

## Overview

The history of West Africa is the long history of human movements, incursions, displacements, intermixtures of peoples, and of the impact of these on the beliefs, attitudes, social and political organization to the peoples West Africa.

The history of West Africa can be divided into three major periods: first, its prehistory, second, colonial period, in which Great Britain and France controlled nearly the whole of the region and the post-independence era, in which the current nations were formed.

### 1. Geographical location & regional environmental variation in brief



Without a geographical basis, such story of West Africa and any other country in the world would be like dead body having neither life nor motion at all. (Ajayi and Michael Crowder p1).

-Development of West Africa is often conditioned by the nature of environment with addition to the development of science and technology.

-West Africa occupies an area 2.4 million square miles, or approximately one-fifth of Africa. It extends roughly from 5 degrees to 25 degrees north latitude and from 17 degrees west to 15 degrees east longitude.

-West Africa constitute **Benin, Burkina, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo.**

-West Africa is a very diverse region. It has **desert** landscapes and tropical **rain forests**.

WEST AFRICA GEOGRAPHICAL BELT

- Coastal belt
- Forest belt
- Savanna belt
- Sahara belt

### 1. **The coastal belt**

- Dominated by lowlands between 0-200 km.
- It is true in some areas like Niger delta, there are few river inlets.
- Temperature is high throughout the year (25 -30<sup>0</sup>C)
- High rainfall (between 1500 – 2000) throughout the year
- Economic activities include cultivation of root tubers like kolanuts

### 2. **The Forest belt**

- Located in the Niger delta
- Mangrove swamps
- Economic activities fishing (supported by Niger River) and tree plants e.g. Palm trees, rubber, mahogany, etc

### 3. **Savanna belt**

- Covers 75% of historical West Africa.
- Receives rains between 1000-1500 mm but sometimes may decrease to 750mm.
- Plenty of trees, tall grasses and free from tsetse flies
- Conducive for livestock keeping and cereal crop cultivation
- Part as the Sahara desert
- Has few and scattered trees, shortage of grasses and tree, free from tsetse flies
- Allows livestock keeping but in a small size compared to the savanna because of shortage of grasses.

### 4. **The Sahara desert belt**

- Out of West Africa but has great influence to the East of West Africa.
- Trees are scarce
- Rains range between 250-500mm
- Sandy soils
- Hot throughout the year

- Human settlement along oases where livestock keeping (sheep) and cultivation of dates & wheat are done.
- Climatic changes, occurred, affect vegetation cover and climate itself

N.B Different sources show that there was no Sahara desert before but it was formed due to natural and human made activities. Desertification started even before Christ. The climate of the Sahara has undergone various variations between wet and dry over the hundred thousand years. Archeological evidence support the idea that Sahara was inhabited (evidence include remains of pottery, crops)

-Therefore, West Africa as in other places in the world experiences the increase of deterioration of the environment by wind, water and action of man. The major fact is that throughout history human activities have been a most potent factor of environmental modification.

-Marginal modification is more commonly the product of deterioration of environment. E.g. both overgrazing and over cultivation can give rise to deterioration of grassland into desert. An example of this is ancient Ghana. The core of the former empire is now a desert.

**West Africa population:** Peoples and cultures unlike in East and Central Africa, there have been no spectacular/impressive archaeological finds which might illuminate/clarify the history of early man like apes in West Africa. There is however, a growing body of archeological evidence of the settlement of the area from the early Paleolithic/old Stone Age period. There is no reason to doubt that from that time on the dominant racial group in West Africa has been Negroid with slight incursions of members of the caucoid race. Negroid occupation, in fact, extended over a large part of the present day Sahara desert and has been suggested that many of the rock-painting in that area were due to animal rearing Negroes whose descendents are still to be found even today in the desert.

There are 2 theories on the peopling of W. Africa

1. Diffusion theory
2. Materialistic theory

### 1. Diffusion theory

During the colonial period peoples in Africa were classified by anthropologists such as F.Stuhlmann (1894), C.G Seligman (1930), G.W.Huntingford, G.P. Murdock (1959) on the basis of physical features like colour, height, the kind of head-hair, the shape of nose and the size of lips.

According to these scholars the original people of Africa were made up of short peoples whom they were called, Bushmen, Pygmies, Khoisan and other names. They were hunters and gatherers and had virtually no **elements of culture**.

They said that, those hunters and gatherers were joined later by light-skinned people from **South West**

**Asia** known as **HAMITES** and by tall dark skinned peoples from **Southeast Asia** known as **Negroes** who settled in **West Africa and in the Sudanic zone**. People from Southeast Asia have been the ancestors of the Yoruba, Ashanti, Mande, Malinke who are economically agricultural

These hamites introduced iron technology + sophisticated agro-skills.

Therefore from there came better tech. of cultivation & keeping animal

Then the Arabs from the 7<sup>th</sup> C AD

The Europeans came from the 15<sup>th</sup>C with better culture e.g. marine technology etc

**The migration** theory aimed to justify European colonialism in Africa. However Hamitic race it was only a myth of justifying white superiority and colonial domination.

## 2. **Materialist explanation**

- Most scholars are Africanist in orientation.

- Emerged in the 1960s to oppose the diffusion theory.

- They base their explanation on internal evidence such as archaeological evidence.

-Unlike in East and Central Africa, in West Africa there is, however a growing archaeological evidence of the settlement of population from Paleolithic or Old Stone Age period. There is no reason to doubt that from that time on the dominant racial group in West Africa has been Negroid.

-From 1960s, historians found classification basing on migration by looking racial and cultural superiority unsatisfactory. It was felt that the peoples of West Africa could only be classified on the basis of language families and groups. They explained the peopling of West Africa in terms of migration of these languages from certain centres of origin. Scholars like J.H. Greenberg. M. Guthrie, Roland Oliver etc. most of them agreed that their ancestors emerged as a language group in West Africa (Nigeria and Cameroon)

The idea that African south of the Sahara had neither a history of its own nor tribute to universal development is just a European thought. Hegel believed that, before European intrusion there was no history. For many years African inferiority complex dominated European minds and is still dominated even today. According to Hegel (1170-1831) history is the story of European activities in Africa and African had no history before European.

In his philosophy of history contain statement as that “**Africa is not a historical continent” it shows neither change nor development, and that its Negro peoples were capable of neither development nor education as we see them today so they have always been.**

-But, if we check the sources of African history, West Africa had their own history even before European contact.

### **-Oral Tradition**

Oral tradition has been defined as testimony transmitted orally from one generation to another. Or

Oral traditions as verbal messages spoken or sung which are reported statements from the past beyond the present generations.

-This preservation however depended on the powers of the memories of successive generations of human beings. Forms of oral traditions are: formulae, poetry, lists, tales and commentary

#### **Formulae:**

-Formulae consist of certain stereotype phrases used in various circumstances. The phrase forms part of an action of some kind, and its significance lies as much in its working as in the made of it in the appropriate circumstances.

Formulae are of great value because they are fixed texts which are privately transmitted and accurate. They may be regarded as sources of it in the appropriate circumstances. Formulae may be subdivided into: titles, slogans, didactic formulae and rituals.

**-list:** contain the names of either places or of persons. Lists are usually served by specialists belonging to some institutions. Two types; place name lists and personal names lists

**-Tales;** tales have been described as testimonies which have a free form of text.

**Commentaries;** are like legal precedents, explanatory or occasionally presented in the brief pieces of information which are supplementary or peripheral to particular situations.

## **Role of oral histories**

Oral traditions play an important part in the sources of African history

- Provide a means of reconstructing histories of the past
- Oral traditions integrate the activities of heroes and heroines and those of the rest of the society
- They provide us with historical knowledge on the last 500 years, the history since 1750 when archaeologists and other sources cannot provide.
- Oral traditions are the basis of many early written sources of African history.
- Oral traditions provide a means of interaction between researchers, those who pass on the testimony and listeners in few cases.

## **Limitations of oral**

- All oral traditions are influenced by the culture of the society that produces them
- Family histories were not preserved only king's families were preserved.
- Oral traditions depended on the political, social and cultural organizations of a people. The history of segment societies does not go so far back into the past, and information from these societies will be less accurately transmitted.
- Dates are relative
- There are few oral traditions which are useful before 1750 and those after 1800
- Bias as the only and most important weakness in oral tradition students who have used them were born in the cultures. However, the students can not eliminate the problems of bias and distortion.

**Archaeology:** is a scientific study of ancient cultures through the examination of their material remains such as building, graves, tools, and other artifacts usually dug up from the ground. Or is the study of artifacts that have been dug from the earth?

- Artifact is the remains of the material culture made by people in the past.
- Excavation is important, an archaeologist calls upon the geologists for information regarding the nature of soil and its structure. This is done to enable the archaeologists to determine whether the site will fulfill the anticipated characteristics.
- Archaeology enabled historians to determine the economic activities of a given society.
- deconstruct European assumption about Africa,
- Know about settlement pattern and social organization of a given area.
- Show civilization of a given area.

## **Weakness archaeology**

- In Africa is not yet enough developed because of fund
- Can not reveal the spoken language
- Does not tell how social and political activities were organized.
- The nature of materials, some did not stay for a long time and archaeology can not tell

## **Written sources**

The common source of history to-day is the written records of the past. Written sources are the most important sources of history.

- Written sources it is what is drawn or written in any kind of support i.e. piece of clothes, skin, tools, paper, etc
- In West Africa written record are divided into two major period

1. Before 15<sup>th</sup> century; historian like Herodotus wrote about silent trade in southern Morocco in crafts products from the Maghrib for gold dust from West Africa. In short he wrote about Trans saharan trade. **Alexandria** he wrote about geographical issues of contours of Africa. His map of inner Libya contains some names that have survived to present.

The ancient author's information was scanty (insufficient) and fitful, especially in relation to West Africa history.

**The Arabia** authors were much better informed, for in their period the adaptation of the camel by the Sahara peoples had facilitated the establishment of commerce between west and the north.

The writing of men like al-Masudi (c.950), al-Bakri (1029-94), al-Idris (1154), ibn-Battuta (1304-69), Ibn-Khaldun etc are of the major importance for the reconstruction of African history of the period between about the 9<sup>th</sup> century and 15<sup>th</sup> century.

2. After 15<sup>th</sup> century different information in West Africa were written by Portuguese, France, British, and German and later on by African themselves.

## **West Africa historiography**

Historiography can be defined as the study of writing history. Or is the science of writing history.

One important aspect in the writing of history is that we can observe the historian art, craft, skills and interpretation. As an aspect of the discipline of history matured in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

- The writing of West African history is of old as the writing of history itself.

### **Why historiography to West Africa**

- Historiography is the source of intellectual curiosity/interest to old and beginner historians.
- A historians has to write a good essay, articles, monograph, or book
- Historiography in West Africa is useful for historical research
- Historiography in West Africa is a guide in teaching

#### **(1) The colonialists historiography;**

Europeans expansion since the 15<sup>th</sup> century brought traders, missionaries, travelers and imperialists to Africa. Europeans increased knowledge about Africa and their culture. From that time European started to write about Africa. Africans were called inferior and backward.

- Stressed that African history was the history of its invaders, principally; Arabs, and Europeans.

Regius Prof. at Oxford University once declared “perhaps, in the future, there will be some African history to teach, but at present there is none: there is only the history of the Europeans in Africa. The rest is darkness and darkness is not a subject of history.

- In the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Europeans began to become familiar with the coastlands of tropical Africa.

This quickly led to the production of literally works.

- The actors were English, French, German, and Portuguese playing their role against an African background.

- They wrote of pioneer explorers and missionaries who followed their ambitions.

- They wrote about empire builders done by Europeans in West Africa.

- Colonialist placed African societies that had been mostly non-literate in the pre-colonial period in the primitive category.

- Also colonial historiographies were influenced by the Hamitic hypotheses. They wrote anything related to civilization in West Africa are the civilization of the Hamites.

- In other hand, colonialist historians in West Africa emphasized the inability of Africans to make their own history.

-Colonial historiography emphasizes European activities and ignored the African progress. At its worst, it showed Africans as barbarians whose will and judgment were weak or ill-directed.

-Therefore, colonial historiography implied superior being from Europe came in and did what the

African could not do.

-Colonialist was wedded to the concepts that the indigenous peoples of West Africa had no history or no history that they could study or that was significance for their study.

-Many of the work of the period from about 1890 to about 1940 which contained more serious history, for the most part, these were written by men and women who had themselves been involved in the process of conquest and colonization of Africa: scholars like Margery Perham, Palmer, Marty, e.t.c.

**But, the European sources used to reconstruct the African past should also be weighed in the light of oral tradition.**

Therefore, because of the above argument other group of scholars emerged.

## (2) Nationalist historiography

- Divided into 2

a) Early nationalist historiography

b) Late nationalist

(a)Early nationalist historiography developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> C aiming at challenging colonial historiography

-Although, colonial historiography had a lot of weakness and biases but contributed a lot to awaken African people to write their own history.

-In Africa there was history to read/write before coming of whites.

-A group of few middle class emerged in the 19<sup>th</sup> c in the trading centers in Liberia, Sierra, Leone, gold coast, Ivory Coast and Benin received education from ministry centre most accepted legitimated trade and assumed European superiority in West Africa though they later challenged it.

-They later glorified African values ie. ethnics, languages and other aspects of culture

-They supported civilization of Africa and opposed what was pointed by whites.

-They relied in oral traditions

-These scholars did not criticize Europe views in terms of epistemology, methodology they used the same tools of analysis as the European.

- Early nationalist made some interpreter to conclude that were like colonial historiography because they applied the same methodology with different opinion.
- They regard western civilization as superior and they use as the basis to develop the history of West Africa
- J.D. Fage. An Introduction to the History of West Africa, A.B.C, Sibthrep The history of Sierra Leone 1868, E. Blyden West Africa before European 1909, M.Sabah Fante National Constitution, C.C.Rindolf History of Gold Coast and Asante, S.Johnson, History of Yoruba land e.tc.

### **(b) Later nationalist historiography**

- They were influenced by the early nationalist
  - Development in the inter/ war period (1919-1939) during that time there were various changes which took place in the world e.g. rise of USA as industrial power challenging Britain, France and other European colonial powers.
  - European colonial powers began to institutionalizes the teaching of history in colonial schools aiming at controlling provide and dissemination of historical knowledge i.e. prevent the spread of rational radical ideas
  - Universities worked under the control of colonial powers between the period colonial government begun to train W. Africans to produce African historical and the African went to study abroad in different schools such as School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS).
  - Europeans began to organize conferences and country publications of journals. The most influential journals were the journal of African History controlled by Britain West Africa powers. This tendency continued up to 1950 where the number of African nationality increased
  - The nationalistic concentrated on political history e.g. the rise of pre-colonial kingdoms.
  - They also dealt with negritude i.e. prove African culture
  - The scholars were also interested in the emergence of new West African nations as a result they minimized economic relation pre-colonial and colonial W. Africa
  - They also concentrated on large scale societies e.g. Yaruba, Hausa, Fulani, Asante, etc **and left out segment** societies i.e. they emphasize the history of ethnic groups/ tribal history
  - They also concentrated on religions history.
  - Early nationalist were able to draw the line between literacy and non-literacy
  - All in all, the emergence of nationalist historians had great contribution to the developments of east African societies, as they came to reveal the truth about the presence of history in pre-

colonial West African societies which were explained by the colonial historians to be static with no developments.

-Even though some of those historians were not Africans.

-Therefore, in order to build strong nations, Africans must have confidence in themselves. Thus they can only develop if they understand their own cultural development and respect their own cultural heritage. Colonialism did not promote such understanding and, therefore, never inspired the masses. It could not and did not succeed in nation-building. On the other hand, Ajayi argues, there is a danger that too much emphasis upon African culture will lead to tribalism. Increased research on a national and Pan-African level into African history and the dissemination of the knowledge of the history and culture of different African peoples throughout that continent is offered as a solution to this dilemma. In short, the increasing knowledge of the actual state and development of the culture of African peoples will lead to understanding and unity. It will lead the modern African to respect his own cultural heritage and develop self-confidence within them.

### **(3)The materialist historiography**

- divided into:-

(1) dependencies

(2) Marx's historiography

#### **(a)Dependencies school of thought**

-Emerged in the 1970 led by Walter Rodney, Samir Amin etc

-It rose as a result of weaknesses of colonial nationalist historiographies which dealt with the race, politics, big empires, etc

-They challenged the school because they didn't explain social relations in pre- colonial and colonial West Africa which was caused by poverty of methodology and epistemology.

-The failure of post-colonial W. Africa to achieve economic development desired by the majority people.

- The scholars therefore argued that West Africa was not created to be poor and economic backwardness underdevelopment was a result of unequal relationship between European and W. Africa which started during the period of merchant capitalism in the 15<sup>th</sup> C and continued into the colonial period to the post – colonial period

-The gaining of independence did not give conducive environment for decolonizing economic relations which continued to exist

## (b) **Marxist historiography**

- Marx concluded that economic factors were the main causes of historical events
- Other human activities were derived from economic activities
- He emphasized class consciousness, contradictions and change in history
- The school did not achieve goal of the economic crisis of the 1980 and the disintegration of the Soviet Union.
- It based in the premises that man has to produce in order to exist
- Class struggles emerge due to existence of inequalities in the societies.
- The schools believe in change that society is changing
- Many West Africans after 1960s were Marxist in one way or another. They condemned imperialism, colonialism and capitalism.
- The above schools are no longer working though is still producing history.
- The persistence under the current globalize world the interest of the nations first though the western capitalist are struggling to establish national history.

## **TOPIC 2: WEST AFRICA FROM ANTIQUITY TO 7<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY**

### **Technological adaptation**

- West Africa like any other place in Africa experience technological advancement. West Africa prehistoric man made tools of bone and wood as well as stone tools. Example of pebble tools are known from a number of places in West Africa such as Gambia River in Senegal, Chad, e.g.
- But, in West Africa there is a big problem of getting evidence in some areas because of climatic changes. For example, wood is rarely preserved and a soil condition in West Africa militates or is against the survival of bones.

### **CLIMATIC CHANGES IN WEST AFRICA**

- 20,000 years BC, West Africa was much drier than in the present. By, 10,000 BC West Africa begun to get wetter again. And it was known that West Africa was wetter than in present in the northern Sahara, which is watered by the rains from the Atlantic Ocean.
- But, it came a time when world temperatures rose, the ice-sheets melted and retreated northwards, it became drier in the northern Sahara. This was not abruptly conditions it took years and Sahara continued to dry out and became uninhabitable and people living there moved **further south**.

With that changes of environment and human movement, West African people were not static in **terms of technological adaptation**.

- Technologically West African people passed through different levels: starting with Stone Age, which was divided into: **Early Stone Age, middle Stone Age and late Stone Age.**
- In West Africa technological boundaries of these divisions of the Stone Age differ from area to area.

### **The Early Stone Age in West Africa 2500000-50000BC**

- People were using crude stone tools for exploiting nature.
- Fine hand axes culture (Acheulian industries) made with wood or soft bone hammers.
- Early hand axes in West Africa have been claimed in Senegal, Guinea, Mauritania and Ghana.
- Chopping tools known as cleaver, scrapers and tools made on flakes
- Human being by that time was well organized in terms of hunting activities
- Correlated with a period when rainfall was high in the northern Sahara
- In that period some areas like Futa Jallon, Jos Plateau, Guinea and Senegal were suitable for human occupation because of Acheulian material has been found in the area dating 150,000-60,000BC.
- Also, early tools were more distributed in Senegal, Mali, Nigeria, Togo, Ghana e.t.c.
- They were using those tools for various activities such as digging tubers or roots

### **MIDDLE STONE AGE (3500-15000BC)**

- A name given to group industrial complexes
- Stone tools were more refined and sharpened than before
- Wood working techniques/ wood tools was much enhanced
- Hunting was an important part of their economy
- Specimen of Lupemban type (stone working) have been found in Ghana, Jos plateau, Lirue hills in Nigeria, e.t.c.
- Instruments with sharp point were excavated e.g. in Niger

### **LATE STONE AGE (15000-8000bc)**

- Appearance of very small stone tools known as microliths, wide spread in half of eastern part of West Africa.
- Production used fine instruments with very sharp point.
- Bone arrows were used, grinding tools/stone
- Developments of arrowheads and knives

- The pace of culture change was now quickening
- People were craftsmen of a high order, made objects of wood and other organic materials
- People were able to cook their food through the use of fire
- In general if you compare that period with the Iron Age period, there was a low level of development because technology was crude. That period was known as **PRIMITIVE COMMUNALISM**.
- Society developed simple instruments of labour
- Main economic activities were foraging, gathering and fishing was therefore a means of production.
- Production was a community activity with simple division of labour based on gender.
- There was simple community organization. In drier areas 10-20 peoples, in wetter areas 50-100.
- Cooperative labour and communal effort for survival
- There was no social differentiate as there was no surplus i.e. production was for subsistence.
- Society was dynamic i.e. there were some technological changes e.g. the use of fire, development of hunting with poisonous arrows.
- There were simple systems of language for communication.
- There were developments of more complex trials made of stones, wood, bones, shells, etc.

## 2.2. REVOLUTIONS IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND ECONOMY IN GENERAL

- This occurred in the transition period i.e. at the end of late Stone Age**
- Human beings lived by hunting and gathering from earliest time until about 10,000 BC, when they started to cultivate crops and domesticate animals and this is known as **Neolithic Revolution**.
- The term Neolithic Revolution** was first coined in the 1920s by Vere Gordon **Childe** to describe the first in a series of agricultural revolutions. This period is described as a “revolution” to denote its importance/great significance and degree of change brought about to the communities in which these practice were gradually adopted and refined.
- Neolithic Revolution in a broad sense is the latest period of Stone Age characterized by the use of polished stone implements, the art of grinding stone, horn, bone and ivory tools with sandstones, pottery making the use of bow and arrow, domestication of animals the cultivation of grain and fruit trees and beginning of settled village.** (Mokhtar 1981: General history of Africa Vol II)

-Neolithic Revolution was the first agricultural revolution, the transition from nomadic hunting and gathering communities and bands, to agriculture and settlement.

-Generally, this revolutionary stage in human growth occurred in the so called **New Stone Age period**.

**-It was the time when man started using land as an instrument of labour.**

-Until then, hunting and gathering, i.e. the acquisition of food by hunting wild animals, fishing, and foraging wild plant for foods was **only for the few societies and option** for the majority societies in West Africa and world at large.

-Production began i.e. domesticate cereals and animals.

-The development of **agriculture was advanced as production began to use wooden and stone** tools to cultivate grains i.e. development of agriculture

-There was development active domestication of animals

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**There are two contrasting arguments on the origin of food production in West Africa**

**1. Eurocentric ideas:**

**-Recognized only three primary centers of origins for food production: China, South East Asia and America.**

-W. Africa & Africa in general diffused agro-skills from Asia one of the centre of civilizations

-West Africa imported seeds like wheat, barley, sorghum, bananas, etc.

**2. Africanist views:**

-The basic argument is that the early achievements and introduction of agriculture did not come from the northeast i.e. Egypt or the Nile or Asia. But achievements in agriculture were due to invention adapted by West African people in different time.

-The idea of agriculture is an evolutionary, where it was due to changes which accompanied human being in the process of living and finally led to various changes.

-As the hunting and gathering mode of life developed people gradually develop better understanding of their environment and the available food resources.

-With this better understanding people manipulate and experiment with the plants and animals which they had been exploiting and select those which are more productive or easy to manipulate and these eventually led domestication.

**-The origins of food production in West Africa was a result in which culture and environment interacted (Mohktar 1981)**

- Also, scholars argue that economic activities were determined by **climate and soils of a particular** area, they therefore **capitalized on internal dynamics**.

**-It is better to understand that**, in West Africa agriculture developed independently, not originated from other parts of the world. The area has been identified as independently developing agriculture due to the nature of environment.

-But, scholars do not refuse **importation** of crops (transplanting) because there were some crops from outside West Africa. This is just a common process in various places in Africa and world at large.

-In case of some of the crops from outside it is the matter of interaction between whites and Africans e.g. crops imported such as maize, cassava, sisal e.t.c.

-Examples of crops grown by West African themselves in late Stone Age include rice middle Nigeria, north eastern Nigeria and Guinea, sorghum, dwarf goats, cattle in Ghana, area between the Sahara and the savanna pearl millet and finger millet were cultivated. In moister zones of West Africa yam and oil palm were grown.

- In the wetlands where forests alternated grasslands, variety of wild yams and palm trees were grown.

-Around 3000BC, forest people specialized on cultivation of root crops (tubers), trees (oil palmers, etc), they also fished, traded etc.

-At 1<sup>st</sup>, cultivation supplemented foraging, hunting and fishing, currently cultivation is supplemented by foraging, hunting & fishing.

## **Industries**

**-Local industrial succeeded in the forest fringe areas of West Africa as well as in the open grassland regions of north-central Burkina Faso.**

**-Pottery making, pieces of pottery excavated at Igbo-Ukwu in Nigeria and Guinea occupied rock shelter.**

-Pottery evidence shows that People cultivated and prepared food using pots.

-Basket making using reeds for storage shows that people were moving from nature dependency and there were some of technological changes.

-Other evidence such as the use of **ceramics** shows that there was existence of sedentary life.

**-Major dynamic effects associated with the spread of food production from the end of late Stone Age**

**i)Desertification of the Saharan.**

-The climatic conditions forced many people gradually move out to savannah areas southwards where they continued cultivating cereals, fishing and foraging. Other people moved to oases where they became nomads but they kept cattle, sheep and goats which survived better in the desert vegetation.

-Changes in the sahara had profound impact on the cultures of people in the desert and on the adjacent people of northern and western Africa. Example the Berbers stayed north of the Sahara where they adapted new conditions.

- By the 7<sup>th</sup> BC, Berbers occupied areas of Northern Niger and Mali.

- Where climate changed again, and become slightly more humid after 1000BC, the Berbers moved further south of the desert.

- To adopt a desert condition it became necessary, to spread the herdsmen and livestock during the rain season where they could get grass (Transhumance). During the dry season, people and their flocks concentrated themselves round water holes, they therefore maintained few/ small herds of cattle.

-To maintain such type of life without conflict new systems were invented to cope dual way of life. One of their systems was the deep segmentary kinship (it became universal in Sahara). People were organized in very large groups.

- Large groups were subdivided into smaller groups as new need rose.

- **Grazing accelerated soil erosion and further desertification.**

-Due to growing dependence on nomadic life other domesticated plants cultivated in the oases became more vital for the survival of the nomads.

- The increasing drought forced innovations in the oases. Nomadic people established a system of under ground channels irrigation wing with huge labour force. The farmers were forced to live together in large settlements and accept a strong communal authority to supervise distribution of water.

-Nomads came to raid in the oases. Successive raiding forced the oases dwellers (cultivators) to be under **nomads**. Oases dwellers farmers began to accept protection of nomads in return for payment of fixed of cereals, dates and supply of water.

- These processes increased inequalities between farmers in the oases and nomads (migrant).

- Desertification proceeded from east to west around the fringes of the desert to savannah where cultivators lived.

ii) **-Spread of Bantu;**

=They expanded southlands from the Niger, Cameroon to other parts of Africa. They, exchanged agro – skills, cereals and iron techniques. In the forest areas, there was evidence of tuber like yams, cocoyam, oil palm trees as a result of expansion.

- iii) -It **became possible for human groups** to inhabit the same spots permanently
- iv) -**It became possible for** surplus stock of goods
- v) -It became possible to accumulate wealth
- vi) -Increase of population became possible
- vii) -The genesis of earth cults and of the idea of divine king
- viii) -Urban revolution example at Dar Tichitt in Mauritania. etc.

**NB. Despite of these social changes, the state did not emerge**

### **2.3 SOCIO-POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS**

- After stone technology societies became** large and complex using **metal** technology
- Metal (copper/bronze) provided early human societies with superior raw material for making their tools, weapons and decorative ornaments.
- In West Africa, bronze was available Igbo-Ukwu-Nigeria, Ghana, Ife Benin e.t.c.
- Later on, in some areas in West Africa metal was an item of trade.
- Early copper working in West Africa include: Air Mountains of the southern Sahara, Mauritania, Azelik and Agades in central Nigeria

**NB. Copper working in West Africa remained on small scale and appeared without dramatic effects on the way of life of the predominantly stone-using peoples of the region.**

### **IRON TECHNOLOGY**

- High technology was invented in west Africa especially in savannah areas of Guinea, Liberia, northern Nigeria ( between Nigeria +Benue rivers) mother center was in Jenne - Mali.
- -The introduction of iron in West Africa was a big event, of a great importance in the region
- By 400 BC iron working was becoming fairly widespread in the savannah woodlands of West Africa. In Nigeria iron working culture was known as the NOK CULTURE (fully iron using)
- Between 300 and 500AD iron workings began to appear in the forest belt.

### **USES OF IRON TOOLS:**

Used in agriculture means of clearing woodland for cultivation

-Weapons

The armies of the Ghana Empire were equipped with iron swords and spears. This was reported by Arab writers.

-Iron weapons were buried with rich people i.e. it was a symbol of power and wealth.

-It was used in transport

### **EFFECT OF IRON TECHNOLOGY**

-Up to 1000century, the use of iron gradually spread to all parts of the regions of West Africa.

-Iron accelerated the spread of farming communities (Bantu speaking peoples and the practice of agriculture). In the savannah, livestock keeping and grain agriculture were further development as Sahara desiccated i.e. the use of manure, selection of seeds, etc hunting and gathering diminished in importance i.e. it became supplementary economic activity

-Also the spread of iron was associated with spread of Bantu languages from Nigeria and Cameroon

-Formation of cluster villages e.g. upper Niger

-Development of specialization in production e.g. production of rice, cotton or dried fish in Niger

-Large town were built, the most prominent being Jenne, a thriving market town by at least 250BC

- Social differentiation in form of classes emerged.

- There were cultural and ideological changes i.e. the way of cultivating keeping animal.

-Religion and writings developed.

-Sedentary food producing societies spread in many parts of W.A between Savannah and the forest.

-Hunter and gathering were pushed out into uninhabitable areas but others adopted themselves into new forms of production

-During that time there was increase of population in some areas, like inland delta of the Niger **which later changed social relation among people.**

-Extended family emerged

-Some people were living in the emerged town some in the villages

-The towns and cities became commercial centers in short trade developed

-Land became the means of production, some people owned land some not

-Level of technology was higher compared to the primitive and transitional societies

- Exploitation of man appeared chief or hinges and military men appropriated products of labour.
- Division of labour was advanced on gender lines and skills
- Villages grouped together to form larger political units or states
- Emergence of sophisticated states like Ghana with complex ideologies.

**Therefore, economic activities facilitated social and political organization in West Africa, and it was through economic (trade/local/interregional -Trans Saharan trade) where various things in West Africa changed.**

**-W.A began communicating with other external societies. The communications facilitated exchange of technology in agriculture, making of iron tools and exchange of ideas in different issues.**

## **2.4 Early inter-regional trade and its social and political significance**

Trans-Saharan trade:

Beginning of Trans-Saharan trade

- Trans-Saharan trade was one of the important historical event in West African and North African.
- Trans-Saharan trade/ the caravan trade, was the long distance trade that linked together North Africa, the Mediterranean world and Europe, the sahara, the savanna and forest areas of West Africa. Began around the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Century, it gained more momentum from 7<sup>th</sup> century onwards and reached its peak in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- Evidence of early development of this trade is provided by series of rock painting which have been discovered in the mountains of the central Sahara, Niger, e.t.c
- It should be understood that Trans-Saharan trade was a long distance trade whereby, in different routes declined in 16<sup>th</sup> century, but in some of the routes continued up to 20<sup>th</sup> century (Boahen, et al Topics in West African History P.1)
- In fact, at 1<sup>st</sup> the trade took place between the Berbers in the Sahara desert and their southern neighbours in the savanna zone which is now generally referred to as the **Sahel** or the Sudan.
- What the two neighboring communities exchanged at 1<sup>st</sup> were mainly **salt from** the Sahara and **grain** from the savanna zone. The main currency of trade, however, remained salt from central Sahara.
- The beginning of this trade was inevitable because of *specialization in the regions*. Each of the regions produced certain commodities that were urgently required in other zones**

Also, *unequal distribution of natural resources* like fertile land, water sources for fishing, salt, Iron, gold and livestock.

-Climatic changes caused by the desiccation/drought of the Sahara, population moved northward and southward resulting into different economic activities.

- In that trade items of the trade were industrial goods from North Africa, the Mediterranean world and Europe, salt, copper and dates from the sahara, ivory, gold, slaves, food products from the savanna and gold and kola nuts from forest areas of West Africa.

-Important items of the trade were salt, gold, iron and slaves.

-The earliest trade goods were probably carried strapped to the backs of cattle known as pack-oxen, horses, donkeys and mules.

-Also, evidence of such type of transport is found in the Saharan rock painting.

-But, with these animals the distance they could travel without rest and water was severely limited.

-The intermediaries/ middle men of this early trade were the different Berber groups of northern Sahara. But, this early trade was still small in scale and sporadic before the introduction of the camel as the beast of burden in the Sahara during the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD.

## **GROWTH OF TRANS-SAHARAN TRADE**

**-The development of this trade was probably a result of the introduction of the camel into North Africa as the beast/animal for carrying goods.**

-The introduction of camels in North African in the 7<sup>th</sup> century accelerated the development of trade because the Berbers adopted camels from the Roman and decided to use in the TST.

-Animals which were earlier used for transporting goods in the Sahara included Oxen, donkey, and horses could not travel long distances without getting water. The camel on the other hand could carry a load of goods and walk for a long time at the same time tolerate hot in day time and night time cold.

-It was apparently the fat stored in its gut which enabled it to travel up to 10 days without requiring water or food.

-Moreover, its large feet enabled it to walk more easily on soft sandy conditions than hoofed animals like oxen, donkeys.

-After acquiring the camel, various groups such as the Zenata in north, Taureg in the central and southern Sahara, and Sanhaja in the west were able to travel from one oasis to another.

- By the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> century onward camel had become the major form of transport in the desert and was carrying more than 120 kilograms
- With the growing of the trade, medium of exchange became iron, gold and slaves which were in great demands.
- West Africa became a principle source of gold for European and Mediterranean world.
- West Africa was the land of gold and European depended on gold from Africa.
- Conquest of the whole north of Africa by the Arabs from Middle East between 641 and 708AD contributed to the development of TST in different ways.**
- It increased the use of camels* in North Africa as well as in the Sahara which increased the volume of trade.
- Arab soldiers settled in the terminals of the caravan routes*, commercial centers increasing participated also in trade which led the increase of the volume of trade.
- Arabs combined trading with missionary activities* and it was Berber converters in the Sahara who increased the volume of trade.
- Islam played a vital role in the development of trade and state between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- The political development that took place in western Sudan between 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries was another reason for the rise of TST. Kingdoms and empires such as Ghana, Kanem, Mali, Songhai, and Hausa rulers of these states contributed to the growth of trade in different ways:**
- they ensured safety, security and provisioning of the incoming Muslim traders*
- they granted freedom of worship to the incoming Muslims* where some local rulers were against Muslim
- they ensured to the foreign traders and official who tried to cheat to the foreign traders were punished
- rulers ensured the security and maintenance of the trade routes*
- the rulers took part in the trade themselves*
- all the gold nuggets/pieces were by law preserved for kings and kings sold into the northern market according to his demand.
- Another reason for the rise of trans-Saharan trade was the contribution made by Islam.**
- Great Islamic authorities issued the conduction/injunction of trade to the territory of the enemy and to the land of the Sudan, this they meant trade to the land of the infide/kafiri
- since Islam encouraged the spread of Arabic as a lingua franca

-Islamic dress habits followed the spread of Islam and this given a great boost both to the import textiles.

-Islam led to a great increase in Islamic leaning and education, which in turn encouraged the trade in paper, books and manuscripts

-Islam made to the growth of the caravan trade through pilgrimage or haji that was demanded of its members. Many of the Sudanese rulers of the period took this obligation very seriously and went on the pilgrimage/haji to Mecca thus drawing attention of the Muslim world to their states and further attracting traders and scholars.

**-Moreover, 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century extension of TST into the sahara and forest areas to south, the** Mande people and Wangara migrated in large numbers southwards into the gold and kola producing areas and pioneered the trade in the Niger bed, middle Niger and into Hausaland.

### **THE CARAVAN ROUTE OF TST**

- 1) Fez-Marrakesh-Wadan-Audaghost-Takrur/Ghana
- 2) Fez-Sijilmasa-Taghaza-Tichit-Walata-Jenne/Timbuctu-mali
- 3) Algiers-In Salah-Arawan-Timbuctu
- 4) Qarawayn-Wargla-Tadmekka-Gao
- 5) Tripol-Ghadames-Ghat-Takedda/Agades-Katsina/Kano
- 6) Tripol-Fezzan-Bilma-Kanem/Borno/Hausaland
- 7) Cyrenaica-Kufra-Wadai.

-Each of these routes had four important points, Northern termini/homes of the great merchants, meeting points; the refreshment centres/coaling station and southern termini.

-Route six remained in continuous use for the longest time. It is important to note that the volume of trade on these routes changed with the centuries depending much on the political conditions in the Sudan and the security of the routes.

### **EFFECTS OF TRANS SAHARAN TRADE**

***-Contributed to the formation of states and kingdoms in West Africa.*** One of the things that TST did was to create in the rulers of the communities the desire to establish control over the trade routes that were emerging, as well as over the areas that could produce gold and other commodities such as salt needed in the new trade. It is surely with a view of controlling the trade routes as well as mines areas that the state formed in West Africa. This process seems to have moved a step further on the Sahel part on the Sudan where a number of chiefdoms

established by Mande speaking Soninke people joined together to form a loose confederation which became known as the empire of Ghana.

-Trade provided the means for undertaking the wars and conquest and expansion through warfare.

*-The trade increased the power of the rulers*, by insuring regular sources of income through the custom duties that were able to impose on imports and exports and trade enabled rulers to gain goods of the great political importance such as horses, metals and imported into the country.

-The trade brought in the states and peoples of West Africa with Barbary states of north sahara and the Muslim world at larger.

*-The trade greatly promoted the exploitation of natural resources.*

The trade stimulated food production/development of agriculture because the trade encouraged the exportation of foodstuffs and provision in the Sahara.

*-TST promoted the development of urbanization*, I.E small villages and settlements into town.

*-the trade stimulated the spread of Islamic religion* in the western Sudan

-Trade created classes in West Africa i.e. the class of resident foreign merchants who lived in their own towns and second the local professional traders such Dyula or Wangara among the Mande and Hausa people. The mande, Dyula and Wangara and Hausa became local merchants who went to interior areas collecting trade items for Arab traders and local merchants remained at communal centers.

*-The trade improved the general standard of the life* as a result of the clothes and luxury items introduced in West Africa by trade.

-It also brought fundamental changes in social and culture as way population was converted into Islam.

*-That trade led to the increase of population* in West Africa. Population continued to increase in commercial centers.

-It contributed in showing demarcation between rural areas where it remained producers of food products and urban centres became focal points for exchange of commodities.

### **Why the trade collapsed:**

#### **1. Mercantilism**

For a long time, Europe developed trade relations with Middle East, Asia and Far East trough M. East by land routes

-By the 12<sup>th</sup> C, Europe came into conflict with Middle East for economic reasons explained in religious wars i.e. how to control land routes, extract taxes, etc Europeans & Arabs fought several wars almost for 200yrs.

-Europeans began to seek an alternative route to Asia & Far East. Portugal and Spain gained exploration activities using navigators like Vasco Da Gama, Bathromeo Diaz, etc as a result, European came into contact with coast of West. Africa.

-They developed trade relations with coastal and forest West African. W.A. Exchanged Ivory, gold, slaves, etc from European goods.

-The presence of Europeans in the W.A. coast undermined TST routes and relations.

2. Increased of commercial activity of Europeans on the coastal and Forest areas by Europeans.

- From the 15<sup>th</sup> century, European established trading posts along the coast example St Louis, Elmina, Lagos.

3. Conquest of West Africa by the people from north e.g. Moroccans force to the state like Songhai.

4. European colonization of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries directed trade routes from Sahara and now most of these routes went southwards to coastal areas and westwards Dakar, St. Louis, etc. France controlled most of the interior prohibitions Africans to trade.

**NB. The decline of TST was a gradual process. It started to decline from 16<sup>th</sup> century, 17<sup>th</sup> century and in some routes continued up to 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

### TOPIC 3 PRE-COLONIAL STATES IN WEST AFRICA

**What is state? State, in political science, generally a group of people inhabiting in a specific territory and living according to a common legal and political authority; a body politic or nation.**

**A state, means an autonomous political unit composed of a heterogeneous population and having a centralized government with powers to collect tribute and/ or levy taxes, to draft people for work and to make laws and enforce them. Or state is an organized political community controlled by one government, occupying a definite territory, politically organized, possessing coercive apparatus for maintenance of power and free from external control. Or a state is a political unit which has a centralized government headed by a king or**

any other kind of ruler and which has power to collect tribute or taxes, to draft people for public works or war, and to make laws and enforce them in its territory.

**State arises when society has undergone a degree of stratification that is its members no longer have equal access to the basic resources that sustain life. In such a society the original social order of equality and egalitarianism has been eroded by social differentiation based on wealth based on wealth and privilege.**

**-States therefore, emerged where population settlements were more or less permanent.**

## THEORIES WHICH EXPLAIN THE ORIGIN OF STATE

### Idealist theory

-The idealists place emphasis on the dominance of certain ideas as determining what happens in history.

-Idealist drives anything from idea.

-This means that individual consciousness, determines what happen in the society and shape their histories. (refer Hi 101)

-Idealist explanation of the state is divided into three group;- classical views, medieval view, and modern view.

1. According to classical scholars (Aristotle, Plato, G.W.F. Hegel-

-Each individual human being has selfish interests. These selfish interests of individuals normally clash.

-The state therefore arouses in order to limit these selfish interests.

-Classical thinkers believe that, state was/is the work of rational people. And society is divided between rational and irrational; the rational people think how the state could be.

-Aristotle maintained that the state was something natural and that it arouses naturally because man by nature is a political animal.

-The state is universal and developed naturally in all human societies.

-It is clear therefore that this theory failed to explain adequately what the state is and how it came into being.

2. Medieval idealist (middle ages) the period before 1500.

-The period which was dominated by religion thinking.

-The state was/is divine instrument it comes from God.

-Those who were/are controlling the state have to be obeyed because their power comes from God.

-During this time there was little distinguish between state and church.

-The leader of church was also the leader of political power.

### 3. Modern idealist

-This was the period from 18th century.

-State is a social contract between the ruled and rulers, the governors and governance.

-Advocated by Jean Jacques Rousseau, John Locke and David Hume

J.J. Rousseau “The social Contract theory” Some people at their own free will at a certain historical epoch give off their freedom and rights to enter contract for the common good i.e. some individuals can determine every good for the society. Hence people of the society make contract with them.

-It states that man is born good but he/she is corrupted by society as they grow up. Then at some societies voluntary and spontaneously gave up some of their freedom and rights and made a contract with those who emerged as rules to obey them in exchange for the common good.

-Thus also an idealistic view of the state and its origin because it assume that some individuals can determine what is good for everybody in society and having done that they can convince the rest of the people in society to make a contract with them which make a custodian of the common good.

### COERCION THEORY

According to Niccolo Machiavelli; Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels as outlined in their Communist Manifesto and Thomas Hobbes as outlined in his Leviathan. This coercion theory insists on the use of force, conquest, warfare etc. as means for state formation. State emerged as an outcome of conquest. In the warfare, states emerge in the context of large-scale and protracted warfare between groups of communities at the tribal or chiefdom level of organization. In this situation warfare may result in the conquest and subordination of one group by another, in which case the institutions of state-level government are the means by which the conquering group rules the defeated. Warfare may not always result in conquest however, since some kinds of war are aimed at capturing resources or at driving the enemy from a particular area. Under this scenario, the institutions of state-level government arise as means both to organize the society to more competitively engage in combat and also to allocate and administer the captured land or resources.

### THE EVOLUTIONARY THEORY

Theorist who advocate the evolutionary of state formation ( e.g. Robert Carneiro in his Political Expansion as an Expression of Competitive Evolution”) contended that societies evolve from simple to more complex societies i.e. from the band society to tribal society, to chiefdom society and finally to state societies.

### THE CIRCUMSCRIPTION THEORY

Also by Robert Carneiro explains the formation of states as the outcome of a regular and determinate by cultural process (Carneiro 1970, 1981, 1992). Carneiro asserts that since different states arose independently at different historical times in various part of the world, their origin needs to be accounted for by a general theory. Warfare plays the most decisive role in the creation of states, but three socio-ecological conditions also have to be met.

First, states arise in areas where the availability of agricultural land is restricted. This refers to the ecological condition of environmental circumscription. When agricultural land is not readily available, warfare/competition/conflict will lead to a dispersal of villages because the basic means for subsistence can easily be found elsewhere. As, on the other hand, the limits of arable land are reached, villages can no longer disperse into other areas. Then warfare arises out of a need to acquire agricultural resources, and some villages will be politically subjugated by other, more dominant groupings. Formerly autonomous villages thus become incorporated into larger political formations: chiefdoms are formed and come under the control of a paramount chief. Increased competition over land accelerates the process of warfare and political subjugation to create even greater political units (compound and consolidated chiefdoms). **Eventually, when an area is sharply circumscribed and sufficiently large, highly centralized and internally differentiated states are formed. Individual war heroes then occupy newly formed political offices to decree and enforce laws, collect taxes, organize labor, and draft men for war.**

Resource concentration is a second condition for warfare to lead to state formation. Resource concentration refers to the fact that the availability of food in an area can be restricted so that exploitable areas become completely occupied. When this is the case, competition over cultivatable land increases. This leads to conflicts and warfare, which can become intensified to the extent that political communities are united and eventually, through a progression of processes of political subjugation, form a state.

Finally, Carneiro argues that population pressure and social circumscription can also explain how warfare leads to the creation of states. Population pressure refers to the density of population

relative to available land. High population density in villages located near the center of a territory can lead to increased pressures to occupy agricultural land. Warfare arises, becomes more intense and is redirected to land acquisition. This brings about the crystallization of larger political units and, ultimately, the formation of states. The territorial limits of the state are reached at the point where sufficiently consolidated groups meet other social formations of equal political complexity. The geographical spread of the state is halted because of social circumscription.

## MATERIALIST theory

- The historical materialism school of thought addresses itself to the question of how society produces itself.
- People are the one who responsible in changing the events.
- In order to understand things, we must study them, not according to the dictates of any abstract/theoretical system, but in their real changes and interconnection.
- We must set aside preconceived ideas and fancies/beliefs about things and strive to make our theories correspond to the real conditions material existence and that means that our outlook and theory is materialism.
- Materialism is not a dogmatic/rigid/inflexible system. It is rather a way of interpreting, conceiving of, explaining every question.
- materialists interpret any events by looking their interconnection.
- e.g. what causes thunderstorms? The materialist way of understanding thunderstorms as solely to what are called natural forces.
- What happens in the material world it is from material world itself.
- Materialist consider man not as static,
- State arose at particular time within a society as a result of classes.
- When there was production which gives surplus the notion of conflict antagonism emerged. State emerged to control classes. Emergence of classes was connected with the development of technology. So, development:
- Removed human beings from the Stone Age and made them to enter the Iron Age
- As man developed productive forces, his harmonious relationship with other men gradually disappeared. It became antagonistic because the development of productive forces caused division of labour in society.
- The 1st kind of division of labour resulting from development of the productive forces was the division on the basis of the goods produced. Some people became agriculturalists, others

pastoralists and the rest remained hunters and gatherers. This division was caused by ecological factors and climatic changes.

-Both agriculturalist and animal husbandry in Africa developed in North Africa first and that it was only much later that they were introduced in tropical Africa too. This because in North Africa there was no equilibrium between food resources and population after desertification of the Sahara. Whereas in the rich tropical African environment there remained balance between resources and population for a much longer time.

-The main reasons as to why there is still hunters and gathers societies in some parts of the world, is that there is still an equilibrium between the resources and population in areas concerned.

- The 2nd major division of labour from the development of the productive forces was the separation of handcraft from agriculturalist. This gave rise commodity production and exchange, because the products from handcrafts were made for sale.

-This separation went hand in hand with the separation of towns from countryside, where towns specialized in handcrafts and rural people producing agricultural products. There emerged the large private ownership of wealth e.g. handcraft e.t.c.

-Hence, the distinction of people in society between rich and poor, the rich dominating the poor

-Increased population and welfare necessitated closer union between different communities, this because either aggression or defence needed a large group of people.

- At the same time, increased population reduced the amount of empty land separating the communities. So, a number of related clans and communities amalgamated their territories.

-In this way increased production divided society into classes with antagonistic interests, and the state emerged to protect the interests of the dominant class.

-Theoretically, that is how primitive communalism collapsed to be replaced by societies divided into two antagonistic classes.

-As the antagonistic classes confronted another, the state emerged as a mechanism to control dominant class in a given society and protect their interest.

-It is the economically dominant class which controls the state. Even the laws are made by the politically dominant class.

-In other words, the state arose at a stage in social-economic development when society had broken into irreconcilable internal contradictions which could no longer be solved through the old method.

NB. In connection to the above concerning the origin of the state, there is no single reason which explain the origin and rise of state in Africa. There are some of the reasons which are common from one place to another but other reasons differ from one state to another.

The production models of state formation see the intensification of agriculture as the primary vehicle for the emergence of the institutions of state government. In these models, population growth and environmental conditions put pressure on a society to produce more agricultural resources through more intensive techniques of production such as irrigation or raised fields. Under these circumstances, the intensification itself requires greater organization and centralized decision making within the social system. With irrigation, for example, there has to be a centralized and coordinated effort to construct and clean canals, assign lands along the canals, and allocate water to fields. There also have to be administrative means to insure that the nonproducing parts of this system, the managers and their bureaucracy, are supported through the centralized collection and reallocation of resources from the producers. In these models, the institutions of government arise to manage agricultural production, make decisions for the system as a whole, and collect and reallocate resources (i.e., taxes) to maintain the system as an effective whole. E.g. state in Egypty, Ethiopian Empire, western Sudan states, forest states, kingdoms of Congo, because of conducive for production(reference pp8-11 The growth of African civilization vol.1 by Omer cooper and others)

In the trade models, the institutions of government develop as a means of organizing either the internal exchange of different kinds of resources within a social system, or large-scale trade in basic resources with outside areas. The basic premise in these models is that institutions of state government arise as a more efficient means to both procure and distribute a wide range of resources in a large and complex society. This model works under two somewhat different kinds of circumstances. In the first a large and growing population may obtain significant increases in efficiency through specialization in the production of specific resources. In the second, certain kinds of resources may only be obtained or obtained more efficiently through trade from areas or cultures outside the immediate area. In both of these cases, the institutions of state government are seen to arise as a means to manage the acquisition and distribution of resources within the social system. Decisions about levels of production of various kinds of resources in different parts of the system are made by the apparatus of the state as are decisions about the allocation within the system of resources acquired through trade or exchange. State government also assumes responsibility for physically implementing and supporting the trade or exchange networks

including such things as centralized storage facilities, markets, specialized traders, and military protection of caravans.

\*\*At the same time, however, elements of the conflict model can be found in each as well. This can be seen directly in the conquest model where a victorious polity uses the institutions of state government to impose rule on defeated societies. But the seeds of conflict are found in the other models as well. In all of them the individuals in command of the institutions of state government gain greatly increased economic power through control over the production or acquisition of basic resources that are vital to the survival of the society as a whole. With this control over basic resources, the leaders in state-level societies gain a new level of power qualitatively greater than anything seen in preceding simpler forms of sociopolitical organization.

Around the world, the greatly increased power of emergent leaders in the first state societies was directly manifested in a dramatic florescence of monumental communal architecture, state-supported art, specialization in the production of luxury goods, and the appearance of elite palatial architecture. The elaborate art, crafts, and architecture characteristic of all the earliest states was supported or financed through the extraction of taxes in the form of labor or resources. Although there were undoubtedly broad ideological and economic values to the monumental art and architecture of early states, there is ample evidence that the economic power in these societies was being used to support stratified elite in a lifestyle significantly more luxurious than the rest of the population.

Therefore, all of the diverse theories of state formation share certain similar characteristics; namely, growing populations, the need for additional resources to sustain the population, and increasing social, technological, and economic complexity. In all of them there are certain adaptive advantages to be gained for the society as a whole having a centralized decision-making apparatus in order to more efficiently coordinate the production, procurement, and distribution of resources. In this sense, with the exception of the conquest scenario, all of the models have elements that correspond to the integrative school of thought on state origins.

The first states to have arisen in Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, India, Mesoamerica, and the Andes were all quite unique and developed along historically distinct routes. None of the various theories that have been offered to explain the “origins of the state” can effectively encompass/cover the individual characteristics of each of these early states. At the same time, however, the first states to appear around the world also shared basic characteristics of institutional bureaucracies, ruling

elites, state religions, standing armies, and centralized economies. These common characteristics, standing at the heart of the state form of organization, represented a cross-cultural response to similar forces of population pressure, resource shortages, and increasing social complexity

## CHARICTERISTICS OF STATE

-Centralization of political power in the hands of rulers such as kings, chiefs, emperors i.e. states usually exists in societies with centralized institutions such as kingships, administrative, legislative bodies' etc.

-State normally exists in plural or heterogeneous communities which have their own territories. The basis for a state is territory.

-The state is made up of both oppressive and ideological apparatuses. The former includes the army, prisons, police, and the legal system. The ideological include; philosophy, religion, ethics and the education system. These are intended to convince everybody to behave according to the set out laws.

-This kind of organization exists in a society which had permanently settled. The most noticeable characteristic is the degree to which nation-states use the state as an instrument of national unity, in economic, social and cultural life.

-The state promoted economic unity, first by abolishing internal customs and tolls.

-states typically have a policy to create and maintain a national transportation infrastructure, facilitating trade and travel, states continue to build, for instance, specifically national motorway networks, specifically trans-national infrastructure

-states typically had a more centralized and uniform public administration

## SUDANIC STATES/ SUDANIC ZONE/ WESTERN SUDANIC

**-The term western Sudanic zone refers to that part of the region which extends from the Atlantic coast it the west to the neighbourhood of Lake Chad in the east.**

## GHANA EMPIRE

The Ghana Empire is not to be confused with the modern Ghana no direct relation between the two. Though the name of modern Ghana was chosen in honor/respect of the ancient of historical states.

-This empire of Ghana is said to have been established by the Soninke people between the second and the fifth century A.D. under GhanaTunku Manin. Ghana, the name by which the state was known to outsiders, was one of the titles of its king. It is not surprisingly therefore that it is from about the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD that Ghana emerged as a state with its capital at **Kumbi-Saleh**.

-It was located southern fringes of the desert, dominated the southern border region of modern Mauritania and Mali.

So, the principle people e.g. Ghana empire were the Soninke

-**The origins of Ghana** were thus, in this place, was availability of iron and extension of that natural resources.

-It was one of the most important, and certainly the best-known, of the early West African Iron Age states.

-The introduction of iron technology in the region between 500and 400BC led to increase production in all economic activities. Iron led development farming-people to live together e.g Sahel was the one of the regions for the early domestication of sorghum and Millet-increased.

## **FACTORS FOR THE RISE OF GHANA EMPIRE**

-Fertile environment along river valleys which supported agricultural activities i.e. cultivation and livestock keeping.

-**Growth of population in the savanna due to food**, and environmental changes of the Sahara people concentrated in the savannah due to the drying of Sahara.

-**Soninke people were also in contact with Saharan nomads** from whom they received horses. This gave their rulers additional military advantage over neighboring peoples of the Savannah.

-Being near the southern fringes of the Sahara desert, they were able to get horses from the Berber desert dwellers. This acquisition of horses gives the Soninke leaders additional military advantage over neighbouring people of the Western Sudan.

-**Seasonal raids by the Sanhaja Berbers** of the Western Sahara. These Sanhaja nomad of the Western Sahara raided many village communities for cattle in the Sudan wherever they moved with their herds in search of water and pastures for their livestock/animals.As a result, the different Soninke chiefdoms which had merged in the region decided to form the empire of Ghana in order to defend themselves from the Sanhaja Berber threat.

**-But perhaps, even more important was Ghana's position with regard to the Trans Saharan trade.** TST contributed to the development of an empire.

Rulers Ghana extracted tribute from trader's exports.

Trade provided regular source of income through custom duties imposed on imports.

From their position in the Western Sudan, the Soninke were midway between the main source of salt at Taghaza in the Sahara and the gold fields in the Bambuk territory in the upper Senegal River. Initially, the Soninke supplied the salt producers of Taghaza in the Sahara with their surplus gains in exchange for salt. That means what they produced and had surplus exchanged with salt.

-As the demand for **gold in North** Africa increased, a merchant class known as Wangala emerged among the Soninke who acted as middlemen by passing on some of the salt to the gold producers of the savanna woodland to their south.

-The Wangala or Soninke also obtained ivory and captives from the woodland areas to their south for export to North Africa

-Following the conquest of **North Africa** by Muslim Arabs in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century AD, the Arabs became involved in the TST. They bought gold from Berber merchants in commercial centers such as Sijilmasa and Taghaza in the Sahara and **financed barbers caravans traveling to the western Sudan.** It became easier for the Arabs to obtain gold and other West African gold and other goods as most of the Berber in the Sahara converted to Islam in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> AD and became their agents in the TST.

-At the same time during the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> century, there was a great increase in the demand for gold for minting into coins by the Islamic states of N. Africa. As a result, of their development, the volume of the TST increased tremendously and many former nomadic Berbers became full time desert traders.

-The expansion of the Trans-Saharan Trade in gold was parallel by a growth in the state of Ghana. The Soninke bought gold from Bambuk and exchanged with salt, clothes and other manufactured goods from Magharib. It was from the taxing of this trade that the kings of Ghana obtained most of their wealth.

**-In fact as the volume of trade increased, there was considerable rivalry between the Muslim** Berber traders of Awdaghust (Islamic town south west Sahara) and Soninke trader of Ghana. Being the Most powerful state in the region at the time, Ghana solved the problems of rivalry with the Berber traders of Awdaghust and surrounding areas in the Sahara by annexing them and making them part of their empire.

-But the Muslim Berbers in the southern Sahara were unhappy to be milled by the non-Muslims of Ghana.

-Up to the 10<sup>th</sup> only a small part of the population of Ghana had Islamized.

-These Moslems were living in Kumbi-Saleh the capital and in the trading centres which had arisen in different parts of the empire.

-The Soninke ruling class and the most of the people in the rural areas were still believers in African traditional religion.

-It was only after the empire of Ghana was invaded and conquered by a fanatic Muslim group known as Almoravids in the late of the 11 century , **that many people became Muslims in the w. Africa it was the time when problem started in Ghana.**

### **Decline of Ghana Empire**

-The Almoravids invaded the empire of Ghana in the middle of the 11<sup>th</sup> century in order to remove the shame of Moslems being ruled by Soninke infidels and in order to make Muslims follow proper Islamic ways.

-By 1200AD Ghana lost Awdaghust and other parts of the Southern Sahara to the Almoravids and its power to hold together the rest of the empire appears to have been greatly weakened by **the Almoravids invasion by the end of twelve century** Ghana had lost its domination of the Trans Saharan trade.

-At the same time, new gold fields were opened up at an area called Bure in the Savanna woodland further south. When this happened the southern Soninke and Marinke chiefdoms seized the opportunity to detach themselves and became independent states.

-Southern Soninke chiefdoms of Soso for example seized control of several neighbouring Soninke and Marinke chiefdoms in the early 13<sup>th</sup> and established a new political entity.

-**Another reason for the decline in the Kingdom of Ghana was deterioration in the environment.** The Sahel, between the savannah proper and the desert, was already a marginal zone for growing cereal crops. It seems that by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century the land was exhausted and the region could no longer support a large settled population.

**The weakness of the government structure**, the empire had no political, ethnic or cultural unit; it was mad of many states and peoples, and kings of Ghana failed to weld/join them into a true nation state. Different peoples such as the Soninke, the Susu, the Serer, the Berber and the Tukolor each with its own distinctive culture and languages owned allegiance/commitment to the kings of Ghana. Also, some states which were part of Ghana

such as Takrur, Silla, Diara and Kaniaga were left under their own traditional rulers. This reduced the size of army and economy at larger.

-Or the empire had no cultural, political and ethnic unity it was made up of many states each with distinct language and culture.

-Introduction of Islamic religion which divided population between Moslems and non-Moslems in the empire. Islam became a new ideology.

**-Defeats of Ghana by the Susu rulers and then by those of Mali. In 1203**, Sumanguru Kante, king of Susu conquered and reduced Ghana Empire. So, Ghana declined in middle of 13<sup>th</sup> century and mali came into existence.

## **MALI EMPIRE**

-The collapse of Ghana empire apparently did not affect the TST very badly because Takrur Kingdom in the Senegal river valley in the west and the new Soso kingdom in the south which had access to the gold fields in Bambuk and Bure respectively established links with all the networks of trade within the and the sahara.

-Moreover, the Soninke traders known as Wangara or Dyura were now spread throughout the western Sudan. However, the control of the southern chiefdoms by the Soso did not last long because the Marinke under the able leadership of a warrior named Sundiata defeated the Soso army in 1230 AD and took control of all Soninke chiefdoms which had been conquered by Soso including many other areas of the former Ghana Empire.

-Sundiata was able to defeat the Soso army because he had created a standing army of professional warriors. Within a few years Sundiata established a vast empire which became known as Mali.

-It extended to Atlantic coast in the west Africa and to the Niger band in the east and from the fingers of the forest zone in the southwest to portions of the southern sahara in the north.

-The cities of Jenne, Gao, and Timbuktu became part of the Mali empire and were already emerging as important trading centres. The capital of the Mali empire was the town of Niani near the goldfields of Bure in the southern savanna country in the upper Niger River Valley.

-After establishing the Mali empire Sundiata assumed the traditional Marinke title of Mansa which all his successors also used. Mansa Sundiata ruled his empire from 1230 to 1255. Apart from expanding the empire he established firm control over the flow of gold across the Sahara and made himself master of the TST. This was possible because the gold fields of Bambuk and Bure were under his control.

-After Sundiata's death his successors expanded the empire to the territories of the Songhai people in the east and to a large part in the southern Sahara in the north. By 1300 AD, Mali had become the richest and most powerful state in the western Sudan.

Unlike the rulers of Ghana who were believers in African traditional religion, the rulers of Mali after Sundiata converted to Islam and made it a state religion of Mansa Musa from 1307, to 1337 that Islam became Mali's state religion. This was also the period when the empire reached the height of its greatness and fame.

-Mansa Musa brought Mali to the attention of the rest of the Muslim world when he made his famous pilgrimage to Mecca in 1324 AD. He arrived in Cairo- Egypt at the head of huge caravan which included a hundred camels carrying loads of gold, while in Cairo Mansa Musa spent so many presents of gold that the value of Gold there fell for several years.

-Through his travels, Mansa Musa also brought Mali attention of the European. From 1375 onwards, Europeans map of Africa Rex Mali or Musa Mali.

-On the return from Mecca, he brought an architect from Egypt who designed the mosques which were built in Gao and Timbuktu. He also encouraged the establishment of centres of learning in different towns by local muslim scholars and merchants as advisors and secretaries. Moreover, since most of the Soninke and Marinke traders had converted to Islam, they played a significant role in spreading their religion throughout the W. Sudan and as far as the northern parts of the forest zone in the south.

-However, the ordinary town people and most of the rural population in the Mali empire continued to practice their African traditional religions. Nevertheless, Islam was very useful to the rulers of Mali because it gave them prestige and made them appear equals to their trading partners in the Sahara and other parts of North Africa.

-In Mali for example none of the emperors who succeeded Mansa Musa after his death were able to hold together the empire for long.

-By the late 14<sup>th</sup> century, the power of the empire declined as a result of a series of weak rulers and dynastic conflict. When that happened the outlying provinces seized the opportunity to secede and become independent states. The most important province to do so was Songhai on the eastern bank of the Niger. At the same time the wealth of the empire was destroyed by raids from the Mossi people in the south and the Tuareg of the Sahara in the North. As the result of these raids by the Mossi and by secessions from by the Songhai and Tuareg, the great empire of Mali collapsed at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century.

-It was succeeded, as an empire by its former province of Songhai.

## **SONGHAI**

-Songhai had been established as a kingdom by the people of that name in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century A.D.

-The Songhai people, who established it with its capital at the town of Kukya, were members of the Nilo-Saharan family of languages.

-Originally, their economic activities were pastoralist, agriculture and fishing by the 9<sup>th</sup> Century they were in regular contact with Muslim traders who had settled at Gao on the banks of the Niger river. This means that they were integrated in the networks of the Trans Saharan Trade fairly early and by the 11<sup>th</sup> Century its rulers had become at least normally Muslim.

-Shortly after the 11<sup>th</sup> Century, they took over Gao from the Tuareg traders and made it the capital of their kingdom. Later in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, Songhai was annexed by Mansa Musa and was made a province of the Mali Empire. But, when Mali declined at the beginning of the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Songhai broke away and became independent again.

-Its Sonni or Sunni dynasty established a powerful army of horsemen and a fleet of war canoes.

-During the reign of Suni Sulayman, the Songhai army began to extend its territory upstream along the Niger band. This was continued by his successors throughout the 15<sup>th</sup> who directed their efforts northwards into the southern Sahara. In so doing they pushed the Tuareg out of the western Sudan and extended their empire northwards.

-When the Suni dynasty was replaced by the Askiya dynasty at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup>, Songhai had incorporated most of the provinces of the former Mali Empire in the Sahel. But by concentrating their control in the Sahel and the southern Sahara and spreading or promoting Islam, the rulers of Songhai lost control of the gold producing in the south areas. As a result, the TST during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century declined.

-For this reasons, the sultan of Morocco decided to invade Songhai in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century in order to revive the TST in gold. The Moroccans invaded Songhai in 1591 with an army of between 4000 and 6000 soldiers and conquered it.

-Another blow to both the Songhai Empire and the TST was the diversion of the gold trade from north to south by the development of the European controlled Trans Atlantic Trade with its base at the West African coast in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

-As a result, of the Moroccan invasion and conquest at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the empire of Songhai splits up into small Kingdoms hence the end of Songhai.

-Vassal kings had to pay tributes to an emperor majority of the revenue came from gold for trade.

## **THE RISE OF SONGHAI EMPIRE**

1) Fertile or conducive environment

-Songhai was located in the savanna belt where production of food was done extensively food crops were millet and sorghum.

-Their availability enabled rapid growth of population which started in villages and production itself was done by diversified population; cultivators, keepers and foraging were a supplementary activity.

### **2)Trade**

-TST contributed to the rise of the empire through it rose at the same time as Ghana between 500-700AD. It became famous in the 14<sup>th</sup> C after the collapse of Ghana and Mali Empires.

-Before the 14<sup>th</sup> century, population lived in the savanna far from Gold mines and trade route of TST it was the extension of TST routes in the Hausa land in the 14<sup>th</sup> C and 15<sup>th</sup> C that made Songhai to become the centre of trade route for both north west and North East.

-Trade provided tax and accumulation of internal wealth which enabled the empire to expand.

### **3) Islamic religion.**

-This was a unifying force

-Before the 14<sup>th</sup> C Songhai lacked unity and stability in its nucleus. There were many dynasties with different ideologies. Islam was it, so Islam became important during ‘Askia the Great’ reign.

-It became a unifying force and state religion.

-For in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> there was lack of security and peace in savanna which was caused by power vacuum following the disintegration of Mali Empire.

4) -Role played by individual leaders i.e. **Suni Ali who lived between 1464-1492 who expanded Songhai** through conquest. He appropriated surplus Labour from former provinces of Mali and other few areas. Suni Ali conquered Timbuktu, southern areas; he attacked Jenne, a prosperous trade centre.

-he also attacked Mali in its collapse days and attacked more other areas nearby the empire.

**ASKIA MOHAMMED'THE GREAT''**-Was an immediate successor of Suni Ali after his death 1492.

### **COLLAPES OF SONGHAI; CAUSES**

#### **Internal forces,**

Conflicts within the empire as the empire became large compass of difficult ethnic groups.

#### **External factors;**

In its declining days the Hausa conquered some provinces of Songhai Empire.

The rise of TAT trade shifted trade relation.

### **ISLAM IN WEST AFRICA.**

-While the presence of Islam in West Africa dates back to eighth century, the spread of the faith in regions that are now the modern states of Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, Mali and Nigeria, was in actuality, a gradual and complex process.

-Much of what we know about the early history of West Africa comes from medieval accounts written by Arab and North African geographers and historians.

- Specialists have used several models to explain why Africans converted to Islam. Some emphasize economic motivations, others highlight the draw of Islam's spiritual message, and a number stress the prestige and influence of Arabic literacy in facilitating state building.

-While the motivations of early conversions remain unclear, it is apparent that the early presence of Islam in West Africa was linked to trade and commerce with North Africa.

-Trade between West Africa and the Mediterranean predated Islam, however, North African Muslims intensified the Trans-Saharan trade.

-North African traders were major actors in introducing Islam into West Africa. Several major trade routes connected Africa below the Sahara with the Mediterranean Middle East, such as Sijilmasa to Awdaghust and Ghadames to Gao.

-The Sahel, the ecological transition zone between the Sahara desert and forest zone, which spans the African continent, was an intense point of contact between North Africa and communities south of the Sahara.

-The history of Islam in West Africa can be explained in three stages, containment, mixing, and reform.

-In the first stage, African kings contained Muslim influence by segregating Muslim communities.

-In the second stage African rulers blended Islam with local traditions as the population selectively appropriated Islamic practices.

-Finally in the third stage, African Muslims pressed for reforms in an effort to rid their societies of mixed practices and implement Shariah.

-This three-phase framework helps shed light on the historical development of the medieval empires of Ghana, Mali, and Songhay and the 19th century jihads that led to the establishment of the Sokoto Caliphate in Hausaland and the Umarian state in Senegambia.

NB. The first West Africans to be converted were the inhabitants of the Sahara, the Berbers, and it is generally agreed that by the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, the Sahara had become Dar al-Islam, that is the country of Islam.

## **REASONS FOR THE SPREAD OF ISLAM**

-By the end of the sixteenth century Islam has spread southwards right to the fringes of the forest belt because:

1) Islam its acceptance of polygamy, its tolerance of traditional African religions, its simplicity of doctrine and mode of worship all these elements made Islam easily acceptable to the Africans communities with which it came into contact.

2) The making sale of charms and amulets, which were believed to offer protection against evil forces and generally ensure success in life, were important in winning over converters. "It was the magical aspects of Islam that aided Muslims to win for over the chiefs in the competition with local priest.

3) effective and varied means of spreading Islam through the activities of the traders, scholars, rulers and soldiers in peaceful or quietist manner as well as in forced or militant manner.

4) Islam spread through the activities of Muslim clerics, marabouts and scholars or mallams. The arrival of such people and conversion of rulers marked the stage in the pattern of islamisation in the western Sudan. Clerics or learned men founded their own religious centers which attracted students from all parts of the western Sudan and who on the completion of their studies and training went back to their own homes to win converts.

5) Through the activities of individual rulers in the western Sudan. They encouraged trade and extended hospitality to both traders and visiting clerics and encouraged acceptance of Islam through their own conversion.

6) Militant Jihad or the waging of a holy war against infidels. This militant or forceful method usually marked the third and the final stage of the process of islamization and reached its climax with the 19<sup>th</sup> century jihads in the western Sudan.

#### THE IMPACT OF ISLAM IN WEST AFRICA

-Islam is not just a religion or a mass of doctrines or beliefs and rituals, but rather a complete way of life. It has its own system of writing, laws, taxation, education and warfare: it has its own social regulations about eating, drinking, marriages, divorce, and inheritance besides the five pillars of the faith; the obligatory duties of praying, fasting, giving alms, undertaking the pilgrimage and confessing the faith.

-politically Islam emphasized unity and brotherhood; it enabled rulers to build large kingdoms and empires embracing different peoples and linguistic groups.

-most of the Muslims rulers of western Sudan adopted the Muslims system of justice and taxation

-The pilgrimage or Haji which Muslims, and especially Muslim rulers were expected to undertake if they were able to do so contributed in many ways to the growth and strength of some states

-Islam it challenged traditional African religion

-It divided the ruling group into Muslim and non-Muslim

-It caused periodic instability and chaos in the western Sudan (Jihad)

-Islam it precipitated the downfall of some states eg Hausa state

-Islam introduced literary as well as Muslim education into the western Sudan.

## TRANS-ANTLANTIC TRADE IN WEST AFRICA

### ORIGINS AND GROWTH

There have been essentially two views expressed as to the relationship between slavery in western African societies and the European-conducted trade in African slaves to the Americas. The one is that coastal African societies already possessed slaves when they were first approached by European traders, and that their rulers and merchants were willing to exchange some of these for the goods offered by these traders. When, with the increasing need of Europeans for labour to exploit their colonies in the Americas, their demand for slaves became the main purpose of their African trade, African merchants responded by organizing the distribution of European goods into the interior in exchange for slaves from inland societies.

The other view is that there was little or nothing corresponding to a slave class in coastal West African societies when Europeans first began to trade with them, but those institutions of servitude developed in these societies essentially as a result of the European demands upon them. This second view was perhaps first unequivocally stated by Dr Walter Rodney, consequent upon his pioneer study of early European accounts of the societies of the Upper Guinea coastlands.

The present writer has argued elsewhere that black African societies had much the same capacity as any other societies to develop hierarchical political systems, social stratification, and inter-societal trading systems, and that, although contact with foreign traders coming from across the Sahara or over the seas was often an important stimulus to such development, it was no more than a stimulus to essentially indigenous processes. Furthermore, the stimulus was in principle not a specific foreign demand for African slaves, but the general demands placed on African rulers and merchants who wanted to obtain the goods offered through foreign trade. In particular, low densities of population in relation to the available amounts of cultivable land, and of mineral or, indeed, any resources available for exploitation to provide commodities to exchange for these exotic goods, led ambitious men in trade( reference SLAVES AND SOCIETY IN WESTERN AFRICA, c. 1445-c. 17001 BY J. D. FAGE

-By the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 15<sup>th</sup> Century the European bourgeoisie expanded their economic to the American continents, the Caribbean Island, Africa, S.E Asia, the Far East and the Pacific region. This expansion was the result of the development of science and technology in Europe.

-The European nations that initiated expansion overseas were the Portuguese and the Spanish.

-Portuguese sailing ships first reached the West African coast in 1470 while Spanish reached the Caribbean Islands in 1492.

-This means that the Portuguese were the 1<sup>st</sup> European to reach the W. African coast.

-Their main need was to access gold producing regions of West Africa e.g. by 14<sup>th</sup> century Mali was a major sources of gold.

-Upon their arrival on the coast the Portuguese built the fort/garrison/defence force known as Elmina (the mine) in what later became known as the Gold coast in order to protect their trading coast from the ships of rival European.

-At 1<sup>st</sup> the Portuguese traded copper, brass and European clothes exchange for gold. They thus offered the people of forest goods which they had previously obtained from Sudanic zone and N. Africa through Trans Saharan Trade.

-In the early 1500s, the Portuguese added cowrie shells and luxury cloth from India to the range of goods they offered in exchange for W. African gold.

-Meanwhile, in the 1480s the Portuguese discovered the uninhabited Equatorial Islands of Principe and Sao Tome near the coast of present **day Republic of Gabon in which they brought settlers from Portugal who established sugar cane plantations using slave labour.**

-Portuguese sailors who ventured into the Atlantic in the 15th century enabled plantation agriculture to spread to such tropical Atlantic islands as Madeira, the Canary Islands, and Sao Tome, all of which emerged as major sugar producers. The nearest labour force for these plantations was Africa's western coast.

-Since the arrival of Portuguese in the W. Africa coast in 1470, African captives started being obtained from different chiefdoms for sale into slavery.

-The Portuguese transported the greatest number of slaves in the early years of the slave trade, exercising a near monopoly. Portugal had several advantages because of its early expansion into Africa and the ease of transporting slaves over the relatively short distance from Africa to the Portuguese **colony of Brazil.**

-The annexation/occupation of Portugal by Spain, from 1580 to 1640, tightened the Portuguese hold over the slave trade. Phillip II of Spain granted Portuguese merchants a monopoly on the importation of slaves to Spain's colonies in America.

-The plantation system for growing sugarcane had originally been developed in various Mediterranean Islands and in Southern Spain and Portugal in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries

-The slave labour used in the plantations in Principe & Sao Tome was obtained from African main lands mainly from the Niger delta and the kingdoms of Congo and Angola.

-Initially in the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup>, they were obtained mainly from the Senegal and Gambia region and were transported from there to farms and plantations in southern **Spain and Portugal**, while those taken from the Niger delta and the kingdoms of Kongo and Angola were sent to Sao Tome and Principe.

-In the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century Sao Tome became the largest single producer of the sugar for the European market. Ultimately, the Sao Tome plantation system owned and run by European overseers African slaves as labourers, and later on slaves were introduced in the Caribbean Islands and other parts of Americas.

**-Eventually plantation agriculture spread to the Americas: After 1550, northeast Brazil became the leading sugar-producing area, and after 1640 the leading position passed to the Caribbean. Eventually, the British colonies of mainland North America imported slaves to grow tobacco, rice, and indigo. Extensive cotton production based on slave labor did not begin in the southern United States until the beginning of the 19th century.**

-After the establishment of a plantation economy by the Spanish and the Portuguese and other European nations such as the English, the French and the Dutch in the Caribbean Islands and to American continents in the 16<sup>th</sup>, Africans started being shipped them as slave workers.

-This led then the development of Trans Atlantic slave trade at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century. This Trans Atlantic slave trade became the biggest inhuman trade in history. Thousands of able bodied young men & women between 15 & 35 years of age were shipped from the W. African coast to the Caribbean Islands (Central America) and to American continents as slave labour year after year from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

-The Atlantic slave trade became part of a prosperous trading cycle known as the triangular trade. In the first leg of the triangle, European merchants purchased African slaves with commodities manufactured in Europe or imported from European colonies in Asia. They

then sold the slaves in the Caribbean and purchased such easily transportable commodities as sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Finally the merchants would sell these goods in Europe. They would use the profits from these sales to purchase more goods to trade in Africa, continuing the trading cycle.

-The Atlantic slave trade began because a great demand for labour developed on plantations spread about the Atlantic, especially in the tropics of the Western Hemisphere. Most of the plantations produced sugarcane for Europe, but planters eventually grew such other products as coffee, cocoa, rice, indigo, tobacco, and cotton. The Atlantic slave trade became an integral part of an international trading system

-The first African captives to be taken directly across the Atlantic and sold into slavery were transported in 1532/ direct shipments from Africa to the Americas began in 1530s.

By 16<sup>th</sup> century 80% of all exported West Africa Slave went to the Americas, especially to Brazil.

-From then, number increased. E.g. 42% went to the Caribbean, 38% to Brazil and 5% to North America.

-Slaves come chiefly from Senegambia, the Upper Guinea coast, Kongo, Angola Gold Coast, and Benin

-Its estimated that between 15 and 28 million African slaves were shipped across Atlantic to the Caribbean Islands and to the American continents during the three centuries of the operation of trade.

-So, nearly all persons transported across the Atlantic in the slave trade came from the coast and interior of west and west central Africa, between the Sénégal River in the north and southern Angola in the south. A smaller number came from the Mozambique coast or the island of Madagascar along the southeastern side of Africa. Some areas supplied especially large numbers: Perhaps one-third of all slaves came from 800 km (500 mi) on either side of the Congo River and another one-third from the area that today is Benin and Nigeria.

-The voyage from the African coast to the Americas was called the Middle Passage. For the human cargo of slaves, it was among the most difficult sea passages ever undertaken. On average, 16 percent of the men, women, and children involved perished in transit.

-The typical ocean crossing might last from 25 to 60 days, depending on origin, destination, and winds. Slaves were kept below at night on decks four or five feet high. They had less than half the space allotted convicts or soldiers transported by ship at the same time. Captains

kept slaves above decks through as much of the day as weather permitted. Men remained shackled; women and children were freer; crews encouraged movement and activity.

-Two meals per day were the norm. The food varied according to purchases at departure: corn and rice from the less-forested regions on the northern and southern extremes; yams from the Niger delta to the Zaire River. Sometimes dried beans from Europe were standard fare. Each person received about a pint of water with a meal.

-Shipboard hygiene was primitive. Captains made reasonable efforts to guard food and water from contamination and to isolate the sickest slaves, but sanitary facilities were inadequate and slave ships harbored a wealth of diseases. Dysentery was the biggest killer. Mortality rates declined after the mid-18th century. By that time ships had become faster (meaning less time for contamination of food and water and spreading of diseases), and captains had learned how to prevent scurvy with citrus fruits and how to produce fresh water by boiling and evaporating salt water.

-Dangers were not over with landfall in the Americas. Africans were entering new disease environments, eating new foods, drinking different water. Mortality rates through an assimilation period were high—10 percent on British islands in the Caribbean, for instance.

-Slaves faced a variety of experiences in the Americas, but nearly all involved heavy physical labor, poor housing, and insufficient medical care. Sugar plantations were the norm from northeastern Brazil through the Caribbean islands and plantation conditions brought the highest mortality rates. For example, British planters imported about 264,000 slaves into the Caribbean between 1640 and 1700, but high mortality rates reduced the number of slaves on the islands to about 100,000 by the time of the 1700 census. In the French colony of Saint Domingue, about 860,000 slaves arrived between 1680 and 1791, but the black population was only 480,000 in 1791. Slaves also worked mines in Peru or Mexico and labored to produce tobacco, indigo, rice, or cotton on the British North American mainland. In the few places where plantation agriculture was not profitable, they did a variety of tasks for their masters, from working as house servants to practicing a trade.

## **WHY WEST AFRICA WAS A VICTIM OF SLAVE TRADE**

-When Columbus discovered New World **1492 European/British discovered that, the area was good for agriculture and mining activities. So, to exploit the resources many**

**labourers were** need to work in the gold and silver mines of the mainland and their tobacco plantations, cotton, e.t.c.on the islands.

-The European settlers in the New World were eager to make maximum use of the rich land for the cultivation of tobacco, gold and silver mines. In order to exploit the wealth of the place labourers were needed.

-New World plantation owners sought labour that was abundant and inexpensive. Native Americans were the obvious choice, but they died rapidly from such diseases as smallpox, mumps, and measles, which the Europeans introduced into the region and to which the Native Americans lacked immunity. They also could run away with ease: Their homes were usually close by, they were familiar with the land, and they knew how to survive on indigenous plants and animals. The local Indigenous America population quickly suffered to the harsh creation of colonizers and unfamiliar with European diseases. 90% of Amerindian population of the Caribbean died in the first century of European contact.

-European indentured servants—criminals sentenced to labour or men obligated to work for a set time in exchange for ocean passage—also fell victim to diseases, mostly tropical malaria and yellow fever. They could also escape and easily blend in as members of the colony's white ruling. Criminals and outcasts from European were transported to America in early 16<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **Problems for European:**

-Number were limited

-Those sent did, not long survive attacks of tropical diseases.

- Due to problems European colonizers of central and South America turned to Africa for Slaves due to the following reasons.

-But Africans were different: They came from an environment where those who survived into adolescence acquired some immunity to such “Old World” diseases as smallpox, mumps, and measles, as well as to such tropical maladies as malaria and yellow fever. This meant they lived three to five times longer than white laborers under the difficult conditions on plantations, and longer still than Native Americans.

-Difficult to escape, when Africans ran away they could neither go home nor be mistaken for members of the planters' society.

-Through most of the years of the Atlantic trade, prices for Africans remained favorable in relation to the price of the crops they produced. They were, thus, the best economic solution for plantation owners seeking inexpensive labor.

- Skills in metal working, Mining and tropical agriculture.
- Portuguese experienced had already shown that there was always somewhere along the West Africa Coast where African rulers were prepared to sell their in captives and criminals. And example of Sao Tome had shown the possibilities of using Africa slave labour on plantations.
- Because Africans alone were available in the required numbers.
- They were cheaper than white indentured laborers
- it was also suggested that West Africa were considered inferior to Europeans. This belief was in old Testament 9:18-24.

## **HOW SLAVES WERE OBTAINED**

-The first Europeans to sail down Africa's west coast in the mid-15th century attempted to steal Africans from their homes. Several violent confrontations showed Africans' strength, however, and African boycotts proved how dependent Europeans were for such necessities as food and water. It became evident that the only practical way to obtain slaves or other commodities was to bring items the residents wanted in exchange. Within a short time, Europeans and Africans established a systematic way of trading that changed little over several centuries.

-A basic tenet of the slave trade was that Europeans were the shippers only. They were not welcome inland and were generally forbidden to become involved in African politics. Consequently Europeans established outposts on islands or coastal ports where they dealt with neighboring African merchants and rulers.

-Inland, Africans developed various commercial networks for supplying slaves and moving them to the coast. Across the interior of West Africa, Muslim families organized slave caravans and moved them from the interior to the coast. Along the Gold and Slave coasts (an area now comprising the nations of Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria) the rulers of large states such as Ashanti, Dahomey, and Oyo obtained slaves through tribute, which was provided by the rulers of less powerful states in exchange for protection or as a symbol of allegiance/loyalty. East of the Niger Delta, African commercial associations (known as trading houses) controlled slave procurement and delivery. Along the Angolan coast, officials of the Portuguese crown first organized inland slaving, but by the 18th century

private Portuguese, mulatto (individuals of mixed African and European descent), and African traders were taking trade

- Buying them from African rulers, some were sold in order to pay debts mostly family debts.
- Capturing them through raids on African villages of the weak communities by the agents of the European slave traders. E.g. the weak were especially Vulnerable, Orphans, widows, poor, the idle, the feedless, and the feeble/weak/thin minded were all likely to end in slavery.
- Devise, bribe the chiefs and cause them fight and enabled to traders to get more slaves because of local wars in the interior.
- Through selling domestic servants.
- Through selling criminals.

### **Nature of the Slave trade**

- At various points along the coast, buyers and sellers met and struck deals. Europeans examined slaves; Africans looked over merchandise; and then the parties haggled to set the values of each. The assortment of the Europeans' trade goods was always an important factor. Any notion that Africans were duped into accepting trinkets/jewels of little value is incorrect. Most knew what they wanted and could hold out for good terms.
- Typical commodities exchanged for slaves included cloth, metals and metalware, firearms and gunpowder, spirits, cutlery, coins, decorative wear, horses, salt, cowrie shells, and paper.
- The prices Europeans paid for slaves rose steadily through the years. An English buyer could obtain a healthy slave for 5.5 pounds worth of commodities in 1690 and 14 pounds worth in 1760. The same slave sold in Virginia for 15 pounds in 1690 and 45 pounds in 1760.
- Slaves were not distributed evenly around the Atlantic. Roughly 40 percent of the total went to the Caribbean islands; another 38 percent went to Brazil; and Spanish America accounted for 17 percent. Only about 6 percent entered what would become the United States. Mortality factors affected the various populations' abilities to reproduce, however, so the geographical distribution of African slaves does not correspond to today's population of African descent in the western hemisphere.
- Slaves working on Caribbean and South American sugar plantations faced higher mortality rates as a result of harsh labor conditions and exposure to tropical diseases. As a result, slave populations in many sugar-producing areas grew steadily only because planters imported a continuous supply of new slaves from Africa.

- Slaves in what were the British North American colonies tended to live longer, healthier lives due to less brutal working conditions and a climate less hospitable to tropical diseases. As a result, slave populations in those areas continued to grow even after Britain and the United States abolished the importation of slaves in the early 1800s.
- Severe human torture. Rope round their neck, four of them to a rope, and man with a spear between each four, also the average vessel in the 18<sup>th</sup> century was twenty metres long, six metres wide and carried about 300 slaves.
- Average space per slave was about 0.4 square metres
- Voyage in three or two months
- Brutality/rough treatment
- Exploitation
- Humiliation
- Human being was traded like any other commodities; they were paraded, arranged according to the grade like any other commodities.
- Slaves were a perishable/unpreserved/delicate commodity. Profit depended on selling them before they died or escaped.
- Slaves were the business of kings, rich men, and prime merchants (e.g. Soninke) who transported slaves to the coast.
- In Senegambia and Upper Guinea middle men were Afro-Portuguese, else where Africans dominated (E.g. Ijaw traders of Niger delta)
- Specialist Africa and Afro – European Slave dealers who conveyed them to the coast for sale.
- European activity in the trade in Africans was usually restricted to their trading ports along the coast.
- Revolt was common on slave ships. But, most slave women had greater freedom of movement.
- As time goes on there was an increase of price for slave trade. Eg 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> century.
- Though numbers taken out of Africa were clearly huge; they varied very widely from one region to another Senegal important source of slaves in 16<sup>th</sup> century.
- Angola main supplier from 16<sup>th</sup> c- 19<sup>th</sup> c and
- The trade did not cease until the 1870s and 1880s

## **IMPACT OF T.A.S.T IN AFRICA**

-The consequences of the slave trade for African societies are being debated. The slave trade's harshest critics point out that removal of millions of young men and women led to depopulation that stifled African creativity and production. They argue, too, that slaving and slave trading stimulated warfare, corrupted laws (making more crimes punishable by enslavement), stifled technological advancement, and created a class of elite rulers and traders. Some argue that the slave trade was the beginning of a dependency relationship with Europe. This relationship was based on the exchange of Africa's valuable primary products for European manufactured goods, which continued after the slave trade ended, through a colonial period and beyond. In this sense, **the slave trade was the first step toward modern Africa's current status as a region** where technological development has yet to match that of more industrialized nations.

-Those who argue that the effects were less dramatic believe that serious depopulation occurred only in specific locations and only in the 18th century, when the trade was at its height. Some suggest that warfare caused slave trading rather than vice versa or that African production of such items as cloth and metals grew rather than declined through the slave-trade years. Some argue that African societies were likely to become dependent on Europe's industrial economy, as others did in the 19th and 20th centuries, without regard to its history of slave trading.

-One might think that ending the slave trade would be beneficial for all Africans, but such was not the case. Many coastal groups had been exchanging humans for merchandise for centuries. Their economies were geared to slave exporting, and they were dependent on the commodities they obtained for slaves. Stopping the slave trade caused economic hardship, especially for groups who had no products to substitute for slave exports. Some nearer the Sahara or Africa's eastern coast continued the trade in a different direction; others were able to make the transition to legitimate commerce, such as growing peanuts or extracting palm oil. Still others found additional uses for slaves in their own societies. But many had little economic alternative to the slave trade, and for them the 19th century brought hard economic times.

-But, with all the ideas above as historians we need to check the reality and how this trade was conducted and how Africans were affected. Bellow are some of the effects.

- The diversion of trade which had existed earlier between the forest zone and sudanic zone in the north southwards to the Atlantic coast.
- The introduction and expansion merchant traders in Africa e.g. Niger Delta.
- Disruption of normal village life in some areas at certain times as a result of the spread of firearms and their use for slave raiding
- Depopulation. Because many people were taken, those mostly ages between 15 and 35 fittest young men and women were removed from the continent every year, all in the name of profit for European merchants and plantation owners.
  
- Joseph. Miller has estimated that of every 100 people enslaved for export from Angola in 18th century, 10 may have died during capture, 22 on the way to coasts, 10 in coastal towns, and at sea, and 3 in the Americas before starting world leaving fewer than half to work as slaves. Two million died on voyage P.D. Curtin (1969) in his book.
- Sometimes epidemic broke out, usually dysentery, smallpox, Tuberculosis, plague, venereal syphilis, yaws, e.t.c. and killed many slaves. E.g. 14.8% were killed 17 & 19<sup>th</sup> century. (Dutch voyage) **P. D. Curtin: The Atlantic Slave trade: a Census**
- Africa supplied Atlantic Slave trade 35 million people. E.g. Angola and Benin suffered much.
- What enabled to get more slaves local wars in the interior and this led depopulation.
  
- Old empire collapsed new large slave trading states in the forest zone such as Asante, Benin and Ife and in the savanna woodlands such as Dahomey and Oyo arose either by merchants gaining political power or by rulers controlling commerce.
- Stateless village communities the neighbors of the large expanding states suffered greatly. Some disappeared altogether, their lands taken over by other more powerful neighbors.
- High prices for captives stimulated warfare. E.g. 18th century.
- The presence of the Europeans trades in West African coast since the late 15<sup>th</sup> century led to the rise of a small afro-European or Mulattos group which was a product of the marriage of Europeans men and African women.
- There was also as serious loss to the productive potential of the region.
- Unequal exchange in the time of slave trade.
- Slave trade was done for more than 300 years but African exported scarcely products from agricultural only food for slave ships. So, slave trade retarded African production.

-Slave trade fostered slavery within West Africa, especially female slavery. E.g. every Fante freeman owned at least one or two slaves.

-The introduction of American food crops on the w. African coast by the Portuguese namely maize and cassava.

-Powerful African rulers became very rich in the process.

-Human suffering, eg slaves suffered problem of thirst, underfeeding and overwork.

-Disregard for human life and dignity displayed by those who were dealing with slave trade, slaves no longer treated as beings, but rather as property, chained together and marched to the coast where they were locked up in wooden lag to wait the arrival of the European trading shop.

-Human suffering, and the callous disregard for human life and dignity displayed by those who dealt in slaves. Slaves no longer treated as human beings, but rather as property, chained together and marched to the coast where they were locked up in wooden cubic to wait the arrival of the next European trading ship.

- They were then stripped naked, men and women together in rows and forced to lie on especially constructed decks which were arranged like shelves. This made it impossible for a person to sit up straight or to move freely. They lay like this for week.

-Decline of African industries.

-Underdevelopment of West Africa as many able bodied young men and women were taken away from their home areas and shipped across the Atlantic to the America year after year for 3 centuries. While the TAS enabled Europe to develop rapidly economically and socially during subsequently, it very much exploited West Africa and underdeveloped it in every aspect.

## IMPACT OF TST IN EUROPE

-Today Western Europe and America are the most developed countries in the world. To understand correctly facts behind the development of those countries it is necessary to analyze their past and present relation with the rest of the world in general and Africa in particular.

-European gained from Africa cheap labourers that were needed more in the New World, productive wealth of the New World rested very heavily on the shoulders of

African labour. And those who profited most from this wealth were the merchants of Europe who were financed the whole system

Main plantation grew sugar and coffee in Brazil, sugar in the Caribbean Islands and tobacco and cotton in southern part of North America. 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century size of plantations was constantly expanding because of cheap labour from Africa.

- The largest number of slaves was taken to the Caribbean Islands and this solved the problem of labour power.

- Profit and wealth from the trade led to the rise of number of rich European port cities Bristol and Liverpool in Britain, Bordeaux and Nantes in France, and Amsterdam in Holland.

- Enabled them to get raw materials, directly from Africa and those produced by Africans in America.

- Market in the triangular trade Africa was marketplace for European goods.

- Some merchants who benefited from this trade established banks and other financial institutions and ultimately financed the capitalist factory system of the European industrial revolution. Barclays who were slave traders in 1776 they established the Barclays Bank, Lloyd established biggest insurance company.

- The trade stimulated the development of ship building in some of the port cities in order to provide merchant ship for carrying both slaves and goods across the Atlantic and other oceans.

- manufacture goods from Europe to Africa get market

- unequal exchange became the main sources for profit.

- Expansion of industries e.g. guns sources of profit for the new British industrial city of Birmingham.

- The roots of European racism are to be found in the slave trade. Africans were viewed by Europeans almost exclusively as slaves.

- Capital accumulation; through the trade European get a lot of profit through slave trade that capital from merchants moved into banking and financed capitalist factory/industrial unit and finally led Industrial Revolution.

**NB:** Slave trade led also economic growth of America in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century; wealth enabled those buying slaves from west-central Africa.

## **ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE**

- Ending the Atlantic slave trade was a long process that involved changing economic circumstances and rising humanitarian concerns. In the late 18th century, European

economies began to shift from agriculture to industry. Plantations remained profitable, but Europeans had promising new areas for investment. The slave-operated American plantations had to compete for capital and preferential laws with textile mills and other industries that hired free laborers. Also, the need for the slave trade lessened as American slave societies approached the point where they could reproduce enough offspring to meet labour needs.

#### **A/ HUMANITARIAN GROUND AND EVANGELICAL REASONS.**

**-This campaign was led by religious figures and supported by various humanitarian.**

**-Evangelists conducted their campaign of abolition through books, pamphlets and newspaper.**

**-Religious group were available in France, Germany, British and several other European nations.**

**-They chiefly attacked the export of slave trade.**

-The evangelists believe that slave trade was against the God will. It was argued that God created all men equal, therefore slave trade was a sin and contrary to the laws of God. Good example is John Wesley.

-The group of humanitarians grew in Europe.

-But the humanitarian motive was strong, too. Antislavery sentiments began to appear in Europe in the 18th century with roots in Christian religious principles and in the egalitarian philosophy that emerged during the Age of Enlightenment. By 1750 abolitionists were devoting money and time toward ending the slave trade and slavery itself. Their efforts were aided by the egalitarian ideals of the American Revolution (1775-1783) and the French Revolution (1789-1799) and by such bloody slave rebellions as the Haitian Slave Revolt on the French island of St. Domingue in 1791. By, 1776 a motion of abolition was moved in the British House of Commons where they demanded human rights.

-Britain outlawed the slave trade in 1807, as did the United States in 1808. The Netherlands followed in 1814, France in 1815, Spain in 1820. It remained for the British, who controlled the world's most powerful fleet, to enforce antislave trade laws, and that was difficult. The Atlantic slave trade continued, with declining numbers, through most of the 19th century. The movement of African slaves across the Atlantic did not end until slavery was outlawed everywhere in the Americas. Cuba was the last to outlaw slavery, in 1888.

-Humanitarian condemned slave trade as it was against human right.

-It was advocated by William Wilberforce, Thomas Clarkson, Granville Sharp and Fowell Buxton

-1787 formed the society of abolition.

-The humanitarians led by Granville Sharp, William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson demanded the parliament to abolish slave trade.

-Wilberforce as the agent in parliament.

**-At the beginning economist opposed the abolition of slave trade**

**-If humanitarian reasons was strong enough this trade could have been abolished by 1792.**

-But, 1805 the industrial classes who saw the slave trade an obstacle in their industrial enterprises supported them.

## **B/ ECONOMIC REASONS**

-Industrial Revolution; slave trade emerged due to economic factor and declined due to economic factor. Industrial Revolution replaced human labour with machine. As a result, industries demanded more raw materials such as the need of palm oil as lubricant for her factories, for soap. For lighting,

-market

-labour

-Slave trade was discouraged because of cost and discouraged the development of capitalism and machine was better

-British-French sugar competition, before 18<sup>th</sup> century British was monopolizing sugar market, British produced more sugar cane in West Indies/ Latin America colonies by using slaves and it was refined in England and sold in different places. This commodity made Britain to benefit very much.

-By the end of 18<sup>th</sup> some changes occurred the French was taking slaves from Africa to produce sugar cane in Mauritius and Reunion. During this time French were producing sugar in good quality using slaves and sold in cheaper price than British. This led decline of market to the British. Due to this British decided abolish slave trade because;-

-French would lack slaves and then raise the price of sugar.

-British could retain declined market.

-Also, British could get another market of machines.

-American independence. After independence British had no right to own mines and plantations and this led, Brazil continued producing sugar using slaves, market of British was

disturbed and leaving slave trade continuing that means leaving America to develop. -That is why British decided to Champion the abolition of slave trade.

-Slaves movement, it is urged that these frequent revolts also contributed something in the in the abolition of slave trade and slavery. E.g. 1803 slave riot in St. Domingo, British West Indies 1808.

### **C/ FRENCH REVOLUTION**

-French Revolution (1789-1795) was one of the great political revolution which affected the world in different ways. The effect of French Revolution was not direct, but different people were influenced with what the French people demanded.

-In the case of Liberal ideas as those of liberty, equality and fraternity/union which directly was against slave trade. That is where the point came out. But sometimes its difficult to connect with the abolition of slave trade.

### **D/ INFLUENCE OF GREAT WRITERS**

-different writers in their own readings pressurized their government to abolish slave trade but not in direct way. They saw slave trade as it created enmity among thee people and classes. For example, Karl Marx argued that a free person could produce than a slave.

### **ROLE PLAYED BY BRITISH IN THE ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE**

-Was the first country that spearheaded the abolition of slave trade.

-1807 Act of Parliament was passed making the buying and selling of slaves illegal in British.

-1833 made another piece of legislation making slave trade illegal not only in British but also in other places.

-Some of his/her people played a great role in convincing the British government to abolish slave trade

-British government signed various treaties with other Europeans, Arabs and Africans to stop slave trade.

- 1817 established patrol on the West Africa coast to capture slave ships.

-Facilitated the development of legitimate trade.

### **PROBLEMS FACED BRITISH IN ABOLITION OF SLAVE TRADE**

-Many African leaders resisted the abolition of slave trade. Kings of Asante, Dahomey, and Luanda.

=Abolition of slave trade came as a shock to many African chiefs who had looked Britain as a main customer.

=Some chiefs in West Africa had come to accept slavery as apart of economic and social life eg King Opobo. Eg bonny chief claimed that slave was easier to catch than elephant.

=Some Africans continued with trade. Eg. In coast of Benin Felix Souza 1840s and Domingo Martins in the 1850s became merchant prince and many Africans were middlemen

-Few ships for patrol, some traders escaped. The patrol was ineffective and slave trade instead of declining increase

-1820s and 1830s change of slave pattern. Most slaves now went to Brazil or the Spanish sugar-producing colony in Cuba. The traders were predominantly Brazilian or Cuban (Spanish) merchants. . Eg Niger delta slave left 1854, Lagos 1851, Liberia 1864.

-Abolition of slave trade created a crisis of the aristocracy/upper classes, because slave trade had been a business for kings, rich men, and prime merchants.

-Escape of British patrols and shifted south coast concentrating on the Loango coast, Angola, and Mozambique, which together provided over 80% of slaves shipped after 1855.

-Other nation was not leady to support the abolition of slave trade.

But, later it was supported by the French and the Germans.

#### ARCHIEVEMENT OF ABOLITION

-Introduction of legitimate/ legal trade in West Africa.

-In the 19<sup>th</sup> West Africa increasingly exported agricultural and forest products in a pattern which survived until the 1960s.

-Somehow there was return of peace to African people

-African people were settled and started to produce.

-coming of missionaries and establishment of mission station

NB. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> all over European people began to take an interest in stopping te slave trade. Even in Africa there were some people who opposed slave trade because it weakened African states.

#### LEGACY OF THE ANTLANTIC SLAVE TRADE FOR WORLD HISTORY

Although the Atlantic slave trade was an economic phenomenon, the millions of Africans who crossed the Atlantic had enormous demographic, social, cultural, and intellectual effects on the Americas. For over three and one-half centuries more Africans crossed the Atlantic than Europeans. Today, people of African descent are the dominant elements of populations throughout the Caribbean and are significant parts of the population in North and South

America. African culture mixed with European and Native American ways to define life in the multicultural American setting. African elements are identifiable today in American religions. The Vodun religion of Haiti and the Candomblé religion of Brazil are two examples. More subtle elements, such as call-and-response singing, appear in churches in North America. African influence is also apparent in music (the African roots of blues and jazz are well documented), dance, language (the Gullah dialect of coastal South Carolina retains much African vocabulary), family practices, architecture, foods, dress, and more.

The fact that nearly all people of African descent in the Americas were slaves has been an important factor in the growth and persistence of racism in the Western world. Europeans based judgments of people on physical appearance before the Atlantic slave trade, but once dark skin alone became associated with slave status, racism leapt forward. Moreover, forcing slaves to work inhumanly hard and behave in prescribed ways required punishing them beyond civilized norms and the limits of the law. To justify such punishment, people classified slaves as different, even subhuman. Race became the obvious marker of such differences. The resulting negative perceptions of persons of African descent have been difficult to eradicate over the years since the Atlantic trade, and New World slavery, have ended.

### **SAVANNA AND FOREST STATES**

-These states was located in southern savanna area referred to as Forest states. These include Ashanti/Asante, Ife, Benin, Dahomey and Oyo.

#### **IFE STATE**

Ife (city, Nigeria), also called Ile-Ife, city in southwestern Nigeria, in Osun State. Cacao, oil palm, yams, cassava, and corn are grown in the surrounding area. The chief industries in Ife include cocoa and palm processing, cotton weaving, and sawmilling. Obafemi Awolowo University (1961), a museum of Yoruba art, and the museum of the Institute of African Studies are located here. Ife is the spiritual capital of the Yoruba people. According to legend, it was founded by Oduduwa, the creator of humankind. From as early as the 12th century, the city's artisans crafted fine, naturalistic cast-bronze and terra-cotta heads that are

world-renowned for their beauty. Ife is the site of the palace of the Oni, one of the chief leaders of the traditional Yoruba religion. The city was destroyed in 1849 and rebuilt in 1882.

## **BENIN KINGDOM**

Kingdom of Benin of West Africa that flourished from the 15th to the 17th century. Its capital was Benin City, in present-day Nigeria. Founded by the Edo or Bini people in the 12th century, it was ruled by a line of kings (*obas*) who were originally war leaders, but later assumed a more religious character. The extent of the kingdom is uncertain, but it probably controlled most of southern Nigeria in its heyday.

One of the most influential obas of Benin was Ewuare, who ruled the kingdom from approximately 1440 to 1470. Ewuare dramatically increased the territory controlled by the kingdom, strengthened the central government, and established a system of primogeniture under which the title of oba would pass from father to son. He is also thought to have commissioned a series of fortifications surrounding the capital city.

During the reign of Ewuare's son Ozolua, who served as oba from about 1480 to 1504, Benin developed mutually beneficial commercial and diplomatic relations with Portugal. Some evidence suggests that Ozolua's son and successor, Esigie, may have spoken and read Portuguese. From the 16th through the 18th century the kingdom traded with European merchants in palm oil, ivory, pepper, and textiles. Benin also took part in the slave trade, although after the early 16th century the king allowed only female slaves to be exported. In the 18th century, French, Portuguese, and Dutch traders opened ports and trading posts along the Beninese coast, exchanging weapons for slaves.

As patrons of the arts, the obas sponsored the creation of some of Benin's most famous art work. Brass bas reliefs, which originally hung on the palace walls, depict scenes of life at the court of the obas. Traditional bronze ceremonial jewelry from the kingdom, which was hand cast and highly detailed, is considered to be one of the finest achievements of African art.

The power of the Kingdom of Benin declined in the 18th and 19th centuries. The country was annexed to British Nigeria in 1897, became a colony of French West Africa in 1904, and finally regained independence as the Republic of Benin in 1960. Despite these changes, the obas still perform administrative and ceremonial functions into the 21st century.

## **OYO STATE**

At about the same time as Benin's ascendance, the major Yoruba city-state of Oyo arose. Situated northwest of Ife, Oyo used its powerful cavalry to replace Ife as Yorubaland's

political center. (Ife, however, continued to serve as the spiritual center of Yorubaland.) When the Portuguese first arrived in the late 15th century, it was the Oyo who controlled trade with them, first in goods such as peppers, which they secured from the northern interior lands and transferred to the southern coast, and later in slaves. In Oyo, as elsewhere throughout coastal West Africa, the traffic in slaves had disastrous results—not just on those traded, who were largely from the interior, but also on the traders. As African nations vied for the lucrative commerce, conflicts increased, and other forms of advancement, both agricultural and economic, fell by the wayside. As a result, when Britain banned the slave trade in the early 19th century, Oyo was hard-pressed to maintain its prosperity. The Oyo state of Ilorin broke away from the empire in 1796, then joined the northern Sokoto caliphate in 1831 after Fulani residing in Ilorin seized power. The Oyo empire collapsed, plunging all of Yorubaland—Oyo, Ife, and other areas—into a bloody civil war that lasted for decades.

### **DAHOMEY KINGDOM**

Kingdom of Dahomey, African kingdom in what is now the southern part of Benin. Dahomey was founded during the 1600s on a plateau 60 miles inland from the African Slave Coast. The plateau was in the Dahomey Gap, a break in the rain forest where savanna grasslands extend to the sea. Eventually, European traders came into contact with Dahomey when it expanded from the plateau to the coast. To the south, Dahomey was bordered by the Lama swamp, impassable during the rainy season. Rivers to the east, northeast, and west formed other natural boundaries for the kingdom.

The kingdom grew wealthy in the 1700s as a result of slavery. When slavery declined in the 1800s Dahomey began to produce and export palm oil to Europe.

-By the mid-1800s court life flourished in Dahomey, enhanced by the works of artisans employed by the royal family. In the 1890s Dahomey had fallen victim to European rivalries for colonies in Africa, and the kingdom succumbed to an invasion by France. In 1900 France abolished the kingdom and incorporated it into the French colony of Dahomey. By 1960 Dahomey gained its independence. It changed its name to Benin in 1975.

### **ASANTE/ ASHANTI EMPIRE**

Ashanti Kingdom (also spelled *Asante*), West African monarchy centered in the Ashanti region of what is now Ghana. Founded at the beginning of the 1700s by a confederation of Akan-speaking peoples, the Ashanti Kingdom attained the height of its power 100 years later, dominating all of what is now Ghana and parts of Côte d'Ivoire to the west and Togo to

the east. Britain occupied the Ashanti Kingdom in 1896 and annexed it as part of the Gold Coast Colony in 1901. In 1957 the Ashanti people became independent as part of Ghana. The Ashanti people retain a strong sense of historical and cultural identity in modern Ghana, and an Ashanti king is still designated. The traditional Ashanti capital, Kumasi, is now one of the country's largest cities.

Much of the history of the Ashanti people's origins is shrouded in legend. According to traditional accounts, in the late 1600s Osei Tutu of Kumasi organized a rebel coalition of peoples who were subject to the Denkyira, including the Bekwai, Dwaben, Kokofu, Kumasi, Kumawu, Mampon, and Nsuta. This rebel group became known as the Ashanti, from *Osa nti*—meaning those brought together “because of war.” The Ashanti conquered the Denkyira in 1701. In the aftermath of the victory, Osei Tutu converted the military coalition into a permanent political union with the help of Okomfo Anokye, a sorcerer and sage. Okomfo Anokye, a longtime ally of Osei Tutu's, wrote the union's first code of laws and constitution. Also, he is said to have used his magic to persuade the coalition leaders to accept Osei Tutu as their ruler. According to legend, Okomfo Anokye conjured a golden stool from the heavens. (Long a symbol of clan leadership among Akan-speaking peoples, a stool is also said to embody the spirit of its owner in Ashanti tradition.) The golden stool floated to Earth and landed on the lap of Osei Tutu, signaling his preeminence over his rivals. This is the famous *Sika Dwa*, or Golden Stool, which to this day symbolizes the unity of the Ashanti people.

Osei Tutu therefore declared himself the first *asantehene* (king) of a new, united Ashanti kingdom, with its capital at Kumasi. All of his successors have belonged to the dynasty he founded. Like all Akan peoples, the Ashanti are matrilineal, meaning that a man's heirs are not his sons but his sisters' sons. No asantehene, therefore, has been a son of a previous one, but all asantehenes descend, in the female line, from Osei Tutu's mother, Nana Maanu. A senior woman in this royal line always carries the title of *asantehemaa* (queen mother). She might or might not be the biological mother of the asantehene, but in any case she commands immense respect and traditionally exercises much influence.

#### 1) **LONG TERM FACTORS:-**

**-The rise of many states in areas around modern Kumasi by the 17<sup>th</sup> century.**

-The Asante population established many states around kumasi which were Mampon, Afigyaase, and Saniagya and many other groups.

-Their neighbours had difficult ecological, soil and other resources, later on the rise of trade between Forest and savanna areas became unavoidable.

-Forest areas exported gold, ivory Kola nuts, and yams and imported salt and the best salt was from Taghaza and Walata.

-Trade consolidated and expanded there states. The large state began to conquer the small to form a united empire. So, it was the powerful state that formed the core of Asante empire, their foundation became an important in the development of Asante empire.

**-Unpopular rule under a ruler called Denkyira who ruled one of the chiefdom in Asante.**

-His rule was harsh as he conquered a number of Asante chiefdoms, prevented Asante to trade directly with the coast areas (TAT).

-He monopolized the trade for the purpose of strengthening himself. The Asante reacted Vs Denkyira for commercial and political reasons.

**-The rise of Atlantic trade relations with Europeans and Africans to the coast.** The main trading items were slaves, ivory and gold. Trade brought revenue to pay armies, administrative and other expenditures.

## 2) **IMMEDIATE FACTORS:**

**-The arrival of Oyoko population who facilitated unification of Asante chiefdoms.**

-The Oyoko claimed to originate from a single lineage family. They shared common ancestor.

-Kings of states of Dwaben, Bekwai and kumasi regarded themselves as brothers. They regarded King Kokofu as their uncle. Instead of competing states cooperated and formed the core of the Asante Empire.

**-Strong leadership. The development of the empire was due to the effort of leaders like Obiri –Yeboa, Osei Tutu and Opoku Ware.** For, example Yeboa engineered the move to united all the Oyoko states a round kumasi he conquered neighboring states. He was killed in 1670 in a war Vs other state.

-Yeboa was succeeded by Tutu who established union of forest states by exploiting Dyenkyira.

-Tutu invented a golden stool which became a symbol of unity of the Asante empire. Its symbol strength vitality and survival of the empire.

-It was to be guarded at all costs it was agreed that fore any ruler to be Asantehene must come form the family of Osei Tutu or Osei Yeboa.

-Osei established Kumasi as a capital of Asante where the Asante population had to attend once in a year for prayers for the entire empire, mediating disputes and planning for the future of their empire.

-Tutu maintained it and strengthened it and conquered other states. He expanded further to attract European Merchants at coastal areas.

-Tutu was killed in 1777 in a campaign Vs Akyem and was succeeded by Opoku Ware who continued to expand the empire and occupied the whole of modern day Ghana.

### **Military conquest**

To maintain its trade routes and assert its dominance in the region, the Ashanti Kingdom began to expand through military conquest in the early 1700s. In the first half of the 1700s, Ashanti armies pressed northward into the savanna hinterlands and southward to the Atlantic coast. Osei Tutu died in 1717, in the course of one of the southern campaigns. Opoku Ware, Osei Tutu's sister's daughter's son, succeeded him as Asantehene. Among Opoku Ware's important campaigns were those against the Takyiman, Gonja, and Gyaman to the northwest in the 1720s and 1730s; against the Akyem and Accra to the southeast in 1742; and against the Dagomba to the northeast in 1744. By the time of Opoku Ware's death in 1750, the Ashanti Kingdom had made its power felt from the coast to hundreds of kilometers inland and dominated almost all of what is now Ghana.

**-Why the empire lasted for so long:-**

**-Rulers of the second half 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century** such as Kusi Obodum, Osei Kwado, Osei Kwame, Osei Bonsu were able to provide necessary leadership and inspiration and suppress all the revolts and rebellion that broke out in the empire.

Some of these rebel states were Gyaman, Banda, Akyem, and Obuakwa which conquered the empire several times for economic reasons.

**-Strength of its army.** Throughout the period Asante army remained strong and virtually invincible. This is clearly borne out by the fact that all the rebellions during the period were quelled while the Fante confederation of states was also finally conquered by Osei Bonsu after a series of wars lasting from 1806-1814.

-Healthier economy of Asante the core of empire did not only emerge in an area **very suitable for agriculture**, but it was the area that produced the commodities in urgent demand both by the inhabitants of the savanna areas to the north and the Europeans on the

coast. These were Kola nuts and gold. Asante produced gold and conquered the nearby gold producing areas.

-The empire had a **plenty of food** such as yams potatoes, kola, e.t.c. this enabled the empire to extract revenue from that exported food.

-Asante began to export slaves to coastal areas exchanging them with items like; cloths, swords, etc. So, **trade provided the empire important needs** including arms and ammunition necessary for wars of expansion and suppression of rebellions.

-Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Asante never experienced any interference in its internal affairs by any external power. Never throughout the period under reviews was Kumasi, for instances, invaded.

### **Aware with British plan**

Under the 1817 treaty, Britain recognized Ashanti's sovereignty over most of the region, but the agreement was ambiguous as to Ashanti sovereignty over the Fante, a coastal people. The Ashanti had conquered the Fante in 1807 under Osei Bonsu, but the Fante remained bitter enemies, disrupting Ashanti trade routes to the coast whenever possible. The British, fearful of an Ashanti monopoly over coastal trade, interpreted passages of the 1817 treaty to indicate that the Fante were independent of Ashanti control. This interpretation was unacceptable to many Ashanti statesmen, some of whom advocated war with the British. Attempts by the British to renegotiate the treaty only demonstrated bad faith in Ashanti eyes.

Osei Bonsu restrained his army's generals, but after his death in late 1823 the generals moved swiftly to make Osei Yaw, an advocate of military action, asantehene. Aware that the new British colonial governor, Sir Charles MacCarthy, was fortifying British coastal posts in preparation for military operations, the generals marched the Ashanti army toward the coast in January 1824. The British forces under MacCarthy's leadership were decisively defeated only a few kilometers from the coast, and MacCarthy was killed. The Ashanti ravaged Fante towns on the coast before withdrawing in late 1824. In mid-1826 Osei Yaw launched a larger offensive against British coastal establishments at what is now Accra. An alliance of British, Danish, and coastal African soldiers met the invading army north of Accra and, with the advantage of superior weaponry, inflicted a severe defeat on the Ashanti. The hostilities of 1824 to 1826 are known as the First Ashanti-British War.

In this period, the Ashanti continued to enjoy friendly relations with the Dutch. Through Dutch coastal trading posts, the Ashanti retained access to European imports, especially firearms.

After the 1826 Ashanti defeat, both the Ashanti and the British drew back from further hostilities, but it took several years to negotiate a new peace treaty. A new treaty was signed in 1831 in which Ashanti agreed to cease hostilities against the coast, and in return Britain pledged to keep coastal states such as the Fante from attacking Ashanti traders or otherwise disrupting trade. Britain thereby gained administrative control of—but not sovereignty over—an area that became known as the British Protected Territory of the Gold Coast. The 1831 agreement ushered in an unprecedented 40-year era of peace, commercial cooperation, and mutual profit. Osei Yaw died in 1834 and was succeeded by Kwaku Dua I. The new asantehene was strongly committed to peace and enjoyed cordial relations with British and other European administrators, traders, and Christian missionaries.

During this period of peace, however, traditionalists in the Ashanti councils became increasingly alarmed at Britain's consolidation of power in the region. In 1844 the British signed what became known as the Bond of 1844 with a confederation of Fante states. The agreement extended British protection to the signatory states and gave Britain a degree of authority over them. In subsequent years, additional coastal and interior states signed the bond. Britain also proceeded to buy all of Denmark's Gold Coast territory in 1850. When Kwaku Dua died in 1867, the more militaristic Kofi Kakari was chosen to succeed him. In the first years of his reign, Kofi Kakari reconquered rebellious territories in the east, then broke a Fante blockade around the Dutch coastal fort at Elmina. Elmina was important to the Ashanti as a strategic alternative to British trading posts and as a way to reach the coast in times of hostilities. However, the blockade and subsequent warfare disrupted Dutch trade to such an extent that the Dutch were forced to sell the fort to the British in 1872. With the purchase, Britain became the only European power left on the Gold Coast.

The departure of the Dutch was the last straw for traditionalists in Ashanti. Kofi Kakari's armies encircled the British Protected Territory in 1872 and then invaded in 1873, surrounding Elmina. Kofi Kakari withdrew his armies in late 1873, before any major battles were fought, in the belief that the show of strength would induce Britain to renegotiate the 1831 treaty. However, the British rejected negotiation attempts and instead invaded Ashanti with a large expeditionary force led by renowned British commander Sir Garnet Wolseley. Wolseley's force fought its way to Kumasi in January 1874 and spent a day sacking the city before withdrawing. Forced to recognize the superiority of British arms, Kofi Kakari signed a treaty ending the war. Under the 1874 treaty, the Ashanti finally recognized British sovereignty over the coast, agreed to pay war reparation costs, and renounced influence over all the territories under British protection. The same year, the British proclaimed their coastal

protected territories a British colony, known as the Gold Coast Colony. The war of 1873 to 1874 is known as the Second Ashanti-British War.

Back in devastated Kumasi, Kofi Kakari was removed from office. Mensa Bonsu, a progressive, replaced him and moved rapidly to revolutionize the kingdom's civil service. He recruited Europeans to serve in the administration and invited European businesses to invest in Ashanti mining and other enterprises. An extremist Ashanti faction opposed to modernization attempted to assassinate Mensa Bonsu in 1880 but failed. In 1883, however, he was forced to abdicate after mobs protesting high taxes took control of Kumasi. The Ashanti confederation began to disintegrate as chiefs of outlying provinces rose up against the central government. It was destabilized further when Asantehene Kwaku Dua II died of smallpox just weeks after gaining office in 1884. The nation slid into civil war, and a succession of warlords rose and fell. Peace was finally restored in 1888 after the powerful Asantehemaa Yaa Kyaa gathered enough support to have his young son Agyeman Prempeh

### **COLLAPSE:-**

1) Internal factors.

-The empire was too large with rivals which threatened the unity of the empire

-weakness of both the central and the provincial systems of administration.

-Large revenue was directed to the army.

2) External Factors:-

-The presence of European mercantilism and penetration of British merchant weakened the empire.

-The British the empire any attached the empire in 1870s but the empire won the battle. The 2<sup>nd</sup> expedition of 1890 battle and the British established the colony.

In 1891 Britain offered to make Ashanti a semiautonomous British protectorate. Agyeman Prempeh and his councilors, who shared a vision of reconstructing the Ashanti nation, declined the British offer. However, by 1894 Ashanti policy had changed. The asantehene sent a group of emissaries to London to negotiate the terms of Ashanti's protectorate status with the British government and to solicit the involvement of British businessmen in the development of Ashanti. British policy had also changed, however. The British government deemed the prospect of a strong Ashanti state in the hinterland of the Gold Coast Colony unacceptable, even if it were a protectorate. In 1895, while the Ashanti emissaries were still negotiating in London, Britain assembled a new expeditionary force. In January 1896 this

force entered Kumasi unopposed. The asantehene, asantehemaa, and many senior public functionaries were seized and exiled, first to the Gold Coast Colony, then to Sierra Leone, and finally to the Seychelles in the Indian Ocean. Britain then declared Ashanti a British protectorate. In 1900 an Ashanti rebellion was defeated after heavy fighting, in what came to be known as the Third Ashanti-British War (1900-1901). Britain declared Ashanti a crown colony in 1901 and annexed it to the Gold Coast Colony in 1902.

The colonial government allowed the Council of Kumasi to reconvene in 1905. Agyeman Prempeh was brought home from the Seychelles in 1924 and was recognized as *kumasihene*—chief of Kumasi—but not as asantehene. Upon Agyeman Prempeh's death in 1931, his nephew Agyeman Prempeh II became kumasihene. In 1935 the colonial government permitted the kumasihene to be called asantehene once again. Also, the old Asantemanhyiamu was reconstituted as the Ashanti Confederacy Council, and it was allowed to take control of a wide range of internal affairs. As the Gold Coast moved toward independence in the early 1950s, Ashanti politicians sought a federal constitution to preserve Ashanti's autonomy. However, nationalist leader Kwame Nkrumah pressed for a strong central government and a unitary constitution that afforded no special recognition to Ashanti. The British government supported Nkrumah's position, and in 1957 Ashanti became part of independent Ghana without the guarantees it had sought. Nevertheless, the kingdom remains a potent force in modern Ghanaian politics.

Agyeman Prempeh II died in 1970 and was succeeded by Opoku Ware II. Upon Opoku Ware II's death in 1999, Osei Tutu II became the 16th asantehene.

TOPIC 5: WEST AFRICA IN MODERN WORLD HISTORY (16<sup>TH</sup> TO 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES)

EUROPEAN MERCANTILISM AND WEST AFRICA

### **ORING AND DEVALOPMENT MERCHANT CAPITALISM-MERCANTILISM**

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-Capitalism, economic system in which private individuals and business firms carry on the production and exchange of goods and services through a complex network of prices and markets. -Although rooted in antiquity, capitalism is primarily European in its origins; it evolved through a number of stages, reaching its zenith in the 19th century. From Europe, and especially from England, capitalism spread throughout the world, largely unchallenged as the dominant economic and social system until World War I (1914-1918) ushered in modern communism (or Marxism) as a vigorous and hostile competing system.

-Merchants and trade are as old as civilization itself, but capitalism as a coherent economic system had its origins in Europe in the 13th century, toward the close of the feudal era. Human beings, Adam Smith said, have always had a propensity to “truck, barter, and exchange one thing for another.” This inclination toward trade and exchange was rekindled and stimulated by the series of Crusades that absorbed the energies of much of Europe from the 11th through the 13th centuries. The voyages of discovery in the 15th and 16th centuries gave further impetus to business and trade, especially following the vast flood of precious metals that poured into Europe after the discovery and conquest of the New World. The economic order that emerged from these events was essentially commercial or mercantile; that is, its central focus remained on the exchange of goods rather than on their production. Emphasis on production did not come until the rise of industrialism in the 19th century.

Before that time, however, an important figure in the capitalistic system began to emerge: the entrepreneur, or risk taker. A key element in capitalism is the undertaking of activity in the expectation that it will yield gain in the future. Because the future is unknown, both the risk of loss and the possibility of gain always exist. The assumption of risk involves the specialized role of the entrepreneur.

The thrust toward capitalism from the 13th century onward was furthered by the forces of the Renaissance and the Reformation. These momentous developments changed society enormously and paved the way for the emergence of the modern nation-state, which eventually provided the essential peace, law, and order crucial for the growth of capitalism. This growth is achieved through the accumulation of an economic surplus by the private entrepreneur and the plowing of this surplus back into the system for further expansion. Without some minimum of peace, stability, and continuity this process cannot continue.

From the 15th to the 18th century, when the modern nation-state was being born, capitalism not only took on a commercial flavor but also developed in another special direction known as mercantilism. This peculiar form of capitalism attained its highest level in England.

-Mercantilism is an economic policy of the major trading nations during the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries based on the premises that national wealth and power were the best served by increasing exports and collecting precious metals in return. State action, an essential feature of mercantile system was used to accomplish its purposes to sell more than it bought in order to accumulate bullion and raw materials.

-Mercantilism was a system based on trade and commerce whereby a country attracted itself to other country in order to get precious metals like gold, silver, and market in order to accumulate wealth

-Mercantilism was a commercial/ money capital that was accumulated by merchants in West. Europe during the period of long distance trade between W. Europe and America, Africa and Asia following the decline of feudalism in W. Europe during the 14<sup>th</sup> c.

-Mercantilism, economic policy prevailing in Europe during the 15<sup>th</sup> 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries, under which governmental control was exercised over industry and trade in accordance with the theory that national strength is increased by a preponderance of exports over imports.

-It was an economic policy of merchant bourgeoisie and their government in Western Europe during the pre-industrial period.

-It intended to maximize profit by selling European good in African and Asia at high prices and buying foreign goods at cheap prices and accumulate precious metals of gold and silver.

## ORIGIN

Mercantilism dominated economic ideology for 250 years. Developed and enforced by merchants and governments. Merchants benefited greatly from the enforced monopolies, done by government on foreign competition. Governments benefited from the high tariffs and payments from the merchants. Whereas later economic ideas were often developed by academics and philosophers, almost all mercantilist writers were merchants or government officials.

Mercantilism developed at a time when the European economy was in transition. Isolated feudal estates were being replaced by centralized nation-states as the focus of power.

Technological changes in shipping and the growth of urban centers led to a rapid increase in international trade. Mercantilist focused on how this trade could best aid the states.

Of course, the impact of the discovery of America cannot be ignored. New markets and new mines propelled foreign trade to previously inconceivable heights. The latter led to “the great upward movement in prices” and an increase in “the volume of merchant activity itself.”

### **FEATURES/CHARACTERISTICS**

1) The rise of nation states and Unification of chiefdoms example England (Scotland-Wales), mercantilism was always interested in state unification, this because national unity facilitated function of trade, break down localism, power of guilds and removed internal barriers in trade, Hacker pp 44. So, it was difficult to build mercantilism without a unified nation. The mercantilist approach in economic policy first developed during the growth of national states; efforts were directed toward the elimination of the internal trade barriers that characterized the Middle Ages, when a cargo of commodities might be subject to a toll or tariff at every city and river crossing. Industries were encouraged and assisted in their growth because they provided a source of taxes to support the large armies and other appurtenances of national government.

2) Colonial expansionism, it acted as an agent for the acquisition of bullionism and for success and for success of international trade through the plundering of America, Africa and India. And the mercantile nations such as British were able to acquire precious metals, agricultural raw materials and conquer external markets through expansion where merchants obtained lion share and others were exploited. Hacker pp.46. )

-Many European went to colonies example Portuguese in Brazil.

-Merchant capitalism empire sized European exploitation through Unequal exchange. They used different methods to accumulate wealth like plundering, piracy, looting, and robbery goods form foreign societies and slave trade.

Exploitation of colonies was considered a legitimate method of providing the parent countries with precious metals and with the raw materials on which export industries depended.

3) Bullions –accumulate wealth in term of gold, silver and copper. This was a system of increasing money of the state in the form of precious metals/stones. This policy insisted on the accumulation of bullion through rooting silver, gold, and copper. All these metals were from abroad and were restricted to the merchants. Bullionism was encouraged because it was a sign of superiority; also bullion was needed for long distance trade. Hacker pp 45.

4) Population –to enlarge market of their goods and also population was needed for military activities. During this time of mercantile capitalism, capitalist preferred women and child labour in order to exploit them easily. Hacker pp 45.

5. Protectionism was another feature of mercantilism, this was a commercial policy where there was encouragement of export trade and discouraged importation of manufactured goods. The reasons was to protect internal market and infant industries. For example, British several Navigation Acts to protect to protect its infant industries. Beaud pp24

To implement mercantilist policy, England passed legislation called the Navigation Acts that restricted its colonies to trading solely with the mother country. The acts also stipulated that goods imported or exported by English colonies in Africa, Asia, or America had to be shipped on vessels constructed by English shipbuilders and that at least three-quarters of the ships' crews had to be English.

-Sometimes such regulations backfired. During the French and Indian War (1754-1763) in North America, the British Parliament sought to increase revenues to pay the costs of defending the American colonies. It used the Navigation Acts to levy heavier duties on the American colonies. American colonists felt oppressed by these taxes, which are considered to be one of the causes of the American Revolution (1775-1783

#### Impact of Mercantilism

-The main positive effect of mercantilism was the generation of wealth for the rulers and merchants of countries like Spain, Portugal, France and Britain through exploiting of distant foreign lands outside in the Carebian, the Latin America, the Indian subcontinent and Asia by first establishing trade relations, then overthrowing the native rulers and setting up colonies. The rulers of these European countries supported their own adventurous merchant class to set up these colonies by providing initial risk capital wherever necessary and followed up with army support to capture the lands in intended colonies along with the clergy of the Church to convert. Once the colonies are set up the merchants were given exclusive rights to develop plantations and mines in colonies for ensuring cheap availability of raw materials for the homelands, capture jewelery, gold, silver and other precious material and remit to the home country, pay huge taxes to the home country. This processes considerably enriched the coffers of the colonial masters, the traders and the State/ Emperor/ King/ Queen/ Royal family of these countries in Europe. Later, this wealth provided the capital and assured supply of raw materias that would be needed needed to reap the benefits of the progress of science and technology through what we now call the industrial revolution.

-The negative effect of mercantilism was borne by the local inhabitants of the colonies. Local

people were exploited to the core, in many cases by converting them into slaves or bonded labor, making them work hard and for long hours everyday with bare minimum subsistence wages. With political independence gone and economic freedom curtailed and economic activities so close as to benefit the homelands in Europe, these colonies became economically weak and the local people highly demoralised.

-One more positive aspect of Mercantilism is that this practice and system provided the major impulse to the development of Economics (political economy) as a scientific discipline. Mercantilism as a whole cannot be considered a unified theory of economics. There were no mercantilist writers presenting an overarching scheme for the ideal economy, as Adam Smith would later do for classical (*laissez-faire*) economics. Rather, each mercantilist writer tended to focus on a single area of the economy. Only later did non-mercantilist scholars integrate these "diverse" ideas into what they called mercantilism. Smith saw the mercantile system as an enormous conspiracy by manufacturers and merchants against consumers, a view that has led some authors, especially Robert E. Eklund and Robert D. Tollison to call mercantilism "a rent-seeking society". To a certain extent, mercantilist doctrine itself made a general theory of economics impossible. Mercantilists viewed the economic system as a zero-sum game, in which any gain by one party required a loss by another. Thus, any system of policies that benefited one group would by definition harm the other, and there was no possibility of economics being used to maximize the "commonwealth", or common good. Mercantilists' writings were also generally created to rationalize particular practices rather than as investigations into the best policies. Mercantilist domestic policy was more fragmented than its trade policy. While Adam Smith portrayed mercantilism as supportive of strict controls over the economy, many mercantilists disagreed. The early modern era was one of letters patent and government-imposed monopolies; some mercantilists supported these, but others acknowledged the corruption and inefficiency of such systems. Many mercantilists also realized the inevitable result of quotas and price ceilings were black markets. One notion mercantilists widely agreed upon was the need for economic oppression of the working population; laborers and farmers were to live at the "margins of subsistence". The goal was to maximize production, with no concern for consumption. Extra money, free time, or education for the "lower classes" was seen to inevitably lead to vice and laziness, and would result in harm to the economy.

-Mercantilism developed at a time when the European economy was in transition. Isolated feudal estates were being replaced by centralized nation-states as the focus of power.

Technological changes in shipping and the growth of urban centers led to a rapid increase in international trade. Mercantilism focused on how this trade could best aid the states. -Another important positive effect of mercantilism was the introduction of double-entry bookkeeping and modern accounting. This accounting made extremely clear the inflow and outflow of trade, contributing to the close scrutiny given to the balance of trade. Of course, the impact of the discovery of America cannot be ignored. New markets and new mines propelled foreign trade to previously inconceivable heights. The latter led to “the great upward movement in prices” and an increase in “the volume of merchant activity itself.” The mercantilist idea that all trade was a zero sum game, in which each side was trying to best the other in a ruthless competition, was integrated into the works of Thomas Hobbes. Note that non-zero sum games such as prisoner's dilemma can also be consistent with a mercantilist view. In prisoner's dilemma, players are rewarded for defecting against their opponents - even though everyone would be better off if everyone could cooperate. More modern views of economic co-operation amidst ruthless competition can be seen in the folk theorem of game theory.-Mercantilism, by its very success in stimulating industry and developing colonial areas, soon gave rise to powerful antimercantalist pressures. The use of colonies as supply depots for the home economies, and the exclusion of colonies from trade with other nations produced such reactions as the American Revolution, in which the colonists asserted their desire for freedom to seek economic advantage wherever it could be found. At the same time, European industries, which had developed under the mercantile system, became strong enough to operate both without mercantilist protection and in spite of mercantilist limitations. Accordingly, a philosophy of free trade began to take root. Economists asserted that government regulation is justified only to the extent necessary to ensure free markets, because the national advantage represents the sum total of individual advantages, and national well-being is best served by allowing all individuals complete freedom to pursue their economic interests. This viewpoint received its most important expression in *The Wealth of Nations* (1776) by the Scottish economist Adam Smith.

### **The 19<sup>th</sup> century Jihadic Movements**

Following the collapse of the Songhai Empire, a number of smaller states arose across West Africa, including the Bambara Empire the Fulani/Malinké kingdom of Khasso (in present-day Mali's), e.t.c.

In 1725, the cattle-herding Fulanis of Futa Djallon launched the first major reformist jihad of the region, overthrowing the local Mande-speaking people. A similar movement occurred on

a much broader scale in the Hausa city-states of Nigeria under Uthman dan Fodio; an imam influenced by the teachings of Sidi Ahmed al-Tidjani, Uthman preached against the elitist Islam of the then-dominant Qadiriyyah brotherhood, winning a broad base of support amongst the common people. Uthman's Fulani Empire was soon one of the region's largest states, and inspired the later jihads of Massina Empire founder Seku Amadu in present-day Mali.

The tradition of religious revolution directed against partially Muslim rulers is traced to the religious reform movement among the *zwāya* of Mauritania in the 1660s, and to the jihad that brought them briefly into control of Futa Toro, Cayor, Walo, and Jolof in the 1670s. The jihad in Futa Toro in the 1770s and 1780s followed in the same tradition.

This evidence suggests that the external influence of the mid-eighteenth-century revival of Islam in Arabia and the Middle East has been overemphasized in West African religious history. Forces working for the reform of Islam based in Africa itself were already at work.

Jihad an [Islamic term](#), is a religious duty of [Muslims](#). In [Arabic](#), the word *jihād* translates as a noun meaning "struggle"

Muslims use the word in a religious context to refer to three types of struggles: an internal struggle to maintain faith, the struggle to improve the Muslim society, or the struggle to defend Islam

The Jihads or an Islamic revolution, was among the most important event in West Africa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, broke out in Hausaland in 1804, in Masina 1818 and in the Futa Jalon in 1851.

**There were three religious aspects that contributed to the outbreak of jihads in West Africa. The first was the general atmosphere in the world of Islam and in West African Islam. The second was the belief in the coming of mahidi/saviour in the late of 18<sup>th</sup> century and third was degeneration of Islamic religion in West Africa.**

### **Reasons for the rise of jihads**

1) Religious conditions in the world of Islam in general and Western Sudan in the 1919 many Islamic regions fell under the influence of European Great powers. After the First World War, the territorial possessions of the some areas in the world like Ottoman Empire (Sunni) were partitioned and divided into several nations. Since 1924, there has been no degree of an

accepted claim as Caliph (tr., "successor") to the caliphate. As a result, in Arabia the movement was established to defend Islamic Vs capitalism. The revivalist movement was supported by other group of Qudiriyya (Persian-Sunite teachings emphasise the struggle against the desires), Tijaniyya originated in North Africa but now more widespread in West Africa, particularly in Senegal, The Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, and Northern Nigeria and Sudan.

## **2) Socio –political conditions in western Sudan in 19<sup>th</sup> c.**

-Politically there was a vacuum in western Sudan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There was no large single centralized state in W. Sudan which could control political stability of the region. This vacuum was obviously to be filled. Socially, all the Islamic revolutions that occurred in West Africa were led by the Fulani because there were many small states especially after the collapse of Songhai which prevented Moslem in order to preserve traditional beliefs. As a result, developed in the region for the purpose of spreading Islamic religion.

## **3) Economic motives.**

-The penetration of mercantilism in the interior led the decline of the TST which affected people; African trader's majority whom were converted into Muslim lost their economic power. The jihadists wanted to preserve their sources of income and therefore economic power of town population.

## **4) The role of individuals like Othman Dan Fodio,**

Shehu Usman dan Fodio, 1754–1817) was the founder of the [Sokoto Caliphate](#) in 1809, a religious teacher, writer and [Islamic](#) promoter. Dan Fodio was one of a class of urbanized ethnic [Fulani](#) living in the [Hausa States](#) in what is today northern [Nigeria](#). A teacher of the [Maliki](#) school of [law](#) and the [Qadiriyyah](#) order of [Sufism](#), he lived in the [city-state](#) of [Gobir](#) until 1802 when, motivated by his [reformist](#) ideas and under increased repression by local authorities, he led his followers into exile. This exile began a political and social revolution which spread from Gobir throughout modern [Nigeria](#) and [Cameroon](#), and was echoed in an ethnically [Fula](#)-led [Jihad](#) movement across West Africa. Dan Fodio declined much of the pomp of rulership, and while developing contacts with religious reformists and Jihad leaders across Africa, he soon passed actual leadership of the Sokoto state to his son, [Muhammed Bello](#).

-He contributed a lot in the development of Jihads in W.Africa

- He insisted on complete acceptance of the spiritual and moral values of Islam.

-from 1790 the kings of Yoruba was against Othman an attempt against his life was made. Later on he was made a commander of believers and he proclaimed Jihad against the rulers

of Hausa states. Within a decade all the Hausa principle states had been conquered and later Nupe, parts of Oyo were added to the Fulani Empire with new capital at Sokoto.

Uthman Dan Fodio Jihad led;

=Led establishment of the Fulani Empire in place of many competing states in Hausa land

=many political offices for scholars were opened for scholars

=in Yoruba land jihad contributed to the decline of Oyo empire and its conversion into Islam.

=jihad established peace and order at the same time stopped internecine wars. Therefore, trade developed e.g. Kano became a trading centre.

## THE MASINA JIHAD

Was conducted by Seku Ahmudu. (1773–1845) was the founder of the [Fula Massina Empire](#) in what is now the [Mopti Region](#) of [Mali](#). He ruled from 1818 to 1845 as [Imam](#) or [Amir al-Mu'minin](#), also taking the title *Sise al-Masini*. He was determined to contribute to the revival and purification of Islam with the tenets of Qadiriyyah order.

-Seku Amadu preached for years against what he saw as the corruption of the [Islamic](#) elites governing [Timbuktu](#) and [Djenné](#). Inspired by the recent uprising of [Usman dan Fodio](#) in neighboring [Hausaland](#), Seku Amadu led his followers in a [jihad](#) against the then-dominant [Bambara Empire](#) in 1818. By 1819, he had decisively defeated the Bambara in battle, seizing [Djenné](#) and much of [Inner Niger Delta](#) region. He founded a capital for his new Massina Empire at [Hamdullahi](#), northeast of Djenné, just south of the present day city of [Mopti](#).

-He also accused the Fulani leaders of un-Islamic practices such as drinking alcohol, idol worship and promised to bring about a new and just society based solely on the rule of Islamic law.

-this provoked hostility from Fulani leaders who planned to attack him.

-Seku declared jihad in 1818 and defeated Bambara leaders. He conquered Segu Kaarta, songhai, Taureg and Timbuktu in 1828.

He converted all these states into new empire of Masina and new capital Hamdallahi in 1821. Seku died in 1844.

## JIHAD OF AL HAJI UMAR

**Umar ibn Sa'id Tall** (1797 - 1864 [CE](#)), born in what is now actual Senegal was a [West African](#) political leader, Islamic scholar, and military commander who founded a brief [empire](#) encompassing much of what is now [Guinea](#), [Senegal](#), and [Mali](#).

The reasons for the rise was like all other Jihads, futa Toro, Bambara kingdoms of Segu and Kasina remaining non-Muslim. But, haji belonged to Tijaniyya. He waged war not only

against western Sudanese rulers but also against the French who had then begun their imperialist moves into the interior of Senegambia.

-Alhaji Umar used modern methods of war using professional army, guns, and the building of modern forts. However, Alhaji Umar was not a Fulan but a Tukolor.

-Alhaji Umar established an army camp and raised fully-army made up of his disciples and students attracted from all over west Africa mainly from lower classes

-he gave them good training and armed them with guns and powder bought from the coastal towns.

-he also developed a corps of gunsmith who could service and repair the guns and even manufacture such arms themselves.

-after the preparation he declared jihad against all infidels in 1852.

-he conquered Tamba and a number of other states in senegambia then took Bambuk and Khaso and Kaarta between 1855 and 1857

-He then turned against the French who had begun their imperial drive up the Senegal and attacked their fort at Medina in 1857 and at Masina

-jihad of Alhaji led the formation of Tukolor Empire which lasted up to 1893.

-he was killed in 1863 in Masina.

- By then he had already built an empire which was killed in 1863. By then he had already built an empire which was under his son AHMADU.

-It was overthrown by the French in 1893.

-Therefore, Jihad of Alhaji assisted to check, the tide of French imperialism in senegambia for some years and it strengthened Islam and Tijaniyya gained ground .

#### IMPACT OF JIHAD IN WEST AFRICA

-they led to purification of islam

-Diffusion of Qadiriyya and Tijaniyya

-Replaced petty state and kingdoms and power was given to a new governing class

-they strengthen both Fulan and Tukolar nationalism

-changed western sudanic society where it elevated the status of slaves and peasants and forced some nomadic people to become settlers.

-expanded Islamic literacy especially among the Hausa

-some towns emerged as a result of Jihads including Sokoto and Hamdallahi.

## EUROPEAN MISSIONARY AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

### Prelude/Introduction to colonialism:

-Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>C, the European influence was growing in W. Africa especially along the coastal areas.

-The government needs in Europe and individual revolution facilitated the creation of pressure group and other agents like, traders abolitionists, Missionaries, explorers, etc.

-Because of trade between west Africa and western capitalist countries in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many more European and American firms as well as individuals traders took part in it.

At the beginning few European attempted to penetrate the mainland interior.

### i. Missionaries

**-The main reasons for the coming of missionaries to West Africa was connected with the abolition of slave trade. Abolition of slave trade facilitated missionaries because it was believed that since slave trade was a crime against humanity and a sin before God, it should not only be abolished but also be atoned for by bringing western civilization education and Christianity to Africa.**

-They went to West Africa with the intention to reveal evils of slave trade and therefore pressurizing European and governments to abolish slave trade and slavery.

-Between 1792 and 1804, many missionary societies were established in Europe to accomplish the objective of abolishing slave trade for example The Wesleyan missionary society sent out in 1795 in Sierra Leone Gold coast and Yorubaland to deal with the freed slaves; the Glasgow and Scottish missionary society was opened to W. Africa in 1797, in 1906, the church missionary society of England was opened to Lagos, Bremen missionary society from Germany operated in Togo, Basel Evangelical missionary from Switzerland operated in eastern Gold coast. Presbyterian church of Scotland operated in Calabar, Dahomey and Benin and others from United State of America.

These mission societies didn't limit themselves in establishing churches, preaching the gospel and converting new believes to Christianity but also dealt with development of agriculture and introduction of legitimate trade.

-They established experimental farms and planted such as cocoa, coffee and spices for export.

-Some Missionaries established trading companies to buy African goods and sell goods to Africans. Examples of companies introduced were; the Basel Missionary Society in Ghana

formed the Basel trading Company in 1859 while the Church Missionary society (CMS) formed /established the West African company in 1863 in Nigeria buying palm oil, etc.

-They also devoted their time in dealing with Africa languages emphasizing writing and emphasizing their own converts how to read the Bible in their own languages such as; Yoruba, Temne, Twi, Efik, Ga and Hausa languages in Latin alphabet. By, 1880s most of these languages had been reduced to writing.

- One of the chief effects of the activities of the missionaries facilitated colonization of Africa,

-Produced a new type of African literate/educated, Christian and having European taste in clothing, food, and drinks.

-Missionaries looked down upon everything African culture (art, music, dancing, naming, marriage e.t.c). The converts had to renounce all these and were, therefore, very receptive to colonialism.

-Missionaries supplied information to European capitalist interest. Some played multiple roles, as traders, explorers and evangelists. For example, Ajayi, an ex-slave explored the lands bordering lower Niger for British capitalists. He eventually became the first African Anglican Bishop of the church of Missionary Society.

-Missionaries appealed for direct military intervention in African territories. E.g. British annexation of Lagos in 1862 it was due to pressure from missionaries' and traders.

-They also exploited natural resources and ethnic studies which attracted European movement to colonize West Africa.

=They also requested European in Nigeria to abolish slave trade.

## 2) **EXPLORERS**

-Came to replace slave trade with legitimate trade.

-Prominent was Mungo Park who went to W. Africa in 1797. He was financed by African Association which was founded in Britain in 1788 of the major task was to investigate areas suitable for growing agro products, identify navigable river especially Senegal and Niger rivers, to locate areas with minerals especially gold, size of west African population, the dominance of Islam and abundance of palm.

-the of using explorers to collect information about Africa spread to other parts of Europe.

-In the 1830s, French, Germans and Belgians had formed their own African Associates with similar objectives to that of Mungo Park.

-Explores in their reports suggested Europeans to trade with West Africans on palm oil, ivory and gold and remove African Middlemen in trade like Jaja of Opobo. Also, that report stimulated other explorers.

France for example, financed an explorer named Rene Caillie who Explored Senegal and Timbuktu

-Clapperton explored areas in Fulani and Bornu empire in Northern Nigeria.

-Some of explorers signed treaties with emirs of Sokoto.

### **3) TRADERS**

-They campaigned against slave trade and favored trade in commodities needed by industrial Europe.

-Such / Materials include palm oil needed by chemical industries in soap making and lubricant in textile industries.

-Other trade supported establishment the United African company (UAC) operating along Niger Delta

- In 1886, the company was given a royal charter and became known as the Royal Niger Company.

-it was given a mandate to administer eastern Nigeria on behalf of the imperial British government.

-France concentrated on Senegambia ,Benin and Ivory coast.

-The European agents contributed to the colonization of W. Africa to European governments through their reports which stimulated the scramble for and partition of W. Africa in the 1870s and early 1880s. -Before 19<sup>th</sup> century, Europeans had been trading with Africans along the coast for centuries. But their knowledge of the interior was virtually nil.

-More traders started to flow in Africa in 19<sup>th</sup> century.-Many traders were colonialists. It has been accurately said that the flag followed the trade.

-Traders useful source of raw materials and markets.

-In case of traders as trade expanded companies were formed to promote export to Europe e.g. Niger United African Company UAC, CFAO for French in West Africa.

NB. But more agents of imperialism were sent in Africa during the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century. During this time their motives for their expansion were the same.

-The imperialists scramble for Africa was facilitated by the activities of agents sent and financed by capitalists

## **SCRAMBLE FOR AND PARTITION OF W. AFRICA**

The scramble for colonies in Africa was the intense competition or struggle for the control of African territories which took place among the European capitalist nations in the 1880s and 1890s.

- While the partition of Africa was the division of the content into European colonies.
- During the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century, the world witnessed the scramble and partition of Africa.
- W. African in the eve of European conquest, demonstrated rapid due to internal dynamics like conflict within states in some areas because of Jihads. Other changes were influenced or initiated by European activities on the coast in the 1850s. These changes some times were contradictory eg.
- Internal + external forces led sudden rise of states e.g those influenced by the Jihad movements while other states collapsed e.g the Sudanic states, collapse of trade (TST).
- But, the influence of Europeans in the 1880s was great compared to other period before and this led Europeans scramble for and partition of West Africa.

European competition over African territory in the 1870s heightened once Belgian king Leopold II got involved. Merchants under French government protection had been advancing up the Sénégal River with an eye toward connecting that river with the Niger by rail. This connection would open a vast market in West Africa's interior. At the same time, British palm oil merchants were pushing up the Niger River by steamer, and Anglo-American explorer Henry Morton Stanley was journeying down the Congo River. In his journeys, Stanley had discovered that the river's upper reaches were open to trade. However, it took Leopold to raise the stakes. For 20 years the wealthy ruler had dreamt of creating a Belgian colonial empire. In 1876 he established the International African Association, an organization that had stated scientific and humanitarian goals but was truly a front to further Leopold's imperial design. Then, in 1879, when Britain ignored Stanley's offer to open Central Africa and funnel its trade to the mouth of the Congo, Leopold employed Stanley to do just that. By 1880 the explorer was back in the lower Congo, building road and river access to connect the Atlantic Ocean with Stanley Falls, located about 2300 km (about 1400 mi) upstream. Across the river in the early 1880s, French explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza was exploring and negotiating treaties for France, forcing Stanley to obtain treaties for Leopold. Their claims appeared to overlap near the mouth of the Congo, a land area claimed by Portugal as well. Events in North Africa raised tensions further. In 1881, France

occupied Tunisia to prevent Italy from gaining land on Algeria's border. A year later Britain occupied the bankrupt Ottoman possession of Egypt to guarantee repayment of its huge foreign debt. France, which also had a significant financial stake in Egypt and had shared "dual control" of Egypt's finances with Britain since the mid-1870s, was left without influence. Neither France nor Germany approved of Britain taking over Egypt, but each expressed approval to gain British support for its own colonial actions. It was fast becoming a game of European diplomatic wrangling with African territories as pawns.

While Britain, France, and Leopold were advancing their aims in Africa, Europe's fastest-rising military and industrial power, Germany, was biding its time. Its leader, Otto von Bismarck, appeared content to allow the others to expend diplomatic energy on African initiatives while Germany concerned itself with domestic issues. However, as pressures mounted from German merchants wanting a share of any potential African market, Bismarck realized German interests might best be served by his taking control of the diplomatic struggles involving Africa. Thus, in the summer of 1884 Bismarck declared German protectorates over three African territories—Togoland (comprising present-day Togo and eastern Ghana), Cameroon, and South-West Africa (present-day Namibia). Then, he joined France in calling for a conference of colonial powers in Berlin. The stated goals of the conference were to be the settling of Congo claims between Britain, France, and Portugal, and of Anglo-French rivalries along the Niger River. In addition, however, European powers recognized that rules and rationalizations were needed for the seizing of African territories, especially for seizures that held potential for European conflict

- Why did the scramble for W.Africa take place in the 1880s and not before?

-Before 1880s most of European nations were either deeply involved in their own domestic affairs or colonial ventures in other part of the world. E.g. France concentrated on dealing the effects of the French Revolution between 1789 and 1795 reduced her capacity to expand overseas; Germany and Italy were not yet united until 1870s the Netherlands/Holland concentrated on establishing a colony in Indonesian Islands.

- Portugal and Spain still poor countries, Russia involved in Eastward expansion and the USA was pre-occupied in westward expansion up to pacific.

-Britain put more effort to colonize areas like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, S. Africa and tropical India and Malaysian Peninsula.

-They therefore overlooked W. Africa by 1880s. Only parts of North, W South Africa were taken by Europeans before 1880s for strategic purposes; exploitation of minerals in S. Africa, for settlement of freed slaves from America in Sierra Leone + Liberia.

- There were many reasons which made Europeans to scramble for W. Africa in 1880s

- **A number of theories try to explain this issue.**

### 1. The economic theory

- Divided into 2 categories;

a) Bourgeoisie economic theory;

-John Hobson argued that over production, surplus capital and under consumption in industrialized nations forced them to seek economic resources from other countries and the competition to exploit overseas territories stimulated political expansion in the form of colonies.

- In 1900, the German discussed what became known as world political meaning the policy of imperial expansion on a global scale.

-Scholars like Rosa Luxemburg pointed out that imperialism as a final stage of capitalism necessitated the need for colonies

- George Leeboard claimed that imperialism aimed to plunder the world and exported European + American capitalism into all parts of the world.

b) Marxist economic theory

-Economic explanations of imperialism are the most common.

-Proponents of this view hold that **states are motivated to dominate others by the need to expand their economies, to acquire raw materials and additional sources of labor, or to find outlets for surplus capital and markets for surplus goods.**

-The idea was derived from Karl Marx and Lenin, for example, explained the European expansion of the **late 19th century** as the inevitable outcome of the need for the European capitalist economies to export their surplus capital which accelerated scramble. This became inevitable during monopoly capitalism which had different features

### 1. Monopoly Capitalism

- Definition of monopoly capitalism and its characterisation by Lenin

- **What is monopoly capitalism?** According to V. I. Lenin, monopoly capitalism was the highest stage in the development of capitalism. The term “monopoly” is the opposite of “free competition”. Thus economically, it was a stage in which capitalist free competition was displaced by capitalist monopoly.

- **What is imperialism?** In simplest definition, imperialism is the monopoly stage of capitalism.
  - **The Marxist** definition of imperialism: According to Karl Kautsky (the Marxist theoretician), imperialism must not be regarded as a phase or stage of economy, but as a policy preferred by finance capital. To him, imperialism must not be identified with the present day capitalism.
- 

### **Main features of monopoly capitalism according to V. I. Lenin**

V. I. Lenin provided an analysis of scientific theory of imperialism.

#### **i. Concentration and centralisation of production**

The end of competitive capitalism during the 1860 and 1870 led to the concentration and centralisation of production into the hands of the big undertakings and victors in the competitive capitalism. The process of centralisation was speeded up during the second half of 19<sup>th</sup> century by major scientific and technical discoveries and inventions. For example, discovery and application of new methods of making steel led to the development of huge steel works.

For example, in Germany large scale enterprises were 30,588 out of 3,265,623 i.e. about 0.9% of all enterprises. But this 0.9% employed 5,700,000 workers out of 14,400,000 i.e. 39.4% of total labour force. They used 6,600,000 steam horse power out of 8,800,000 i.e. 75.3% and 1,200,000 kilowatts of electricity out of 1,500,000 kilowatts i.e. 77.2%. Therefore it can be concluded that very few enterprises more people and consumed more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of resources.

In USA in 1904, large enterprises were 1,900 out of 216,180 i.e. 0.9%. They employed 1,400,000 workers out of 5,500,000 i.e. 25.6%. The value of their output was \$5,600,000,000 out of \$14,800,000,000 i.e. 38%. Five years latter, large enterprises were 3,060 out of 268,491 i.e. 1.1%. They employed 2,000,000 out of 6,600,000 workers (30.5%). The value of their output was \$9,000,000,000 out of \$20,700,000,000 (43.8%). Almost half of the production of all enterprises was carried on by only 1/100<sup>th</sup> of these

enterprises. These few large enterprises acquired super profit and eliminated pure enterprises or the small ones which were unable to compete. Concentration helped the monopolies to be protected by tariffs.

### *Stages in the development of monopoly capitalism*

- **1860-70:** The highest stage, the apex of the development of free competition. During this period, monopoly was at its embryonic stage.
- **After the crisis of 1873:** A lengthy period of development of cartels, but they were still an exceptional, they were not yet durable and were still in transitory phenomenon
- **The boom i.e. at the end of 1900-1903:** Cartels became one of the foundations of the whole economic life. At this stage capitalism was already transformed into imperialism

Although the discussion on the role of monopolistic associations will be made latter on in this chapter, some discussion about it is worth important. The development of monopoly capitalism went hand in hand with concentration and centralisation of production as well as formation of monopolistic associations i.e. cartels, syndicate and trust. During this period, monopolistic associations such as cartels;

- Come to agreements on the terms of sale, dates of payments etc.
- They divide the markets among themselves
- They fix the quantity of goods to be produced
- They fix prices
- They divide the profit among various enterprises.

The monopolistic associations concentrated production in their hands. For example, The Rhine Westphalia Coal Syndicate founded in 1893 concentrated 86.7% of total coal output and in 1910 it already concentrated 95.4% therefore, the monopolies created enormous profit. The monopolistic associations resorted to expand through the following ways;

- Stopping the supplies of raw materials to outsiders
- Stopping the supplies of labour i.e. permitting the labourers to work only in cartelised enterprises
- Stopping deliveries

- Closing trade outlets to non cartelised enterprises
- Agreement with buyers by which they had to undertake trade with cartels only
- Systematic price cuttings so as to ruin outside firms, those who refuse to submit to the monopolistic firms. (selling below the normal price)
- Stopping credits
- Boycotts

## ii. **Merging of Bank Capital and Financial Capital to form financial Oligarchy**

### ➤ **Banks and their role**

The principal and primary function of the banks is

- To serve as middlemen in making payments.
- They transform inactive money into active money capital to yield profits.
- They collect all money revenues and place them at the disposal of the capitalists and small businessmen.

Banks were also concentrated in small number, but very powerful. They transformed from being middlemen to powerful monopolies. The small banks were squeezed out by the big banks. For example, in Germany in 1907-12 only 9 banks concentrated in their hands almost half of the total deposits. In 1913 the deposit the nine Berlin Banks was 5,100 million marks out of total of 10,000 million marks. Small banks were transformed into branches of the big banks. By the end of 1909 nine Berlin Banks controlled 83% of the total German bank capital.

- Banks were transformed into actual branches of the big banks.
- Banks and industries started to manage the stock exchange.
- There was a very close connection between the banks and industries. The industrialist capitalist became completely dependent on the banks.

In monopoly capitalism, banks demanded that its clients deal only with it or with banks controlled by it. An industry or company could not raise a loan from one bank and have its deposit account in another independent bank. At the same time, the industrial monopolies were interested in firm links with large and reliable banks. Banks required solid security for loans.

### iii. Export of Capital

One of the main dominant features of monopoly capitalism was export of capital. Lenin put it clear that *“typical of the old capitalism when free competition held undivided sway was the export of goods, typical of the latest stage of capitalism when monopolies rule is the export of capital”* (Lenin, P. 59)

During this period, agricultural sectors lagged behind industrial sectors. Why? The main focus of the industrial countries was to get the basic requirements of the second industrial revolution.

- ❖ According to Lenin, capitalism is not there to raise the standards of living of people for if it does so, it would not be capitalism i.e. the purpose of capitalism is to increase profits through export of capital to backward countries.
- ❖ In backward countries, profits are usually high, capital is scarce, price of land is low, wages are low and raw materials are cheap. Basic infrastructures such as railways and roads are established in such a way that they connect only the productive regions which have plenty of raw materials. This argument provides an explanation as to why most parts of our country are still facing the problem of transport infrastructure. Main reasons for export of capital are;
  - Extracting monopoly profits for the imperialist countries through oppression and exploitation of most nations and of the peoples of developing countries
  - Extending and strengthening domination of monopolies throughout the capitalist world
- ❖ Forms of export of capital
  - Productive capital- invested in industries, transport, agriculture and commerce
  - Loan capital- exported in the forms of foreign loans extended to government, banks, industrial, commercial and other corporations
  -
- ❖ The economic consequences of the export of capital
  - Quick spread of capitalism to backward countries
  - Underdevelopment of backward countries because the national capital of these countries fails to compete with the foreign monopolies. Also

because most of the foreign capital is invested NOT in the production, but in trade, insurance, credit facilities, military expenditure, financing the machinery of oppression, etc.

- Each backward country specialises in production of one or two commodities only and for export
- ❖ Export of capital took place in very uneven manner

#### **iv. Division of the World markets among Imperialist Associations**

The monopolistic associations such as cartels, syndicate and trust controlled and divided the home markets and obtained complete possession of industries at home. But when capitalism expanded to backward countries, there was a need among these associations towards formation of international cartels and agreement on how they could control home markets.

- These International monopolies controlled the world market and foreign trade
- It was characterised by the formation of trading companies
- The main aim of these monopolies was to ensure high profits to its members through
  - ❖ Establishment of monopolistic high prices on commodities sold by their members and lowered prices for raw materials supplied by developing countries
  - ❖ Control of the scale of production and sales of a particular commodity by fixing appropriate quotas for their members so as to create artificial gap between the demand and supply for the product
  - ❖ Sharing out the world market and sources of raw materials
  - ❖ Agreement on the exchange and mutual use of the patent

For example, Lenin says that the world oil market is still divided between two great financial groups i.e. Rockefeller American Standard Oil Co. and Rothschild and Nobel

#### **v. Division of the World among Imperialist/ Great Powers**

The last feature of monopoly capitalism according to V. I. Lenin was the complete division and re-division of the world among the great capitalist powers. But such process has been explained differently by different scholars with different view points.

## 2. PSYCHOLOGICAL THEORIES;

-Other European scholars claimed that non-economic factors like racism, evangelization and social atavism led scramble for and partition of Africa

### a) Social Darwinism

- In 1859, Charles Darwin write a book titled 'The origin of species by means of natural selection' or the preservation of favored races in the struggle for life

- the European scholars misused the book to justify the scramble for W. Africa on what they called subject or backward races by a master race.

- The scramble was an inevitable process of natural selection by which the stronger race dominate the weaker one in the struggle for economic existence.

### b) Evangelical /Christianity/humanitarian

- W-Africa was scrambled for and partitioned in order broaden missionary & humanitarian activities aimed at abolishing slave trade and introduce western civilization in the form of commerce + Christianity. Christian missionaries and humanitarians who felt sorry for Africa and its peoples for having been victims of slavery governments of their countries not only to end the slave trade and slavery but also to colonize economically and to civilize their backward peoples. This humanitarian view was actually part of the British philosophy or attitude towards non – European societies at that time known as the white societies at the French philosophy towards non – European societies at that time Mission of civilization.

### c) Social atavism:

- Developed Joseph Schumpeter.

- Imperialism was not due to economic forces rather than the desire of man to dominate other people.

- Therefore, capitalism it is a system compatible with human flourishing. So, scramble became necessary for the purpose of flourishing.

**Also, they added that white man have superior culture and had a heavy duty of spreading it.**

-Both these views were claiming that Europeans as civilized people had duty or the burden or the mission to civilize the backward people of Africa and other parts of the world.

## 3. diplomatic theories;

Include National prestige, balance of power, e.t.c.

**-The need felt by European nations at that time to get colonies as symbols of national prestige and status.**

-In the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was emergence of national pride as never existed before in Europe.

-Each nation was claiming superiority over others.

-Possession of a colony became a proof of a nation's superiority.

-There were also people of various types who hoped to cut a figure for them and boost their own prestige by acquiring territory. E.g king Leopold of the Belgians who hoped to endow his country with an empire in central Africa and else where. There was Carl Peters` who hoped to do likewise on behalf of Germany in east Africa.

-Leopold II did not share the expansionist's dreams to their ruler.

-Leopold was a master diplomat

-In 1879 Leopold took Stanley into his services

-Leopold in Congo was aiming at a commercial monopoly

-Also, France for example sought compensation for European loss in overseas gain,

England in order to off set her European isolation, conquered overseas territories and Russia expanded eastwards after being brought to expand in the Balkan.

Germany + Italy came to Africa for the same purpose.

**The appearance of Italy and Germany as new powerful unified nations in Europe in 1860s** colonies as the older Europe States did. Unification led great economic and political growth. E.g. Germany united under King of Prussia as emperor/ or Kaiser and Bismarck as his chancellor in 1860s.

Most of the independent states whose people spoke the German languages became united around the north German states of Prussia, under the leadership of Bismarck. Then there was industrialization in Germany.

Nation became powerful

Franco Prussian war 1870-1871

-unification resulted in the upset of balance of power.

-In both France and Germany some political groups from this war thought of colonial expansion. E.g. French as a means to compensate the for the humiliation of defeat.

-later on, Germany and Italy moved forcibly to acquire some colonies in Africa and elsewhere. In the source of acquiring their colonies in Africa, they clashed with the other European capitalist powers in some cases. E.g. in East Africa, Central Africa, e.t.c.

**Balance of power theory argues that in 1878 European nations met at Berlin (the congress of Berlin).**

The major observation was the Russian + British hostilities in the Balkan + Ottoman empire brought the nations of Europe near to the war.

The congress made it clear that in order to avoid the war no any European nation could adjust its boundary within European nation. Any expansion should be done outside Europe.

The congress didn't solve basic contradiction produced by monopoly capitalism. European nations demanded more from foreign countries. This led to the scramble for and finally partition of West Africa.

-There are also some people who have explained the scramble for Africa in the late 19<sup>th</sup> c as being the result of the **continent's strategic location**.

Europeans wanted to control harbors, canal, and navigable rivers in Africa. E.g. East Africa and Egypt were acquired by the British only because they wanted to defend the route to India.

-In the trade routes from Europe to South East Asia and the Far East Egypt for instance was very strategically important to the European Capitalist Nations especially to Britain after the construction of the canal in 1868 A.D.

-It was very important because it provided a much shorter route from Europe to the potentially rich countries of India, Indonesia and China via the Mediterranean sea – hence the British and French struggled to occupy it in order to safeguard their merchant ships passing through the Suez canal on their way to Asia or Europe.

-Other strategically important areas were Morocco, Gold coast in West Africa; e.t.c. European groups had arisen into scramble. These areas had scramble because losing the areas it was endangering European commercial routes at a time. The supporters of this view such as Ronald Robinsons, and John Gallagher have suggested that European scrambled to in order to safeguard their trade routes to South East Asia and the Far East

**-Several European capitalist nations were interested in the Niger River basin namely France, Britain and Germany.** The region was important and attractive due to its accessibility by water into the interior and its agricultural potentiality.

-France had staged territorial claims next to British sphere of influence in what later became the Gold Coast and in what later became Nigeria. Germany staged claims next to Nigeria in what is today the Cameroon Republic.

-Densely populated areas for getting quick, market, and labourers' example Nigeria were also the area for scramble.

-This means that by 1884 the scramble had become very serious and was threatening to cause European wars for territories abroad if it was not checked.

## PARTITION OF WEST AFRICA

The Berlin West Africa Conference (November 1884-February 1885) involved representatives of 14 European countries especially foreign ministers and the United States. USA attended in the meeting to establish ground rules for the future exploitation of the Africa. Africans were not invited or made privy to their decisions. The Ottoman Empire, facing the loss of territory on all sides, was not represented at the conference.

The idea of an international conference to settle territorial disputes arising from European activities in the Congo region was first suggest by Portugal out of fear of being pushed out of Africa altogether.

-This idea was taken up later by Bismarck who, after sounding the opinions of other powers, was encouraged to bring it about.

.It was not, ostensibly, the initial intention of the Conference to attempt a general partition of Africa. It, nevertheless, ended up disposing of territory, passing resolution pertaining to the free navigation of the Niger, Benue, and their affluent; and laying down general rules to be observed in future with regard to occupation of territory on the coasts of Africa.

By the time the conference ended, Leopold had secured ownership of the Congo Free State, a state 50 times the size of Belgium; France saw acceptance of its claims to French Congo; Portugal lost most of its Congo claims; and European powers recognized Germany's new protectorates. The most significant of these rules stated that colonial powers were obligated to notify each other when they claimed African territory. Further, subsequent "effective occupation" of the claimed area was necessary for the claim to remain valid.

-Treaties made with African rulers were to be considered as valid titles to sovereignty

-every imperial power was to be free to extend its coast occupations within certain limits into the interior and establish sphere of influence

-there should be freedom of navigation on the Congo and Niger rivers.

-Once the conference was over, it was clear that a European Scramble for African territories was underway.

Most European powers were not content to let a chance at claiming further territory slip after the partition on the paper.

NB. After the Berlin conference there followed bilateral treaties between the imperial powers laying down various boundaries of the areas claimed on the basis of previously concluded treaties.

- After the conference, influence by means of treaty became the most important method of affecting the better partition of West Africa.

- Bilateral agreements between Europeans themselves.

- Examples of the bilateral European partitioning treaties are;-

- Anglo-Germany Treaty of April and of May 1885 and between 1890 and 1893 fixed the boundary between Nigeria & Togo.

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- The Anglo-French treaties 1890 and 1898 laid down various boundaries of their colonies in West Africa.

- Recognized the French protectorate of Sahara especially south Sahara later known as French West Africa.

- British government was recognized its influence in river Niger and Lake Chad.

- The Anglo- French convention of 14<sup>th</sup> June 1898;-

- It limited the French occupation West of Lake Chad.

- The bilateral treaties fixed colonial boundaries in W. Africa.

- After various treaties, all the imperial powers then moved in troops to conquer and occupy the areas they had acquired on the paper.

- The conquest aimed to affect the doctrine of effective occupation.

- African societies resisted the conquest but was defeated later on

### **Interpretation of W. African resistances**

1. Colonial interpretation:

- Colonial scholars like governors, military personnel, etc. claimed that W. African resistances were rebellions; irrational without objectives and supported by witchcraft.

- The establishment of colonialism aimed to civilize W. Africans, eliminate diseases, wars, slave slavery and famines.

**-Europeans had assumed that the Africans would be pacified easily. i.e accept colonial rule and Africans who were against were regarded as primitive and those who were in position to oppose the colonial order would be forced to submit by quick military expeditions.**

**-To the Europeans Africans who opposed the Europeans were bandits, primitive and blood-thirsty while those who accepted were peace loving and progressive.**

**-But, all in all Africans were not ready for anything and not ready to lose anything.**

2. African perspective:-

- In 1965 a scholar known as A.B. Davidson challenged the colonial interpretation of colonial resistances.

-He claimed that W. African resistances were rational, with specific objectives e.g.

-There were resistances which erupted to maintain the sovereignty of indigenous societies.

-There were localized resistances to check out specific injustices and abusers e.g. forced labor, whipping.

-There were resistances aiming to destroy colonialism e.g. the Samori Toure, the Ashanti, e.t.c.

-African resistances were supported by ideology e.g. religion.

-However in the 1970s scholars like Hopkins said that it was an economic interpretation in W.African resistances e.g. W. African for a long time came into contact with European merchants, they established trade relations and more important after the abolition of slave trade W. Africans began to grow cash crops and trade in palm oil and crops and trade in palm oil and rubber.

-Some W. African rulers like Jaja of Opobo monopolized trade in oil in the Niger delta; Samori Toure monopolized trade in the Futa Toro and Futa Jallon in Eastern Senegal.

-During the imposition of colonial rule in their realms, the European powers determined to eliminate Africans, therefore resisted penetration of colonial rule due to economic interests they had.

-The Africans collected tax from the trade and were able to maintain permanent strong armies.

-As it turned out however, most African communities, pastoral as well as agricultural opposed the introduction of European colonial rule with great determination. Their attempts to prevent the introduction of European rule have been **referred to as primary resistance** and opposition of exploitation and colonial demand it had been referred to as **Secondary resistances**.

NB. There were two types of resistances and various forms of resistances.

-collaboration eg Tieba of Sikasso, and Toffa of Port Novo who collaborated with French.

-Submission and surrender to the Europeans e.g M'Backe of Sine, Guedel M. Bodj in Senegambia submitted to French and Yorubaland states such as Abeokuta, Ibadan, Oyo, Ekiti, Ijesha and submitted to British.

-Active majority of Africans e.g. Ahmadu of Tukolor vs French 1890-1891, Ba Bemba of Sikasso vs French 1894, Benin fought vs British, Samori Ture of Guinea vs French 1882-1898, King Jaja of Opobo vs British

-passive e.g. Prempre of Asante. Politely vs British

#### **VARIED NATURE OF AFRICAN REACTIONS OR RESPONSES TO THE INTRODUCTION OF COLONIAL RULE**

**-Africans in general dislike colonialism and they tended to resist it in different ways/forms such as passive, actively, adaptation (Africans sought some friendship from colonialist and obtained some techniques) and mercenary tactics (use of hired soldiers who were not belonging to local ethnic group. E.g. Nyamwezi used Rugaruga of Ngoni origin.**

#### **But, why there were variations?**

-organization of the society; how states/societies were organized in terms of economy, politics, e.t.c. such as the Tukolar under Ahmadu Seku and the Mandika under Samori Toure reacted actively.

-Enmity among Africans themselves. How some rulers collaborated with the European colonizers in the hope of maintaining their sovereignty or even gaining some territories at the expense of their neighboring rivals.

-Natural calamities or hazards

-Role of religions. The religions called for collective responsibility and purity. African Christians were embarrassed at colonialism. In most cases Christianity supported missionaries.

-Earlier contacts with Europeans or Arabs in terms of trade. How African traders and rulers whose livelihood depended on trade responded. People in the coast got contact with foreigners before those in the interior. A strategy of alliance worked well among the coastal people. E.g. Fante collaborated with British.

-How stateless communities reacted to the introduction of European colonial rule, capitalist exploitation, and oppression.

-Attitude of Europeans/ The nature of colonizer eg French, Germany were very harsh so even Africans reacted actively.

-The terrain/ topography; in some of the areas it was difficult to conquer e.g. forest areas of west A

-Policies of the colonizers

N.B. All reactions in Africa were to restore or preserve independence

### **Failure of African resistance**

-Why did Africans who tried to resist colonial rule failed in their efforts to prevent the introduction of colonial rule or to remove it soon after it had been established?

-Africans used primitive weapons such as spears, bows and arrows, clubs, to fight their European enemies. The European used up to date fire arms like rifles, maxim guns and cannons.

-Africans **weren't united** when they confronted the European colonizers in the different territories.

-European occupation of African territories was **piece – meal/ their own demand by that time**. In this way, the European colonizers were able to conquer one African community/area after another.

-Lack of common system of communication both in terms of language and transport.

-It wasn't easy for African communities/European colonizers to inform or persuade their counterparts in other part of a given colony to join them in the war against the European colonizers.

-**European explorers and missionaries' activities, Europeans knew far more about Africa and its interior**. It is physical appearance, terrain, economy and other resources and its strength and weakness of its states and societies than Africans did about European.

-**revolutionary changes in medical technology and in particular the discovery of quinine against malaria, European** became less fearful of Africa than before.

-Collaboration of some African leaders.

Therefore, African resistance It helped European to determine even the nature of administration. E.g. actively direct rule at the same time to Africa later on it stimulated mass nationalism.

### **Establishment Of Colonial State**

-Colonial state in the in West African regions was imposed by Euro power.

-They were extension of the metropolitan powers assigned specific duties especially to check interest of metropolis countries.

### **There were three phases of colonial state.**

Construction phase (1885-1914)

-Construction states fixed boundaries and established colonial structures like the army, political institutions and colonial economy.

-In British W. African, there were two phases:-

i) Company rule. Companies were given royal charters to govern the colony on behalf the British government e.g. company was given a mandate to govern the Niger river in Eastern Nigeria, Northern Nigeria among the House state and Gold coast.

-Until 1900 all the British possessions W.Africa were divided into two parties:-

a) Colonies e.g. Lagos, Accra.

b) Protectorates in areas with strong African kingdoms.

ii)-After the failure of royal companies to administer took over their responsibilities and established colonial government and appointed governors.

-The colonial states used two methods to strengthen their authority in the areas:-

i) Adaptation process e.g. in Gold coast and Nigeria, the state didn't destroy the political structures rather the incorporated African rulers into colonial structures.

ii) Creation process.

-In area with no chiefs the colonial state created the chiefdom institution, appointed influential population to become chiefs.

-In Eastern Nigeria the state appointed the warrant chiefs who were given new responsibilities like to collect tax, draft labourers for colonial production units, maintain peace and order and encourage African to grow cash crops.

## 2) Institutionalization phase 1918-1939

- The main function of the state was to rationalize the colonial rule.
- The state bureaucracy by appointing Africans into the administration
- Introduced education and health services in their colonies.
- Introduced constitutional reforms to bring the sense of representation.
- The colonial state used difficult strategies e.g. indirect rule and assimilation policy

## 3) Decolonization phase.

- After WWII, colonial state became violent and oppressive
- Colonial developmental schemes.
- Increase of exploitation in order to compensate

## COLONIAL ECONOMY:

The major tasks of colonial states were to organize and coordinate efforts to establish colonial economy.

**-This means, therefore, that the colonial economy was an extension of the European capitalist economy and was introduced in the African colonies by the European imperialist powers for the purpose of serving as a reliable source of vital/materials, market for surplus manufactured goods and as an investment opportunity for surplus capital of the economies of their colonies.**

**-European Imperialist powers had first to destroy or partially destroy the internal dynamics of the traditional economies of their African colonies.**

### AIMS

-Colonial economy aimed to facilitate maximum economic exploitation at minimum cost since the prime economic reasons for Europe Empire in Africa were the need for new markets, raw materials, areas for investment, cheap labour and area to settle surplus European population.

-To achieve their aims, colonialists had to disturb pre colonial African economy.

-Colonial economy was established in Africa over a span of years.

-During that period African self-sufficient economies were transformed and made inferior.

-The colonialist established the colonial economy by creation, destruction and preservation.

1. Creation: Involved the introduction of new elements to the pre-colonial African economy.

-Introduction of money as a medium of exchange and a banking system which facilitated the development of commerce between the colonies and metropolitan countries

-Introduction of taxation in money form. This introduction of taxation forced people in different colonies in Africa to enter into the money economy because they had to earn the money when to pay their taxes either by selling their labour or livestock or by producing cash crops. However, at the beginning of the colonial period when there was a series shortage of labour, tax devotes could pay their taxes in labour services.

-Land alienation/expropriation in some of the colonies.

-Africans in the areas concerned were removed to give way to individual settler farmers and to individual settler farmers and to the establishment of plantations by individual capitalists or by companies.

-In settler dominated colonies most of the land which was fertile was alienated for settler and plantation agriculture or mining and most of the Africans living in it previously were pushed into area which marginal fertility which became generally known as reserves. A few Africans were allowed to remain in alienated land as squatters of the settler farmers and there had to work for their landlords as tenants. This was one way of guaranteeing the availability of labour forced labour.

-Introduction/forced production of cash crops such as cotton, coffee, cocoa, palm oil and ground nuts by peasants in some areas.

-This forced production of cash crops by peasants resulted in the reduction of production of food crops in some areas which in turn led to food shortages in the areas concerned.

-Introduction of large-scale farming in the form of European settler farms and plantation by individual capitalists and companies for the production capitalists and companies for the production of food and /materials in some colonies. Among the crops produced by settlers where coffee, wheat, and grapes. While those produced by plantation agriculture were rubber, sisal, sugar and tea.

-This means that for different forms of agriculture emerged during the colonial period namely peasant farming Agriculture, Setter farming/Agriculture and plantation Agriculture.

2. Destruction – involved the killing of the traditional self sufficient African economy. The colonialists destroyed the traditional African industries through two ways. The first method was the use of force whereby the colonial state made it illegal to produce traditional crafts.

The second method the colonialists used to kill African industries by bringing European manufactured goods to Africans in large quantities. African industries failed to compete and hence declined.

3. Preservation: Colonialists preserved some elements of traditional African economy. They did not destroy the African basic tools of production. E.g. hoe. The colonialists also left the family as the basic unit of production.

In some areas retained feudal mode of production.

Although, colonialists retained some pre-colonial African elements, the retained features served the interests of capitalists.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF COLONIAL ECONOMY**

It was based on the production of agricultural and mineral raw materials demanded by the capitalist industries.

More commercial oriented than subsistence, this means that most of the material wealth produced was for the sale rather than for human consumption.

Export oriented; this means that most of the material wealth was sent abroad to feed the European industries.

Went hand in hand with the construction of infrastructure where it was necessary. Eg. Roads, railways and harbours.

Colonial economy involved both small scale and large scale production for example Africans produced cash crops in their small farms. Also large scale in terms of plantation.

Characterized by the use of cheap African labourers in capitalist projects.

Constant importation of industrial goods. The major aim was creating Africa as markets for European goods.

Much dependence on the outside world – colonizing powers. What was produced in the colonies depended on the outside market. Also, outside world had to offer market for raw materials from the colonies.

Colonial economy was exploitative in nature. Capitalists exploited the African continent and transferred the continent's wealth to Europe.

Colonial economy was mono-economy/mono-cultural eg. Ghana – Cocoa, Liberia rubber – Zambia & Zaire – copper

## **COLONIA ECONOMIC SECTORS**

-Aimed to maintain the interests of the Europeans. There were three important economic sectors in west Africa.

Agriculture

Mining/industry

Trade and commerce.

-Agriculture – largest sector aimed at producing cash crops. Two types of agriculture i.e. small scale agriculture and large scale agriculture

### **Forms of Agriculture**

Peasant agriculture – In this system of agriculture Africans were left producing food and cash crops such as coffee, cotton, tea etc, through their small land holdings.

Eg. Ghana/ Nigeria, e.t.c.

## **PEASANTRY**

-Predominated colonial economies in British W. Africa and some of French colonies.

-Colonial states feared to intervene in as the areas where there was more populated. The state encouraged Africans to grow cash crops e.g. cotton, coffee, groundnuts etc for export.

-In other parts of W. African plantation economy existed e.g. in Ivory Coast were established by French settlers and companies in Liberia, the American company established rubber plantation.

-Mining industry with the most important minerals being gold in Gold Coast and Sierra Leone and Tin in Nigeria, diamond in Guinea and Sierra Leone phosphate in Togo, Iron in Liberia and Salt from the Coast.

-The exploitation of minerals was done by foreign companies like the Royal Niger Company.

-The companies secured loans from metropolitan banks.

### **Why peasant**

Cheapest; supervision done by African, Instrument and maintenance done by Africans and price were determined by Europeans themselves.

Peasants were simply given orders to produce the required crop. Increase or decrease.

Natives had some experiences and knowledge relevant in growing some cash crops in their areas they lived.

Climatic reasons – hotness

High population – difficult for land alienation

Nature of the soil – poor / fertile/poor/fertile

Immediate interest of colonizers where they found cash crops they left Africans continued

Strong resistance from Africans

### **TRADE AND COMMERCIAL SECTOR**

Developed along the coast of W. Africa, in Ghana, Western Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Senegal.

It was dominated by European trading firms and Asian traders known as the Lebanese.

European trading companies were financed by the metropolitan banks, were mainly exporting peasant products and minerals e.g. the United African Company which operated in British W. Africa by 1940 controlled 40% of Nigerian export trade

In French W. Africa, there were companies i.e. Société Commerciale de l'Afrique and in 1949, French companies were importing 73% of all sugar imported in Senegal, 56% of all rice exported in French W. Africa and 55% of flour.

Asian traders, mostly Lebanese dealt with retail and middlemen trade. They were concentrated along the coast and in 1897 there were 28 Lebanese, 276 in 1900, 1110 in 1904 and rose to 3000, twenty years later.

These increases in numbers indicate that W. Africa became integrated into colonial economy.

### **THE QUESTION OF LABOUR**

Colonial production units like agriculture; mining + primary industries needed labour.

Plantation economy in Ivory Coast became magnets attracting labour from Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) and French West Africa.

Nigeria mining & palm plantations attracted migrant labourers from Nigeria, Cameroon & French Equatorial Africa.

Labour migrant was mainly from the interior Savannah to the coastal areas to work in mining and agriculture sectors.

Labour recruitments were done by agents who distributed labour to various economic units however; Africans were not proletarianised that is land alienation didn't take place workers remained with their lands which were tended by their families. Migrant laborers worked on those units on short term contract.

The European companies especially in mining preferred long term contracts of labour because mining activities took place throughout the year.

Colonial economy was exploitative in nature – through low wages

Low price for peasant crops etc

### **HOW CLASSES EMERGED IN COLONIAL**

Colonial economy facilitated the emergence of classes in West Africa

The major contradiction which caused the rise of those classes was between interests of capitalist such as profit maximization by exploiting labour, and working classes that is peasants, migrant labourers + elites

There were also secondary contradictions e.g contradiction between African commitment classes + the colonial state with suppressed African commercial class in favour of European commercial class e.g in Gold coast.

The classes which existed in West Africa were:

The metropolitan ruling class including governors, European beauracrats who represented interests of the other country in the colony.

Peasantry existed even before the establishment of colonial producing for subsistence.

The colonial state wounded peasants to produce for capitalist interests through taxation, compulsory cash crop production

The working class. Composed of wage earners in plantations, mines and primary industries, dock workers, railways workers,

Commercial class:-Composed of European commercial and African commercial

The classes continued to struggle vs each other in their economic interests' e.g. colonial state enacting laws to make sure Africans provide labour while peasants resisted to make sure that the prices of their crops could be higher

The classes were very important during nationalist struggles.

### **EFFECTS OF COLONIALISM IN WEST AFRICA**

Effects of the European takeover on Africans were considerable. In the short term, the Scramble obviously led to Africans' loss of control of their own affairs. For example, British West Africa, six former colonial territories of Britain on the coast of West Africa. Britain began establishing trading posts on the West African coast in the 18th century. By the early 20th century The Gambia, Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, British Togoland, Nigeria, and the British Cameroons had all been established as British colonies. The Gold Coast and British Togoland, which had been administered together, became the independent country of Ghana in 1957. Nigeria became independent in 1960. In 1961 the northern part of the British

Cameroons became part of Nigeria, and the southern part joined the newly independent country of Cameroon, which formerly had been administered by France as the French Cameroons. Sierra Leone became an independent country in 1961, The Gambia in 1965.

But it also brought enormous hardship to most Africans. In addition to the deaths caused by the conquest itself, many Africans died as a result of disrupted lifestyles and movement of people and animals among different disease environments. Africa's population did not begin to recover from the devastation caused by the Scramble and its aftermath until well into the 20th century. In the long term, the Scramble was part of a larger process of bringing non-Western peoples into the world economy—in most cases as exporters of agricultural products or minerals and importers of manufactured or processed goods. Colonial governments taxed their African subjects and used the revenues to improve the colony's infrastructure: building roads, bridges, and ports that connected distant locales to the outside world. Meanwhile, institutions to improve people's lives, such as hospitals and schools, appeared more slowly. Colonial rule also brought elements of Western culture—from the French and English languages and Western political models to Coca-Cola and automobiles. It was in reaction to European rule that Africans developed a sense of nationalism that would help them gain independence in the second half of the 20th century.

## **Senegal**

Senegal, republic in western Africa, bounded on the north by Mauritania, on the east by Mali, on the south by Guinea and Guinea-Bissau, and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. The republic's total area is 196,722 sq km (75,955 sq mi). Dakar is the capital and largest city.

Other major urban centers are Thiès (228,017), Kaolack (199,023), and Saint-Louis (132,425), all of which are in western Senegal.

Portuguese reached the mouth of the Sénégal River and Cap Vert in 1444 and 1445. The Portuguese traded cloth and metal goods in return for gold dust, gum arabic, and ivory.

Shortly after 1600 the Portuguese were displaced by the Dutch and French, and by 1700 the French dominated commerce along the coast.

Despite British-French rivalry and conflicts in the area during the late 17th and 18th centuries, French influence was extended far into the interior.

But most Franco-African trade continued to be handled by African middlemen, who brought goods to the French settlements at the coast.

The growth of the Fulani state of Fouta Toro along the lower Sénégal River in the 18th century, however, undermined French activity.

Under Captain Louis Faidherbe, and his successors after the mid-19th century, French control of the Wolof, Serer, and Tukolor states was forcefully extended and consolidated.

In 1895 Senegal officially was made a French colony, administered from Saint-Louis.

In 1902 government headquarters was shifted to Dakar, which was also the capital of French West Africa. Along with French residents, the black Africans of Saint-Louis and Gorée (an island near Dakar) had elected a deputy to the French National Assembly during the period

After the Berlin conference French in order to occupy effectively they decided to use assimilation.

**Assimilation** was one ideological basis of French colonial policy in the 19th and 20th centuries. In contrast with British imperial policy, the French taught their subjects that, by adopting French language and culture, they could eventually become French. The famous 'Four Communes in Senegal were seen as proof of this.

Here Africans were, in theory, afforded all the rights of French citizens. In four Communes: Goree, Dakar, Rufisque and Saint-Louis.

The purpose of the theory of assimilation was to turn African natives into "French" men by educating them in the language and French culture and hence become French citizens or equals.

The residents of the Four communes were referred as the "originaires" and had been exposed to assimilation for a long a period of time that they had become a "typical French citizen...he was expected to be everything except in the color of his skin, a Frenchman."

They were "African Elite." One of those elites was **Blaise Diagne**, who was the first black deputy in the French assembly. He "defended the status of the originaires as French citizens. In 1914 the first black African, Blaise Diagne, was elected to the French Parliament, and he served until 1934.

The resolution passed on October 19, 1915. The *Four Communes* remained the only French colony where the *Indigènes* received French citizenship until 1944.

## **NIGERIA**

Nigeria, republic in western Africa, with a coast along the Atlantic Ocean on the Gulf of Guinea. Most of Nigeria consists of a low plateau cut by rivers, especially the Niger and its largest tributary, the Benue. The country takes its name from its chief river.

Nigeria is by far the most populated of Africa's countries, with more than one-seventh of the continent's people. The people belong to many different ethnic groups. These groups give the country a rich culture, but they also pose major challenges to nation building. Ethnic strife has plagued Nigeria since it gained independence in 1960.

Nigeria has a federal form of government and is divided into 36 states and a federal capital territory. The country's official name is the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Lagos, along the coast, is the largest city and the country's economic and cultural center, but Abuja, a city in the interior planned and built during the 1970s and 1980s, is the capital.

Nigeria long had an agricultural economy but now depends almost entirely on the production of petroleum, which lies in large reserves below the Niger Delta. While oil wealth has financed major investments in the country's infrastructure, Nigeria remains among the world's poorest countries in terms of per capita income. Oil revenues led the government to ignore agriculture.

The area that is now Nigeria was home to ethnically based kingdoms and tribal communities before it became a European colony. In spite of European contact that began in the 16th century, these kingdoms and communities maintained their autonomy until the 19th century.

The Nok culture, which flourished between 500 BC and AD 200, is the earliest identifiable civilization in Nigeria's north; the Nok are also the earliest of West Africa's known ironworkers

The Hausa cultures, which as early as the 7th century AD were smelting iron ore, arose in what is today northwestern and north central Nigeria, to Bornu's west. The origin of these cultures, however, is a mystery. Legend holds that Bayajidda, a traveler from the Middle East, married the queen of Daura, from whom came seven sons. Each son is reputed to have founded one of the seven Hausa kingdoms: Kano, Rano, Katsina, Zazzau (Zaria), Gobir, Kebbi, and Auyo. Various Nigerian groups explain their origins in similar legends involving migrations southward across the Sahara or from the east or west through the savannas, followed by intermarriage and acculturation. These legends serve to highlight the importance of such interchanges in the cultural, economic, and political development of many Nigerian societies.

However founded, the seven city-states developed as strong trading centers, typically surrounded by a wall and with an economy based on intensive farming, cattle raising, craft making, and later slave trading. In each Hausa state, a monarch, probably elected, ruled over a network of feudal lords, most of whom had embraced Islam by the 14th century. The states maintained persistent rivalries, which at times made them easy prey to the expansion of Bornu and other kingdoms.

A perhaps greater, if more subtle, threat to the Hausa kingdoms was the immigration of Fulani pastoralists, who came from the west to make a home in the Nigerian savanna and who permeated large areas of Hausaland over several centuries. In 1804 a Fulani scholar, Usuman dan Fodio, declared a *jihad* (holy war) against the Hausa states, whose rulers he condemned for allowing Islamic practices to deteriorate. Local Fulani leaders, motivated by both spiritual and local political concerns, received Usuman's blessing to overthrow the Hausa rulers. With their superior cavalry and cohesion, the Fulani overthrew the Hausa rulers and also conquered areas beyond Hausaland, including Adamawa to the east and Nupe and Ilorin to the south.

Compared with other parts of West Africa, Nigeria was slow to feel the penetration of Europe. Unlike in Ghana and Senegal, no European fortifications were built along the coast, and Europeans—mostly British—came ashore only briefly to trade weapons, alcohol, and other goods in return for slaves. It is not clear what portion of the vast number of slaves taken from West Africa (estimates range from about 10 to 30 million) came from Nigeria

British trading companies such as the United Africa Company took advantage of the weakened empires and established depots at Lagos and in the Niger Delta. Meanwhile, explorers such as Mungo Park and Hugh Clapperton of Scotland, John and Richard Lander of England, and Heinrich Barth of Germany charted the Niger River and its surroundings. The explorers, some of them funded by trading companies, laid the groundwork for the eventual expansion inland of the trading companies. Missionaries also facilitated the process of replacing the noxious slave trade with “Christian commerce.” Some inland peoples took advantage of new opportunities to produce goods for the Europeans, but most resisted and were forcibly subjugated.

In 1884 and 1885 European powers carved Africa into spheres of influence at the Berlin West Africa Conference. Britain, its claim to Nigeria affirmed, moved quickly to consolidate its territory.

-The colonial era began in earnest in the late 19th century, when Britain consolidated its rule over Nigeria. In 1914 the British merged their northern and southern protectorates into a single state called the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

-In 1900, with the south secure, Britain revoked the Royal Niger Company’s charter and declared that a colonial government would administer Nigeria as two protectorates: one in the south and one in the north. (Lagos was incorporated into the southern protectorate in 1906.) Simultaneously, Britain went to war against the Sokoto caliphate in the northwest, conquering it by 1903. Remaining pockets of resistance within the caliphate and elsewhere in northern Nigeria were quelled over the next few years. In 1914 Britain joined the two protectorates into a single colony, and in 1922 part of the former German colony of Kamerun was attached to Nigeria as a League of Nations-mandated territory.

Britain governed Nigeria via indirect rule, a system in which native leaders continued to rule their traditional lands so long as they collected taxes and performed other duties ensuring British prosperity. Uncooperative or ineffective leaders were easily replaced by others who were more compliant or competent, and usually more than willing to enjoy the perks of government. Britain was thus saved the huge economic and political cost of running and militarily securing a day-to-day government.

Indirect rule operated relatively smoothly in the north, where the British worked with the Fulani aristocracy, who had long governed the Sokoto caliphate and who were able to administer traditional Islamic law alongside British civil law. In the south, however, traditions were less accommodating. In Yorubaland indirect rule disrupted historical checks and balances, increasing the power of some chiefs at the expense of others. Moreover, although the Yoruba kings had long been powerful, few had collected taxes, and citizens resisted their right to do so under British mandate. In the southeast, particularly in Igboland, many of the societies had never had chiefs or for that matter organized states. Consequently, the chiefs appointed by Britain received little or no respect. In Nigeria's culturally fragmented middle belt, small groups were forcefully incorporated into larger political units and often ruled by "foreign" Fulani, who brought with them alien institutions such as Islamic law.

The British carried out a few reforms, including the gradual elimination of domestic slavery, which had been a central feature of the Sokoto caliphate. They also provided Western education for some of Nigeria's elite; however, in the main Britain limited schooling as much as feasible.

-British opted for indirect rule because they found that they had not enough men control effectively the areas they brought under their rule

Climate of Nigeria.

Poor infrastructure by that time.

Main intention was economic need to get that needs there were no need to abolish African system of administration.

By this means of system Britain succeeded in bringing the large area of northern Nigeria under control very quickly and cheaply.

When the system was applied in southern part of Nigeria. People were not ready to accept because it gave more power the Oba people among the Yoruba and later riot of the Egba in 1918 in the east of Nigeria led Women's riot 1929 in which many women were shot down by government forces.

In 1914, the Niger area was formally united as the *Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria*. Administratively, Nigeria remained divided into the [northern](#) and [southern](#) provinces and [Lagos Colony](#). Western education and the development of a modern economy proceeded more rapidly in the south than in the north, with consequences felt in Nigeria's political life ever since

Colonial laws were enacted in Nigeria that limited the mobility of Christian southerners to the Muslim North hence creation of separate settlement. No one was allowed to purchase a land outside one's region. This created prejudice and hatred as they looked each other suspiciously in all sphere of contact. This created disparity in education, and widened the political and economic gaps between Northern and Southern Nigeria.

In 1947 a colonial constitution divided Nigeria into 3 political region East by Igbos, West by Yoruba and North by Hausa – Fulani who occupied largest areas and was most populous.

-Britain redirected almost all of Nigeria's trade away from Africa and toward itself, a move that undermined the northern region's large, centuries-old trade across the Sahara. Britain further changed the economy by introducing new crops and expanding old ones, such as oil palm, cotton, groundnuts, and cacao, almost all of which were sold for export. Iron and tin were also mined, and railroads were built to transport products. Because Britain required Nigerians to pay taxes in cash rather than goods, most Nigerians had little choice but to grow cash-yielding export crops or to migrate seasonally to areas where paying jobs could be found.

## THE RISE OF AFRICAN NATIONALISM AND THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN WEST AFRICA

Nationalism derives from the word "Nation"

Many social scientists agreed that a nation is a relatively large group of people which has a common language culture, territory which definite boundaries, a common historical experience and a common destiny.

Historically, there have been two types of nations namely.

Nation states or cultural/linguistic nations

State – nations

In the case of cultural/linguistic nations, the nation in the form of a people which a common culture and language existed first and then strove to create one political entity for its members. That is to say the cultural/Linguistic nation is usually a product of the development of a relative culture and language as its base and when became conscious of itself as a group. Tanzania and French, the Germans, Greeks, Dutch, Italians, Poles/Polish in Europe, Somali, Swazi, Sotho of Lesotho, Swana of Botswana (Africa).

In the case of State – nations, the state in the form of a political entity a nation in a cultural/linguistic sense out of a number of diverse communities. This means that, state nations are artificial socio – political entities because they group together different communities which take a long time to consider themselves as one people. Examples in Europe include the British, Belgians Swiss and the former Soviets and Yugoslavs, In Africa include all the former European colonies which the exception of the few.

**-One could say that Nationalism means the consciousness when a given people have acquired about themselves as a group on the basis of some common attributes such as a culture, language, a territory a common historical experience and a common destiny.**

-In the colonial context (in West Africa) on the other hand, Nationalism can be defined as the desire by the colonized peoples to end colonialism and govern themselves.

-If nationalism in the colonial context meant the rejection of colonial rule and the struggle for political independence by the colonial subjects, when then did it begin and why?

-There has been a debate among historians on when and why nationalism began. One maintains that it began with primary resistances at the beginning of colonialism when some African leaders like Ahmad Seku of the Tukror and Samori Toure of the Mandika Empire tried to prevent the imposition of colonial rule by fighting.

This position was taken by Nationalist historians such as T.O.Ranger in the 1960s. Their position was that the wars of resistance when some African classes and communities staged at the beginning of colonial rule in the 1880s and 1890s and a bit later was nationalism, this is not convincing at all because the African leaders and communities which resisted the imposition of colonial rule did so individually and not as a part of a larger.

-Another School of thought maintains that nationalism started when the transformation of some of the welfare associations into militant political organizations when started challenging the colonial system by staging strikes and boycotts to European shops as they did in the Gold Coast e.t.c.

Cooperative, welfare associations, trade unions and independent church were various forms of classes of people under colonial whom struggled against unwanted situation in different places.e.g. in cooperative Gold Coast and Ashant Cocoa Federation 1930s demanded the removal of middlemen, increase of price e.t.c. trade union in British and French colonies reacted against exploitation and oppression, in Ghana National Congress of British west Africa 1920 fought the exclusion of educated Africans from playing significant roles in the colonial government, Native Babtist church vs Europeans church.

In other words according to this view, it was the formation of territorial political organization when marked the beginning of nationalism in colonial Africa. This occurred before World War II in West and South Africa and after the war in the 1940s and 1950s in the rest of the continent.

=One social scientist has suggested that the political organization which emerged in the 1940s were of 2 kinds i.e. Congresses and political parties.

-He describes congresses as loosely organized nationalist movements when claimed to represent all the people in their territories and when demanded national independence and democratic rights by using popular tactics such as national independence and democratic rights by using popular tactics such as national boycotts, general strikers, civil disobedience, mass demonstrations, press campaigns as well as petitions to the metropolitan governments. E.g of such organization was the National Council of Niger and the Cameroon (NCNC) e.t.c. These Political Organization dominated politics in British and French West Africa in the early post World War II years.

-Political Parties were, according to the same social scientist, political organization operating in individual territories and not across political boundaries, political programmes, constitutions and platforms and worked when in the frame work of some kind of parliamentary system and concerned themselves in winning of the supporters of an electorate.

Moreover, unlike congress/mass political movements of when had emerged in the 1920s and 1930s, political party (CPP) in the Gold Coast, Part Democratique de la cotre d'Ivoire, e.t.c. All these two types of political movements emerged as a result of the developments of nationalism.

But, why did these wide movements emerge during the post World War II years? The factors were of two kinds i.e. Internal and External factors.

### **INTERNAL FACTORS:-**

**1. Creation of social classes by the colonial state:- Introduction and expansion of secondary and higher education in the colonies played a role in the creation of classes.** These classes included the educated elite or petty bourgeoisie who were a product of colonial education. Not only did the provision of higher education the educated elite in the different colonies but it also expanded the horizons and understanding of the world situation of this class. It was higher education which also prepared and produced future political leaders in the different colonies.

The class of workers or proletariat who were also a product of the exploitative colonial capitalist economy (low wages) and peasants /peasantry who were basically small individual cash crop producers.

**2. Economic exploitation together with colonial oppression.**

Economic exploitation intensified in all the colonies in Africa both during and after World War II as a result of restrictions and high prices when were introduced in order to meet the high costs of the war among the European colonial powers. In addition to the exploitative war measures, many oppressive laws were introduced at many oppressive laws were introduced at a time when a number of classes had already emerged and gained conscious new in the colonies particularly the petty bourgeoisie and the working class. It is not surprising there for that both these classes were in the fore front in struggle for political independence the post 2<sup>nd</sup> World War period through the continent.

-land alienation in the areas like Ivory Coast for Timber and coffee, Guinea for banana plantations

-great exploitation of peasants during the Great Depression 1929-1933

**3. The improvement of the different means of communication in the 1930s and 1940s.**

It was in fact during the 1930s and post World War II period that technical pre-conditions for effective political party organization such as trunk roads, motor vehicles, railways air transport, news papers and radio broadcast became available and widespread in the colonies. i.e would have been very difficult for political party leaders to open up party branches, to spread party propaganda and slogans and to recruit members for their parties in the provinces and districts of the colonies when out improved facilities of communication.

**B: EXTERNAL FACTORS:-**

**The Second World War:-**

World War II (1939-1945) destroyed the myth that the white man was all powerful and infallible. It was particularly the participation of African soldiers in that different of the war when destroyed this myth when many of them proved to be very good fighters and in some than some of their white colleagues.

Moreover the explanation given by the imperialist powers that they were fighting and the fascism of Adolf Hitler Benito Mussolini and the Japanese in order to save the world for democracy turned and them after the war when the colonized peoples of Asia and Africa who had fought when they demanded to have a share of democracy which they had fought for.

After the war USA and USSR became powerful, both powers were in favour of ending colonial rule in Africa though for different reasons.

War led foundation of UNO which had a favourable impact on the anti-colonial movement -African soldiers who went in WW II, after all the suffering and the struggles, the African soldiers were expecting adequate pensions and employment on their return home, but these hopes were not fulfilled. It is for all reasons that the ex-soldiers became so active in the struggle for independence.

### **The Weakening of European Colonial Control in Asia in the 1940s**

This was partly a result of Second World War when hastened to bring political independence to a number of Asian countries such as India and Burma in 1947 and Indonesia in 1948. The impact of Indian and his Indian national leader, Mahatma Gandhi and his Indian national congress in the post Second World War years was immense in Africa especially in British colonies. It wasn't surprising that many of the early political organizations in Africa called themselves congresses and adopted some of Gandhi's political tactics such as non-violence mass demonstrations, boycotts, general strikes, civic disobedience and petitions to the metropolitan governments.

The Establishment of UNO; and the democratic and anti - colonial position when it assumed Immediately after its establishment in 1945, UNO exerted pressure on the European colonial powers through propaganda and its opposition to dictatorship and violation of human rights everywhere.

It also established a decolonization committee to deal with issues of colonized peoples

### **4. Pan Africanist Movement**

Pan-Africanism was a movement which was started by Africans in diaspora i.e. people of African descent in the USA, the Caribbean Islands and Europe. It advocated not only the liberation of the whole African continent from foreign control but also for the political unification of the whole continent into a United States of Africa after Liberation.

#### **5. The existence of the socialist system since 1917 in the Soviet Union.**

After World War II, the socialist system expanded to other countries of Eastern Europe and China and began to challenge the existence of colonialism more vigorously in the different forums including UNO. These socialist countries provided both moral and material support to those who were struggling against colonialism and imperialism in general. There's no doubt therefore that the impact of the socialist system on colonial Africa must have been very great.

#### **6. The existence of intra – imperialist rivalry among the capitalist countries.**

The economies of West European countries were completely shattered during the war while the USA emerged stronger economically than any other country in the world because the war wasn't financial institutions had financed the war by giving loans to West European governments. Apparently, the US government opposed the continuation of colonialism in African countries to become politically independent so that she could have access to their markets and complete allies there particularly in trade and mineral extraction and capital investments.

### **NATIONALISM IN SENEGAL**

-Two main phases of nationalism

-Phase I WWI-WWII-protector movement

Phase II between WWII mass nationalism

-In Senegal after WWII political conflict revolved between town and countryside as it was in different countries in ethnic communities.

Senegal's first political party was formed by Lamine Gueye in 1936. In fact it was a branch of the French socialist party.

After World War II (1939-1945) a territorial assembly was established in Senegal, and citizens of the entire colony were enfranchised. Local politics were dominated by Lamine Guèye and Léopold Sédar Senghor, the deputies to the French Parliament.

In 1945 Gueye was elected as one of Senegal's deputies to the constituent assembly in Paris. His colleague was Leopold Sedar Senghor a school teacher who had lived in France since 1932 and served in the French army in 1940. Both were assimilated. In 1948 Senghor broke away from SFIO to form Bloc Democratique Senegalais (BDS). His original enabled him to establish connectivity with influential local leaders, Muslims leader, wealthy groundnuts traders, prominent trade unionist and war veterans. In 1951 won election vs SFIO. Later Lamine Gueye socialist merged with Senghor BDS to form union Progressiste Senegalais (UPS)

In 1958 Senegal was granted almost complete internal autonomy (independence), and in June 1960 it became fully independent as part of the Mali Federation, which joined Senegal with the Sudanese Republic (now Mali).

On August 20, 1960, Senegal withdrew from the federation and became a separate republic. Senghor was elected the first president; he was reelected in 1963, 1968, 1973, and 1978.

Following an alleged coup d'état attempt in 1962 by Prime Minister Mamadou Dia, the powers of the president were greatly increased in a new constitution that went into effect in 1963.

Under Senghor's regime the country made progress in diversifying its economy, but income from foreign sales of peanuts remained crucial. At times, notably in 1968 and 1973, students staged large demonstrations to protest the concentration of power in Senghor's hands. A multiparty system was established by constitutional amendment in 1976, and at the beginning of 1981 Senghor stepped down and named Abdou Diouf, who had been prime minister since 1970, as his successor. After adopting a popular anticorruption program, Diouf won 1983 presidential elections by a wide margin.

In 1982 Senegal joined with its neighbor, The Gambia, to form the confederation of Senegambia, headed by Diouf; the confederation collapsed in 1989, but in 1991 the two

nations signed a new treaty of cooperation. The late 1980s were marked by border tensions with Mauritania, sparked by a dispute over grazing rights.

More than 400 people, mostly Senegalese, were killed in border clashes, and war was barely averted. Also in the 1980s, an armed separatist movement arose in the Casamance region (the part of Senegal south of The Gambia). This movement, which claims that Casamance is a historically distinct region from the rest of Senegal, staged periodic attacks on military posts and governmental offices in Casamance in the 1980s and 1990s.

The popularity Diouf enjoyed in his first years as president began to fade in the mid-1980s, as the economy faltered and many opposition groups protested the ruling Socialist Party's grip on political power. When Diouf and the Socialist Party won the 1988 presidential and legislative elections by a large majority, the opposition accused the ruling party of electoral fraud and protested by rioting in Dakar.

In 1991 Diouf initiated electoral reforms, but the Socialist Party retained control over the electoral commission (which oversees elections and tallies the votes). The presidential term was extended from five to seven years, and a two-term limit was imposed (effective after the next election). Diouf was reelected in 1993, but again the opposition protested, charging electoral fraud. The Socialist Party again won a majority of legislative seats in May 1998 and, in August, voted to abolish the presidential two-term limit. The controversial vote was boycotted by all opposition legislators but one.

## **STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN NIGERIA**

-Cocoa and minerals still led Nigerian exports in 1955, totaling \$37.1 million; 11,399 tons of tin, 3,146 tons and 749,000 tons of coal were mined. Timber, rubber, groundnuts, and palm oil were also exported. Imports of cotton, machinery, vehicles, and other items created an unfavorable trade balance of more than \$8 million. This shows that Nigerian exploitation increased after the WWII.

-For generations before the arrival of Europeans, Nigerians taught their children informally about their culture, work, survival skills, and social activities. Some societies gave more formal instruction about society and culture as part of young peoples' rites of passage into adulthood. In Islamic communities, students studied the Qur'an (Koran) and read other religious texts written in Arabic. Many of the more able students pursued higher Islamic studies and became teachers, clerics, or legal scholars. By 1919 northern

Nigeria had about 25,000 Qur'anic schools. A large number of Islamic schools are still in operation.

In Lagos, Calabar, and other coastal cities, Christian missionaries introduced European education in the 1840s. Within a few decades, schooling in English was well established, and some elite families sent their children abroad to study. Enrollments expanded rapidly in the south; were uneven in the middle belt, depending on where missionaries were active; and were virtually nonexistent in the north. Changes after the WWII also was reflected in education.

-In 1957 Lagos and the Eastern Region introduced free primary education, which had been provided in the Western Region since 1956. There were two million children in school, of the five million of school age.

The University College of Ibadan had 594 students in 1957. A 500-bed teaching hospital associated with the university neared completion.

-In the late 19th century, Christianity became established in southern Nigeria. In the Yoruba southwest, it was propagated by the Church of England, while in the Igbo southeast the Roman Catholic Church dominated. Today, close to half of the southwestern peoples and far more than half of the southeastern peoples are Christians, divided into Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Lutheran, and Baptist sects. Christianity is also widespread in the middle belt, but it is virtually absent in the far north except among migrant populations. In recent years, Protestant fundamentalism has grown, particularly in the middle belt.

Nigeria also has many independent African churches, such as Cherubim and Seraphim, which incorporate African cultural practices such as drumming, dancing, and *polygyny* (multiple wives) into Christianity. But, independent contributed to the rise of nationalism.

-In politics Nigerian had no freedom on that matters from second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the 1950s.

-Concrete steps towards independence were taken in a conference between the Eastern, Western, and Northern Regions, and the British Colonial Office.

-Nigeria's three largest ethnic groups—the Hausa-Fulani (*see* Hausa; Fulani-NORTH), Yoruba-WEST, and Igbo-EAST all these represent about 70 percent of the population.

-Throughout the early 20th century, Nigerians found many ways to oppose foreign rule. Local armed revolts, concentrated in the middle belt, broke out sporadically and intensified during World War I (1914-1918).

-Workers in mines, railways, and public service often went on strike over poor wages and working conditions, including a large general action in 1945, when 30,000 workers stopped commerce for 37 days.

-over taxation prompted other conflicts, including a battle in 1929 fought mainly by Igbo women in the Aba area.

-More common was passive resistance: avoiding being counted in the census, working at a slow pace, telling stories ridiculing colonists and colonialism.

-A few political groups also formed to campaign for independence, including the National Congress and the National Democratic Party, but their success was slight.

-In 1937 the growing movement was given a voice by Nnamdi Azikiwe, an Igbo nationalist, who founded the newspaper *West African Pilot*.

-World War II (1939-1945), in which many Nigerians fought for or otherwise aided Britain, increased the pace of nationalism.

-The growing anticolonial feeling was most strongly articulated by two groups, the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC), led by Azikiwe and supported mostly by Igbo and other easterners, and the

-Action Group, led by activist Obafemi Awolowo and supported mostly by Yoruba and other westerners. By the early 1950s, other parties had emerged, notably the Northern People's Congress, a conservative northern group led by the Hausa-Fulani elite. The regional power bases of these parties foreshadowed the divisive regional politics that would follow colonialism

-Pressure for independence from within Nigeria was complemented by pressure from other nations, and from reformers in Britain and in other colonies. In 1947 the British responded by introducing a new constitution that divided Nigeria into three regions: the Northern Region, the Eastern Region, and the Western Region. The Northern Region was mainly Hausa-Fulani and Muslim; the Eastern Region, Igbo and Catholic; and the Western Region, Yoruba and mixed Muslim and Anglican. The regions each had their own legislative assemblies, with mainly appointed rather than elected members, and were overseen by a weak federal government. Although short-lived, the constitution had serious long-term impact through its encouragement of regional, ethnic-based politics.

-The constitution failed on several counts, was abrogated in 1949, and was followed by other constitutions in 1951 and 1954, each of which had to contend with powerful ethnic forces. The Northern People's Congress (NPC) argued that northerners, who made up half of Nigeria's population, should have a large degree of autonomy from other regions and a large representation in any federal legislature. The NPC was especially concerned about respect for Islam and the economic dominance of the south. The western-based Action Group also wanted autonomy; they feared that their profitable western cocoa industries would be tapped to subsidize less wealthy areas. In the poorer east, the National Council for Nigeria and the Cameroons wanted a powerful central government and a redistribution of wealth—the very things feared by the Action Group.

-The Northern Region, however, fearing that self-government (and thus British withdrawal) would leave it at the mercy of southerners, delayed the imposition until 1959.

-In December 1959, elections were held for a federal parliament. None of the three main parties won a majority, but the NPC, thanks to the size of the Northern Region, won the largest plurality. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, head of the NPC, entered a coalition government with the eastern NCNC as prime minister.

-The prime ministers, Dr. Azikiwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and Alhaji Ahmadu, met in Lagos in April and agreed on a 1959 date; however this was not accepted in London, where the conference lasted for a full month. The agreement of the prime ministers represented a change in attitude of the Northern Region which, though it contained more than half the federation's population and three quarters of its area, had hitherto feared the more modernized Eastern Region..

The agreement also strengthened the federal government by creating the new post of Federal Prime Minister, which was filled on September 2 by Alhaji A. Tafawa Balewa. He appointed an all-African cabinet.

-It was also planned to enlarge the Federal Parliament from its present membership of 194 to 320 in 1959, as well as to add a second legislative chamber, the Senate. Inclusion of the Cameroons in an ultimately independent Nigeria would be decided by a plebiscite in that area.

In the Eastern Region, the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons, led by Dr. Azikiwe, won 44 out of 84 seats in the March elections for the regional House of Assembly.

-The prime minister resigned and the House dissolved after the former had been found guilty, by a British Tribunal of Inquiry, of 'misconduct as a minister.' The African Continental Bank, founded by Dr. Azikiwe and largely owned by him, had received public funds at a time when it was insolvent and its license in jeopardy. This led to charges of dishonesty and the Tribunal's censure. It was felt that Dr. Azikiwe's defense of wanting to create an indigenous bank for local credit was decisive in his winning a majority and resuming the premiership.

-Nigeria became independent on October 1, 1960. In 1961 the Cameroons trust territories were split in two. The mostly Muslim northern Cameroons voted to become part of the Northern Region of Nigeria, while the southern Cameroons joined the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

## **STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE IN GHANA**

In two decades after WW II, all the colonies in west Africa won their independence; Ghana 1957, Guinea 1958, Nigeria 1960, Sierra Leone 1961, Gambia 1965 etc

### **GOLD COAST-6 MAY 1957**

Ghana was among the countries which attained independence through peaceful and it the first black African country to achieve independence. Ghana like any other countries in Africa had many problems resulted by colonialism. Such problems were responsible for the formation of social welfare associations/organization such as African Youth league, Wallace Johnson, Gold Coast Youth Conference e.t.c. These organizations demanded improved education facilities, higher salaries, end of racial discrimination, only Gold Coast Youth League which confined to social and political consciousness. Later on there was the formation of modern political party the united Gold Coast, the United Gold Coast Convention in 1947 (UGCC)

-In Ghana political parties in 1940s was contributed by class of elite, rich farmers, teachers, businessmen and other many factors.

### **BIRTH OF CONVENTION PEOPLES PARTY (CCP)**

-Burns Constitution of 1946 where British made some changes in constitution however inadequate; majority were chiefs while educated were not given a chance. As a result J.B.

Danquah founded a new party the United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) which called for early self-government

-Originally, UGCC was an elite party of lawyers and businessmen, many of them of chiefly stock like Danquah, Ako Adjei, Edward Akuffo, William Ofori and Francis Awoonor Williams and Nkrumah as secretary.

UGCC consisted of moderate and conservative leaders and they were far from being revolutionary. As for UGCC as it was made up of lawyers, teachers, merchants, and so on and their main effort went into their own careers, they decided to appoint a full time organizer and Kwame Nkrumah became the one.

-The other UGCC leaders, fearing Nkrumah's radicalism and popularity decided to remove him as part secretary.

On June 1949 Kwame formed his party CPP with his goal 'self government now'

-CPP widely expanded to all classes of people

-Opened branches throughout the country and set in motion propaganda machinery

-CPP gained support through mass rallies, slogans, party dynamic paper e.t.c.

-Branches of the party were set up throughout the country

-Almost all the parties in British and French West Africa used constitution and non-violent means as a method to fight for their independence. However, CPP adopted a new strategy and new revolution based on radical social change. The strategy was self government now, the tactics were positive action, non-violent resistances on Gandhian model. Within a short time became the only threat to British rule with the aim to overthrow of the British colonial regime as the target in the Ghana, the emphasis on mass organization became the most important.

-1940s there was a contradiction in Ghana where the colonial government adopted a policy of cutting down sick trees being ruined by a swollen shoot disease to save the healthy ones. The people misunderstood the intentions of the government, seeing it as a calculated attempt to ruin the farmers who formed the bulk of the population. But, British tried to find the causes of unrest.

-Also, the Constitution of 1951 where enlarged legislative council but majority Africans was Chiefs Nkrumah reacted to the constitution denounced new constitution as bogus and fraudulent/fake.

-Nkrumah's response tried to organize positive action including general strike and various boycotts which led imprisonment of Nkrumah and his supporters. He demanded control of the colonial legislatures which were the centers of political power in their territory pressing on

the colonial administrators to introduce democratic to the people's representative in those LEGCOS.

-Demand of majority rule and granting of political independence immediately as soon as possible.

- They sent petitions to the metropolitan to back up their demands, organized mass demonstrations, strikes and boycotts and used every type of propaganda to condemn the colonial system.

- They also denounced and attacked oppressive laws and demanded their removal but in order to convince the Europeans that they weren't small group of agitators but a group of leaders who had support of their people, the educated elite leaders sought and bought the support of peasants i.e. cooperative unions and trade unions.

NB. Nkrumah demanded complete unity, immediate self government and removal all forms of exploitation and oppression.

### **Factors which enabled Ghana to get independence**

-The very nature of colonialism itself. Colonialism was harsh, exploitative, and oppressive and denied the racial equality of black and white. This pioneered the Ghanaian to struggle for independence. e.g. urban people suffered from poor living conditions, African traders complained on the control licenses granted to only to the old European and Syrians

-After the war British introduced the British Burns constitutions of 1946 gave Africans both the educated and the masses 18 seats out of 31. And among the 18 many were chiefs. Also, 1951 constitution enlarged Legislative Council with African majority but by chiefs. Nkrumah called this cabinet as bogus .The continuation of the colour bar in the colonies, the refusal to expand higher education and refusal of the British to establish University College for that colony alone further increased the demand for their independence.

-Political parties which formed in Ghana like United Gold Coast Convention (UGCC) 1947, the Convention Peoples Party (CPP) 1949, and the Northern Peoples Party (NPP) 1954 with their full time officers, party offices, flags, symbols, propaganda and slogans were confined to specific colonies and not inter territorial as it was for French colonies.

Radical course of Nkrumah and their fellow Gbedemah, Kofi Baako and Krobo Edusei became prison graduates which further increased masses.

-Strong leadership of Kwame Nkrumah, trained teacher at Achimota, ten years of study in America and 1945 moved to England. In London he acquired some experience of organization style, he was involved in organizing the fifth Pan-African Congress in

Manchester, and he then became secretary of the West African National Secretariat, involved in organizing meetings e.t.c.

In 1946 he published his pamphlet *Towards Colonial Freedom*, he established newspaper *Accra Evening News*, and secondary school 1949

-role of political party, by 1945 educated elite teachers, lawyers and businessmen provided early political leadership

-Ghana was also very advanced economically greatest producer of cocoa but prices were in hands of whites

-Role played by Pan Africanism. From 1945 when Pan-African Congress was held it was in that meeting when African students in London played a far role in the organizations and running of this congress. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana was among the secretaries. The congress demanded complete independence. The congress suggested even the means for struggle such as use of non-violent means and force if necessary. And after the congress Africans who attended returned to their respective countries.

-World war II had a powerful influence on the growth of Ghanaian nationalism. WW II it led suffering because of inflation. Consumer goods became high e.g. in 1948 there was protest against that through peaceful demonstration but Africans were killed this resulted general rioting where also 29 people were killed and top six leaders were arrested, this situation increased the members in UGCC

-World War II (1939-1945) destroyed the myth that the white man was all powerful and infallible. It was particularly the participation of African soldiers in that theater of the war when destroyed this myth when many of them proved to be very good fighters and in some than some of their white colleagues.

After the war USA and USSR became powerful, both powers were in favour of ending colonial rule in Africa though for different reasons.

War led foundation of UNO which had a favorable impact on the anti-colonial movement

-African soldiers who went in WW II, after all the suffering and the struggles, the African soldiers were expecting adequate pensions and employment on their return home, but these hopes were not fulfilled. It is for all reasons that the ex-soldiers became so active in the struggle for independence.

-Also, the spread of swollen shoot cocoa disease, the peasant protected against the government in the step taken where they ordered peasants to cut down every affected tree. This created hatred of the peasant against the colonial government. E.g. 1946-1956 British destroyed 54 million cocoa trees

Nb. Ghana invited non-independent state to fight against colonialism, among the first founder of OAU and strengthened Pan African Movement and conference.

## **POST-COLONIAL WEST AFRICA**

### **EARLY POST-INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVES**

Following World War II, nationalist movements arose across West Africa. In 1957, Ghana, under Kwame Nkrumah, became the first sub-Saharan colony to achieve its independence, followed the next year by France's colonies (Guinea in 1958 under the leadership of President Ahmed Sekou Touré); by 1974, West Africa's nations were entirely autonomous/independent.

Since independence, many West African nations have been submerged under political instability, with notable civil wars in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire, and a succession of military coups in Ghana and Burkina Faso.

Since the end of colonialism, the region has been the stage for some of the most brutal conflicts ever to erupt. Among the latter are:

- Nigerian Civil War
- First Liberian Civil War
- Second Liberian Civil War
- Guinea-Bissau Civil War
- Ivorian Civil War
- Sierra Leone Civil War

But, with all that after independence West Africa leaders had different initiatives. Plan to this it was because of different problems which West Africa faced during colonialism. So, West Africa government decided to set their plans for the development of agriculture, industry, transport and communications and social services.

In such plan money was needed to attain their goals. Initiatives taken for the source of money it was internally and loan from outside.

#### **Development in agriculture.**

During colonialism there was monoculture, after independence emphasize was placed on diversification of agriculture. Also, government emphasized improvement in the production of food crops.

- There was improvement in irrigation system in Ghana and Nigeria
- University College at Ghana, Nigeria, Sierra-Leone e.t.c. were established to train agricultural teachers and other personnel in agriculture.
- All West African countries gave special emphasis to agricultural science at primary and secondary level as well as teacher training curricula.
- Established of credit banks and other loan schemes helped farmers in Ghana.
- Moreover, in West Africa leaders in their administration establish organizations responsible in coordinating all sectors in agriculture.

## **INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT**

Independent countries of West Africa made attempts to promote primary and secondary industries. West Africa took measure to ensure that raw materials remained in the country.

The problem in secondary remained in capital and competent personnel.

### **Social development**

-In West Africa there were two main objectives in plans for education, one was to extend literacy to all people and to train adequate numbers of personnel required for general administration and economic services. E.g. Ghana introduced compulsory primary education which was free later on other nations followed e.g. Nigeria 1975

-The growth of secondary education with diversification of curricula

-College, university, school for professional training was also considered. In Nigeria up to 1977 there were 13 universities and offered various courses needed for their nation.

-In housing problems the government of west set up housing schemes. Rural housing schemes were also initiated in some countries. In some areas in West Africa government put emphasis to help individuals to own their own house and it was done through housing loan scheme.

-Water problems, health, water and electricity services were extended to serve all parts of the country. Progressive schemes were also introduced to encourage the youth to go back to the land (village)

## **NEO-COLONIALISM AND DEPENDENCE**

**Neo-colonialism** is the practice of using capitalism, globalization, and cultural forces to control a country (usually former European colonies in Africa or Asia) indirectly. Such control can be economic, cultural, or linguistic; by promoting one's own culture, language

or media in the colony, corporations embedded in that culture can then make greater headway in opening the markets in those countries. Thus, neo-colonialism would be the end result of relatively benign business interests leading to deleterious cultural effects.

The term 'neo-colonialism' was first coined by Kwame Nkrumah, the first post-independence president of Ghana, and has been discussed by a number of twentieth century scholars and philosophers, including Jean-Paul Sartre and Noam Chomsky.

The term neocolonialism first saw widespread use, particularly in reference to Africa, soon after the process of decolonization which followed a struggle by many national independence movements in the colonies following World War II. Upon gaining independence, some national leaders and opposition groups argued that their countries were being subjected to a new form of colonialism, waged by the former colonial powers and other developed nations. Kwame Nkrumah, who in 1957 became leader of newly independent Ghana, was one of the most notable figures to use the term

"Neo-colonialism" is a term used by post-colonial critics of developed countries' involvement in the developing world. Writings within the theoretical framework of neo-colonialism argue that existing or past international economic arrangements created by former colonial powers were or are used to maintain control of their former colonies and dependencies after the colonial independence movements of the post-World War II period. The term *neocolonialism* can combine a critique of current *actual* colonialism (where some states continue administrating foreign territories and their populations in violation of United Nations resolutions and a critique of the involvement of modern capitalist businesses in nations which were former colonies. Critics adherent to neocolonialism contend that multinational corporations continue to exploit the resources of post-colonial states, and that this economic control inherent to neocolonialism is akin to the classical, European colonialism practiced from the 16th to the 20th centuries. In broader usage, neocolonialism may simply refer to the involvement of powerful countries in the affairs of less powerful countries; this is especially relevant in modern Latin America. In this sense, *neo-colonialism* implies a form of contemporary "economic imperialism": that powerful nations behave like colonial powers of imperialism, and that this behavior is likened to colonialism in a post-colonial world.

**Dependency theory** or *dependencia theory* is a body of social science theories predicated on the notion that resources flow from a "periphery" of poor and underdeveloped states to a "core" of wealthy states, enriching the latter at the expense of the former. It is a central contention of dependency theory that poor states are impoverished and rich ones enriched by the way poor states are integrated into the "world system."

The theory arose around 1970 as a reaction to modernisation theory, an earlier theory of development which held that all societies progress through similar stages of development, that today's underdeveloped areas are thus in a similar situation to that of today's developed areas at some time in the past, and that therefore the task in helping the underdeveloped areas out of poverty is to accelerate them along this supposed common path of development, by various means such as investment, technology transfers, and closer integration into the world market. Dependency theory rejected this view, arguing that underdeveloped countries are not merely primitive versions of developed countries, but have unique features and structures of their own; and, importantly, are in the situation of being the weaker members in a world market economy, whereas the developed nations were never in an analogous position; they never had to exist in relation to a bloc of more powerful and economically advanced countries than themselves. Dependency theorists argued, in opposition to free market economists and modernization theorists, that underdeveloped countries needed to reduce their connectedness with the world market so that they can pursue a path more in keeping with their own needs, less dictated by external pressures.

#### MAIN IDEAS OF DEPENDENCE THEORY

1. Poor nations provide natural resources, cheap labor, a destination for obsolete technology, and markets for developed nations, without which the latter could not have the standard of living they enjoy.
2. Wealthy nations actively perpetuate a state of dependence by various means. This influence may be multifaceted, involving economics, media control, politics, banking and finance, education, culture, sport, and all aspects of human resource development (including recruitment and training of workers).
3. Wealthy nations actively counter attempts by dependent nations to resist their influences by means of economic sanctions and/or the use of military force.

## **STATE MILITARIZATION**

**Militarization**, or **militarization**, is the process by which a society organizes itself for military conflict and violence. It is related to militarism, which is an ideology that reflects the level of militarization of a state. The process of militarization involves many interrelated aspects that encompass all levels of society

## **REGIONAL INTERGRATION**

### **ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES (ECOWAS)**

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), organization to encourage economic, social, and cultural development in West Africa. Founded in 1975 by the Treaty of Lagos. ECOWAS began operation in 1977.

-Its 16 member states are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo. ECOWAS is administered through a secretariat, which is based in Lagos, Nigeria.

At its founding ECOWAS had numerous short-term objectives including elimination of customs duties, abolishment of trade restrictions, establishment of a common customs tariff, and coordination of economic, industrial, and monetary policies. There were also plans for allowing the free movement of labor, goods, and capital on an intracommunity level; common infrastructure development projects; and broad plans for economic, political, and monetary integration. The long-range ECOWAS calendar called for the removal of intracommunity import duties by 1986. Planners also envisioned a full customs union and a common external tariff by 1991.

-Since its inception, ECOWAS has moved to liberalize trade by gradually reducing restrictions on the movement of goods, services, and people between member states.

-It has also improved communications and transport within the region. Some member governments, however, have been slow to implement agreed-upon policies at a national level and to pay their contribution to community funds.

-ECOWAS played a significant military role in the region during the 1990s. The organization set up mechanisms in 1990 to mediate disputes between its members, all of whom are pledged to mutual nonaggression.

-In the same year the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), a peacekeeping force, was sent to Liberia to try to mediate a year-old civil war. ECOWAS efforts to finalize a peace settlement and establish a government acceptable to all Liberian factions failed initially, and fighting continued through 1993.

-However, by the end of that year ECOWAS had helped to oversee the negotiation of a peace treaty and the setting up of a transitional government, which took power in 1994. When fighting again erupted between factions in early 1996, ECOMOG forces occupied the Liberian capital of Monrovia.

## PROBLEMS

ECOWAS has been plagued by divisions based on history. Some members are former French colonies while others are former British colonies. The resulting differences in culture, heritage, demographics, and fiscal orientation has had a destabilizing influence on ECOWAS.

In 1989 a group of dissidents fomented a devastating civil war in Liberia when they raged across the countryside and within seven months threatened the city of Monrovia. The United States, the Organization of African Unity, and the [United Nations](#) resisted appeals to intervene. In August 1990 ECOWAS established the ECOWAS Monitoring Group and an 8,000soldier peacekeeping force whose purpose was to restore order, organize an interim government, and supervise national elections. Only five ECOWAS nations backed this peacekeeping force. Other ECOWAS nations remained neutral or vigorously protested against what they regarded as ECOWAS's involvement in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation. By 1993 a tenuous peace was achieved largely because of this military intervention. The signing of the peace accord brought about some healing of the rift among ECOWAS members, who were largely divided along francophone anglophone lines. The achievement of peace also resulted in a revitalized community and the signing of the Treaty of Cotonou that revised the original Lagos treaty. The revised treaty called for an enhanced decision making process and a special tax designed to ensure funding for ECOWAS programs and operations.

ECOWAS continues to be plagued with problems, intrinsic and otherwise, that have yet to be resolved. For example, those countries that were former French colonies are part of a single monetary zone and use the Paris-backed CFA franc as their single currency. The

rest of ECOWAS is dominated by Nigeria. This English-speaking nation, with a population of 100 million, alone accounts for two-thirds of the ECOWAS population and three-quarters of the ECOWAS gross domestic product. Nigerian Finance Minister Anthony Ani suggested in 1997 that the Nigerian naira could possibly become the community's means of exchange. Regional analysts believe that such a move would be divisive and strongly opposed by the CFA members.

Upon achieving independence most of these countries also had a colonial economy based on the production and export of primary commodities. Subsequently, they lacked the impetus for intraregional trade. A persistent destabilization of commodity prices and disparities in the [economic development](#) of ECOWAS countries are other problems left over from colonial rule.

Other problems facing ECOWAS are persistent tariffs which are proving difficult to remove. The resultant tax revenue is used to help alleviate balance-of-payment problems. ECOWAS also suffers from internal financial problems. In 1997 Lansana Kouyate told a journalist for the Pan African News Agency that member states are in arrears to ECOWAS for \$30 million, a staggering sum considering the community has an annual operating budget of \$10 million.

ECOWAS also faces ongoing military issues and antidemocratic leaders. At the 1997 summit ECOWAS chairman Sani Abacha failed to muster support for an armed intervention against the "gang of soldiers" that overthrew the democratically elected government of Sierra Leone. Abacha himself, however, came to power as the result of a coup (as had 12 of the 16 ECOWAS leaders at the time) and refuses to allow elections.

Another division in ECOWAS exists between those countries with agricultural and labor-intensive economies and those countries with more advanced stages of economic development. The ECOWAS accord calls for the eventual free movement of labor within the community. If implemented, however, this policy could prove to be a boon to poor countries with pools of cheap labor, such as Ghana and Burkina Faso, while harming relatively richer countries, such as Nigeria and Ivory Coast. This dynamic was evident in 1982 when Nigeria expelled Ghanaian workers believing they were undercutting the wage structure of Nigerian citizens.

An integral part of ECOWAS operations is the Fund for Co-operation, Compensation and Development. It was set up to provide compensation to member states that have suffered economic losses as a direct result of ECOWAS policy. It obtains compensation funds from a variety of sources including contributions from member states based on their economic resources, income from ECOWAS enterprises, and funds from bilateral and multilateral

-Sources extension of railways to countries lacking thereof;

-Interconnection of previously separate railways;

-Standardization of gauge, brakes, couplings, and other parameters.

## **CONTEMPORARY ISSUES**

### **Ethnicity and politics**

Ethnicity is describes as a group of individuals who consider themselves or are considered by others to share common characteristics which differentiate them from other collectivities within a society. Ethnic groups can be identified in terms of religion, politics, occupation or language. Because it is based on cultural differences ethnicity is a social in nature. Ethnicity is conceived differently in different places in the world as follows:-

In North America it is the distinctive which minority group feels about themselves and how others feel about them because of their colour racial or origin, national origin or country of origin. For instance African –American, Chinese – American and Mexican – American.

In west Europe, the term refers to a group of people whose identity is supposed to be based on descent and cultural linguistic background. In Europe the term means the same thing as the word sub-nation or nationality. In Great Britain one talks of Welsh and Scottish. In most cases European ethnic group have territories language play a very important role in defining these European national minorities.

In Africa, ethnicity has been dominant from pre-colonial period and gained momentum during colonialism before reaching its climax during the post colonial era. Anthropologist, colonial administrator and missionaries has explained ethnicity in Africa as tribalism and the

group constituting it as tribes/ a tribe is therefore a group of people who have common identity based on a tradition of origin, a common culture, language and a common territories.

According to anthropologist and missionaries, Africa has always been inhabited by a multiple of identifiable tribes each of which has its own territory, culture, language and political system. Hence tribes in Africa are regarded as the normal form of social and political organization. This means that even the former European colonies in Africa which now constitute politically independent countries are each made up of a collection of tribes.

The entire continent of Africa was not completely homogenous society before colonial rule, thus they experienced varied difference ranging from geographical and cultural, the deserts, seas, rivers, forests and mountainous. There was also the language among Africans across different parts of the continent.

It was during colonialism that the ethnic categories which designated different human groups gained quasi definitive rigidity. The situation was worse during the post-colonial era.

During the struggle for independence, ethnic groups dominated the race, something which deepened after the attainment of independence in Africa. Most of political conflicts that engulfed Africa continent since independence have a deep root in ethnical causes. One may therefore argue that the concept of ethnicity stands like a birth mark” on the face of post colonial Africa and has left a deep scar on its incumbent.

## **CAUSES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT**

A good number of reasons have been aired to have caused ethnic conflict as follows.

Economic factor have been identified as one of the major causes of conflict in Africa. Competition for scarce resources is a common factor in almost all ethnic conflict in Africa. In multi-ethnic societies like Nigeria and South Africa, ethnic communities violently compete for property, rights, jobs, education, language, social amenities and good health care facilities.

Another cause of ethnic conflict is psychological especially the fear and insecurity. It has opined that extremists build upon these fears to polarize the society. Additionally memories of past traumas magnify these anxieties, Rwanda and Burundi is the case in point. These interactions produce a toxic brew of distrust and suspicion that leads to ethnic violence.

Also, ethnic conflicts manifest in country when a certain group/ segment of society are denied both their biological need and psychological needs that relates to growth and development. These include peoples need for identity, security, recognition, participation and autonomy. Most of ethnic conflicts in Africa are due to this factor that is engineered by undemocratic regime.

As argued earlier Africa has proved to be the main stay of ethnic conflict in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Nigeria, Somalia even Kenya and other countries, political practices resolves across ethnic line.

**However in this lecture Nigeria will be used as our case study.**

With about 120million people, Nigeria is Africa's most populous country. It is home of 250 linguistic group where English is chosen official language. However three ethnic group constitute 68%. The Yoruba 20%, Igbos 18% and the Hausa-Fulan count for 30% of the population. These 3 ethnic groups are differentiated not only by region but also religion and life style.

Nigeria ethnic conflict was spearheaded by colonialism, for instance colonialism in Nigeria forced the ethnic groups of Northern and Southern province to become an entity called Nigeria. British never consulted these provinces regarding their unification.

The introduction of indirect rule by Lord Lugard rain forced ethnic division as it complicated the task of welding diverse elements into a Nigerian nation. This strategy of governance distanced ethnic division from each other.

Colonial laws were enacted in Nigeria that limited the mobility of Christian southerners to the Muslim North hence creation of separate settlement. No one was allowed to purchase a land outside one's region. This created prejudice and hatred as they looked each other suspiciously in all sphere of contact. This created disparity in education, and widened the political and economic gaps between Northern and Southern Nigeria.

In 1947 a colonial constitution divided Nigeria into 3 political region East by Igbos, West by Yoruba and North by Hausa – Fulani who occupied largest areas and was most populous.

The years between 1952 and 1966 transformed 3 regions into political entities thus the struggle for independence was reduced to quest for ethnic dominance. Worse still the North was divided religious between Christianity and Islamic.

Since independence, the situation in Nigeria has been fraught with ethnic politics whereby the elite from different ethnic groups attracts as many federal resources to their region as possible neglecting the issue that could have united the country.

The year 1967 – 1970 witnessed ethnic war when the mistreated Igbos of Eastern Nigeria (Biafra) threatened to secede from the federation. The Igbos grievances were caused by the denial of their basic human needs of equality, citizenship, autonomy and freedom.

Efforts by politician to cope with colonial legacy in Nigeria proved failure as military elites staged coups making a mockery of democracy. The corruption, ineptitude and confusion that marked the military era plunged Nigeria into economic problems, poverty and ethno-religious conflict until 1990's.

Military regimes were not trusted by Southerners because they felt it was trying to maintain Hausa-Fulan hegemony. On June 12, 1993 Chief Moshood Abiola a Yoruba from Southern West Nigeria won Nigerias presidential election but his presidential election was annulled by the military regime.

During the authoritarian rule of General San Abacha a Muslim from the North, Southerners increasingly feared political marginalization and demanded an end to the Hausa- Fulani domination of the political arena.

Adding to ethno-religious conflict in Nigeria was the Yoruba boycott of the 1994 constitutional conferences arranged General Abacha's regime. The conference was meant to resolve the national debate over ethnicity.

Ethnic conflict in Nigeria continued through the democratic transition under the leadership of a civilian president Oluseguni Obasanjo. The worst of it is the religious dimension of ethnic competition for power and oil wealth in Nigeria. The multiple ethno-religious conflicts in the Northern cities of Cano, Kaduna. Jos and Zamfara spring from the introduction of Muslim sharia and southern demands for autonomy. The continuing conflict is an indication that Nigeria lacks effective mechanism to manage ethnic conflict.

African countries today face greater challenges to peace and stability than ever before. The countries of sub – Saharan countries including Sierra Leon, Ivory Coast, Liberia and DRC are a volatile mix of insecurity, instability, corrupt, political insecurity and poverty. This is partly due to ineffective conflict management. Conflict management means constructive handling of differences. It is an art of designing appropriate institutions to guide inevitable conflict into peaceful channel.

African leaders should take a second look at their behaviour and policy choices. Emphasize here should be on discouraging corruption, embracing transparency and good governance.

So long ethnicity is caused by unfairness and the national competition for jobs, education and money from a limited resource base. Thus these issues should be addressed to their roots.

To radical thinkers like Franta Fanon and Walter Rodney to them the instruments of ethnicity in modern Africa are the “tribal bourgeoisie and the “tribal proletariats”. For ethnicity to end, African masses must rise against these classes who benefit from the chaos generated by ethnicity in Africa.

## **HOW ETHNICITY HAS AFFECTED POLITICS IN WEST AFRICA INDEPENDENCE**

One good example in Nigeria who became independent as a federal republic made up of three regions each of what was dominated by one ethnic group these are;

The eastern region dominated by the Igbo people and a political party known as the National council of Nigeria and the Cameroon’s (NCNC) headed by Dr. Namdi Azikiwe.

The Western region dominated by the Yoruba people and political party known as the Action Group headed by Chief Obafemic Awolowo.

The Northern region dominated by the Hausa – Fulani people and political party known as the Northern Peoples Party (NPP) headed by Sr. Abubakar Tafan Balewa

At independence in 1960, Dr Azikiwe becomes the president of the federation of Nigerian and Sr. Abubakar Tafan Balewa became the prime minister because the Northern region had

a slightly larger population than the two other regions and had therefore more members in the federal parliament.

However, the northern region was far behind the two southern regions, in fact the most educated ethnic group at independence were the Ibo followed by the Yoruba and were the great businessmen and dominated the civic services and the armed forces so they became the subject of envy/hatred, and started being attacked by the Muslims.

## **Boko Haram**

**Boko Haram** (figuratively, "Western education is a sin" . Is a Nigerian Islamist group that seeks the imposition of Shariah law throughout the whole of Nigeria. The group presently has an undefined structure and chain of command. The official name of the group is *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad*, which in Arabic means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad."

-It became known internationally following sectarian violence in Nigeria in 2009. As of 2011 it is thought to be responsible for "increasingly violent and sophisticated attacks", with at least 327 people killed in 2011 through November 6 according to the Associated Press.

Boko Haram use the bomb attacks in Nigeria as a strategy of tension. Its aim is to create tension and division in Nigeria.

But residents of Maiduguri, where it was formed in 2002, dubbed it Boko Haram. Loosely translated from the local [Hausa language](#), this means Western education is forbidden. Residents gave it the name because of its strong opposition to Western education, which it sees as corrupting Muslims. The term "Boko Haram" comes from the Hausa word [boko](#) meaning "Animist, western or otherwise non-Islamic education" and the [Arabic](#) word [haram](#) figuratively meaning "sin" (literally, "forbidden")

Boko Haram opposes not only Western [education](#), but [Western culture](#) and [modern science](#) as well. The group also forbids the wearing of shirts and pants and the act of voting in elections. In its view, the Nigerian state is run by non-believers.

### **Origin of Boko Haram**

[Ustaz Mohammed Yusuf](#) formed Boko Haram in 2002 in [Maiduguri](#). He established a religious complex that included a mosque and a school. Many poor families from across Nigeria and from neighboring countries enrolled their children in the school, which also served as a recruiting center for jihadis to fight the Nigerian state. In 2004 it moved to Kanamma, [Yobe State](#), where it set up a base called "Afghanistan", used to attack nearby police outposts, killing police officers. Yusuf is hostile to democracy and the secular

education system, vowing that "this war that is yet to start would continue for long" if the political and educational system was not changed.

In [Bauchi](#) the group was reported as refusing to mix with the local people. The group includes members who come from neighbouring [Chad](#) and speak only in [Arabic](#).

In July 2009 the Nigerian police started investigating the group, following reports that the group was arming itself. Several leaders were arrested in Bauchi, sparking [deadly clashes with Nigerian security forces](#) which led to the deaths of an estimated 700 people.

Prior to the clashes, many Muslim leaders and at least one military official had warned the authorities about Boko Haram. Those warnings were reportedly ignored.

In the state of [Yobe](#), fighters reportedly "used fuel-laden motorcycles" and "bows with poison arrows" to attack a police station. On 30 July, allegations were made that Yusuf himself was killed by Nigerian security forces after being taken into custody.

In January 2010, the group struck again in the Nigerian state of [Borno](#), killing four people in Dala Alenderi ward in Maiduguri metropolis.

In a 2009 BBC interview, Mohammed Yusuf, then the group's leader, stated that he would reject the fact that [the earth is a sphere](#) if it was contrary to Islamic teachings, along with [Darwinism](#) and the fact that [rain](#) comes from water evaporated by the sun.

Since the fall of the [Sokoto Caliphate](#) to the [British](#) in 1903, the area's Muslims have tended to resist Western education. Some analysts view the group's emergence as an extension of the [Maitatsine](#) riots of the 1980s and subsequent ethnic and religious tensions in the 1990s.

On September 7, 2010, [Boko Haram freed over 700 inmates](#) from a prison in [Bauchi State](#).

In December 2010, Boko Haram were blamed for a [market bombing](#), following which 92 of its members were arrested by police.

On Friday January 28, 2011, the Borno state candidate of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) for the April 2011 gubernatorial elections was assassinated, along with his brother, four police officers and a 12-year old boy. Boko Haram has been blamed for these killings, other commentators have noted that the assassination of the ANPP governorship candidate Mr. Modu Fannami Gubio was politically motivated. No evidence has been offered for Boko Haram's involvement.

On Tuesday February 8, 2011, Boko Haram gave conditions for peace. The radicals demanded that the [Borno](#) State Governor, Senator [Ali Modu Sheriff](#), should step down from office with immediate effect and also allow members to reclaim their mosque in Maiduguri,

the capital of Borno State. On 9th May 2011 Boko Haram rejected an offer for amnesty made by the governor-elect of Borno state, [Kashim Shettima](#)

On March 29, police “thwarted a plot to bomb an [ANPP] election rally” in Maiduguri, Borno State (map). The threat was blamed on Boko Haram.

On April 1 (the day before the original date of Nigeria’s legislative elections), suspected Boko Haram members attacked a police station in Bauchi (map).

On April 9, a polling center in Maiduguri was bombed.

On April 15, the Maiduguri office of the Independent National Electoral Commission was bombed, and several people were shot in a separate incident on the same day. Authorities suspected Boko Haram.

On April 20, Boko Haram killed a Muslim cleric and ambushed several police officers in Maiduguri.

On April 22, Boko Haram freed 14 prisoners during a jailbreak in Yola, Adamawa State (map)

Boko Haram was blamed for a [series of bombings](#) in northern Nigeria on May 29, 2011 that left 15 dead.<sup>[33]</sup>

On June 17, 2011, the group claimed responsibility for a [bombing attack](#) on the police force headquarters in Abuja that occurred the previous day. Officials believed that the attack was the first suicide bombing in Nigeria's history and that it specifically targeted Police Inspector-General Hafiz Ringim.

On June 26, 2011, the sect carried out a bombing attack on a beer garden in [Maiduguri](#), according to officials and witnesses. Militants on motorcycles threw explosives into the drinking spot, killing about 25 people.

On June 27, 2011, another bombing in Maiduguri attributed to the group killed at least two girls and wounded three customs officials.

On July 03, 2011, a bombing in a beer garden in Maiduguri attributed to the group killed at least twenty people.

On July 10, 2011, a bombing at the All Christian Fellowship Church in [Suleja](#), Niger State.

On July 11, 2011, the [University of Maiduguri](#) closed its Institution down citing security concerns.

The prominent Muslim Cleric Liman Bana was shot dead by Boko Haram on August 12, 2011. He died after sustaining gunshot wounds while walking home from conducting prayers at the main mosque in [Ngala](#).

On August 26, the [UN headquarters in Abuja was blown up](#) by a suicide car bomber, leaving at least 21 dead and dozens more injured. A Boko Haram spokesman later claimed responsibility. Four men appeared in an Abuja magistrates' court charged with organising the bombing, and were remanded in custody to a federal high court hearing.

October 16, 2011: Police suspected that members of Boko Haram shot and killed politician Modu Bintube outside of his home in Maiduguri.

October 22, 2011: Spokesman Abu Qaqa indicated that the militant group had slain Alhaji Zakariya Isa, a [Nigerian Television Authority](#) journalist, claiming that he was a government informant.

November 5, 2011: [A series of coordinated attacks](#) in Borno and Yobe states, primarily around [Damaturu](#), killed at least 67 people, leaving a new police headquarters in ruins, and government offices burned. A Boko Haram spokesman told The Daily Trust newspaper that it was responsible for the attacks and promised more.

## PROBLEMS IN WEST AFRICA

After achieving independence in West Africa nations faced similar problems.

1. Ethnicity differences, they each contained a number of different tribes which had only been held together by the foreign colonial rulers and which had united in the nationalist struggle for freedom the foreigners. As soon the Europeans withdraw, there was little incentive to stay together. In some areas ethnicity became a problem leading to civil war.

2. Economically underdeveloped. After independence they often relied on only one or two commodities for export, so that a fall in the world market price of their products was a major disaster.
3. Political problem. Faced with difficult problems, poor leaders not ready to leave the chance to others, corruption in their government, violence; military coups to remove unpopular rulers became common.
4. Natural disasters, in 1980s the whole west Africa suffered with natural disasters (severe drought). It was at that time when IMF prescribed the economic structural adjustment programme (SAP) where West Africa countries were forced to devalue their currency, reduce food price subsidies and introduction of cost sharing.