

People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University Abd El Hamid Ibn Badis
Faculty of Foreign Languages
Department of English



Master's Degree in
Literature and Interdisciplinary Approaches

Impacts of the British Rule in Nigeria

Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment for the Degree of

Submitted By
Mrs EL YEBDRI Nassima

Board of Examiners:

Chairperson: Mrs. OULD SI BOUZIANE Sabrine
Supervisor: Dr. REZGA Zahraa
Examiner: Mr. TEGUIA Cherif

Academic Year
2019-2020

Dedication

First I want to express my gratitude to my husband and children who encouraged me to return to my studies and helped me by providing me with much moral and spiritual support.

To Ilhem EL OUCHDI MIRALI who encouraged me to finish this study.

To my sisters and brother

To my dear nieces

To all my friends who encouraged me

Acknowledgements

Firstly, I thank Almighty Allah for giving me the power and patience to finish my studies.

I would like to express my special and deep expressions of gratitude to all my teachers.

I am extremely grateful to my supervisor “Miss REZGA” who gave me the opportunity to do this wonderful project and helped me with her patience and encouragements.

I also express deep gratitude to the board of examiners for their work and evaluation



Table of Contents

Dedication.....	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Table of contents.....	III
List of abbreviation.....	V
Abstract.....	VI
General introduction.....	2
CHAPTER One: The British Colonization of Niger	
Introduction.....	5
1- The European Scramble for Africa.....	5
2- Berlin Conference & the Partition of Africa.....	6
3- The Reason of Colonization.....	7
The Industrial Revolution.....	8
Humanitarianism and Civilizing Mission.....	9
Military and Social Reasons.....	9
Social Darwinism.....	10
3-4 Western Technology.....	10
4- British Rule in Nigeria.....	10
The Colonial Regime.....	11
The Nigerian Resistance.....	11
Conclusion.....	12
CHAPTER Two: The Socio-Political Impacts of British Rule in Nigeria	
Introduction.....	14
1- The Political Influence.....	14
Indirect Rule.....	14
Self Rule.....	16
New Political Structures.....	17
The Divide and Rule Policy.....	17
2- The Social Outcomes.....	18
Ethnic Division.....	18
Urbanization.....	18
Poverty.....	19



Social Classes	20
Instability	21
Conclusion	21
CHAPTER Three: The economic impacts	
Introduction	23
1- The Nigerian Economy	23
2- The British Economic Policies.....	23
The Development Orientation.....	25
Structure and Character of Production.....	26
3- Post-Independence Economic Challenges in Nigeria.....	26
Conclusion.....	27
General Conclusion.....	29
Works Cited	30

List of Abbreviations

DPAS: Direct Productive Activities

GDP: The Gross National Product

IDA: The International Development Association



Abstract

The work is around the socio-political and economic impacts of the British colonization in Nigeria. This foreign rule aimed for the underdevelopment of Nigeria and other African colonies. Socially speaking, the British made great efforts for the disarticulation of the Nigerian society by creating ethnicity among the Nigerians as well as the social classes, which blocks the government's programs of development in today's Nigeria. Economically speaking, Nigeria was rich and Britain wanted to extract all its raw materials and use them for its manufactured goods. The long years of colonial exploitation made the Nigerians major consumers of British products. The aim of this research is to shed light on the British strategies to control Nigeria especially from the socio-political and economic sides. It is also a work conducted to understand that the crisis that Nigeria lives today is attributed to the impact of colonialism. Nigeria is still suffering, from the aftermath of British imperialism, and its obstacles of development have a historical background linked to the colonial times.

Keywords

Nigeria, British rule, Socio-economic impacts, Political strategies, underdevelopment.



General Introduction

In the history of Africa as a continent, two important points were very significant: the Scramble for and the partition of Africa. Many factors facilitated the process. The most important motive was the emergence of Industrial Revolution.

Britain in the eighteenth century was the most powerful country in the world. But, at the same time, Africa was considered as the source of raw materials and as a market for the European industrial products.

That is why Britain was thinking about establishing colonies there. Britain reached its aim and became the most important and one of the major colonial powers in Africa. Nigeria was one of the African counties colonized by the British Empire (1880-1960). To understand what had happened in Nigeria, one has to analyze the British impact on the Nigerians.

In this research, our goal is to study and analyze the British rule and its socio-political and economic impacts on Nigeria. The problematic revolves around:
How Britain managed in the process of colonizing Nigeria and what the socio-political and economic impacts of the British rule on the development of Nigeria were.

So, we have to deal with two sub-questions:

- What were the main factors that pushed Britain to choose Nigeria?

To answer these questions, we have to highlight:

- The factors which facilitated the colonization of Nigeria and especially the Industrial Revolution.
- The negative side of the British colonization.

This research is divided into three chapters. The first one deals with the British colonization beginning by the scramble for Africa. So, Africa before the European domination is described, the Berlin Conference and the partition of Africa have to be cited together with the most important characters and motives which made Nigeria an important country targeted by Britain's Conquest.

In the second chapter, we have to deal with the socio-political influence of the British colonization which led to social changes such as urbanization, the rise of different social classes, the emergence of ethnic divisions and poverty.

The third chapter is about the Nigerian economic scene under the British rule during the colonial period. We have to explain the British colonial policies and finally the main challenges that the Nigerians faced in the post-independence period.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction

To understand what happened in Nigeria, we must go to the beginning to know what the reasons which conducted to the British colonization in this part of Africa were.

So, we need to have an idea about the scramble for Africa, the Berlin Conference and the partition of Africa.

1- The European Scramble for Africa

In the 1800's Britain was the most powerful country in the world and Africa was considered as the source of all raw materials for the Europeans. That's why Britain thought about having colonies in Africa, but it was not that easy because other Europeans had had the same goal (such as Spanish, Portuguese, French and Dutch) The British like other new comers to the slave trade, competed with the Dutch by establishing national trading companies. Britain was interested in opening markets for its manufactured goods and became the dominant commercial power in west Africa.¹

Nigeria before the coming of the British Colonialists consisted of many towns, villages, chiefdoms, kingdoms, ethnic groups and city states. Each of these units was living peacefully. Each of them maintained their autonomy and abided by their traditions and values. They also maintained good inter group relations: Exchange of trade, inter marriages and cultural affiliations, especially during festivals. Sometimes, they found themselves disagreeing on some issues which usually led to conflict, conflict management and conflict resolution²

Africa is a huge continent with varieties of life styles, but most of its population was attached to the traditional beliefs. In spite of that, Africans converted to Islam or Christianity.

During the 1800s some preachers worked hard to spread Islam across West Africa. This began among the Fulani people in northern Nigeria under the efforts of the preacher Osman Don Fordio who was against the corrupt practices of the local Hansa rulers. Later, this scholar set up a powerful Islamic state in northern Nigeria.

¹ Imperialism in Africa from: [http://www.ocs.enyric.org/webpages/phyland/files/imperialism in Africa.](http://www.ocs.enyric.org/webpages/phyland/files/imperialism%20in%20Africa.pdf)

²Ezeogidi, Cynado, British Conquest, Colonization and Administration in Nigeria (March 28, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3563173> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3563173>
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3563173

He asked for social and religious reforms based on Islamic law in order to revolt against the European rulers. So, literacy increased, local wars stopped, and trade improved under his rule.

To the south of Africa, and under the rule of the harsh and strict leader Shaka, Zulus emerged as major force. He asked to unify their forces to establish a powerful army in the Zulu kingdom; however that led to the chaos across the region. After, they were confronted to the arrival of the Dutch descendants who were well armed and migrating to the north from Cape colony which was passed from Dutch to British. Boers felt angry about the British laws that abolished slavery and, in another way, interfered in their life to get free from the British rules. So Africans and Europeans established contact through trade, but the natives didn't want them to live in their lands. The hard geography inland, the diseases and the powerful army kept the Europeans far from the interior regions of Africa, but medical advances changed all the facts.

Politically speaking, African people had developed different types of government. "Before the coming of Whiteman in Nigeria the history proved beyond reasonable doubt that there was a strong organized government without any written constitution"²

2- Berlin Conference and the Partition of Africa

The most important event during this period is the Berlin Conference in which the Europeans decided who was going to take what in Africa.

«The Berlin Conference did not initiate European colonization of Africa, but it did legitimate and formalize the process. In addition, it sparked new interest in Africa. Following the close of the conference, European powers expanded their claims in Africa such as that by 1900, European states had claimed nearly 90 percent of African territory»³.

First, Leopold II, the king of Belgium, proposed to have a meeting with the Europeans to decide about the issue and proposed to divide all Africa and avoid fighting and confrontation.

² Abdulsalami Muyideen Deji. Historical Background of Nigerian Politics, 1900-1960. *IOSR Journal Of Humanities And Social Science (IOSR-JHSS) Volume 16, Issue 2 (Sep. - Oct. 2013), PP 84-94 e-ISSN: 2279-0837, p-ISSN: 2279-0845. www.Iosrjournals.Org*

³ Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 Meeting at which the major European powers negotiated and formalized claims to territory in Africa;
<https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195337709.001.0001/acref-9780195337709-e-0467>

13 European powers with USA participated in the conference and decided to partition Africa⁴:

- Britain
- France
- Germany
- Belgium
- Spain
- Portugal
- Italy
- Turkey
- Austria-Hungary
- Sweden-Norway
- Netherlands
- Denmark
- Russia
- USA

They established the principle that European occupation of African territory had to be based on effective occupation.

France had the largest colonial empire in Africa including Tunisia, west Africa....., and Africa.

Britain controlled populated areas rich of diamonds and gold, and ruled Cape Colony.

Germany took lands in eastern and Western Africa whereas Portugal established colonies in Angola and Mozambique.

3- The Reasons of Colonization

Nigeria is a country along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea. It is a patchwork of distinctive regions including deserts, mountains and steamy jungles. It has various major rivers running through it. There are some differences between the inhabitants because of the vastness of the

⁴ The partition of Africa: <http://Africanafrican.com/fplder11/worldhistory5/blackhistory/wh07-te- ch24-s02>

region. Nigeria shares land borders with Benin, Niger, Chad and Cameroun. The Gulf of Guinea lies to the south.

By the early 1880s European interest in Africa had increased dramatically. Stanley's charting of the Congo River Basin (1874–77) removed the last bit of terra incognita from European maps of the continent, thereby delineating the rough areas of British, Portuguese, French, and Belgian control. The powers raced to push these rough boundaries to their furthest limits and eliminating any local minor rulers which might prove troublesome to European competitive diplomacy.⁵

That means that the Europeans were interested in precious value of Africa and eliminate the native chiefs in these areas.

Nigeria can be divided into different geographic regions: the coast, the savannah, the forest belt and the Sahel.

Several motives led to colonization.

The Industrial Revolution

The development of the spinning machine by Sir Richard Arkwright in England led directly to the rise of the Industrial Revolution and a new world of manufactured goods. The Industrial Revolution marked a period of development in the latter half of the eighteenth century, that transformed rural, agrarian societies into industrialized urban ones in Europe and America, which led to the increase of production⁶.

The industrialization made a great change in the socio -economic situation in the European countries. It became difficult for agriculture to produce enough raw materials required in industries. That is why they began to search for raw materials from outside.

The agriculture was in decline and could not follow the fast demand of industries.

⁵ Sources in Our Archive General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa, 26 February 1885 The Berlin Conference 27 August 2019

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/berlin-conference>

⁶ Stephen Ocheni, Basil C. Nwanhewo. Analysis of colonialism and its impact in Africa, cross cultural communication Vol, 8, No 3 (2012).

All these facts led to a rapid increase of new products by new technologies. As a result, workers were paid low wages but industrialists accumulated big profits in a short period. At that time, there was an under use of capitals in Europe and a need to find new places to invest in new products. That was the beginning of the emergence of imperialism.

The most important objective of colonization was to find raw materials for the industries and new markets for the European manufactured goods. This arranged the link between African economy and their market, controlled and directed by European colonizers.

African economy was based on exchange and barter, so the Europeans have had to find a solution and monetize this economy. So, they introduced one currency to exchange and make profits and established colonies to control the region. Furthermore, European colonists have to ensure that the Africans would consume their manufactured goods but it was not that easy because if there are no consumers for their products the industries would close⁷.

Humanitarianism and Civilizing Mission

The most important motivation in colonizing Africa was the idea of civilizing the savage natives of Africa. For many Christian missionaries, it was a religious motive because they believed that the Christians were civilized, and their religion was the only one true and then morally superior. Europeans claimed that they were there to help and protect weak persons. The idea of humanitarianism was described in different literary works as in the poem of «*White Man's Burden*»⁸.

Military and Political Reasons

The colonies were crucial to military power, and military leaders claimed for a strong navy to become a great power. But the naval vessels needed military bases around the world to take on their needs. The European navies were guaranteed by the colonies in coaling stations and safe harbor during wars. For Great Britain, national security was important and protecting

⁷ Old Imperialism Vs New imperialism:

<https://parrowland.files.wordpress.com/2012/08/Imperialismcompleted>

⁸ Dick Foeken, on the causes of the partition of central Africa, 1875-1885. Politically geography vol, 24, No, 1, January 1995.

the Suez Canal was primordial because it shortened the sea route from Europe to South Africa and East Asia and made it the jewel of its empire»⁹.

Social Darwinism

In his publication on species, Charles Darwin stressed his theory on natural selection. It was the idea that certain people become powerful in society because they are innately better. This natural selection is mentioned and known in his belief as “survival of the fittest”.

Social Darwinism perfectly describes the current situation in Nigeria. This term was coined in the late 19th century to describe “the idea that humans, like animals and plants, compete in a struggle for existence in which natural selection results in “survival of the fittest”¹⁰.

Social Darwinism has been used to justify imperialism, racism and social inequality at various times over the past century. So, Europeans focused on the idea of being a dominant race and conquered the inferior and weaker races.

Western Technology

Technological advances facilitated European imperialism. Industrialization brought about great advancements in transportation and communications especially in steam ships, railways and telegraphs which helped them to move quickly and impose their dominance.

Medical advances also played an important role, especially medicines. The development of Quinine enabled Europeans to survive to malaria and other tropical diseases and made the tropics more accessible for them.

All these facts facilitated the acceptance of the western control on the Africans¹¹.

4- The British Rule in Nigeria

After the Berlin Conference, the British influence had been established in Nigeria. They started by setting up a consular authority for the rights of the bay Of the Atlantic Ocean on the

⁹ John Mackenzie (ed), (1984), Propaganda and empire, the manipulation of British public opinion 1880-1960, university press Oxford

¹⁰ <https://www.inigerian.com/nigerians-and-social-darwinism/>

¹¹ Tunde Oduwobie, (2011). From conquest to independence. The Nigerian colonial experiences. University of Lagos, Nigeria.

Western Coast, Bonny. From this place, they protected their interests against the coastal state. So, the British, after a long dispute in Lagos, made of the island a colony and became involved in the emancipation in Yoruba land.

The Niger River became the most important point of the region and a lot of British made trade in the Niger basin.

The Colonial Regime

The formal beginning of the British colonial rule was marked by the establishment of three geo-political administrations for the Nigerian area.

- The colony and protectorate of Lagos
- The protectorate of Southern Nigeria
- The protectorate of northern Nigeria

The three entities were confronted to the same problems about the governance of the population under this jurisdiction. All used the same methods in resolving problems they had with people about communication, financial factors and climatic ones. In the conditions, they preferred to use indigenous socio-political structure as foundation of local government¹².

The Indirect Rule and the Nigerian Reaction

The European colonizers delegated day -today governance to local power holders, as an indirect rule. Regions of indirect rule were considered apart from the indirect authority of the state, having an intermediary role face to the political rule. They argued that there are three major problems with the modern indirect rule.

First, indirect rule is often considered as the same united category of colonial policy rather than a disaggregated one.

Second, studies of the post- colonial world take a direction to assume that direct rule is the new characteristic of the modern relationships between government and society, with diverse forms: bargaining, governance and the existent control.

¹² Tunde Oduwobie, (2011). From Conquest to Independence. The Nigerian Colonial Experiences. University of Lagos, Nigeria. p20

Finally, we have to focus on the interest of post-colonial governance in imposing direct rule: they are not always violent.

Theoretically autonomous regions were under administration but in fact, they were dominated by local strongmen. The British ruled Nigeria through the traditional institutions, such as the Sultan, Emirs ... etc¹³.

Some reasons were important for the adaptation of the system like shortage of funds, qualified personnel and resources from abroad. Another reason was language barriers, so, the solution was in ruling through local administration.

Finally, the same political system that was established in Nigeria had already been used in India and Uganda by the British; that means that they had a certain experience in imposing this style of ruling.

Many educated Nigerians objected to the British indirect rule, since it entrenched traditional practices which would have evolved into possibly more progressive forms of ruling if their society were free. Nonetheless, the system prevented the British settlers from dominating the economy, and Nigerian enterprise built a substantial export trade in cocoa, groundnuts, leather, cotton and vegetable oils.

Conclusion

In this chapter we were giving an idea about the British colonization in Nigeria. We have started by giving a short image about the scramble for Africa, the geography of Nigeria, the motives which led to the colonization of Nigeria and finally, how Britain ruled and controlled the Nigerians.

¹³ The wealth of African Nigeria: <http://www.British museum.org/P/F/Nigeria-presentation>

CHAPTER TWO

Introduction

The British colonization of Nigeria had a great impact on different sides especially the social one. In this chapter we will deal with this aspect, its problems, and the crisis which resulted from British rule. As example, we have urbanization, the apparition of social classes, the religions divisions and poverty among the Nigerian population as a result to the British exploitation.

1- The political Influence

In 1900 the administration of Nigeria was divided into three geo-political entities: the colony and protectorate of Lagos, the protectorate of southern Nigeria and the protectorate of northern Nigeria

Indirect rule

Indirect rule was successful in the north, quite successful in the west but totally failed in the east. There were five holders who could help the new system, which made it successful in the north. It was helped by a field of judicial system based on Sharea¹⁴.

Indirect rule, the basic principal of British colonial administration was not particularly alien to African society. The great African rulers of old, like Mansa Musa or Sunni Ali had ruled their vast empires through local chiefs, and the Alaafin of Oyo also used similar system by using local chiefs under the supervision of Ajele in governing their conquered provinces. It was, however, a system suited to Northern Nigeria as designed by the British¹⁵.

The application of indirect rule was imagined by Sir Frederick Lugard in northern Nigeria and formed the bases of the British official policy in Nigeria.

¹⁴ Adman Naassemullah, Paul S, (February 2013), Varieties of indirect rule. Explaining governance beyond Weberian Sovereignty

¹⁵ World scientific news: www.worldscientificnews.com

The head of the administration of the protectorate of northern Nigeria was named high commissioner to which Lugard was appointed in 1900. The post was re-designated as governor with the help of resident and district officers.

The divisions comprised a various local government unit with the head of each unit manner typically to the native authority, the result of this dispensation, some political entities such as Borno, the emirates of the Sokoto Califate transformed into local government areas while the shah and the Emirs were chosen as native authorities.

However, since the protectorate officials were convinced that the best and most convenient means of local government administration was through the appointment of a paramount authority, local communities were either linked to one of their native authority or simply annexed to a neighboring native authority.

Each local government area was divided into district under dimet heads and placed over the heads of the constituent villages. Income was raised through the imposition of taxes which were carried through village and town heads and respective district heads. Local administration revenue was principally derived from court fees fines, because taxation was hateful to pre-colonial Yoruba societies.

Till 1906, the protectorate of southern and northern Nigeria was referred to, as the high commission. The area was divided into division and district respectively under divisional commissioners and district commissioners.

Although under the principal of indirect rule, the native indigenous authorities were appointed by operating local administration, but it had roots in the indigenous political system.

In 1906, a governer headed the colony and protectorate of Lagos and the protectorate of southern Nigeria under the single administration named the colony and protectorate of southern Nigeria.

Lord Lugard, styled governer general, was the cheaf of the new administration. He applied the territorial division of indirect rule to the south. This brought about to immediate difficulties.

The first one was the idea of irregular taxation, as mentioned earlier for the Yoruba area was not acceptable to the ethnic groups of the south.

The second problem was the concept of paramount authority according to the provision of the relevant statute, the native authority ordinance, a native authority could be a “chief or any native tribunal”, thus, even in a place like Yoruba land where there were paramount authorities, their traditional councils were denied official recognition so that the term native authority applied solely to the rules. The term sole native authority subsequently emerged in administrative vocabulary.

To compensate the shortcomings of the system in the country, they made some changes. This led to the gradual abolition of the sole native authority concept as the culminant point of the local administration.

Lugard’s most important characteristic was the retention of both administrations. Northern and southern provinces were at the bi-polar administrative structure each one under a fully-fludged lieutenant-governor. This situation led to the division of the country into more different administration regions in 1933 and the concept of north and south acquired and used in politics and legislation.

Self Rule

The tragic events which happened in Nigeria, gave them a self determination to find a way to a self-rule, although they find special problems on its practical resolution. The division at the head of the administration of the protectorate of the northern Nigeria comprised the various local government unit with a native authority at its head. Under this dispensation, Borno, and other similar political entities became local government areas and the shahm and the Emirs were considered as native authorities.

In 1957, the Western and the Eastern regions became formally self-governing under the parliamentary system. Similar status was acquired by the Northern Region two years later¹⁶.

So, the protectorate officials were convinced that the best way to govern locally was through paramount authority. Then, they were either ruled by a native authority or annexed to a neighboring native authority. Each area was divided into district, under district heads, and placed over the heads of the constituents’ villages. Taxes were imposed which raised the revenue.

¹⁶ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria

The cleavage between the Yoruba and the Igbo was accentuated by their competition for control of the political machinery. The receding British presence enabled local officials and politicians to gain access to patronage over government jobs, funds for local development, market permits, trade licenses, government contracts, and even scholarships for higher education. In an economy with many qualified applicants for every post, great resentment was generated by any favouritism that authorities showed to members of their own ethnic group¹⁷.

Local administration revenue was essentially the result of court fees fines, as soon as the taxation was linked to the Yoruba societies.

New Political Structure

In southern and northern Nigeria, the head of the administration was referred to as the high commission until 1906.

However, the principal of indirect indigenous rule created and indigenous political system.

The British colonial rule was fully established when, in 1914, Britain amalgamated the northern and southern protectorate. Up to 1945 British colonizers made no efforts to free Nigeria from external domination. Despite the transition to political structure reposed on the British colonizers and important Nigerian elites.

The Divide and Rule

The divide and rule strategy was used by the British colonial rule in Africa and especially in Nigeria during the colonial and post-colonial period. From 1900 to 1960, many regions were reclassified for different reasons. They create conflicts between tribes which made the establishment of the British power easier in these regions.

The British used divide and rule policy to create differences between the Hindus and Muslims and thought that if they divided them and made them fight each other India cannot fight against the British¹⁸.

¹⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria

¹⁸ Nigeria as a colony: www.britannica.com

Social Outcomes

Ethnic division

The main method the British followed during the colonial period in Nigeria was “the divide and rule”. The aim was to have a complete control over Nigerian. The emergence of ethnic conflict made it easier.

*«Ethnicity implies the fact that the group feels ethnocentric towards other. That's it sees other groups as relatively inferior or less as rivals. This feeling brings about certain attitude which distorts reality and breed subjectivity in the evaluation and perception of event».*¹⁹

So, the question of ethnicity emerged from the desire of colonizers to exploit the colonized and made profits from their resources and gets benefits.

We can understand that the British adopted the ethnicity problem in order to have an effective control over Nigerians.

Now Nigeria is suffering from this ethnic conflict, and every ethnic group want to be the best one.

Urbanization

Urbanization refers to the population shift from rural to urban cities.

Urbanization is one of the social problems that emerged in Nigeria from the British colonial rule. *«Colonization brought about disarticulation in the prevision of social amenities and urbanization pattern in Africa most of the little social amenities provided during the colonial period were concentrated at a place».*²⁰

It is difficult to discuss the urbanization in Nigeria because there were no balance between Nigerian cities and urban areas with the lack of basic services. These facts made the people migrate from their agricultural area in the surrounding countryside to the colonial urban areas. So, the Nigerian's objective is to find a better way of life in modern European cities

¹⁹ Edlyne E. Anugwon, ethnic conflict and democracy in Nigeria: the marginalization question, A journal of social development in Africa (2000) vol.15.1. p60

²⁰ Stephen Ochni. Brasil C. Nwankwo. Op cit. p52

(Work and health). As a consequence, to this fact, there was a struggle and over-use of these commodities and an overcrowding of the cities. As a result, there were problems of disarticulation of amenities which led to poor hygienic condition, spread of epidemic diseases, tribal and ethnic problems etc ...

All these problems created by the colonial system are till now one of the most important obstacles confronting Nigeria.

Poverty

The aim of the British during the colonial period was to exploit the Nigerian raw materials and achieve their economic interest.

So, after its independence, Nigeria faced a big problem which is poverty. This was the result of the economic collapse created by the British system; as a result, there were no opportunities of work.

Poverty is one of the most important problems in Nigeria. In fact, it is a rich country but its population is poor. Many facts showed that this situation is the result of the colonial rules which aimed to destroy the Nigerian economy.

In all Africa, Nigeria is one of the African countries which still suffer from poverty.

« Looking at the records from the Federal Office of Statistics. Garba (2006) reveals that about 15 percent of population was poor in 1890: the figure rose to 28 percent in 1980, and by 1996 the incidence of poverty in Nigeria was 66 percent or 76, 6 people. Garba 2006 equally remarks that the UN human poverty index in 1990 placed Nigeria among the 25 poorest nations in the world»²¹

Those statistics, shows that the situation is very hard and the program chosen by the state aiming to reduce the degree of poverty, were not suitable then the objectives were not reached.

In its process to reduce poverty, the Nigerian state faced many challenges.

²¹ Segun oshewolo, galloping poverty in Nigeria: An appraisal of government's interventionist policies, journal of sustainable development in Africa (volume 12, No, 6, 2010) p264.

The first one, is the governance (political instability, government effectiveness and economic governance), related by the growth rate in Nigeria. We can deduce that poor quality of governance is the most important obstacle to poverty reduction.

Corruption is another challenge which led to under develop Nigeria making differences between people and establishing inter-religious and communal conflicts.

Unemployment and poverty are much linked. So, unemployment was the most important factor to poverty in Nigeria. The economic side was in a difficult situation; consequently, Nigerians lacked the possibility of employment.

The poor educational system is another factor which led to poverty in Nigeria.

So, these are elements established by colonialists which contributed to increase poverty in Nigeria²².

Social classes

The emergence of social classes was another important impact of colonization.

Colonialism helped the emergence and development of social classes in Nigeria. These classes were petty bourgeoisie, comprador bourgeoisie and proletariat and the peasant.

The first one included the politicians and bureaucrats who became the strongest men of wealth in Nigeria. The next one represented the middle class whereas the workers and the poor people were in the proletariat and peasant class.

The Nigerian petty bourgeoisie and the British comprador bourgeoisie were linked, so that they helped them to extract all the Nigerian economy. That's why during independence, the petty bourgeoisie got the best place in leadership. The petty bourgeoisie continued the exploitation of the workers and poor people in the proletariat and peasant class²³.

²² Chimobi Ucha, poverty in Nigeria some dimension and contributing factors, global majority E- journal, vol 1, No 1 (June 2010) pp 53-54

²³ Stephen Ochni, op cit, p53

We can notice that the main objective of the British colonization from creating the social classes in Nigeria was the division of Nigerians in order to exploit their resources and achieve their interest easily.

Instability

Instability and insecurity is the main character of the Nigerian society during the period of independence. Many factors and changes led to disturbances in the Nigerian society, politic and economy.

As we all know, politics plays a great role in the stability of the state. But in Nigeria and after its independence, the political side was very difficult, because of elections, social violence, economic shocks and the long time passed under colonization.

« Ethnic, regional and religious tensions, as well as localized friction, have given rise to multiple avenues of conflict»²⁴, claimed some researchers.

Another factor which helps the rise of instability was the social one, added to the economic aspect, with the weak number of jobs for the Nigerian which put them in poverty.

Conclusion

In this chapter, the aim was to analyze the social impact of the British colonization in Nigeria with its ethnicity, urbanization and the rise of social classes.

²⁴ Bulus Y. Galadina, yusyfu Turaki. Christianity in Nigeria, Africa journal of evangelical theology, 200

CHAPTER THREE

Introduction

In this chapter, the aim is to study the economic impact of British Colonization on the economy of Nigeria.

1- The Nigerian Economy

It is true that the Nigerian economy is in serious crises but there is no doubt that these economic crises have historical antecedents. A good analysis of Nigerian economy will show that the periods of slavery and colonization have left the Nigerian economy in a very bad situation and no possibility for development. So, the economic beginning always starts with this bad side history of the colonial economic policies in the country²⁵.

Some authors noted that the most successful colonial policy was the production of the incorporation of African peasants into the world market putting number of Africans in an uncertain world market removing them from stability and comfort. This policy was used by Britain to make Nigeria dependent and underdeveloped economically.

2- The British Economic Policies

Britain adopted the policy to use resources prodigally in its various districts in Nigeria. It was also a way to gain control on raw material producers and oblige them to exchange and work in this strange world market.

Taxation and forced labour were the greatest instrument of suppression and domination used by the British to bring Nigerians under control. These were also great instruments of exploitation. People who experienced these measures still recount their bitter experiences. According to an informant quoted in (Ezeogidi Cynado 2013.98).²⁶

Amalgamation was the policy that the British choose to control the administration. The Nigerian market was completely controlled by Britain during the colonial period. It began during the World War 1. The objective was to export the same product to different places. In

²⁵ Adeyeri, Olusegun. Adejuwon, Kehind David, the implications of British colonial economic policies on Nigeria's development, international journal of advanced research in management and social studies. Vol.1.No.2. August 2012, p7,9

²⁶ BRITISH CONQUEST, COLONIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA CYNADO, C.N.O. EZEOGIDI

PhD. Department of Political Science Chukwemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, July 2019

1922, Britain imposed discriminative duties on Palm Kernel from Nigeria with attention to the 1917 ban. This law explains how deep the control on the Nigerian trade was, Falabi claimed for the introduction of the new portable currency.

Adeyeri and Adejuwon argued that it facilitates trade among Nigerians; it led to the expansion of urban centers and commerce in the country and had some relations with the rest of the world. So, in a way it had a positive side, but the negative one is the under development of Nigeria.

The economic motive was the major factor in the British colonization of Nigeria and made a great impression in the Nigerian economy during this period²⁷.

The economic rises in Nigeria began during the British colonization and led to the dislocation of the countries pre-colonial made and relation of production.

Nnoli said : « the policy of the integration of pre-colonial Nigeria into the global capitalist economic system as a peripheral member by the colonialists causes the distraction of the society's rich and varied political system and social structure and the creation of the new productive economic activities based on the knee of foreign capitalist counties . It diverted attention away from local creative potential and resources by forcing on the production of primary resources needed by the Europeans»

This explained the reasons which made Nigeria under developed added to the colonial economic policies. In order to search the British goals, they made many modifications in the former African and especially Nigerian political institution and laws. The aim was to control the Nigerian economy²⁸.

The of raw materials in the British industries during the Industrial Revolution was the result of the desire of controlling the African economy.

²⁷ Adeyeri, Olusegun. Adejuwon, kehind David, the implications of british colonial economic policies on nigeria's developpement, international journal of advanced research in management and social stadies. Vol.1.No.2. August 2012, p7,9

²⁸ BRITISH CONQUEST, COLONIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA CYNADO, C.N.O. EZEOGIDI

PhD. Department of Political Science Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, July 2019

The Nigerian colonial economy was based on three important export crops: cocoa, palm kernel and ground nuts. The colonial government was acting to destruct the existing indigenous production methods and having cash crops.

The colonial government aimed at the exploitation of raw materials and agricultural resources of Nigeria to achieve its needs and dominate the trade and neglect their industrial development.

Two important aspects of the colonial economy in shaping the development of the Nigerian path:

2.1. The Development Orientation

The British authority focused on two main orientations.

The first one was to demonstrate the British presence in the land that became Nigeria, under British colonial rule, in order to search for cheap raw materials, resources and human to re-enforce the British Empire.

That means that Britain was searching for benefits from exploitation of Nigeria's resources under its colonial rule, so, Nigerians were obliged to provide Britain in different resources.

The second one was described as "development plans," it was summarized in two documents: ten year plans of development and welfare for Nigeria 1946-1956 (finished in 1954), and the 1955-1960 plan.

The first plan was advocated to give national resources especially for health and mental condition of the people, and to assure the minimum necessary for the population in the country.

The colonial government aimed to facilitate the social services such as transport and communication in order to induce private entrepreneurs to invest in industry and agriculture that would bring about the jobs²⁹.

But the private sector was searching to establish directly productive activities (DPAs) whereas the government focuses its forces on the provision of physical and social infrastructure.

²⁹ Sheila Smith/ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00220387908421725>

The 1956-1960 plans aimed to modify the colonial government's approach to development, which participate in directly productive activities.

2.2. Structure and Character of Production

The colonial economy was dominated by trade and agriculture, searching for cheap raw materials and expansion of markets for their products.

The export of two important agricultural products was very important: palm oil and kernel, increased rapidly during 1885 and 1889.

They stimulated other productions such as cocoa ground nuts, cotton and rubber.

So, the trade in the major agriculture and products generated earnings on the foreign exchange, which increased from 1950, but it created some problems in its economy

3. Post-independence Economic Challenge in Nigeria

The most important feature of the economy in Nigeria in the 1980's and in the 1970's was certainly its dependence on petroleum which was about 87 percent of export receipts.

The fall of prices of oil led to another noteworthy aspect of economy in the 80's the decline among all individuals persists till 1990 when the oil prices began to rise, that's why Nigeria was classified as a low-income country by the world bank and a poor country.

The big number of changes in the government was a significant feature of instability of the Nigerian economy.

During the 70's, the oil boom provided a tax revenue to strengthen the central government and increase the incomes but created some jobs distributed by the governing elites to some of their clients. All these facts helped to create discontent and coefficients between ethnic communities and nationalities³⁰.

At independence, technology and industrialization in Nigeria was at a very low level. Education and health were at the same level.

³⁰ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_Nigeria

This worth level was the result of approximately one century of British colonial rule in Nigeria.

The aim of the European colonial rule and especially Britain, was to keep Africa as a source of cheap raw materials to feed European industries and to serve as a market to their finished products³¹

Conclusion

In this chapter we aimed to explain the economic impact of the British colonization in Nigeria, we first begin by giving a sum up about the Nigerian economy during the period of colonization, after that, we focused on the objectives of the British rules and its economic policy in the country during its colonization

³¹ <https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/for-educators/country-profiles/nigeria/independence-modern-political-rule-1960-present>

GENERAL CONCLUSION

General conclusion

Colonizing Africa was not easy. The European colonialists fought with the chiefs and African rulers at the coasts before they could penetrate in land.

The colonialists have had different reasons and aims; such as the need for cheap raw materials and creation of new markets for their products of the metropolitan industries that the industrial revolution could sold. They were also searching for more food for their urban industrial population and of course more benefits and more profits.

There were different kinds of colonies. Those that were sources of minerals, or for plantation crops, or for European settlement and the last one, for peasant production where Nigeria was the best example.

Policies used by colonialists were different.

In Nigeria, Britain used the indirect rule, using their own chiefs or traditional institution, with a supervision from the British government. The British used this policy because it experienced it elsewhere in other colonies and it was successful.

The present worth situation of Nigeria in the social and economic features, is the result of the British colonization.

Works Cited

Works Cited

I- Books and Journals

- 1- Ezeogidi, Cynado, British Conquest, Colonization and Administration in Nigeria (March 28, 2020). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3563173> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3563173>
- 2- https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3563173
- 3- Berlin Conference of 1884–1885 Meeting at which the major European powers negotiated and formalized claims to territory in Africa; <https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780195337709.001.0001/acref-9780195337709-e-0467>
- 4- Stephen Ocheni, Basil C, Nwanhewo. Analysis of colonialism and its impact in Africa, cross cultural communication Vol, 8, No 3 (2012).
- 5- Dick Foeken, on the causes of the partition of central Africa, 1875-1885. Politically geography vol, 24, No, 1, January 1995.
- 6- John Mackenzie (ed), (1984), Propaganda and empire, the manipulation of British public opinion 1880-1960, university press Oxford
- 7- <https://www.inigerian.com/nigerians-and-social-darwinism/>
- 8- Tunde Oduwobie, (2011). From conquest to independence. The Nigerian colonial experiences. University of Lagos, Nigeria.
- 9- Tunde Oduwobie, (2011). From conquest to independence. The Nigerian colonial experiences. University of Lagos, Nigeria. p20
- 10- Adman Naassemullah, Paul S, (February 2013), Varieties of indirect rule. Explaining governance beyond Weberian Sovereignty
- 11- Edlyne E. Anugwon, ethnic conflict and democracy in Nigeria: the marginalization question, A journal of social development in Africa (2000) vol.15.1. p60
- 12- Stephen Ochni. Brasil C. Nwankwo. Op cit. p52
- 13- Segun oshewolo, galloping poverty in Nigeria: An appraisal of government's interventionist policies, journal of sustainable development in Africa (volume 12, No, 6, 2010) p264.
- 14- Chimobi Ucha, poverty in Nigeria some dimension and contributing factors, global majority E-journal, vol 1, No 1 (June 2010) pp 53-54
- 15- Stephen Ochni, op cit, p53

- 16- Bulus Y. Galadina, yusufu Turaki. Christianity in Nigeria, Africa journal of evangelical theology, 200
- 17- Adeyeri, Olusegun. Adejuwon, kehind David, the implications of british colonial economic policies on nigeria's developpement, international journal of advanced research in management and social stadies. Vol.1.No.2. August 2012, p7,9
- 18- BRITISH CONQUEST, COLONIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA CYNADO, C.N.O. EZEOGIDI PhD. Department of Political Science Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, July 2019
- 19- Adeyeri, Olusegun. Adejuwon, kehind David, the implications of british colonial economic policies on nigeria's developpement, international journal of advanced research in management and social stadies. Vol.1.No.2. August 2012, p7, 9
- 20- BRITISH CONQUEST, COLONIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION IN NIGERIA CYNADO, C.N.O. EZEOGIDI PhD. Department of Political Science Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University, July 2019

II- Webography

- 1- Old imperialism Vs New imperialism:
<https://parrowland.Files.Wordexpress.com2012/08/Imperialismcompleted>
- 2- Sources in Our Archive General Act of the Berlin Conference on West Africa, 26 February 1885 The Berlin Conference 27 August 2019
<https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/berlin-conference>
- 3- Nigeria as a colony: www.britannica.com
- 4- Imperialism in Africa from:
[http://www.ocs.enyric.org/webpages/phyland/files/imperialism in Africa.](http://www.ocs.enyric.org/webpages/phyland/files/imperialism%20in%20Africa)
- 5- Sheila Smith/ <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00220387908421725>
- 6- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of Nigeria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economic_history_of_Nigeria)
- 7- <https://rlp.hds.harvard.edu/for-educators/country-profiles/nigeria/independence-modern-political-rule-1960-present>
- 8- World scientific news: www.worldscientificnews.com
- 9- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colonial_Nigeria
- 10- The partition of Africa:
<http://Africanafican.com/fplder11/worldhistory5/blackhistory/wh07-te-ch24-s02>

- 11- The wealth of African Nigeria: [http://www.British_museum.org/P/F/Nigeria - presentation](http://www.British_museum.org/P/F/Nigeria_presentation)
- 12- http://www.world_info_zone.com/country.php,country:nigeria#population.
- 13- Introduction to Nigerian history: <http://www.unaab.end-ng/opencourseware/gns/02>
- 14- The partition of Africa:
<http://Africanafican.com/fplder11/worldhistory5/blackhistory/wh07-te-ch24-s02>
- 15- Nigeria- the colonial economy. 1860-1960. Available at:
<http://www.onlinenigeria.com/links/adv.asp,blurb=467>