to say that colonialism meant the effective eradication of African political power throughout the continent.<sup>10</sup>

## GENDER

What happened to African women under colonialism was that the social, the religion, constitutional, political privileges, and right disappeared while the economic exploitation continued and was often intensified. Be it at the local or global levels, women have been affected in various ways by charging cultures, whether traditional or modern. During colonialism women have always been discriminate against, often justified by cultural practices and established traditions during the colonial era.<sup>11</sup>

## ETHNICITY

Another important manifestation of historical arrest and stagnation in colonial Africa is that which commonly goes under the title of "ethnicity". Africans have a basic loyalty to tribe, rather than nation, and each ethnic still retains a fundamental hostility towards its neighboring tribes. For examples in Nigeria, the Northern parts of Nigeria are bitter rivals of eastern parts. The British caused this problem of ethnicity in Nigerians by amalgamating the Southern and Northern Protectorate without knowing whether they can co exist together. Indeed, the colonial powers sometimes saw the value of stimulating the internal ethnic hatred so as to keep the colonized from dealing with their principal contradiction with the Europeans overloads. Colonized Africans were pushed around in position which suited the Europeans interest and which is damaging to the African continents and its people.<sup>12</sup>

## TRADE

Pre- colonial trade had started the trend of the disintegration of African economics and their technological improvishment. Colonial rule speeded up the trend. The story is often told that, in order to take a telephone call from Accra, in the British colonial of the Golden Coast(Ghana) to Abidjan in the adjacent French colony of Ivory Coast, it was necessary to be connected first with an operator in London and then, with an operator in Paris who could offer a line to Abidjan. That was one reflection of the facts that the Gold Coast economy was integrated into the British economy and the

Ivory Coast economy was integrated into the French economy, while the neighboring African colonies had little or no effect economic relation.

Trade and transportation go parri-passu implying that both work hand in hand. The most outstanding feature of the transportation system of African which can create trade links in the comparative isolation in which they have developed within the confines of individual countries and territories. This is reflected in the lack of links between countries and territories within the same sub geographical region. Some African trade did persist across colonial boundaries. However, the sum total of energy that went into expansion of inter Africa was extremely small in comparison of inter Africa was export oriented. Since this inter Africa trade did not bring benefits to the European, it was not encourage by them and up to the later part of the colonial period only (10%) ten percent of Africans trade was internal. The colonizers denied Africa the opportunity of developing healthy trade links with parts of the world, other than Europe and not America. That kind of lopsidedness is today par of the pattern of under development and dependence.<sup>13</sup>

## TECHNOLOGY

The damaging impact of colonialism on Africa technology is even more clearly measurable in the colonial period than in the earlier centuries. In spite of the slave trade and the importation of foreign goods most African handicraft industries still had vitality at the beginning of the colonial period. They had undergone no technological advancement and they had not expanded but they had survived in North Africa,



handicraft industries had made the greatest advance in technology before colonialism in spheres ranging from brass work to wollens. But French colonialism destroyed the handicraft industries and threw thousand out of works. In Africa, it was simply destruction without redress. By the time political independence was achieved, surviving craftsmanship had been turned in to attracting tourists rather than meeting the real needs of the African people. Colonialism induced the African iron workers to abandon the process of extracting the iron from the soil and concentrate instead of working scraps of metals imported from Europe. The compensation for this interruption would have been the provision of modern techniques in the extracting and processing of iron. However, those techniques were debarred from Africa. As it has been noted earlier, the none-industrialization of Africa was left to change, it was deliberately enforced by stopping transference of machinery and skills to Africa. This would have given completion to the European industry in the epoch.<sup>14</sup>

## EDUCATION

A further revelation of growth without development is education. Education is crucial in any type of society; under certain circumstance education also promotes social changes. Indeed, the most crucial aspect of pre colonial education was its relevance to African, in sharp contrast with what was later introduced. The colonizers did not introduced education into Africa instead they in traduced a new set of formal educational institutions, which partly supplemented and partially replaced those which were there before. The main purpose of the colonial school system was to train Africans

to help man and local administration at the lowest level and to private capitalist firms owned by Europeans in effect that meant selecting a few Africans to participate in the dominations and exploitation of the continents as a whole. It was not an educational system that was designed to promote the most rational use of material and social resources was not an educational system designed to give young people confidence and pride as members of African societies but one which sought to instill a sense of different towards all that was European and capitalist.

The colonial schooling was education for subordination, exploitation, the creation of mental confusion and the development of under development. Africans were been educated inside colonial schools to become junior clerks and messengers; African, countries without a big white settler's population also had racist educational structures with regards to opportunities at all levels. Those who have access to education were forced with certain qualitative problems. Those qualities were poor by prevailing European standards. There were numerous absurdities in the transplantation of a version of European education in Africa.<sup>15</sup>

A progressive suggestion made by some colonial educationalist, was for more agricultural and technological schooling. But genuine technical education was ruled out because the fundamental purpose of the colonial economy did not permit the development of industries and skills within Africa.

Under African conditions, anyone who went to school in the colonial period virtually entered the elites because the numbers of African enjoying that privilege even at the primary level were so small. Most of what emerged from the colonial system was



not unique. Educational system are designed to function as proposition to a given society and the educated in the young age group automatically carried over their values when their turn comes to make decisions in the society. The colonialist meanwhile, took actions wherever possible to ensure that people who are most favorable to their positions, continued to man African administrations and assume new political and state powers. Such presentation of events would be termed one-sided act is deliberate. It is a presentation of what the colonial educational system achieved, in terms of what it set itself to achieve. The other side of the matter is not the good with which colonial educators can be credited, but rather the good that emerged in spite of the efforts and intentions of the colonizers and because of the struggles of African people.<sup>16</sup>



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## CHAPTER FOUR

### A CRITIQUE OF COLONIALISM

The only positive development in colonialism was when it ended. Colonialism fettered the development of the enlarged peoples. To facilitate colonial exploitation, the colonist deliberately hampered the economic, and cultural and political progress in his colonies, preserved and obsolete forms of social relations and formatted discord between nationalities and tribes. Among the different segments of the African population within the so-called modern sector produced by capitalist activity, the cash crop paesently was the largest. African cash crop farmer had profound grievance against the colonialist centering on the low price for African products and sometimes on land alienation.<sup>1</sup>

The smallest of social grasping was that of the educated elite. As noted in the previous chapters, the number of African receiving education in the colonial period was so small that anyone who went to school was privileged and belongs to an elite. The elites or intelligentsians were students, clerks and teachers. The group of the educated also overlapped with that of organized labour leadership, with the traditional African ruling stratum, with ex-serviceman, police, with traders and independent craft man.

Altogether, the educated played a role in African independence struggles far out of proportion to their numbers, because they took it upon themselves and were called upon to articulate the interests of all African. The contradiction between the educated African and the colonist was not the most profound. Above all, education for continued enslavement never quite fulfilled its purpose, and instead, different levels of



contradiction arose, leading to independence and in some cases heralding a new socialist epoch by the end of colonialism. If there is anything glorious about the history of African colonial education, it lies not in the crumbs which were dropped by European exploiters, but in the tremendous vigor displayed by Africans in mastering the principles of the system that had mastered them. It became a question of African clamoring and pushing the colonialist much further than they intend to go. When Africans took great pains to enter the cash crop economy that generally suited the European capitalist ends. But, African initiatives in the sphere of education were producing results which are antagonistic to at least some of the purpose of colonial exploitation. Therefore, it was not all surprising that in 1824, the times educational supplement, commented that in there was a universal demand for better and more education in the Gold cost. It was Gold Coast that produced J.E.K Aggrey, that distinguished African educator and nationalist, who fired the imagination of Africans well beyond the Gold Coast, in so far as formal education is concerned.<sup>2</sup>

In the record of colonialism, it is not uncommon to encounter the following types of remarks; "What need is there to educate the natives? You will give them the weapon to destroy you". In one sense, those European were simply dreamers, because giving education to Africans was not an option which could have been avoided, it was an objectives necessity to keep colonialism functioning.

By 1885, when Africa was politically and juridical partitioned, the peoples and politics had really last a great deal of freedom. In its relation with the external world. African has last a considerable amount of control over its own economy, ever since the



15<sup>th</sup> century. However, at the loss of political sovereignty at the time of scramble was decisive. By same reasoning it is clear that that the regaining of political sovereignty by the 1960s constitutes an inescapable first step in regaining maximum freedom to choose and to develop in all spheres. But the road to independence is a violent and challenging one.<sup>3</sup>

Through the act of violence, the colonized is capable of freeing himself from its former status and becoming once more a human being.

Decolonization is always a violent phenomenon, it is a veritable creation of a new man that had been colonized and became man during the same process by which he frees himself. The colonial is a bipartite world, in which the colonizer and the colonized face each other without any chance of reconciliation. There is no possibility of a compromise. The colonized knows that his desperate situation allows only one solution, which is taking the colonizers place by violent means. Where ever the colonized come into contact with the world of his master the latter demonstrate his strength and superiority to him. However, the spontaneous outburst of violence occurs, and it is often touched-off by some minor provocation. By killing the oppressors, by chasing him away through violence, the colonized cure himself of colonial neurosis and he achieves freedom which seems to have last in apathy.<sup>4</sup>

After the violent revolution toward emancipation, independent is feasible. Although, the road to independence is not so smooth, for it is greeted with so many loss, but the end justify the means, African independence ushered in a threshold of a new era. Withdrawal of the directly controlled military and judicial apparatus of the regard to

political organization, social structure, economic development etc. Furthermore, the period of nationalist revolution gave rise to certain minority ideological trends, which represent the root of future African development.<sup>5</sup>

### THE TASK OF THE THIRD WORLD

Is there short cut to development for the underdeveloped countries? This question has occupied the attention of many interested parties during the last decade. The underdeveloped countries continue to remain underdeveloped, getting worse in relation to the developed countries. This is the question of which all the developing countries, especially those in African, must address themselves, and the sooner the better, because there is little time left before our economics became permanently distorted and probably too damaged for any meaningful reconstruction in future.<sup>6</sup>

Are we not underdeveloped not because of we have been colonized in the past?. There is no further explanation to the fact that practically, the whole of the underdeveloped world had been colonized either directly or indirectly by the western powers. What is colonization, if not a system of foreign investment by the metropolitan powers, if colonialism had contributed to our underdevelopment in the past, is it not likely to contribute to our underdevelopment now, even if the political reins are in our hands?

Almost without exception, all the ex-colonial countries have ignored the cardinal development demand; namely that, to be really effective, the development process must begin by transforming the economy from its colonial externally responsive



structures, to one which is internally responsive. Where we went wrong was when we followed blindly the assumptions handed down to us by our exploiters. The greatest need appears to be a process of mental decolonization. Experiences of other countries that have chosen a different path, a path of economic and political reconstruction, it must interactive here. Take North Korea for example which was underdeveloped as late as the fifties. The reason why it has been able to register most understanding process is that, it has decided to opt out of production for the so-called world market and diverted its resources towards the development and technological base internally.<sup>7</sup>

Then, it would be as well for Africans to decide at once to change our ways. We must shake off the heavy darkness in which we were plunged, and leave it behind. The new day which is already at hand must find us firm, prudent and resolute. We must leave our dreams and abandon our old beliefs and friendships of the time before life began, let us waste no time in sterile litanies and nauseating mimiary. Let us decide not to imitate Europe, let us combine our muscle and our brains in a new direction, try to create the whole man (African) whom Europe has been incapable of bringing to triumphant birth.<sup>8</sup>

Today, we are present at the stasis of Europe. Africa let us flee from this motionless movement where gradually dialectics is changing in to the logic of equilibrium. Let us reconsider the question of cerebral reality and of the cerebral mass of all humanity, whose connections must be increased, whose channel must be diversified and whose messages must be re-humanized. It is a question of the third world starting a new history of man, a history which will have regard to the sometimes



prodigious, these which Europe has put forward, but wish will also not forget Europe's crimes, of which the most horrible was committed in the heart of man (African), and consist of the pathological tearing apart of his functions and the crumbling away of African unity.

To make humanity to advance a step further, and bring it up to a different level than that which Europe has shown us, then we must invent and make discoveries. To live up to our peoples' expectations, we must seek the response elsewhere than in Europe, for Europe, for Africa ourselves and for humanity, Africans must turn on a new leaf, must work out new concepts and try to set a foot a new man (African).<sup>9</sup>

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## CONCLUSION

From the light of the above discussion in the previous chapters, we can ask the question, are there short cut to political development for the underdeveloped politics?. The reason for this question is that there has been many conferences held so as to reduce the underdevelopment in the underdeveloped countries (Africa), but the end results had been negative.

In order not to be too hasty and sentimental, neither will it lead to the fallacy of hasty generalization to conclude that the colonial masters of then are now the today imperialist as we have it, it has eaten deep into every aspect of the African life and has reinforced dependence and dominance which inculcates into an inferiority complex, weaken the will of the African people to take personal decision as regards their socio political disposition.

From our argument so far, can we conclude that nothing good can come out of colonialism?. I think that; can find some good benefits of colonialism, in the sense that the colonizers introduced modern and improved education to the colonized. They improve the crude science and technology of the colonized. The colonizers improved the basic infrastructure of the colonized. Without colonizing their might not be good roads, airport, hospitals and an improved education system.

However, to an extent, the colonizer can be held responsible for the instability and underdevelopment in social political and economic in Africa. But I think that the leaders of the under developing countries also contributed to the underdevelopment in their countries like Nigeria, by timely accepting the demands of the colonizers. Most



leaders of the third world especially Nigeria leaders have no sense of urgency in solving the problems of the people, since the leaders don't hear the brunt of the people misery. It becomes absolutely clear that, the way out of our current predicament is through a revolutionary path, a complete separation from the system which is responsible for our past and present. Since Africa is the sphere of interest of the Africans, we must not remain passive in the cause of saving ourselves and Africans actions must be related to our concrete experience.

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