

HIS301

NIGERIA FROM 1900 – 1970



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Course Title: Nigeria from 1900 – 1970

Course Code: HIS 301

Course Units: 3 Units

- **Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria**
- **Colonial Infrastructure and Transformation of Pre-Colonial Regimes**
- **Decolonization Theories and the Struggle for Independence**
- **Post-Independence Governance and Political Collapse**
- **The Nigerian Civil War: Causes and Consequences**

Suggested Outline for Series 1: Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria

- **Part 1: European Penetration and the Fall of Indigenous States**
 - Early European contacts and motives
 - Military conquest and resistance
 - Decline of indigenous political systems
- **Part 2: Establishment of Colonial Administration**
 - Indirect rule and its principles
 - Centralisation of authority under colonial government
 - Role of traditional rulers within colonial structures
- **Part 3: Socio-Economic Implications of Colonial Power Structures**
 - Transformation of land tenure and taxation
 - Labour policies and social hierarchies
 - Emergence of new elites and political movements
- **Part 4: Colonial Legacy and Its Impact on Nigerian Society**
 - Enduring political institutions
 - Social divisions and ethnic relations
 - Seeds of nationalist agitation

Introduction

In the early twentieth century, Nigeria experienced profound changes as European powers extended their influence and gradually dismantled indigenous political systems. The colonial conquest reshaped governance, altered traditional authority, and introduced new administrative structures that would have lasting effects on Nigerian society. Understanding this period is crucial because it laid the foundation for subsequent developments in infrastructure, socio-economic transformation, and ultimately the struggle for independence.



The aim of this Series is to examine how colonial conquest unfolded in Nigeria and to analyse the new power structures that emerged under European rule. By doing so, learners will gain insight into the processes that transformed indigenous systems and set the stage for later political and social challenges.

We shall commence this Series by exploring European penetration into Nigeria and the decline of indigenous states. Next, we will move on to the establishment of colonial administration, focusing on indirect rule and the centralisation of authority. Subsequently, we will consider the socio-economic implications of these colonial power structures, including taxation, labour policies, and the rise of new elites. Finally, we will conclude by assessing the colonial legacy and its enduring impact on Nigerian society, particularly the seeds of nationalist agitation that would later grow into the independence movement.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define the motives behind European penetration into Nigeria and explain how indigenous states declined,
- **SLO 1.2** analyse the principles of indirect rule and evaluate the role of traditional rulers within colonial administration,
- **SLO 1.3** explain the socio-economic implications of colonial power structures, including taxation, labour policies, and the rise of new elites, and
- **SLO 1.4** assess the colonial legacy by identifying its enduring political institutions and evaluating its impact on social divisions and nationalist agitation.

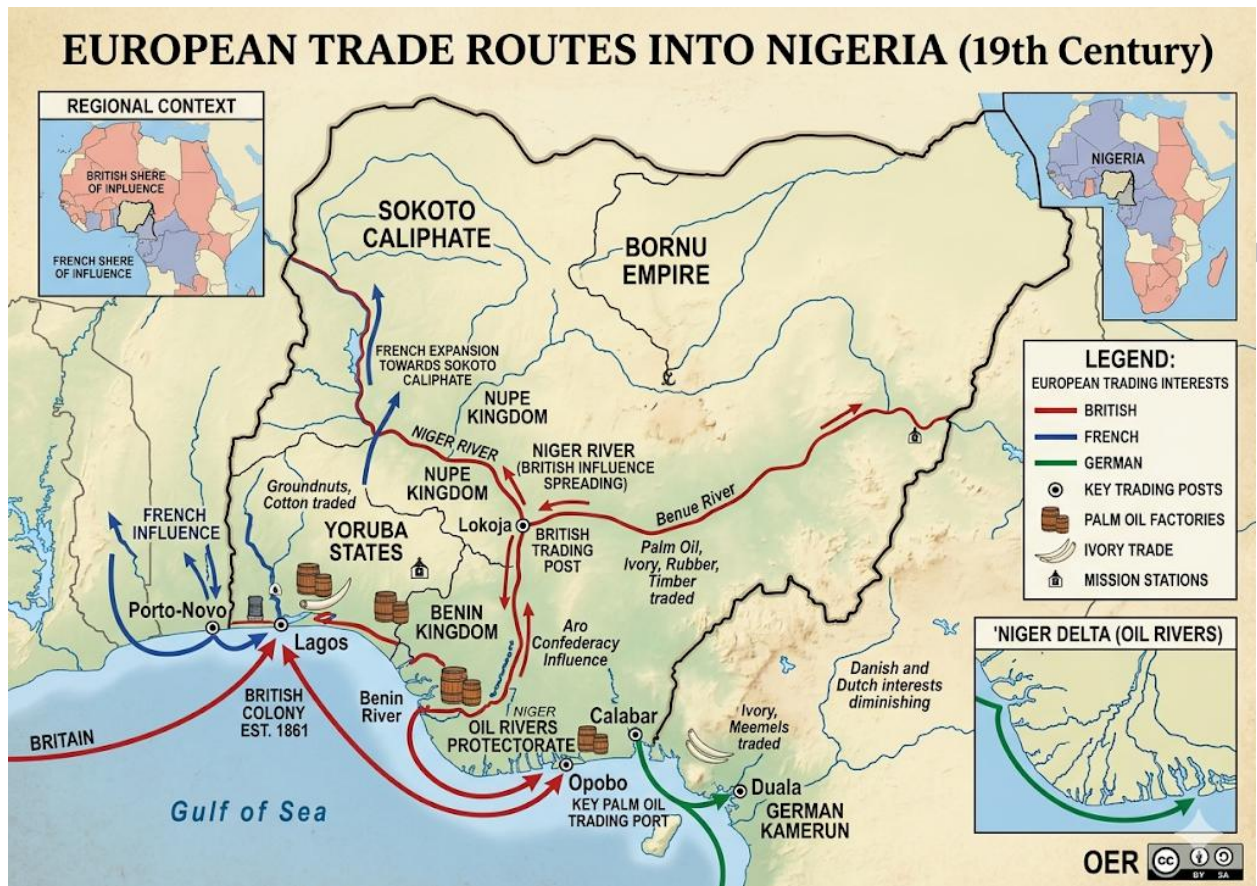
1.1 European Penetration And The Fall Of Indigenous States

1.1.1 Early European contacts and motives

The arrival of Europeans in Nigeria was initially driven by **trade**, which refers to the exchange of goods and services for mutual benefit. Early contacts were dominated by the trans-Atlantic slave trade, followed by a shift towards legitimate commerce in palm oil and other agricultural products. The British, in particular, sought to secure economic interests and establish political control to protect their trading routes. Missionaries also played a role, introducing Christianity and Western education, which gradually influenced indigenous societies.

Fill in the blank: The early European interest in Nigeria shifted from the slave trade to _____ commerce.





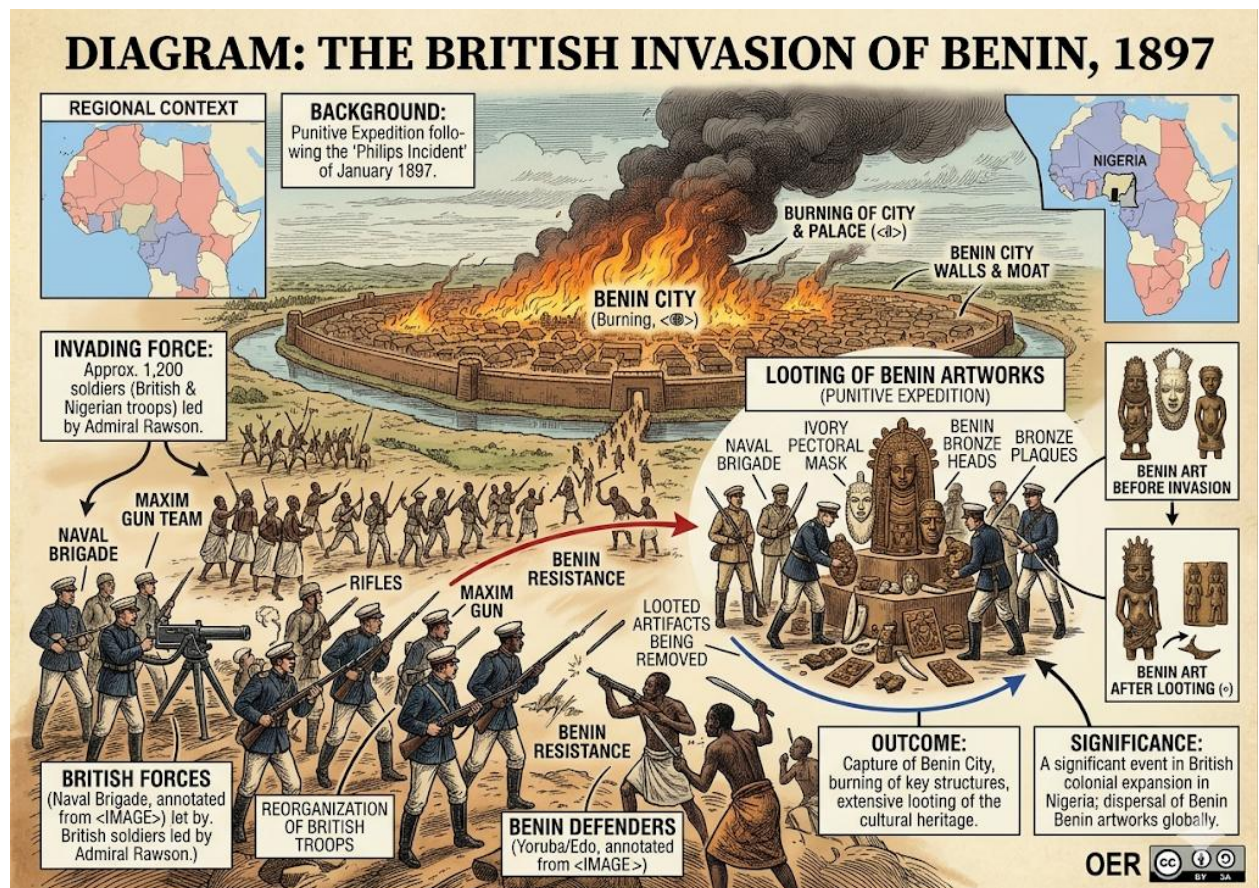
- Short description: Map showing European trade routes into Nigeria during the 19th century.
- Caption: Figure 1.1 European trade routes into Nigeria.

1.1.2 Military conquest and resistance

The consolidation of colonial rule required **military conquest**, defined as the use of armed force to subdue and control territories. British forces employed superior weaponry and organised campaigns to defeat indigenous states such as the Sokoto Caliphate and the Benin Kingdom. Resistance was widespread, with local rulers and communities attempting to defend their autonomy. However, the imbalance in military technology and resources often led to the defeat of indigenous forces.

Fill in the blank: The British defeated the _____ Kingdom in 1897, marking a significant step in their conquest.





- Short description: Artistic depiction of the British invasion of Benin in 1897.
- Caption: Plate 1.2 British invasion of Benin.

1.1.3 Decline of indigenous political systems

The fall of indigenous states led to the weakening of **traditional authority**, which refers to the established leadership structures rooted in local customs and practices. Colonial administrators replaced or subordinated these systems under indirect rule, reducing the autonomy of rulers and altering governance patterns. The decline of indigenous political systems also disrupted social cohesion, as communities were reorganised to fit colonial administrative boundaries. This transformation laid the groundwork for new political identities and tensions that would later influence nationalist movements.

Fill in the blank: Colonial administrators reduced the autonomy of rulers by introducing _____ rule.



 NIGERIAN INDIGENOUS STATES: THE FATE UNDER COLONIAL CONQUEST				
STATE / KINGDOM	REGION	KEY CHARACTERISTICS (PRE-COLONIAL)	MODE OF CONQUEST	FATE UNDER BRITISH RULE
SOKOTO CALIPHATE	North	 Islamic Caliphate, powerful Emirs	 Military conquest (Battle of Burmi)	 Broken, incorporated into Northern Nigeria Protectorate, Indirect Rule used but Emirs subordinate
BORNO EMPIRE	Northeast	 Long-standing Empire, Kanem-Bornu	 Military conquest & treaty	 Reduced, divided, incorporated
BENIN KINGDOM	South-South	 Ancient, highly structured, famed art	 Punitive Expedition (Benin Massacre, <IMAGE 2>)	 Ovonramwen exiled, city looted, incorporated into Southern Nigeria Protectorate
OYO EMPIRE	Southwest	 Powerful Yoruba Empire, Alaafin	 Military conquest & treaties	 Reduced to Oyo Province, Indirect Rule, Alaafin's power diminished
IBADAN	Southwest	 Military state, powerful Chiefs	 Treaties & submission	 Incorporated, administrative center
ARO CONFEDERACY	Southeast	 Trading network, powerful oracle (Long Juju)	 Military conquest (Aro Expedition)	 Oracle shrine destroyed, incorporated
IJAYE	Southwest	 Rivals to Oyo & Ibadan	 Treaties	 Incorporated
OPOBO	South-South	 Trading state, King Jaja	 Exiled Jaja by trickery & force	 Trade monopoly broken, incorporated
KANO	North	 Famed trading city, Emirate	 Military conquest	 Incorporated

***Footnotes:**
 * The facts: underestimates the (illicit-commission) and is hurt by Pre-colonial licensing OER, maintaining its (illicit-commission) Learning. <IMAGE-3>
 ** OER with Creative Commons licensing, committed for Creative Commons Resource.
 * Suitable for educational use as (illicit-commission) Learning. <IMAGE-2>

References:
 1. Open Educational Resource (OER) - (Creative Commons use).
 2. BIRL with Creative Commons Programming. <IMAGE-3>
 3. Colonial Administration for (illicit-commission) Educational use, 1992.

Caption: Box 1.3 Selected indigenous states affected by colonial conquest

- Short description: Table listing major Nigerian states (e.g., Sokoto Caliphate, Benin Kingdom, Oyo Empire) and their fate under colonial conquest.

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Which economic activity initially attracted Europeans to Nigeria?
2. What was the primary motive behind British military campaigns in Nigeria?
3. Name one indigenous state that resisted colonial conquest.
4. What system of governance did colonial administrators introduce to reduce the autonomy of traditional rulers?
5. How did the decline of indigenous political systems affect social cohesion?

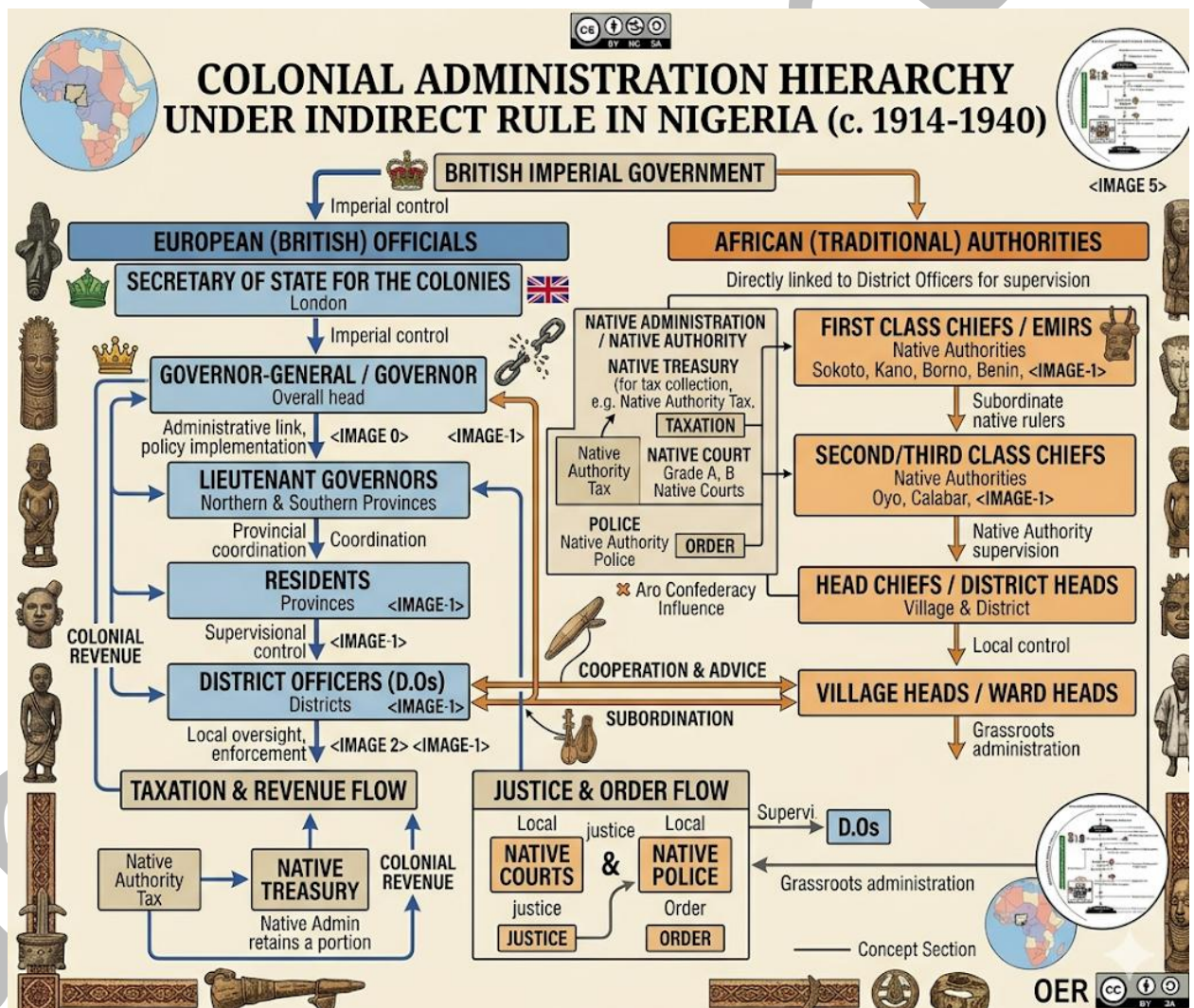


1.2 Establishment Of Colonial Administration

1.2.1 Indirect rule and its principles

The British introduced **indirect rule**, defined as a system of colonial administration where existing traditional rulers were retained but subordinated to colonial authority. This approach was cost-effective, as it allowed the British to govern vast territories with limited personnel. It relied on the cooperation of chiefs and emirs, who were tasked with implementing colonial policies such as taxation and law enforcement. While indirect rule appeared to preserve indigenous institutions, it often distorted them by imposing foreign structures and expectations.

Fill in the blank: The British system of colonial administration that relied on traditional rulers was called _____.



Short description: Diagram showing the hierarchy of colonial administration under indirect rule.

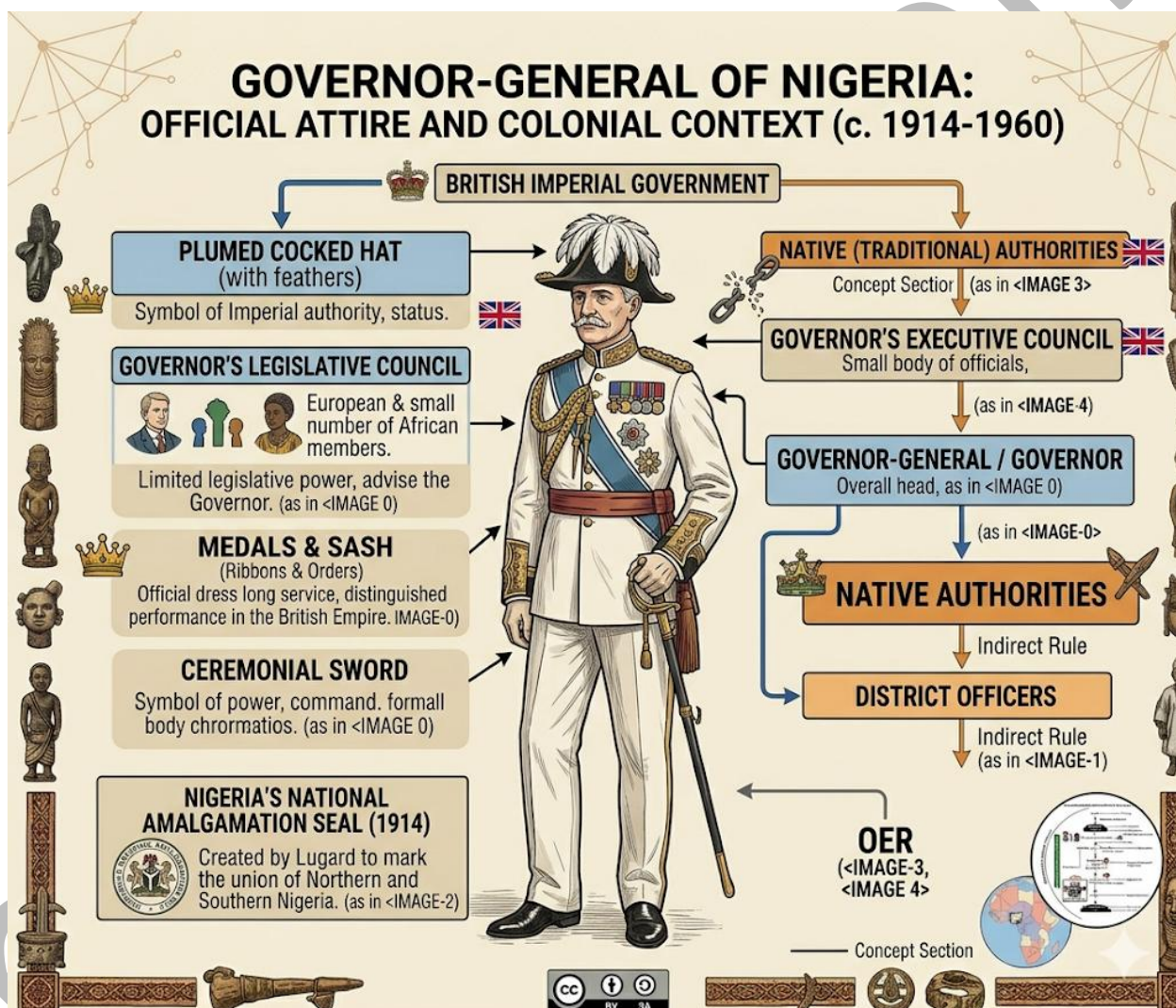
- Caption: Figure 1.2 Structure of indirect rule in Nigeria.

1.2.2 Centralisation of authority under colonial government



The colonial administration centralised power by creating **colonial government**, defined as the political structure established by European powers to control territories. Authority was concentrated in the office of the Governor, who represented the British Crown. Regional and district officers ensured that policies were enforced across Nigeria. This centralisation reduced the autonomy of local rulers and created a uniform system of governance that prioritised colonial interests over indigenous needs.

Fill in the blank: The highest colonial authority in Nigeria was the _____.



Short description: Image of a British colonial Governor in Nigeria.

Caption: Plate 1.3 British colonial Governor in Nigeria.

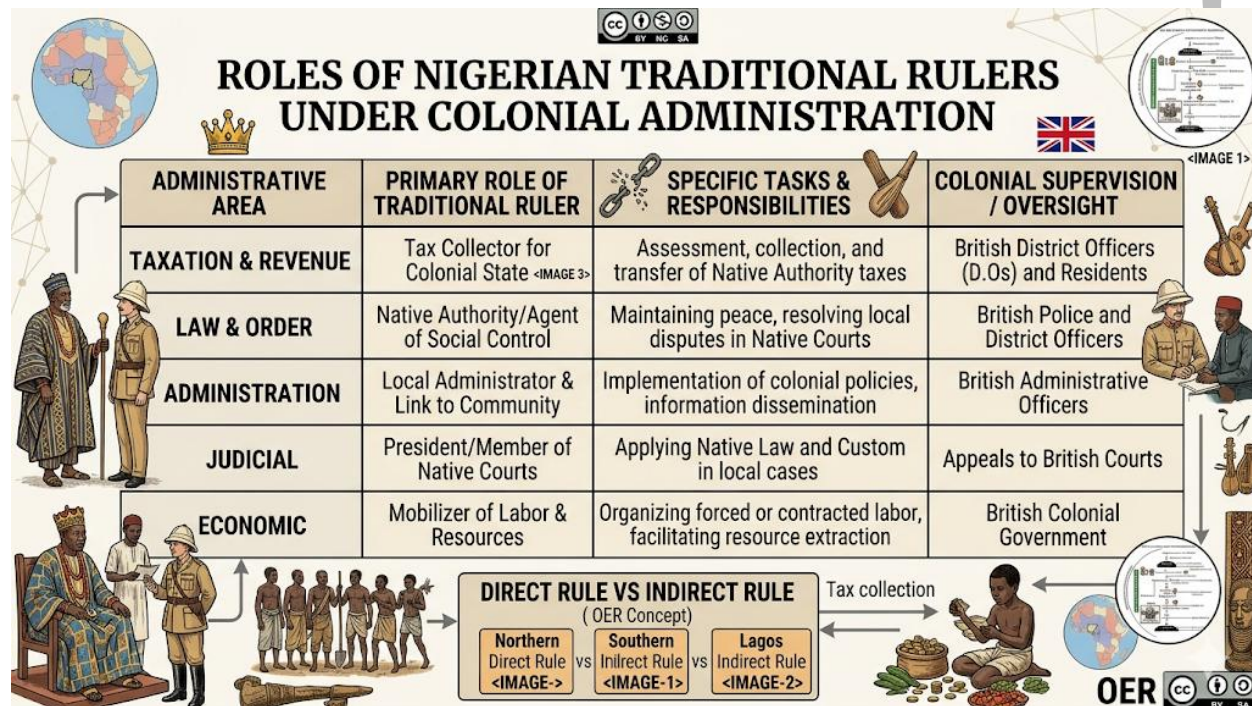
1.2.3 Role of traditional rulers within colonial structures

Traditional rulers were incorporated into colonial administration but their roles were significantly altered. They became **agents of colonial authority**, meaning they were responsible for enforcing policies such as taxation, labour mobilisation, and maintaining order. While some rulers gained prestige and influence under this system, others lost legitimacy among their people,



as they were seen as collaborators. This dual role created tensions between rulers and their communities, and in some cases, sparked resistance.

Fill in the blank: Traditional rulers under colonial administration were often viewed as _____ by their communities.



Caption: Box 1.4 Roles of traditional rulers under colonial administration

- Short description: Table listing responsibilities of traditional rulers (tax collection, law enforcement, labour mobilisation).

Pilot questions 1.2

1. What system of administration allowed the British to govern through traditional rulers?
2. Who held the highest authority in the colonial government of Nigeria?
3. How did indirect rule distort indigenous institutions?
4. What responsibilities were assigned to traditional rulers under colonial administration?
5. Why were some traditional rulers viewed negatively by their communities during colonial rule?

1.3 Socio-Economic Implications Of Colonial Power Structures

1.3.1 Transformation of land tenure and taxation

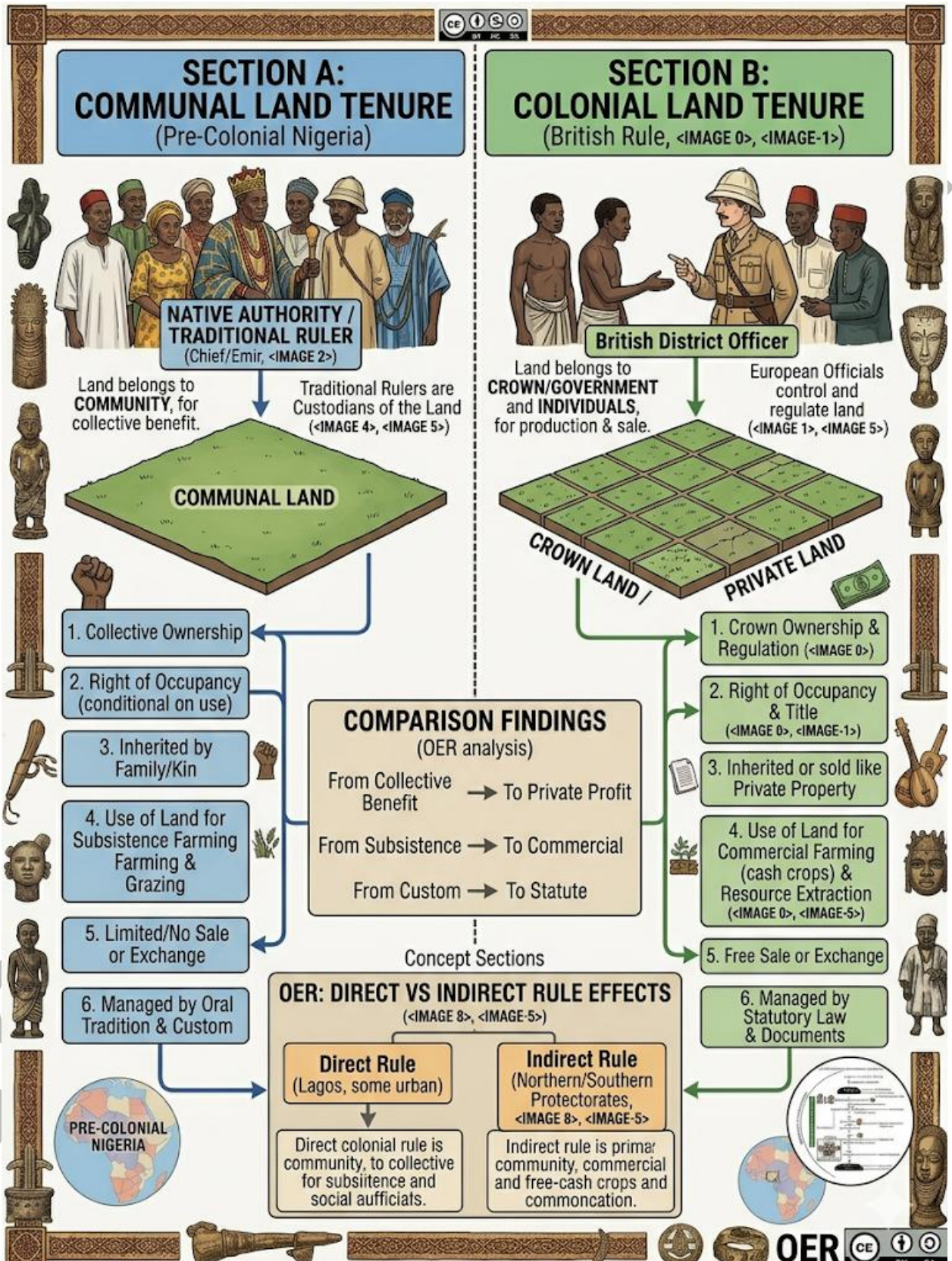
Colonial authorities introduced new systems of **land tenure**, defined as the legal arrangements governing ownership and use of land. Traditional communal ownership was gradually replaced with policies that allowed colonial administrators to control land allocation. This shift disrupted indigenous practices and created inequalities. Alongside this, **taxation**, which refers to compulsory financial contributions imposed by government, was introduced to fund colonial



administration. Taxes were often resented, as they placed heavy burdens on rural communities and were enforced through chiefs under indirect rule.

Fill in the blank: Colonial administrators funded their government in Nigeria primarily through _____.





Short description: Diagram showing traditional communal land tenure versus colonial land

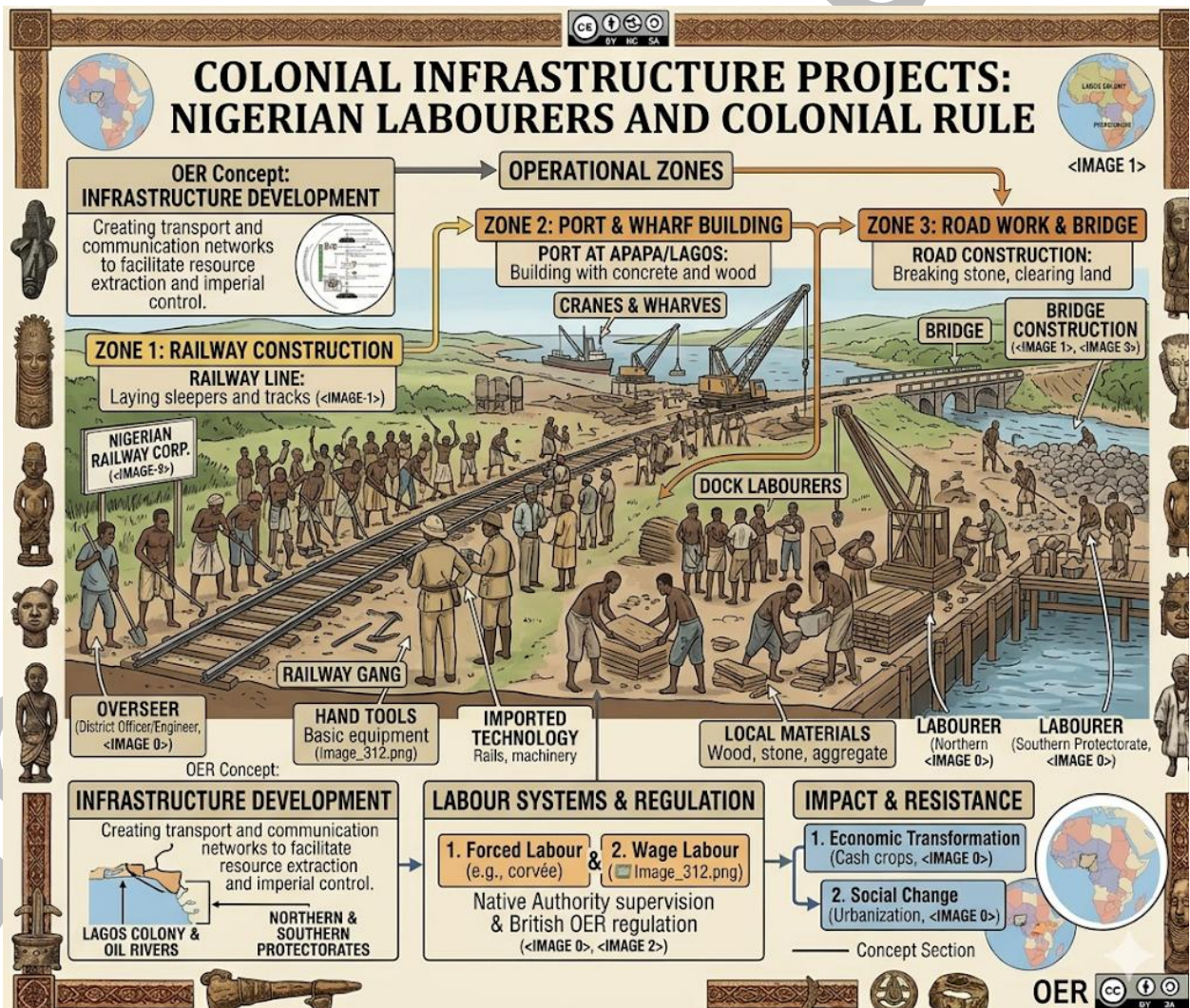
tenure system.

- Caption: Figure 1.4 Transformation of land tenure in Nigeria.

1.3.2 Labour policies and social hierarchies

Colonial rule introduced **labour policies**, defined as regulations governing the recruitment and use of workers. These policies often compelled Nigerians to provide labour for public works, plantations, and mining. Forced labour and wage labour systems disrupted traditional livelihoods and created new social hierarchies. A small group of Nigerians gained access to education and employment in colonial institutions, forming an emerging elite, while the majority remained in subsistence agriculture. This division widened social inequalities and altered community dynamics.

Fill in the blank: Colonial labour policies created new _____ that separated elites from rural farmers.



Short description: Image showing Nigerian labourers working on colonial infrastructure projects.

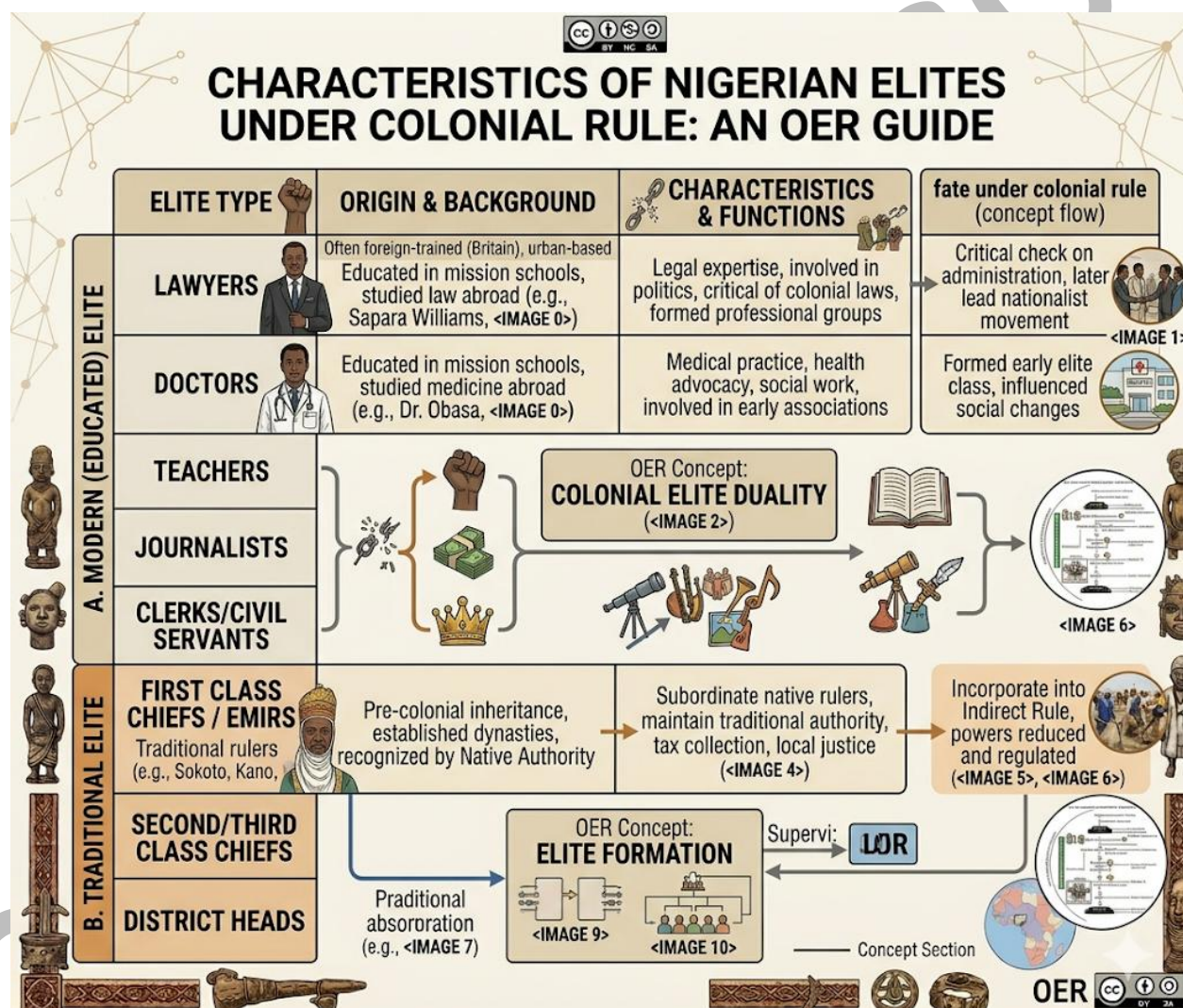
- Caption: Plate 1.5 Nigerian labourers under colonial administration.



1.3.3 Emergence of new elites and political movements

The introduction of Western education and employment opportunities led to the rise of **new elites**, defined as individuals who gained social and political influence through colonial institutions. These elites included teachers, clerks, and professionals who were exposed to nationalist ideas. They began to challenge colonial authority and mobilised political movements that demanded reforms and, eventually, independence. The emergence of these elites marked a turning point in Nigerian society, as they bridged traditional structures and modern political activism.

Fill in the blank: The rise of educated Nigerians under colonial rule gave birth to early _____ movements.



Caption: Box 1.6 Characteristics of new Nigerian elites under colonial rule

- Short description: Table listing features of new elites (Western education, employment in colonial institutions, nationalist activism).



Pilot questions 1.3

1. What system of land ownership did colonial administrators introduce in place of communal tenure?
2. Why were colonial taxes resented by rural communities?
3. What types of labour were imposed under colonial labour policies?
4. How did colonial labour policies contribute to social hierarchies?
5. Who were the new elites, and what role did they play in political movements?

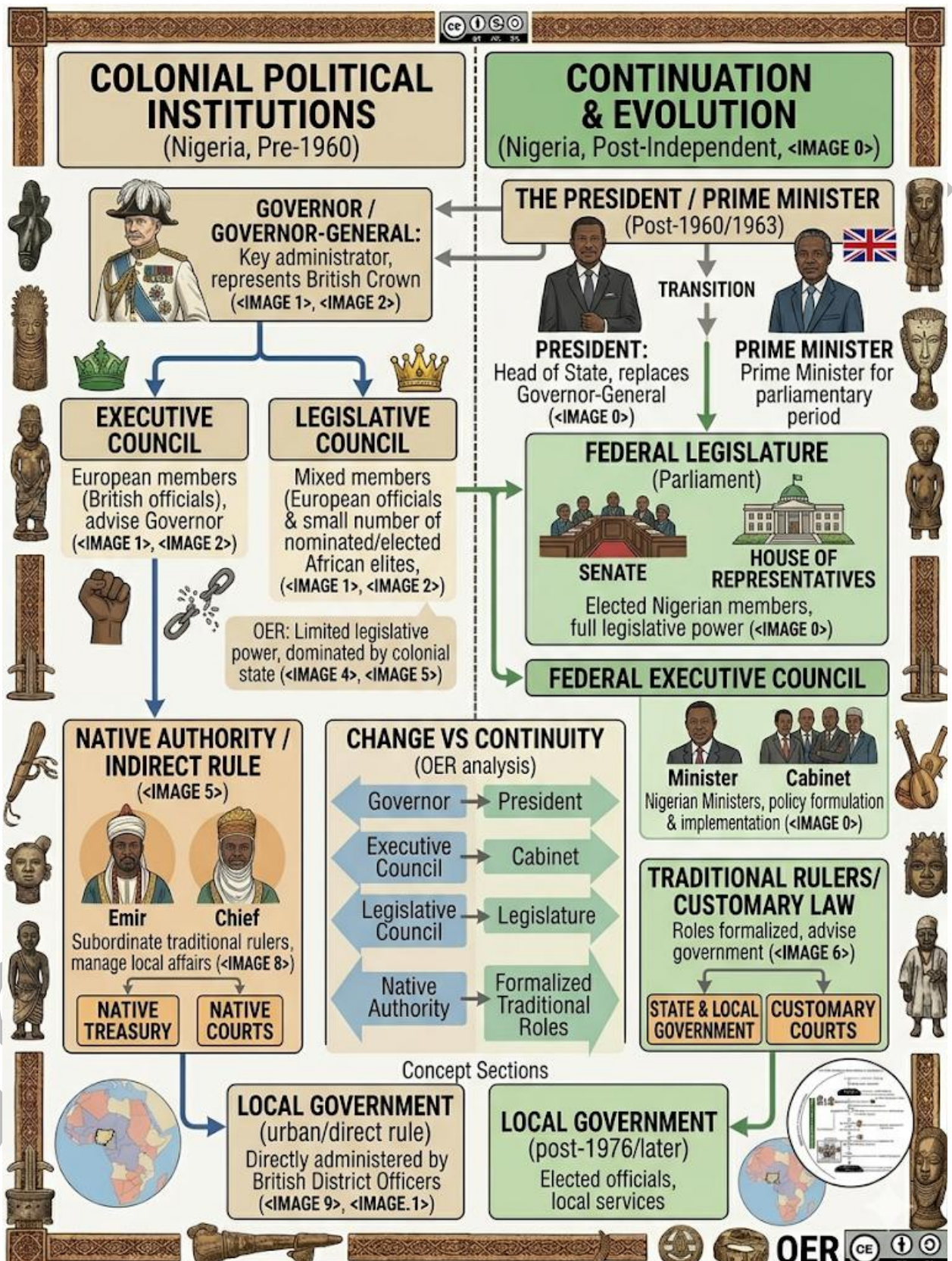
1.4 Colonial Legacy And Its Impact On Nigerian Society

1.4.1 Enduring political institutions

Colonial rule left behind **political institutions**, defined as formal structures of governance that regulate authority and decision-making. These included legislative councils, judicial systems, and administrative divisions that were modelled on British practices. Although adapted after independence, many of these institutions retained colonial features, such as centralised authority and bureaucratic procedures. Their endurance shaped Nigeria's post-independence governance and contributed to both stability and challenges in political development.

Fill in the blank: Colonial rule introduced legislative councils and _____ systems that continued after independence.





Short description: Diagram showing colonial political institutions and their continuation after

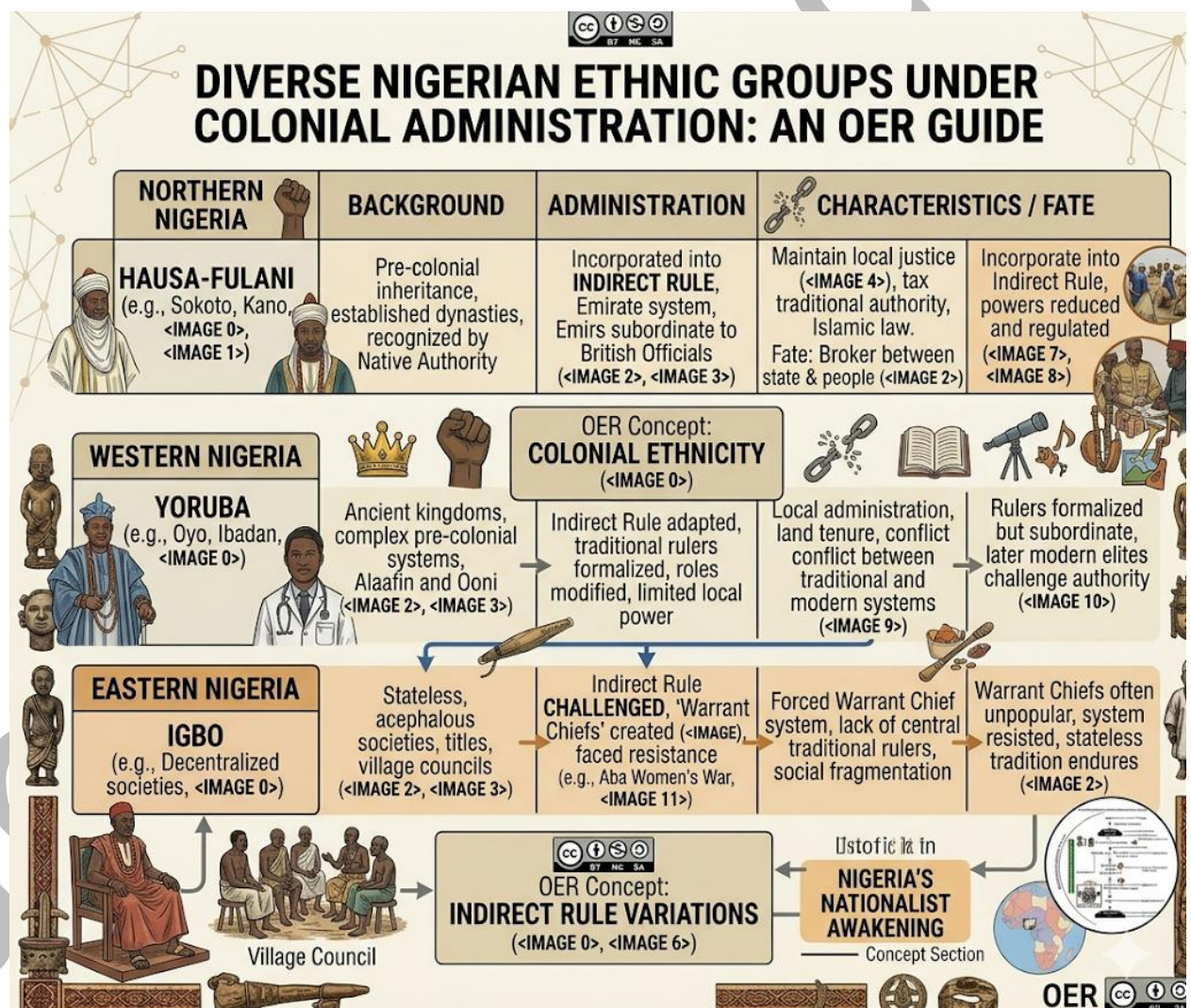
independence.

- Caption: Figure 1.7 Colonial political institutions in Nigeria.

1.4.2 Social divisions and ethnic relations

Colonial policies reinforced **social divisions**, defined as separations within society based on ethnicity, class, or religion. Administrative boundaries often grouped or separated communities in ways that heightened ethnic tensions. The emphasis on indirect rule through traditional rulers also deepened divisions, as some groups were favoured over others. These policies created long-term challenges for national unity, as ethnic rivalries became embedded in political and social life.

Fill in the blank: Colonial boundaries often heightened _____ tensions within Nigerian society.



Short description: Image showing diverse Nigerian ethnic groups under colonial administration.

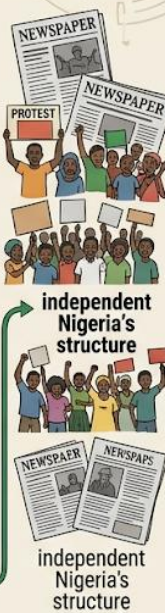
- Caption: Plate 1.8 Ethnic diversity in colonial Nigeria.



1.4.3 Seeds of nationalist agitation

The colonial legacy also planted the seeds of **nationalist agitation**, defined as organised movements seeking self-determination and independence from foreign rule. Educated elites, who had emerged under colonial structures, began to challenge inequalities and demand reforms. Political organisations and newspapers became platforms for expressing nationalist ideas. These movements gained momentum in the mid-twentieth century, eventually leading to Nigeria's independence in 1960.

Fill in the blank: Educated elites used newspapers and political organisations to promote _____ agitation.

EARLY NATIONALIST ORGANISATIONS IN NIGERIA (Colonial Period)				
COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION	ORGANISATION / PARTY	YEAR FOUNDED / KEY LEADERS	ORIGIN / CONTEXT	MAIN GOALS & IMPACT
 fate under colonial rule	People's Union	1908 Dr. J.K. Randle, Orisadipe Obasa	Lagos.	Opposed water rate, for local rights.
	Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society (Nigeria Branch)	1912 Herbert Macaulay.	Lagos.	Advocated against land expropriation
	Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP)	1923 Herbert Macaulay	First political party; won Lagos seats	For representative government.
	Lagos Youth Movement (later NYM)	1934 (NYM in 1936) Dr. J.C. Vaughan, Ernest Ikoli, later Nnamdi Azikiwe (above), Obafemi Awolowo (above)	Nationwide appeal.	For economic independence and political unity.
	Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)		Key for expanding nationalism beyond Lagos.	Key for expanding nationalism beyond Lagos.
	National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC)	1944 Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe	Mass-based party.	For independent Nigeria, Pan-Africanism.
	Zikist Movement	1946 Nduka Eze, Kolawole Balogun	Radical youth wing of NCNC	Militant action for independence.
	Action Group (AG)	1951 Obafemi Awolowo	Base in Western Region	For regional autonomy, federalism.
	Northern People's Congress (NPC)	1951 (from cultural org in 1949) Ahmadu Bello, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa	Base in Northern Region	For Northern interests, federalism.
NATIONALIST RISE  independent Nigeria's structure				

Caption: Box 1.9 Early nationalist organisations in Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing examples of nationalist organisations (e.g., Nigerian Youth Movement, National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons).

Pilot questions 1.4

1. What types of political institutions were introduced during colonial rule?
2. How did colonial policies reinforce social divisions in Nigeria?
3. Why did indirect rule deepen ethnic tensions?
4. What role did educated elites play in nationalist agitation?
5. Name one early nationalist organisation in Nigeria.



Series summary

This Series has examined the colonial conquest of Nigeria and the new power structures that emerged under European rule. Its purpose was to help you appreciate how colonial penetration reshaped indigenous systems and laid the foundation for later political and social developments. By tracing the fall of indigenous states, the establishment of colonial administration, the socio-economic implications of colonial policies, and the enduring legacy of colonial rule, you have gained a clearer picture of how Nigeria's twentieth-century history unfolded.

We began with the decline of indigenous states under European penetration, then moved on to the establishment of colonial administration through indirect rule and centralised authority. Subsequently, we explored the socio-economic consequences of colonial power structures, including taxation, labour policies, and the rise of new elites. Finally, we considered the colonial legacy, focusing on enduring institutions, social divisions, and the seeds of nationalist agitation. In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define the motives behind European penetration, analyse the principles of indirect rule, explain the socio-economic implications of colonial policies, and assess the colonial legacy and its impact on Nigerian society.

Glossary of terms

- **Agents of colonial authority:** Traditional rulers who were incorporated into colonial administration and tasked with enforcing policies such as taxation, labour mobilisation, and maintaining order.
- **Colonial government:** The political structure established by European powers to control territories, with authority centralised in the office of the Governor and supported by regional and district officers.
- **Indirect rule:** A system of colonial administration where existing traditional rulers were retained but subordinated to colonial authority, used by the British to govern vast territories with limited personnel.
- **Labour policies:** Regulations introduced under colonial rule to recruit and use workers, often involving forced labour or wage labour for public works, plantations, and mining.
- **Land tenure:** Legal arrangements governing ownership and use of land, which shifted under colonial rule from communal ownership to systems controlled by colonial administrators.
- **Military conquest:** The use of armed force by colonial powers to subdue and control territories, often involving campaigns against indigenous states such as the Sokoto Caliphate and Benin Kingdom.
- **Nationalist agitation:** Organised movements seeking self-determination and independence from foreign rule, often led by educated elites who mobilised political organisations and newspapers.



- **New elites:** Nigerians who gained social and political influence through Western education and employment in colonial institutions, and who later played key roles in nationalist movements.
- **Political institutions:** Formal structures of governance introduced during colonial rule, such as legislative councils and judicial systems, many of which continued after independence.
- **Social divisions:** Separations within society reinforced by colonial policies, often based on ethnicity, class, or religion, which created long-term challenges for national unity.
- **Taxation:** Compulsory financial contributions imposed by colonial authorities to fund administration, often resented by rural communities due to the heavy burdens they imposed.
- **Traditional authority:** Established leadership structures rooted in local customs and practices, which were weakened or subordinated under colonial administration.

Concept check questions

Objective questions

1. Which system of administration allowed the British to govern through traditional rulers? (Linked to SLO 1.2)
2. What was the primary motive behind early European penetration into Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 1.1)
3. Which indigenous kingdom was defeated by the British in 1897? (Linked to SLO 1.1)
4. What compulsory financial contribution was introduced by colonial authorities to fund administration? (Linked to SLO 1.3)
5. Which group of Nigerians emerged as elites under colonial rule? (Linked to SLO 1.3)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain how indirect rule distorted indigenous institutions. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
7. Describe one socio-economic consequence of colonial labour policies. (Linked to SLO 1.3)
8. Identify one way colonial boundaries reinforced ethnic divisions. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
9. State one role of traditional rulers under colonial administration. (Linked to SLO 1.2)
10. Mention one nationalist organisation that emerged during colonial rule. (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the decline of indigenous political systems under colonial conquest and explain its impact on traditional authority. (Linked to SLO 1.1)
12. Evaluate the colonial legacy in Nigeria by discussing enduring institutions, social divisions, and nationalist agitation. (Linked to SLO 1.4)



Answers to concept check questions

Objective questions

1. Indirect rule.
2. Trade, particularly the shift from slave trade to legitimate commerce.
3. The Benin Kingdom.
4. Taxation.
5. Educated elites such as teachers, clerks, and professionals.

Short-answer questions

6. Indirect rule distorted indigenous institutions by subordinating traditional rulers to colonial authority and imposing foreign structures.
7. Colonial labour policies disrupted traditional livelihoods and created social hierarchies by separating elites from rural farmers.
8. Colonial boundaries grouped or separated communities in ways that heightened ethnic tensions.
9. Traditional rulers collected taxes, mobilised labour, and enforced colonial laws.
10. The Nigerian Youth Movement or the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Indigenous political systems declined as colonial military campaigns subdued states like the Sokoto Caliphate and Benin Kingdom. Traditional authority was weakened as rulers were subordinated under indirect rule.

Value-added response: Beyond this, the decline of indigenous systems disrupted social cohesion, altered governance patterns, and created tensions between rulers and their communities. These changes laid the groundwork for nationalist agitation and later political instability.

12. *Basic response:* The colonial legacy included enduring institutions such as legislative councils, reinforced social divisions through ethnic boundaries, and the rise of nationalist agitation led by educated elites.

Value-added response: In addition, these legacies shaped Nigeria's post-independence challenges, as centralised authority and ethnic rivalries contributed to political crises. Nationalist movements, while successful in achieving independence, inherited structures that were not fully adapted to Nigeria's diverse society, influencing later governance and conflict.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 1: European Penetration and the Fall of Indigenous States

1. Legitimate commerce, particularly palm oil and agricultural products.
2. To secure economic interests and establish political control.
3. The Benin Kingdom.
4. Indirect rule.
5. It disrupted social cohesion and reorganised communities under colonial boundaries.



Part 2: Establishment of Colonial Administration

1. Indirect rule.
2. The Governor.
3. By subordinating traditional rulers and imposing foreign structures.
4. Tax collection, labour mobilisation, and law enforcement.
5. As collaborators with colonial authorities.

Part 3: Socio-Economic Implications of Colonial Power Structures

1. Colonial land tenure system.
2. Because they placed heavy burdens on rural communities.
3. Forced labour and wage labour for public works, plantations, and mining.
4. By creating divisions between elites and rural farmers.
5. Educated elites such as teachers, clerks, and professionals.

Part 4: Colonial Legacy And Its Impact On Nigerian Society

1. Legislative councils, judicial systems, and administrative divisions.
2. By grouping or separating communities in ways that heightened ethnic tensions.
3. Because it favoured some groups over others, deepening divisions.
4. They challenged inequalities and mobilised political movements.
5. Nigerian Youth Movement or National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons.

References and Attributions

- **Figures and Plates**
 - Figure 1.1 European trade routes into Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Create a historical map showing European trade routes into Nigeria in the 19th century.” Search string: “European trade routes Nigeria 19th century OER map.”
 - Plate 1.2 British invasion of Benin: Suggested AI prompt “Illustrate the British invasion of Benin in 1897 with soldiers and burning city.” Search string: “Benin Kingdom British invasion 1897 OER image.”
 - Figure 1.2 Structure of indirect rule in Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Create a diagram showing colonial administration hierarchy under indirect rule in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria indirect rule colonial administration hierarchy OER diagram.”
 - Plate 1.3 British colonial Governor in Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Illustrate a British colonial Governor in Nigeria with official attire.” Search string: “British colonial Governor Nigeria OER image.”
 - Figure 1.4 Transformation of land tenure in Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Create a diagram comparing communal land tenure with colonial land tenure system in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial land tenure OER diagram.”
 - Plate 1.5 Nigerian labourers under colonial administration: Suggested AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian labourers working on colonial infrastructure projects during



colonial rule.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial labourers infrastructure OER image.”

- Figure 1.7 Colonial political institutions in Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Create a diagram showing colonial political institutions in Nigeria and their continuation after independence.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial political institutions OER diagram.”
- Plate 1.8 Ethnic diversity in colonial Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Illustrate diverse Nigerian ethnic groups under colonial administration.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial ethnic groups OER image.”
- **Boxes and Tables**
 - Box 1.3 Selected indigenous states affected by colonial conquest: Suggested AI prompt “Create a table listing Nigerian indigenous states and their fate under colonial conquest.” Search string: “Nigerian indigenous states colonial conquest OER table.”
 - Box 1.4 Roles of traditional rulers under colonial administration: Suggested AI prompt “Create a table listing roles of traditional rulers under colonial administration in Nigeria.” Search string: “traditional rulers colonial administration Nigeria OER table.”
 - Box 1.6 Characteristics of new Nigerian elites under colonial rule: Suggested AI prompt “Create a table listing characteristics of Nigerian elites under colonial rule.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial elites characteristics OER table.”
 - Box 1.9 Early nationalist organisations in Nigeria: Suggested AI prompt “Create a table listing early nationalist organisations in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria nationalist organisations colonial period OER table.”
- **General References**
 - Course content adapted from HIS 301: *Nigeria from 1900–1970* (Course outline and learning outcomes).
 - Historical context drawn from standard Nigerian history texts and open educational resources (OERs) for colonial and post-colonial studies.

Course Title: Nigeria from 1900 – 1970

Course Code: HIS 301

Course Units: 3 Units

- **Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria**
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- **The Nigerian Civil War: Causes and Consequences**



Suggested Outline for Series 2: Colonial Infrastructure And Transformation Of Pre-Colonial Regimes

- **Part 2.1: Development of Colonial Infrastructure**
 - Transportation networks (railways, roads, and ports)
 - Communication systems (telegraph, postal services)
 - Health and educational facilities
- **Part 2.2: Transformation of Economic Systems**
 - Agricultural policies and cash crop production
 - Mining and resource exploitation
 - Integration into global trade
- **Part 2.3: Impact on Pre-Colonial Political Structures**
 - Reorganisation of indigenous authority
 - Emergence of new administrative boundaries
 - Decline of traditional governance practices
- **Part 2.4: Social and Cultural Transformations**
 - Influence of Western education and religion
 - Urbanisation and new social classes
 - Cultural adaptation and resistance

Introduction

Colonial rule in Nigeria was not only about conquest and administration but also about building infrastructure and reshaping pre-colonial systems to serve imperial interests. Railways, roads, ports, and communication networks were introduced to facilitate trade and control, while economic, political, and social structures were transformed in ways that continue to influence Nigeria today. This Series is important because it helps us understand how colonial infrastructure and policies altered indigenous regimes and laid the groundwork for modern Nigeria.

The aim of this Series is to examine the development of colonial infrastructure and to analyse how these changes transformed economic systems, political structures, and social life in Nigeria. By doing so, learners will appreciate the far-reaching impact of colonial policies on pre-colonial regimes and their legacy in contemporary society.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the development of colonial infrastructure, including transportation, communication, health, and education facilities. Next, we will move on to the transformation of economic systems, focusing on agriculture, mining, and integration into global trade. Subsequently, we will consider the impact on pre-colonial political structures, such as the reorganisation of indigenous authority and the decline of traditional governance. Finally, we will conclude with an examination of social and cultural transformations, including the influence of Western education and religion, urbanisation, and cultural adaptation or resistance.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:



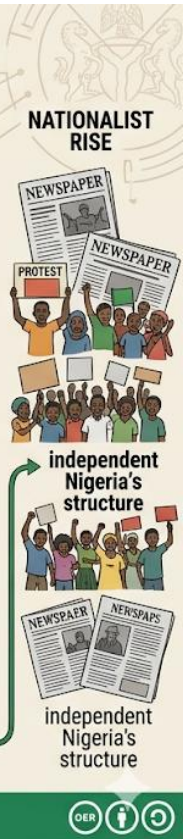
- **SLO 2.1** describe the development of colonial infrastructure, including transportation, communication, health, and educational facilities,
- **SLO 2.2** analyse the transformation of economic systems under colonial rule, focusing on agriculture, mining, and global trade integration,
- **SLO 2.3** explain how colonial policies reorganised indigenous authority and contributed to the decline of traditional governance practices, and
- **SLO 2.4** evaluate the social and cultural transformations brought about by colonial rule, including the influence of Western education, religion, and urbanisation.

2.1 Development Of Colonial Infrastructure

2.1.1 Transportation networks (railways, roads, and ports)

Colonial authorities invested heavily in **transportation networks**, defined as systems of interconnected routes and facilities that enable the movement of people and goods. Railways were constructed to link resource-rich areas with ports, facilitating the export of cash crops and minerals. Roads were built to connect rural communities to administrative centres, while ports such as Lagos became gateways for international trade. These networks were designed primarily to serve colonial economic interests rather than local needs.

Fill in the blank: The colonial railways in Nigeria were built mainly to transport _____ to ports for export.

COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION	ORGANISATION / PARTY	YEAR FOUNDED / KEY LEADERS	ORIGIN / CONTEXT	MAIN GOALS & IMPACT	NATIONALIST RISE
 fate under colonial rule	People's Union	1908 Dr. J.K. Randle, Orisadipe Obasa	Lagos.	Opposed water rate, for local rights.	 independent Nigeria's structure
	Anti-Slavery & Aborigines Protection Society (Nigeria Branch)	1912 Herbert Macaulay.	Lagos.	Advocated against land expropriation	
	Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP)	1923 Herbert Macaulay	First political party; won Lagos seats	For representative government.	
	Lagos Youth Movement (later NYM)	1934 (NYM in 1936) Dr. J.C. Vaughan, Ernest Ikoli, later Nnamdi Azikiwe (above), Obafemi Awolowo (above)	Nationwide appeal.	For economic independence and political unity.	
	Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)		Key for expanding nationalism beyond	Key for expanding nationalism beyond Lagos.	
	National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC)	1944 Herbert Macaulay, Nnamdi Azikiwe (above)	Mass-based party.	For independent Nigeria, Pan-Africanism.	
	Zikist Movement	1946 Nduka Eze, Kolawole Balogun	Radical youth wing of NCNC	Militant action for independence.	
	Action Group (AG)	1951 Obafemi Awolowo	Base in Western Region	For regional autonomy, federalism.	
	Northern People's Congress (NPC)	1951 (from cultural org in 1949) Ahmadu Bello (above), Abubakar Tafawa Balewa	Base in Northern Region	For Northern interests, federalism.	

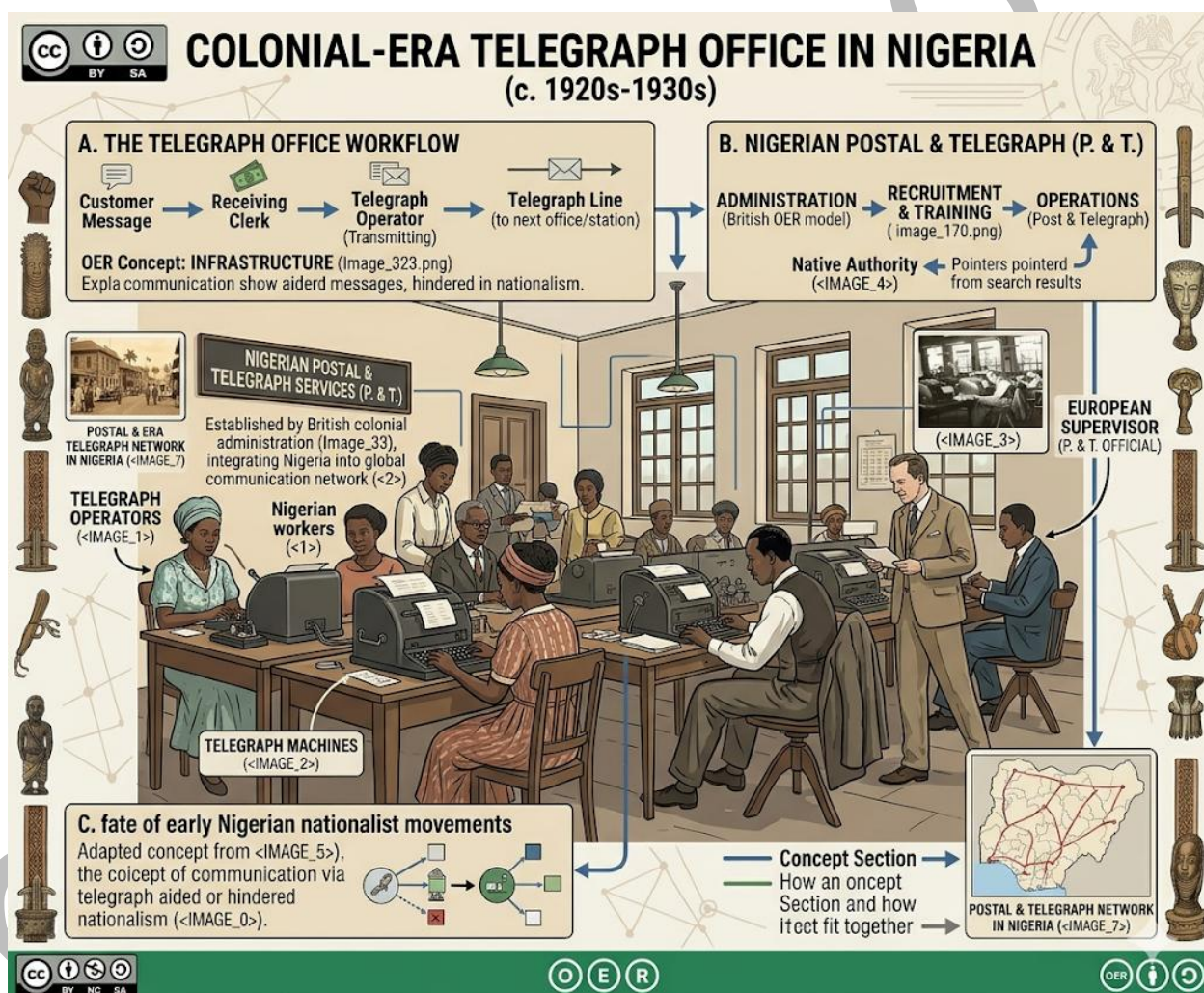
- Short description: Map showing colonial railway lines and major ports in Nigeria.
- Caption: Figure 2.1 Colonial transportation networks in Nigeria.



2.1.2 Communication systems (telegraph, postal services)

The British introduced **communication systems**, defined as organised methods of transmitting information across distances. Telegraph lines and postal services were established to improve administrative efficiency and maintain control over vast territories. These systems connected colonial officials, facilitated trade, and supported military operations. However, they were limited in reach, often serving urban centres and administrative hubs rather than rural communities.

Fill in the blank: Colonial communication systems in Nigeria included the telegraph and _____ services.



Short description: Image of colonial-era telegraph office in Nigeria.

- Caption: Plate 2.2 Colonial telegraph office in Nigeria.

2.1.3 Health and educational facilities

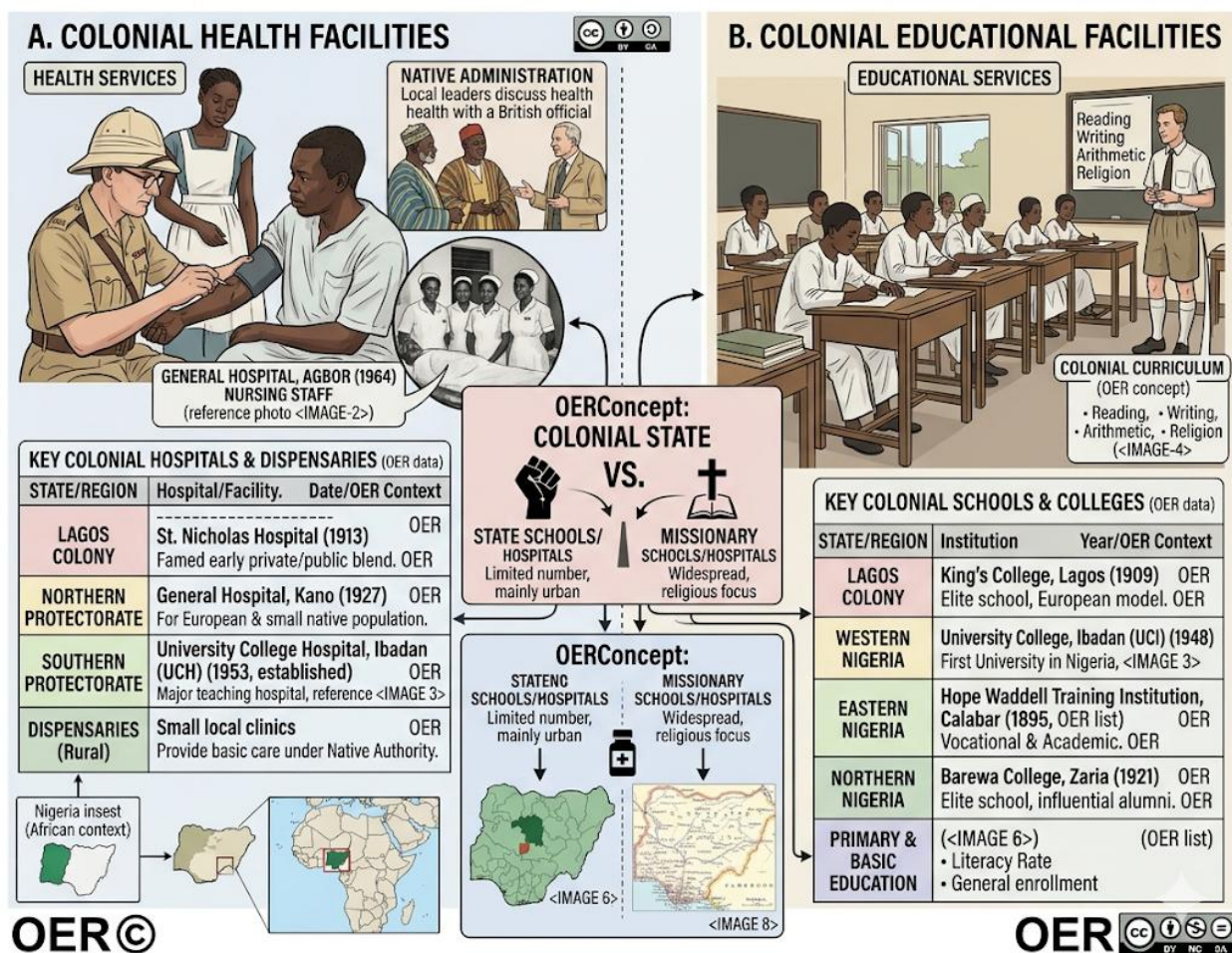
Colonial rule also introduced **health facilities**, defined as institutions established to provide medical care, and **educational facilities**, defined as schools and colleges created to deliver formal learning. Hospitals and dispensaries were built mainly in urban centres to serve colonial staff and selected communities. Missionary and government schools provided Western



education, producing a small group of Nigerians who became clerks, teachers, and professionals. These facilities were unevenly distributed, with rural areas receiving little attention, thereby reinforcing social inequalities.

Fill in the blank: Missionary schools under colonial rule were instrumental in producing _____ who later became part of the new elite.

NIGERIAN COLONIAL INSTITUTIONS: HOSPITALS & SCHOOLS (c. 1900-1960)



Caption: Box 2.3 Selected colonial health and educational facilities in Nigeria

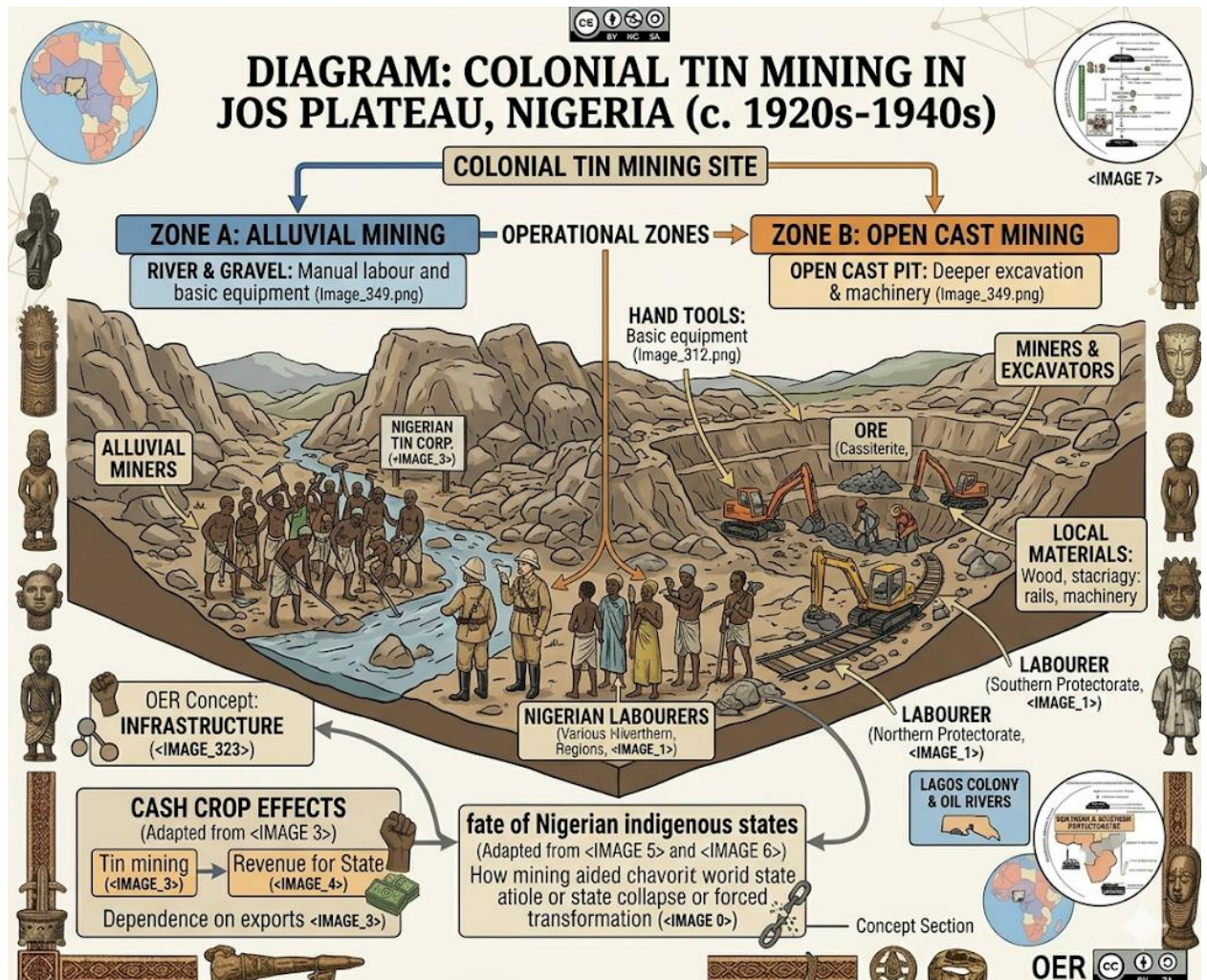
- Short description: Table listing examples of hospitals, dispensaries, and schools established during colonial rule.

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What was the primary purpose of colonial transportation networks in Nigeria?
2. Name two communication systems introduced during colonial rule.
3. Why were colonial health and educational facilities unevenly distributed?
4. What role did missionary schools play in Nigerian society under colonial rule?
5. Which Nigerian port became a major gateway for international trade during colonial times?



Fill in the blank: Tin mining during colonial rule was concentrated in the _____ Plateau.



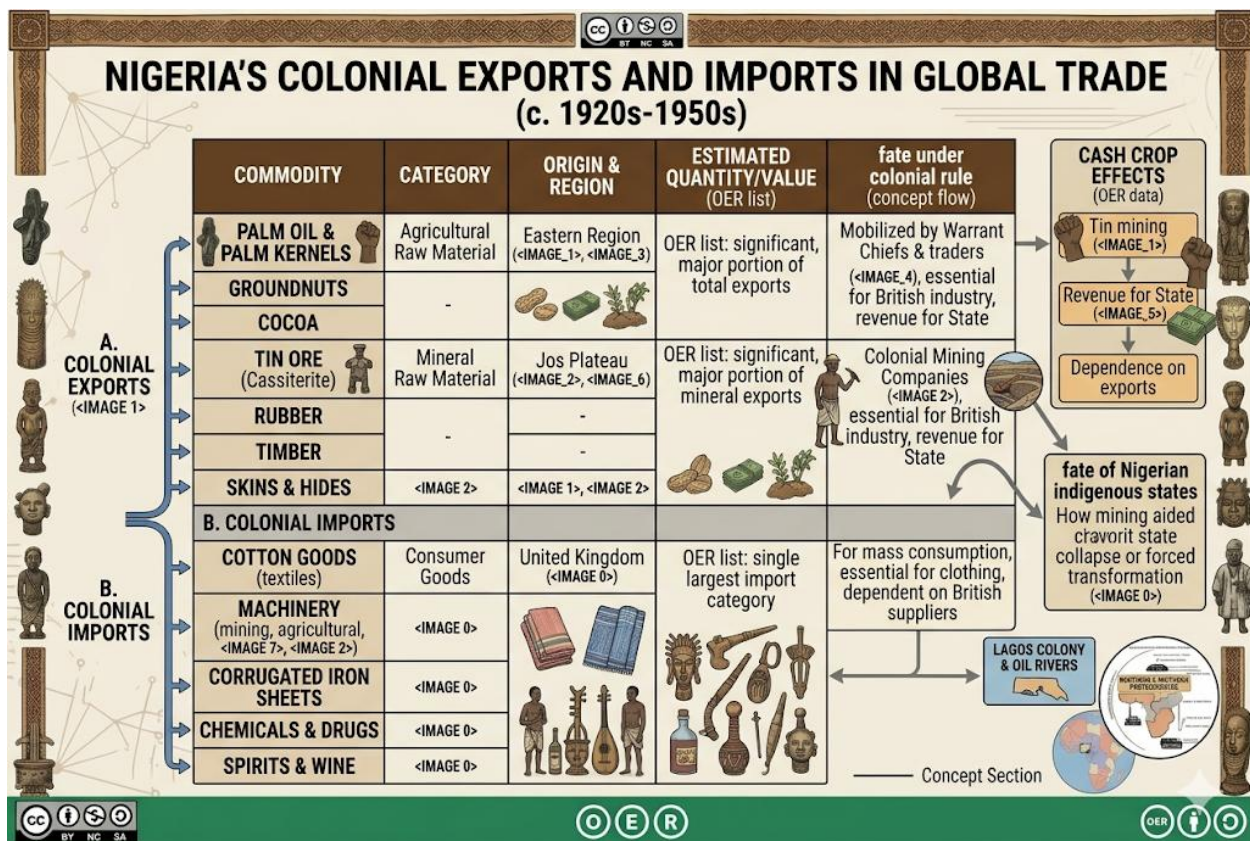
- Short description: Image of colonial tin mining operations in Jos Plateau.
- Caption: Plate 2.5 Tin mining in colonial Nigeria.

2.2.3 Integration into global trade

Colonial Nigeria was integrated into **global trade**, defined as the exchange of goods and services across international markets. Cash crops and minerals were exported to Britain and other parts of Europe, while manufactured goods were imported into Nigeria. This integration created a one-sided economic relationship, where Nigeria supplied raw materials but relied on foreign imports for finished products. The imbalance reinforced economic dependency and limited local industrial development.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's role in global trade under colonial rule was mainly as a supplier of _____ materials.





Caption: Box 2.6 Colonial Nigeria's role in global trade

- Short description: Table listing exports (cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil, tin, coal) and imports (textiles, machinery, household goods).

Pilot questions 2.2

1. What type of crops were promoted under colonial agricultural policies?
2. Which mineral resources were exploited during colonial rule in Nigeria?
3. Why did colonial mining operations often displace indigenous communities?
4. How did Nigeria's integration into global trade affect local industrial development?
5. Which Nigerian region was most associated with tin mining during colonial rule?

2.3 Impact On Pre-Colonial Political Structures

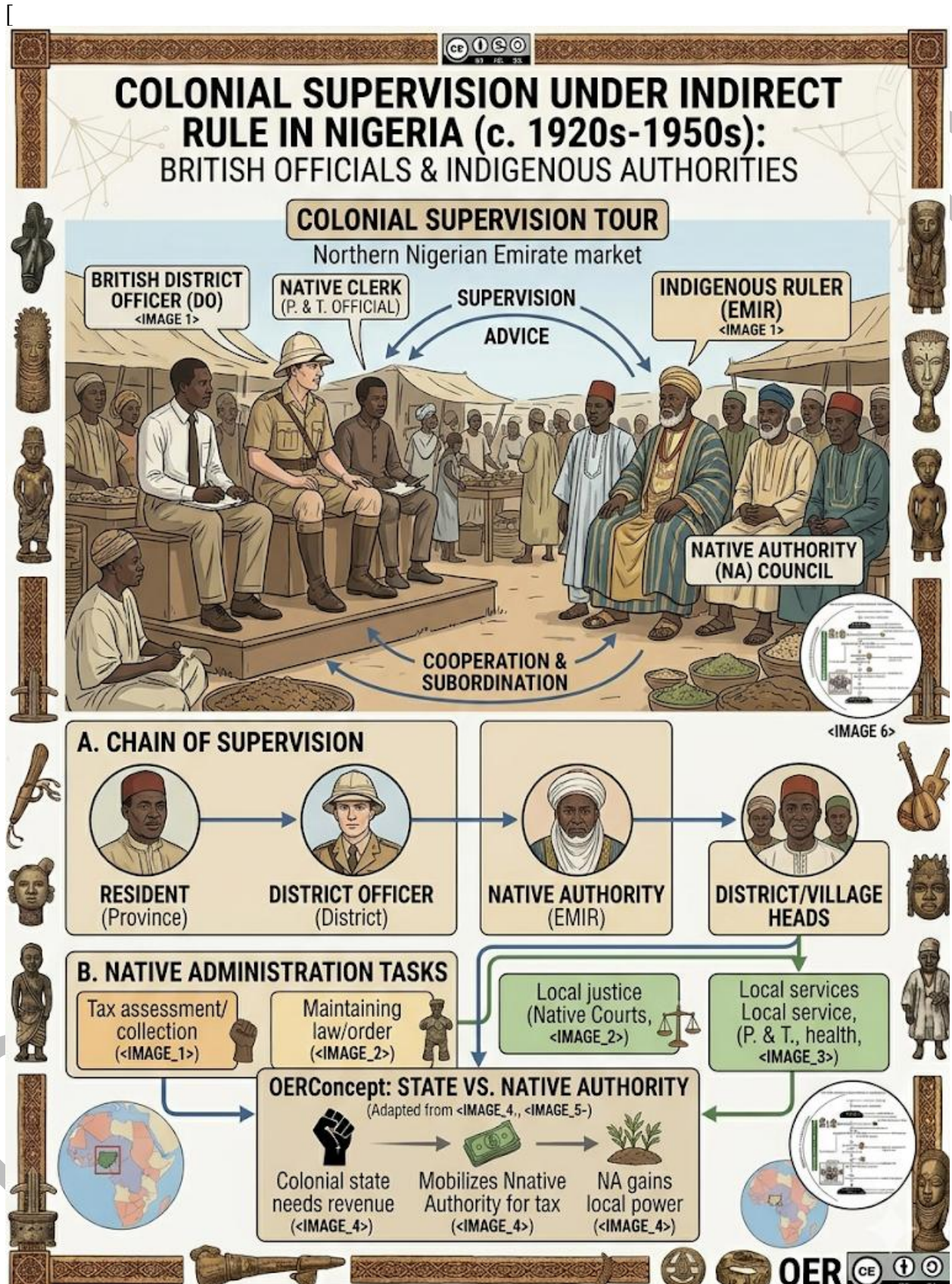
2.3.1 Reorganisation of indigenous authority

Colonial administrators reshaped **indigenous authority**, defined as the traditional leadership structures rooted in local customs and practices. Under indirect rule, chiefs and emirs were retained but subordinated to colonial officials. In many cases, new rulers were appointed where none had existed before, creating artificial hierarchies. This reorganisation weakened the legitimacy of traditional rulers, as they were often seen as instruments of colonial power rather than representatives of their people.



Fill in the blank: Colonial administrators often appointed new rulers in areas without centralised authority, creating _____ hierarchies.





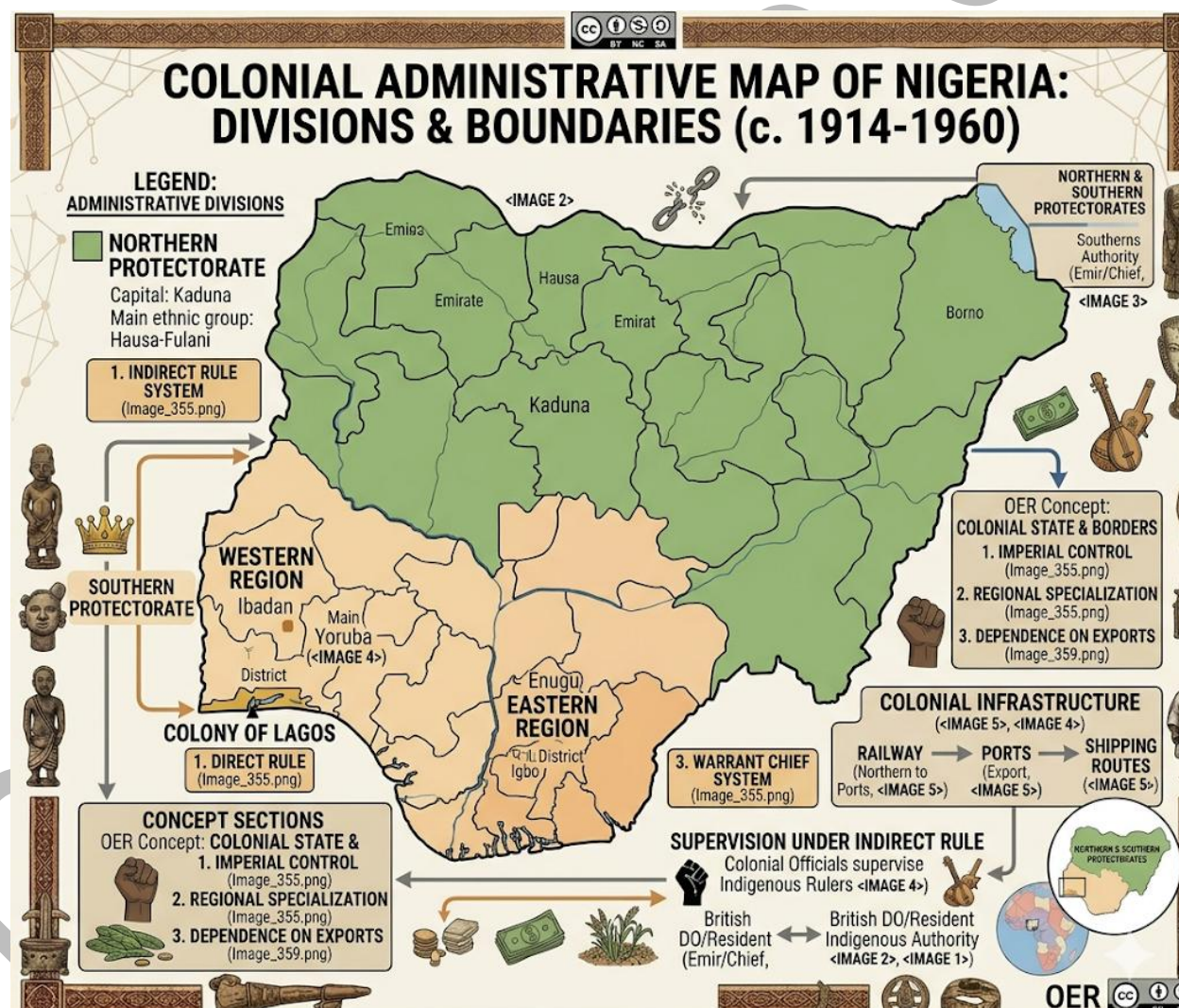
Short description: Diagram showing the relationship between colonial officials and indigenous rulers under indirect rule.

- Caption: Figure 2.7 Reorganisation of indigenous authority under colonial rule.

2.3.2 Emergence of new administrative boundaries

Colonial rule introduced **administrative boundaries**, defined as territorial divisions created for governance and control. These boundaries often cut across ethnic and cultural lines, grouping diverse communities under single administrative units. The new divisions facilitated taxation and law enforcement but disrupted traditional political arrangements. They also laid the foundation for later regional and national boundaries, which continue to influence Nigeria's political landscape.

Fill in the blank: Colonial administrative boundaries often grouped diverse communities together, disrupting _____ arrangements.



- Short description: Image of colonial-era administrative map of Nigeria.



- Caption: Plate 2.8 Colonial administrative boundaries in Nigeria.

2.3.3 Decline of traditional governance practices

The imposition of colonial structures led to the decline of **traditional governance practices**, defined as indigenous systems of decision-making and conflict resolution. Councils of elders, customary courts, and communal assemblies lost authority as colonial courts and administrative officers took over. This decline eroded community cohesion and reduced the relevance of indigenous institutions. Over time, traditional practices were marginalised, though some persisted informally alongside colonial systems.

Fill in the blank: Councils of elders and customary courts lost authority as _____ courts replaced them.



Caption: Box 2.9 Traditional governance practices affected by colonial rule

- Short description: Table listing indigenous institutions (councils of elders, customary courts, communal assemblies) and their fate under colonial administration.

Pilot questions 2.3

1. How did colonial administrators reorganise indigenous authority under indirect rule?
2. What was the purpose of colonial administrative boundaries?
3. Why did these boundaries disrupt traditional political arrangements?
4. Which indigenous institutions lost authority under colonial governance?



5. How did the decline of traditional governance practices affect community cohesion?

2.4 Social And Cultural Transformations

2.4.1 Influence of Western education and religion

Colonial rule introduced **Western education**, defined as formal schooling based on European curricula and teaching methods, and **Christianity**, which was spread largely through missionary activity. Schools produced a small educated elite who later became clerks, teachers, and political leaders. Missionary efforts also reshaped cultural practices, challenging indigenous beliefs and traditions. While these changes opened opportunities, they also created divisions between those who embraced Western values and those who retained traditional systems.

Fill in the blank: Missionary schools under colonial rule were instrumental in spreading _____ alongside Western education.

[Insert plate placeholder here]

- Short description: Image of a missionary school in colonial Nigeria.
- Caption: Plate 2.10 Missionary school in colonial Nigeria.

2.4.2 Urbanisation and new social classes

Colonial infrastructure and economic policies encouraged **urbanisation**, defined as the growth and development of towns and cities. Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano expanded rapidly as centres of trade, administration, and education. Urbanisation created **new social classes**, including educated elites, wage labourers, and traders, who lived alongside traditional communities. This reshaping of society introduced new lifestyles and aspirations, but also widened inequalities between urban and rural populations.

Fill in the blank: Colonial urbanisation created new _____ classes that reshaped Nigerian society.





Short description: Diagram showing growth of major Nigerian cities during colonial rule.

- Caption: Figure 2.11 Urbanisation in colonial Nigeria.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Create a diagram showing growth of Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano during colonial rule."
- Search string: "Nigeria colonial urbanisation city growth OER diagram"

2.4.3 Cultural adaptation and resistance

Colonial influence led to **cultural adaptation**, defined as the process of modifying traditional practices to fit new circumstances, and **cultural resistance**, defined as efforts to preserve indigenous customs against foreign domination. Nigerians adapted by blending Western education with local traditions, while resisting through festivals, art, and political movements that celebrated indigenous identity. This dual response highlighted the resilience of Nigerian culture, which continued to evolve despite colonial pressures.

Fill in the blank: Nigerians expressed cultural resistance through festivals, art, and _____ movements.



CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND RESISTANCE IN COLONIAL NIGERIA		
CATEGORY	EXAMPLES OF ADAPTATION	EXAMPLES OF RESISTANCE
EDUCATION & LANGUAGE	 WESTERN SCHOOLS, ENGLISH LITERACY	 TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, LOCAL DIALECTS
RELIGION	 CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY CONVERSION	 PRESERVATION OF INDIGENOUS BELIEFS & RITUALS
ECONOMY & TRADE	 CASH CROP PRODUCTION, COLONIAL ECONOMY	 LOCAL CRAFTS, INDEPENDENT MARKETS
SOCIAL LIFE & FASHION	 EUROPEAN STYLE, TEA & MANNERS	 TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS, DANCE & DRESS
POLITICAL ORGANIZATION	 NATIVE AUTHORITIES, INDIRECT RULE	 ANTI-COLONIAL PROTESTS, LABOR STRIKES

Caption: Box 2.12 Examples of cultural adaptation and resistance

- Short description: Table listing examples such as blending Western education with local traditions, indigenous festivals, and nationalist movements.
 - colonial Pilot questions 2.4
1. What role did missionary schools play in spreading Western education and religion?
 2. Which Nigerian cities expanded rapidly under colonial urbanisation?
 3. How did urbanisation create new social classes?
 4. What is meant by cultural adaptation under colonial rule?
 5. Give one example of cultural resistance during colonial Nigeria.

Series summary

This Series has explored how colonial infrastructure reshaped Nigeria's economic, political, and social landscape, highlighting its relevance to understanding the long-term effects of colonial rule. By examining the development of railways, roads, ports, and communication systems, we saw how infrastructure was designed to serve imperial interests. We then considered the transformation of economic systems through cash crop production, mining, and integration into global trade. Following that, we analysed the impact on pre-colonial political structures, including the reorganisation of indigenous authority and the decline of traditional governance. Finally, we looked at social and cultural transformations, focusing on Western education, religion, urbanisation, and cultural adaptation or resistance.

In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe the development of colonial infrastructure, analyse the transformation of economic systems, explain the reorganisation of indigenous authority, and evaluate the social and cultural changes brought about by colonial rule. These skills will enable you to critically assess how colonial policies reshaped Nigeria and to connect these historical developments to contemporary challenges.



Glossary of terms

- **Administrative boundaries:** Territorial divisions created by colonial authorities for governance and control, often cutting across ethnic and cultural lines.
- **Agricultural policies:** Rules introduced by colonial administrators to regulate farming, usually encouraging the cultivation of cash crops for export.
- **Cash crops:** Crops grown primarily for sale in international markets rather than for local consumption, such as cocoa, groundnuts, and palm oil.
- **Communication systems:** Organised methods of transmitting information, including telegraph lines and postal services, introduced to improve colonial administration.
- **Cultural adaptation:** The process of modifying traditional practices to fit new circumstances under colonial influence.
- **Cultural resistance:** Efforts to preserve indigenous customs and identity against colonial domination, often expressed through festivals, art, and political movements.
- **Health facilities:** Institutions such as hospitals and dispensaries established during colonial rule, mainly serving urban centres and colonial staff.
- **Indigenous authority:** Traditional leadership structures rooted in local customs, which were reorganised and subordinated under colonial administration.
- **Resource exploitation:** The extraction of natural resources, such as tin and coal, for colonial economic gain, often benefiting foreign companies more than local communities.
- **Social classes:** New groups that emerged under colonial rule, including educated elites, wage labourers, and traders, particularly in urban centres.
- **Traditional governance practices:** Indigenous systems of decision-making and conflict resolution, such as councils of elders and customary courts, which declined under colonial rule.
- **Transportation networks:** Systems of railways, roads, and ports built during colonial rule to facilitate trade and resource export.
- **Urbanisation:** The growth and expansion of towns and cities during colonial rule, driven by trade, administration, and education.
- **Western education:** Formal schooling introduced under colonial rule, based on European curricula, which produced a small educated elite.
- **Western religion (Christianity):** Religious practices introduced by missionaries during colonial rule, which reshaped cultural and spiritual life in Nigeria.

Concept check questions

Objective questions



1. Which crops were promoted under colonial agricultural policies? (Linked to SLO 2.2)
2. Tin mining during colonial rule was concentrated in which Nigerian region? (Linked to SLO 2.2)
3. What system of schooling was introduced under colonial rule? (Linked to SLO 2.4)
4. Which Nigerian port became a major gateway for international trade? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
5. What type of boundaries were created by colonial administrators to facilitate governance? (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain the primary purpose of colonial transportation networks in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 2.1)
7. Describe one way colonial mining operations affected indigenous communities. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
8. How did colonial administrative boundaries disrupt traditional political arrangements? (Linked to SLO 2.3)
9. Identify one new social class that emerged as a result of colonial urbanisation. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
10. State one example of cultural resistance during colonial Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse how colonial infrastructure development served imperial interests rather than local needs. (Linked to SLO 2.1)
12. Evaluate the social and cultural transformations brought about by colonial rule, highlighting both adaptation and resistance. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective questions

1. Cash crops such as cocoa, groundnuts, and palm oil.
2. Jos Plateau.
3. Western education.
4. Lagos.
5. Administrative boundaries.

Short-answer questions

6. Colonial transportation networks were built mainly to move resources and cash crops to ports for export.
7. Mining operations displaced communities and caused environmental degradation while profits went to colonial authorities and foreign companies.
8. Boundaries grouped diverse communities together, undermining traditional governance and creating ethnic tensions.



9. Educated elites, wage labourers, and traders.
10. Indigenous festivals and nationalist movements.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Railways, roads, and ports were constructed to facilitate the export of raw materials and cash crops, serving colonial economic interests rather than improving local livelihoods.

Value-added response: Beyond this, infrastructure development entrenched economic dependency, limited local industrialisation, and reinforced inequalities between urban centres and rural communities. It also created patterns of resource extraction that continue to shape Nigeria's economy today.

12. *Basic response:* Colonial rule introduced Western education and Christianity, encouraged urbanisation, and created new social classes, while traditional practices declined. Nigerians responded with cultural adaptation and resistance.

Value-added response: In addition, these transformations reshaped identity and politics, producing elites who led nationalist movements, while resistance preserved cultural heritage. The dual processes of adaptation and resistance highlight Nigeria's resilience and the complex legacy of colonial influence.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 2.1: Development of Colonial Infrastructure

1. To transport cash crops and resources to ports for export.
2. Telegraph and postal services.
3. Because they were concentrated in urban centres and served colonial staff more than rural communities.
4. They produced educated Nigerians who became clerks, teachers, and professionals.
5. Lagos.

Part 2.2: Transformation of Economic Systems

1. Cash crops such as cocoa, groundnuts, and palm oil.
2. Tin and coal.
3. They displaced communities and caused environmental damage.
4. It limited local industrial development and created dependency on imported goods.
5. Jos Plateau.

Part 2.3: Impact on Pre-Colonial Political Structures

1. By subordinating traditional rulers under colonial officials and appointing new ones where none existed.
2. To facilitate taxation, law enforcement, and administrative control.
3. They grouped diverse communities together, undermining indigenous political arrangements.



4. Councils of elders, customary courts, and communal assemblies.
5. It weakened cohesion and reduced the relevance of indigenous institutions.

Part 2.4: Social and Cultural Transformations

1. They spread Christianity alongside Western education.
2. Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano.
3. By creating elites, wage labourers, and traders.
4. Modifying traditional practices to fit colonial circumstances.
5. Indigenous festivals and nationalist movements.

References and Attributions

- **Figures and Plates**
 - Figure 2.1 Colonial transportation networks in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a historical map showing colonial railway lines and ports in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial railway map OER.”
 - Plate 2.2 Colonial telegraph office in Nigeria: AI prompt “Illustrate a colonial-era telegraph office in Nigeria with workers.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial telegraph office OER image.”
 - Box 2.3 Selected colonial health and educational facilities in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing colonial health and educational facilities in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial hospitals schools OER table.”
 - Figure 2.4 Cash crop production zones in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a map showing colonial cash crop production zones in Nigeria (cocoa, groundnuts, palm oil).” Search string: “Nigeria colonial cash crop production OER map.”
 - Plate 2.5 Tin mining in colonial Nigeria: AI prompt “Illustrate colonial tin mining operations in Jos Plateau, Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial tin mining Jos Plateau OER image.”
 - Box 2.6 Colonial Nigeria’s role in global trade: AI prompt “Create a table listing Nigeria’s colonial exports and imports in global trade.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial exports imports OER table.”
 - Figure 2.7 Reorganisation of indigenous authority under colonial rule: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing colonial officials supervising indigenous rulers under indirect rule in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial indirect rule indigenous authority OER diagram.”
 - Plate 2.8 Colonial administrative boundaries in Nigeria: AI prompt “Illustrate colonial administrative map of Nigeria showing divisions and boundaries.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial administrative boundaries OER map.”
 - Box 2.9 Traditional governance practices affected by colonial rule: AI prompt “Create a table listing traditional governance practices and how they were affected by colonial rule in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria traditional governance colonial rule OER table.”
 - Plate 2.10 Missionary school in colonial Nigeria: AI prompt “Illustrate a missionary school in colonial Nigeria with pupils and teachers.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial missionary school OER image.”



- Figure 2.11 Urbanisation in colonial Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing growth of Lagos, Ibadan, and Kano during colonial rule.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial urbanisation city growth OER diagram.”
- Box 2.12 Examples of cultural adaptation and resistance: AI prompt “Create a table listing examples of cultural adaptation and resistance in colonial Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial cultural adaptation resistance OER table.”
- **General References**
 - Course content adapted from HIS 301: *Nigeria from 1900–1970* (Course outline and learning outcomes).
 - Historical context informed by standard Nigerian history texts and open educational resources (OERs) on colonial and post-colonial studies.

Course Title: Nigeria from 1900 – 1970

Course Code: HIS 301

Course Units: 3 Units

- **Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria**
- **Colonial Infrastructure and Transformation of Pre-Colonial Regimes**
- **Decolonization Theories and the Struggle for Independence**
- **Post-Independence Governance and Political Collapse**
- **The Nigerian Civil War: Causes and Consequences**

Suggested Outline for Series 3: Decolonization Theories And The Struggle For Independence

- **Part 3.1: Theories of Decolonization**
 - Liberal and gradualist approaches
 - Radical and revolutionary perspectives
 - African intellectual contributions
- **Part 3.2: Rise of Nationalist Movements**
 - Early political organisations
 - Role of elites and educated Nigerians
 - Grassroots mobilisation and popular resistance
- **Part 3.3: Colonial Responses and Reforms**
 - Constitutional developments



- Repression and negotiation
- Pathways to self-government
- **Part 3.4: The Struggle for Independence**
 - Key nationalist leaders and their strategies
 - Regional politics and ethnic dynamics
 - Transition to independence in 1960

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined how colonial infrastructure transformed Nigeria's economic, political, and social systems. Building on that foundation, we now turn to the period when Nigerians began to challenge colonial authority and articulate visions of self-rule. This Series is crucial because it highlights the intellectual debates, nationalist movements, and political struggles that culminated in Nigeria's independence, helping us understand both the theories of decolonisation and the practical realities of the independence struggle.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the major theories of decolonisation and to analyse how Nigerians applied these ideas in their fight for independence. By the end, you will be able to connect theoretical perspectives with historical events and evaluate the strategies that shaped Nigeria's path to sovereignty.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the theories of decolonisation, including liberal, radical, and African intellectual contributions. Next, we will move on to the rise of nationalist movements, considering the role of early organisations, elites, and grassroots mobilisation. Following that, we will examine colonial responses and reforms, focusing on constitutional developments, repression, and negotiation. Finally, we will conclude with the struggle for independence itself, highlighting key nationalist leaders, regional politics, and the transition to independence in 1960.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** define the major theories of decolonisation, including liberal, radical, and African intellectual perspectives,
- **SLO 3.2** explain the rise of nationalist movements in Nigeria, highlighting the role of political organisations, elites, and grassroots mobilisation,
- **SLO 3.3** analyse colonial responses to nationalist agitation, focusing on constitutional reforms, repression, and negotiation, and
- **SLO 3.4** evaluate the strategies of key nationalist leaders and assess how regional politics shaped Nigeria's transition to independence in 1960.

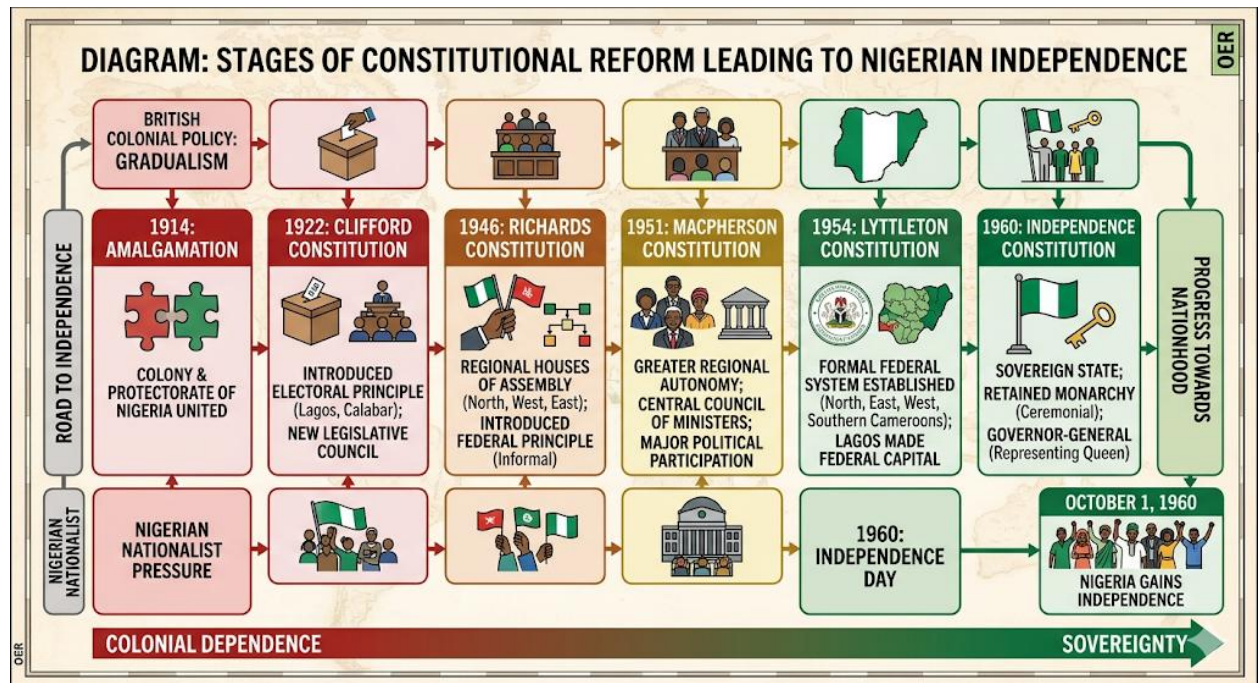
3.1 Theories Of Decolonization

3.1.1 Liberal and gradualist approaches

Liberal approaches to decolonisation emphasised negotiation, reform, and gradual transfer of power. These theories argued that colonies should progress step by step towards independence, often through constitutional reforms and political participation. The British applied this model in Nigeria by introducing limited self-government before full independence. While this approach reduced violent conflict, it often delayed genuine sovereignty and kept colonial interests intact.



Fill in the blank: The liberal approach to decolonisation emphasised _____ transfer of power through reforms and negotiation.



- Short description: Diagram showing stages of gradual constitutional reforms in Nigeria.
- Caption: Figure 3.1 Liberal and gradualist approach to decolonisation.

3.1.2 Radical and revolutionary perspectives

Radical perspectives defined decolonisation as the complete and immediate break from colonial rule, often through mass mobilisation or armed struggle. Revolutionary theorists argued that colonialism was inherently exploitative and could not be dismantled through negotiation alone. In Africa, some movements adopted this stance, insisting on direct confrontation with colonial powers. Although Nigeria's independence was largely negotiated, radical ideas influenced nationalist rhetoric and inspired resistance movements elsewhere.

Fill in the blank: Radical theories of decolonisation viewed colonialism as inherently _____ and called for immediate break from it.





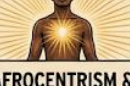
- Short description: Image of African nationalist protest against colonial rule.
- Caption: Plate 3.2 Radical nationalist protest in Africa.

3.1.3 African intellectual contributions

African thinkers provided unique insights into decolonisation, emphasising cultural identity, self-determination, and the rejection of colonial domination. Figures such as Kwame Nkrumah and Nnamdi Azikiwe argued that independence was not only political but also cultural and psychological. These contributions highlighted the importance of reclaiming African values and resisting neo-colonial influences. Their ideas shaped nationalist movements and gave intellectual depth to the independence struggle.

Fill in the blank: African intellectuals like Nnamdi Azikiwe emphasised independence as both political and _____.



KEY AFRICAN INTELLECTUALS & CONTRIBUTIONS TO DECOLONISATION THEORIES			
INTELLECTUALS (Portraits & Names)	KEY THEORIES & CONCEPTS	RELEVANCE & IMPACT	FURTHER RESOURCES (SMALL ICONS & LINKS)
 FRANTZ FANON (MARTINIQUE/ALGERIA)	PSYCHOLOGICAL DECOLONISATION  COLONIALISM AS HUMILIATION & THE NECESSITY OF REVOLUTIONARY VIOLENCE	THEORIZED LIBERATION BEYOND POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE; INFLUENCED GLOBAL ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENTS	 DECOLONISING THE MIND  THE BATTLE OF ALGIERS  AFRICA DECOLONISATION RESEARCH OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE (OER)
 KWAME NKRUMAH (GHANA)	NEO-COLONIALISM & PAN-AFRICANISM 	SHAPED POST-INDEPENDENCE PAN-AFRICAN ORGANIZATIONS (e.g., OAU/AU); STRESSED ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY	
 NGŪGĨ WA THIONG'O (KENYA)	DECOLONISING THE MIND  REJECTION OF COLONIAL LANGUAGES (e.g., ENGLISH) IN FAVOR OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES	FUNDAMENTAL TO POST-COLONIAL LITERARY THEORY & THE 'LANGUAGE QUESTION' IN AFRICAN ARTS.	
 JULIUS NYERERE (TANZANIA)	UJAMAA (AFRICAN SOCIALISM)  COMMUNALISM & SELF-RELIANCE ROOTED IN TRADITIONAL AFRICAN VALUES	ATTEMPTED TO CREATE A NON-CAPITALIST DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR NEWLY INDEPENDENT STATES.	
 STEVE BIKO (SOUTH AFRICA)	 AWAKENING SELF-PRIDE AND REJECTING PSYCHOLOGICAL INFERIORITY INSTILLED BY APARTHEID	PROVIDED A PSYCHOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ANTI-APARTHEID STRUGGLE AND GLOBAL BLACK EMPOWERMENT.	
 CHEIKH ANTA DIOP (SENEGAL)	AFROCENTRISM & THE AFRICAN ORIGIN OF CIVILISATION  CHALLENGING EUROCENTRIC HISTORY BY RESTORING AFRICAN AGENCY & HISTORICAL CONTINUITY	KEY FOUNDATION FOR CRITICAL RACE THEORY AND THE DECOLONIZATION OF HISTORICAL AND ACADEMIC NARRATIVES.	
 AMÍLCAR CABRAL (GUINEA-BISSAU/CAPE VERDE)	RETURN TO THE SOURCE & NATIONAL CULTURE  REUNITING WITH POPULAR MASSES AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AS AN ACT OF REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE	INTEGRATED CULTURAL REVIVAL INTO ARMED REVOLUTION, EMPHASIZING GRASSROOTS INVOLVEMENT.	

Caption: Box 3.3 Selected African intellectual contributions to decolonisation

- Short description: Table listing thinkers such as Kwame Nkrumah, Nnamdi Azikiwe, and their key ideas.
 - Search string: "African intellectual contributions decolonisation OER table" Pilot questions 3.1
1. What was the main emphasis of the liberal approach to decolonisation?
 2. How did radical theories differ from liberal ones in their view of colonialism?
 3. Name one African intellectual who contributed to decolonisation theories.
 4. Why did African thinkers stress cultural identity in the independence struggle?
 5. Which approach to decolonisation was applied in Nigeria's path to independence?

3.2 Rise Of Nationalist Movements

3.2.1 Early political organisations

Political organisations are structured groups formed to pursue collective political goals. In Nigeria, early organisations such as the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) and later the Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM) laid the foundation for nationalist agitation. These groups demanded greater representation, challenged colonial policies, and mobilised educated elites to participate in politics. Their activities marked the beginning of organised resistance against colonial rule.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) was one of the earliest _____ organisations in Nigeria.

[Insert plate placeholder here]

- Short description: Image of Nigerian Youth Movement leaders in the 1930s.
- Caption: Plate 3.4 Leaders of the Nigerian Youth Movement.



3.2.2 Role of elites and educated Nigerians

Educated Nigerians, often referred to as **elites**, were individuals who had acquired Western education and professional skills. They played a crucial role in nationalist movements by articulating demands for self-rule, writing newspapers, and forming political parties. Figures such as Nnamdi Azikiwe and Obafemi Awolowo used their education and influence to mobilise support and challenge colonial authority. Their leadership bridged the gap between grassroots movements and formal political negotiations.

Fill in the blank: Educated Nigerians like Nnamdi Azikiwe used newspapers and political parties to mobilise support for _____.



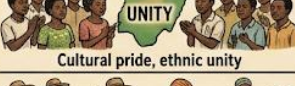
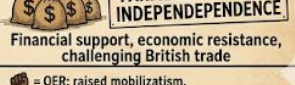
- Short description: Diagram showing the link between educated elites, political parties, and nationalist mobilisation.
- Caption: Figure 3.5 Role of elites in nationalist movements.
- AI prompt suggestion: “Create a diagram showing educated elites forming political parties and mobilising nationalist support in Nigeria.”
- Search string: “Nigeria nationalist elites political parties OER diagram”

3.2.3 Grassroots mobilisation and popular resistance

Grassroots mobilisation refers to the involvement of ordinary people in political movements, often through protests, strikes, and community organisations. In Nigeria, market women, trade unions, and local associations contributed significantly to nationalist struggles. Their participation ensured that independence was not only an elite project but also a popular demand. Popular resistance gave legitimacy to nationalist leaders and pressured colonial authorities to consider reforms.

Fill in the blank: Grassroots mobilisation involved ordinary people such as _____ women and trade unions.



GRASSROOTS GROUPS IN NIGERIA & NATIONALIST MOVEMENTS			
GROUP NAME	FOUNDING & KEY LEADERS	PRIMARY FOCUS	NATIONALIST CONTRIBUTIONS
 LAGOS MARKET WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION	 Herbert Macaulay  Charlotte Obasogie	 Trade rights, fair taxes.	 Mass mobilization, connecting economic issues to anti-colonialism.
 IGERIAN UNION OF STUDENTS	 Nnamdi Azikiwe  H.O. Davies	 Western education, political awareness	 Intellectual framework, fostering national identity across ethnic lines.
 MINERS' UNION (Jos Plateau)	 J.O. Ajadi  Michael Imoudu	 Safe working conditions, fair pay	 Labor strikes, economic sabotage, creating militant resistance.
 YORUBA YOUTH MOVEMENT	 Obafemi Awolowo  S.L. Akintola	 Cultural pride, ethnic unity	 Regional self-determination, integrating cultural nationalism into the wider struggle.
 COCOA FARMERS' COOPERATIVE	 Ernest Ikoli  Samuel Akintanya	 Fair prices, end to marketing board monopoly	 Financial support, economic resistance, challenging British trade

LEGEND:  = OER: broken channng of chains and protension of eneniis of resistance.  = OER: raised inrected in piners, national cultural cultural  = OER: Labor strikes, economic creating militant anti-colonism.  = OER: raised mobilization, eenonment atomps.

Caption: Box 3.6 Examples of grassroots mobilisation in Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing groups such as market women, trade unions, and local associations, with their contributions to nationalist movements.
- Search string: "Nigeria grassroots mobilisation nationalist movements OER table"

Pilot questions 3.2

1. Name one early political organisation that laid the foundation for nationalist agitation in Nigeria.
2. How did educated Nigerians contribute to nationalist movements?
3. Which Nigerian leaders used newspapers and political parties to mobilise support?
4. What role did grassroots mobilisation play in the struggle for independence?
5. Give one example of a grassroots group that participated in nationalist movements.

3.3 Colonial Responses And Reforms

3.3.1 Constitutional developments

Constitutional developments refer to the gradual introduction of legal frameworks that allowed limited participation of Nigerians in governance. Beginning with the Clifford Constitution of 1922, which introduced elective representation, subsequent constitutions such as the Richards (1946), Macpherson (1951), and Lyttleton (1954) expanded Nigerian involvement in legislative councils. These reforms were designed to appease nationalist demands while maintaining colonial control.

Fill in the blank: The Clifford Constitution of 1922 was the first to introduce _____ representation in Nigeria.

[Insert figure placeholder here]

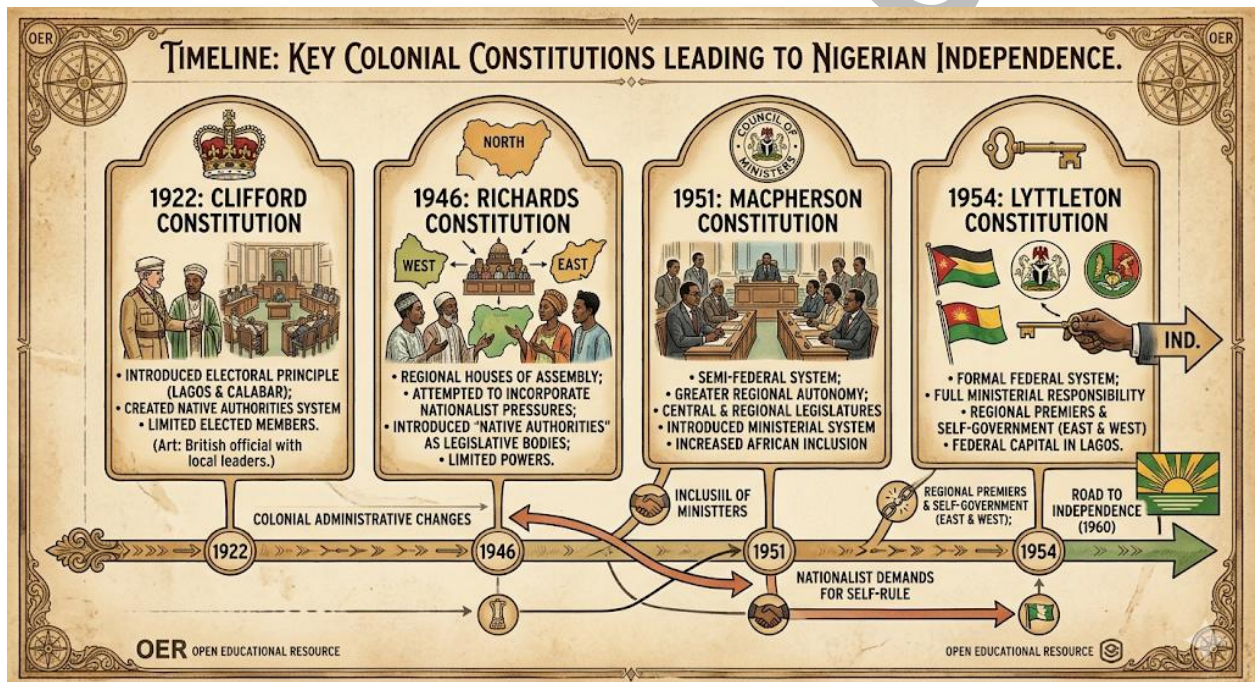


- Short description: Timeline diagram showing major constitutional developments in Nigeria from 1922 to 1954.
- Caption: Figure 3.7 Constitutional developments under colonial rule.

3.3.2 Repression and negotiation

Colonial authorities often responded to nationalist agitation with a mix of **repression**, defined as the use of force or restrictive measures to suppress opposition, and **negotiation**, defined as dialogue aimed at reaching compromise. Strikes, protests, and political campaigns were sometimes met with arrests and censorship, yet colonial officials also engaged in talks with Nigerian leaders to manage demands. This dual strategy reflected the tension between maintaining control and acknowledging the inevitability of change.

Fill in the blank: Colonial authorities combined repression with _____ to manage nationalist demands.



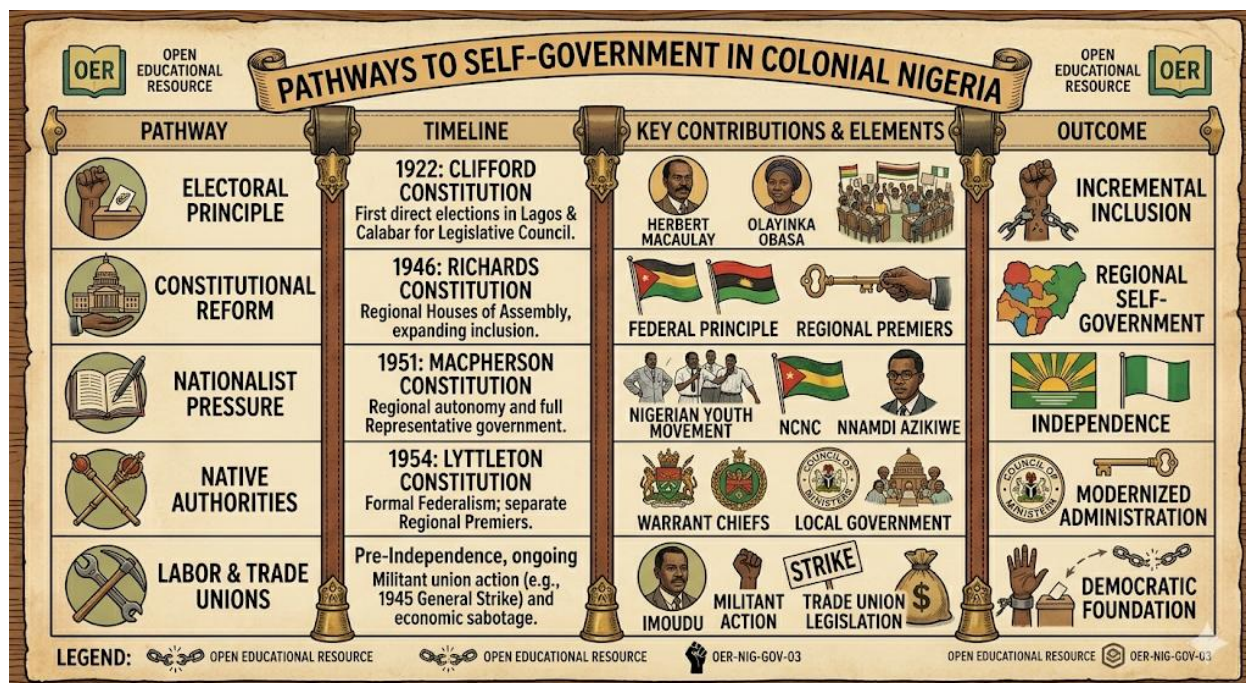
- Short description: Image of Nigerian nationalist leaders meeting with colonial officials.
- Caption: Plate 3.8 Negotiation between Nigerian leaders and colonial officials.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian nationalist leaders meeting colonial officials in a negotiation setting."
- Search string: "Nigeria nationalist leaders colonial negotiation OER image"

3.3.3 Pathways to self-government

The gradual reforms and negotiations eventually created **pathways to self-government**, defined as structured processes through which colonies gained increasing autonomy before independence. In Nigeria, regional governments were established, and political parties gained influence in legislative assemblies. These pathways allowed Nigerians to gain administrative experience and prepared the country for full independence in 1960.



Fill in the blank: Pathways to self-government in Nigeria included the establishment of _____ governments and legislative assemblies.



Caption: Box 3.9 Pathways to self-government in Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing key steps such as regional governments, political party participation, and legislative assemblies.

Pilot questions 3.3

1. Which constitution first introduced elective representation in Nigeria?
2. How did colonial authorities balance repression and negotiation in response to nationalist agitation?
3. Name two constitutions that expanded Nigerian participation in governance.
4. What was the purpose of pathways to self-government?
5. How did regional governments contribute to Nigeria's independence process?

3.4 The Struggle For Independence

3.4.1 Key nationalist leaders and their strategies

Nationalist leaders were individuals who spearheaded the independence movement through political organisation, advocacy, and mobilisation. In Nigeria, figures such as Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, and Ahmadu Bello played central roles. They used strategies including political party formation, newspaper campaigns, and negotiation with colonial authorities. Their leadership styles varied, but collectively they advanced Nigeria's demand for self-rule.

Fill in the blank: Nnamdi Azikiwe and Obafemi Awolowo were among Nigeria's most prominent _____ leaders.



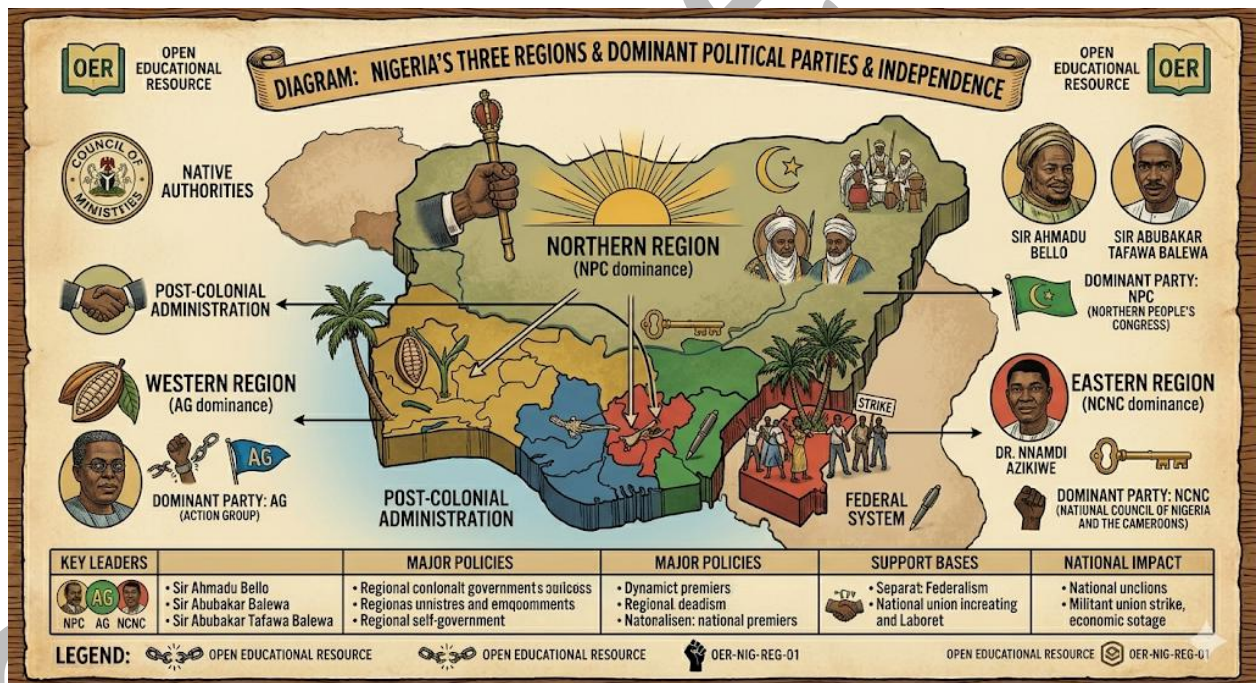
[Insert plate placeholder here]

- Short description: Image of Nigerian nationalist leaders at a political rally.
- Caption: Plate 3.10 Nigerian nationalist leaders at a rally.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian nationalist leaders addressing a rally in the 1950s."
- Search string: "Nigeria nationalist leaders independence rally OER image"

3.4.2 Regional politics and ethnic dynamics

Regional politics refers to the political organisation and competition among Nigeria's three main regions: the North, West, and East. Each region had dominant ethnic groups and political parties, such as the Northern People's Congress (NPC), Action Group (AG), and National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC). These dynamics shaped negotiations for independence, as leaders balanced regional interests with national unity. Ethnic diversity both enriched political discourse and complicated consensus-building.

Fill in the blank: The Northern People's Congress (NPC) was the dominant political party in the _____ region.



- Short description: Diagram showing Nigeria's three main regions and their dominant political parties.
- Caption: Figure 3.11 Regional politics and ethnic dynamics in Nigeria.

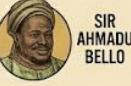
3.4.3 Transition to independence in 1960

The **transition to independence** was the final stage of Nigeria's decolonisation process, marked by constitutional reforms, elections, and negotiations with Britain. On 1 October 1960, Nigeria achieved independence, with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa becoming the first Prime Minister. This transition reflected both nationalist efforts and colonial concessions, symbolising the culmination



of decades of struggle. Independence was celebrated nationwide, though challenges of unity and governance remained.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria achieved independence on _____ October 1960.

TABLE OF MILESTONES: NIGERIA'S TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE			
DATE	MILESTONE	KEY PARTICIPANTS & CONTEXT	OUTCOME
1922	CLIFFORD CONSTITUTION  FIRST ELECTORAL PRINCIPLE; LAGOS & CALABAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL	HERBERT MACAULAY  MASS MOBILIZATION FORMATION OF NNDP	LIMITED AFRICAN INCLUSION 
1946	RICHARDS CONSTITUTION  REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES; INCORPORATING NATIONALIST PRESSURES	SIR AHMADU BELLO  FORMATION OF REGIONAL PARTIES (NPC, AG, NCNC)	SEMI-FEDERAL SYSTEM; REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT 
1951	MACPHERSON CONSTITUTION  MAJOR AFRICAN PARTICIPATION; REGIONAL SELF-GOVERNMENT COMMENCES	SIR OBAFEMI AWOLowo  REGIONAL ELECTIONS DYNAMIC URBAN GROWTH	STRENGTHENED REGIONALISM 
1954	LYTTLETON CONSTITUTION  • FORMAL FEDERAL SYSTEM; • FEDERAL CAPITAL IN LAGOS; • DISSOLUTION OF SOUTHERN CAMEROONS (map inset)	DR. NNAMDI AZIKIWE  DYNAMIC PREMIERS & STATE INSTITUTIONS	PATHWAY TO FULL INDEPENDENCE 
OCT 1, 1960	INDEPENDENCE DAY  • SOVEREIGNTY; • FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ESTABLISHED	SIR ABUBAKAR TAFAWA BALEWA  CELEBRATING CROWDS, A NEW ERA	BIRTH OF THE NATION 
LEGEND:  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-MILE-01  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-MILE-01			

Caption: Box 3.12 Milestones in Nigeria's transition to independence

- Short description: Table listing key milestones such as constitutional reforms, elections, and independence in 1960.
- Search string: "Nigeria independence milestones OER table"

Pilot questions 3.4

1. Name two key nationalist leaders in Nigeria's independence struggle.
2. Which political parties dominated Nigeria's three main regions before independence?
3. How did regional politics complicate negotiations for independence?
4. Who became Nigeria's first Prime Minister in 1960?
5. On what date did Nigeria achieve independence?

Series summary

This Series has examined the theories and practical struggles that shaped Nigeria's journey to independence. We began by exploring different theories of decolonisation, from liberal and gradualist approaches to radical perspectives, and highlighted the unique contributions of African intellectuals. We then moved on to the rise of nationalist movements, considering the role of early organisations, educated elites, and grassroots mobilisation. Following that, we analysed colonial responses and reforms, including constitutional developments, repression, and negotiation, which gradually opened pathways to self-government. Finally, we studied the



independence struggle itself, focusing on nationalist leaders, regional politics, and the transition to independence in 1960.

In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to define key theories of decolonisation, explain the rise of nationalist movements, analyse colonial responses to agitation, and evaluate the strategies and dynamics that shaped Nigeria's independence. These outcomes provide you with the tools to critically connect theoretical perspectives with historical realities, and to appreciate the complexity of Nigeria's decolonisation process.

Glossary of terms

- **African intellectual contributions:** Ideas from African thinkers such as Kwame Nkrumah and Nnamdi Azikiwe, emphasising cultural identity, self-determination, and resistance to colonial domination.
- **Constitutional developments:** Legal frameworks introduced by colonial authorities that gradually allowed Nigerians limited participation in governance, such as the Clifford, Richards, Macpherson, and Lyttleton constitutions.
- **Grassroots mobilisation:** The involvement of ordinary people, including market women, trade unions, and local associations, in nationalist movements through protests, strikes, and community organisation.
- **Liberal approaches:** Theories of decolonisation that emphasised negotiation, reform, and gradual transfer of power through constitutional changes.
- **Nationalist leaders:** Prominent figures such as Nnamdi Azikiwe, Obafemi Awolowo, and Ahmadu Bello, who spearheaded Nigeria's independence struggle through political organisation and advocacy.
- **Pathways to self-government:** Structured processes that gave colonies increasing autonomy before independence, including regional governments and legislative assemblies.
- **Political organisations:** Early structured groups such as the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP) and Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM), which laid the foundation for nationalist agitation.
- **Radical perspectives:** Theories of decolonisation that demanded immediate and complete break from colonial rule, often through mass mobilisation or armed struggle.
- **Regional politics:** Political organisation and competition among Nigeria's three main regions (North, West, and East), each dominated by ethnic groups and political parties.
- **Repression:** The use of force or restrictive measures by colonial authorities to suppress nationalist opposition, including arrests and censorship.
- **Negotiation:** Dialogue between colonial officials and Nigerian leaders aimed at managing nationalist demands and reaching compromise.



- **Transition to independence:** The final stage of Nigeria's decolonisation process, marked by constitutional reforms, elections, and the achievement of independence on 1 October 1960.

Concept check questions

Objective questions

1. Which constitution first introduced elective representation in Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 3.3)
2. Who became Nigeria's first Prime Minister in 1960? (Linked to SLO 3.4)
3. Which political party dominated the Northern region before independence? (Linked to SLO 3.4)
4. What type of approach to decolonisation emphasised gradual transfer of power through reforms? (Linked to SLO 3.1)
5. Which Nigerian leader was known for using newspapers to mobilise nationalist support? (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain one difference between liberal and radical theories of decolonisation. (Linked to SLO 3.1)
7. Describe one contribution of educated elites to nationalist movements in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 3.2)
8. How did colonial authorities combine repression and negotiation in response to nationalist agitation? (Linked to SLO 3.3)
9. Identify one grassroots group that played a role in Nigeria's independence struggle. (Linked to SLO 3.2)
10. State one milestone in Nigeria's transition to independence. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the role of constitutional developments in Nigeria's path to independence. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
12. Evaluate the strategies of nationalist leaders and the impact of regional politics on Nigeria's independence. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective questions

1. Clifford Constitution of 1922.
2. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
3. Northern People's Congress (NPC).
4. Liberal approach.
5. Nnamdi Azikiwe.



Short-answer questions

6. Liberal theories emphasised gradual reforms and negotiation, while radical theories demanded immediate break from colonial rule.
7. Educated elites formed political parties, wrote newspapers, and articulated demands for self-rule.
8. Authorities suppressed protests through arrests and censorship but also engaged in dialogue with nationalist leaders.
9. Market women and trade unions.
10. Constitutional reforms leading to independence in 1960.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Constitutional developments such as the Clifford, Richards, Macpherson, and Lyttleton constitutions gradually expanded Nigerian participation in governance, paving the way for independence.

Value-added response: These reforms not only introduced elective representation but also created regional governments and legislative assemblies. While they were designed to maintain colonial control, they provided Nigerians with administrative experience and strengthened nationalist demands for full sovereignty.

12. *Basic response:* Nationalist leaders like Azikiwe, Awolowo, and Bello used political parties and advocacy to push for independence, while regional politics shaped negotiations.

Value-added response: Their strategies combined mass mobilisation, press campaigns, and constitutional negotiation. Regional politics, however, complicated unity as ethnic and regional interests influenced party dominance. Despite these challenges, the leaders managed to secure independence in 1960, though the legacy of regional divisions continued to affect Nigeria's post-independence politics.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 3.1: Theories of Decolonization

1. Gradual transfer of power through reforms and negotiation.
2. Colonialism was exploitative.
3. Nnamdi Azikiwe.
4. Cultural and psychological.
5. Liberal and gradualist approach.

Part 3.2: Rise of Nationalist Movements

1. Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP).
2. By forming political parties, writing newspapers, and articulating demands for self-rule.
3. Nnamdi Azikiwe.
4. It ensured independence was a popular demand, not just an elite project.
5. Market women.



Part 3.3: Colonial Responses and Reforms

1. Clifford Constitution of 1922.
2. By suppressing protests through arrests and censorship while also engaging in dialogue.
3. Richards Constitution (1946) and Macpherson Constitution (1951).
4. To prepare Nigerians for independence by granting increasing autonomy.
5. They gave Nigerians administrative experience and strengthened nationalist demands.

Part 3.4: The Struggle for Independence

1. Nnamdi Azikiwe and Obafemi Awolowo.
2. NPC in the North, AG in the West, NCNC in the East.
3. Regional interests complicated consensus-building and negotiations.
4. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
5. 1 October 1960.

References and Attributions

• Figures and Plates

- Figure 3.1 Liberal and gradualist approach to decolonisation: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing stages of constitutional reforms leading to independence in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria constitutional reforms colonial gradualism OER diagram.”
- Plate 3.2 Radical nationalist protest in Africa: AI prompt “Illustrate African nationalist protest against colonial rule with banners and crowds.” Search string: “African nationalist protest colonial rule OER image.”
- Box 3.3 Selected African intellectual contributions to decolonisation: AI prompt “Create a table listing African intellectuals and their contributions to decolonisation theories.” Search string: “African intellectual contributions decolonisation OER table.”
- Plate 3.4 Leaders of the Nigerian Youth Movement: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian Youth Movement leaders in the 1930s addressing a gathering.” Search string: “Nigerian Youth Movement leaders OER image.”
- Figure 3.5 Role of elites in nationalist movements: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing educated elites forming political parties and mobilising nationalist support in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria nationalist elites political parties OER diagram.”
- Box 3.6 Examples of grassroots mobilisation in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing grassroots groups in Nigeria and their contributions to nationalist movements.” Search string: “Nigeria grassroots mobilisation nationalist movements OER table.”
- Figure 3.7 Constitutional developments under colonial rule: AI prompt “Create a timeline diagram showing Clifford, Richards, Macpherson, and Lyttleton constitutions in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria colonial constitutions timeline OER diagram.”



- Plate 3.8 Negotiation between Nigerian leaders and colonial officials: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian nationalist leaders meeting colonial officials in a negotiation setting.” Search string: “Nigeria nationalist leaders colonial negotiation OER image.”
- Box 3.9 Pathways to self-government in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing pathways to self-government in Nigeria before independence.” Search string: “Nigeria pathways to self-government colonial OER table.”
- Plate 3.10 Nigerian nationalist leaders at a rally: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian nationalist leaders addressing a rally in the 1950s.” Search string: “Nigeria nationalist leaders independence rally OER image.”
- Figure 3.11 Regional politics and ethnic dynamics in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s three regions and their dominant political parties before independence.” Search string: “Nigeria regions political parties independence OER diagram.”
- Box 3.12 Milestones in Nigeria’s transition to independence: AI prompt “Create a table listing milestones in Nigeria’s transition to independence.” Search string: “Nigeria independence milestones OER table.”
- **General References**
 - Course content adapted from HIS 301: *Nigeria from 1900–1970* (Course outline and learning outcomes).
 - Supplementary context drawn from open educational resources (OERs) on African decolonisation and nationalist movements.
 - Historical background informed by standard Nigerian history texts and scholarly works on colonial and post-colonial studies.

Course Title: Nigeria from 1900 – 1970

Course Code: HIS 301

Course Units: 3 Units

- **Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria**
- **Colonial Infrastructure and Transformation of Pre-Colonial Regimes**
- **Decolonization Theories and the Struggle for Independence**
- **Post-Independence Governance and Political Collapse**
- **The Nigerian Civil War: Causes and Consequences**

Suggested Outline for Series 4: Post-Independence Governance And Political Collapse



- **Part 4.1: Foundations of Post-Independence Governance**
 - The First Republic and parliamentary system
 - Role of political parties and regionalism
 - Challenges of national integration
- **Part 4.2: Civil-Military Relations and Coups**
 - Causes of military intervention
 - The January and July 1966 coups
 - Consequences of military rule
- **Part 4.3: The Nigerian Civil War**
 - Origins and causes of the conflict
 - Key phases of the war
 - Humanitarian impact and aftermath
- **Part 4.4: Political Collapse and Legacy**
 - Breakdown of democratic institutions
 - Long-term effects on governance and national unity
 - Lessons for contemporary Nigeria

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the theories of decolonisation and the nationalist struggles that culminated in Nigeria's independence in 1960. Independence brought high hopes for unity, prosperity, and democratic governance. However, the post-independence period was marked by political instability, military interventions, and eventually civil war. This Series is important because it helps us understand how Nigeria's early governance structures collapsed and how those events continue to shape the country's political landscape today.

The aim of this Series is to examine Nigeria's post-independence governance, the causes and consequences of political collapse, and the lessons that can be drawn for contemporary governance and national unity.

We shall commence this Series by studying the foundations of post-independence governance, focusing on the First Republic, political parties, and challenges of national integration. Next, we will move on to civil-military relations and coups, analysing why the military intervened and the impact of the 1966 coups. Following that, we will examine the Nigerian Civil War, its origins, phases, and humanitarian consequences. Finally, we will conclude with the political collapse and its legacy, considering the breakdown of democratic institutions, long-term effects on governance, and lessons for Nigeria today.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** describe the foundations of post-independence governance in Nigeria, including the First Republic and parliamentary system,
- **SLO 4.2** explain the role of political parties and regionalism in shaping early governance,
- **SLO 4.3** analyse the causes of military intervention and the events of the January and July 1966 coups,
- **SLO 4.4** evaluate the consequences of military rule on Nigeria's political development,
- **SLO 4.5** outline the origins and causes of the Nigerian Civil War,
- **SLO 4.6** discuss the key phases of the Civil War and its humanitarian impact, and



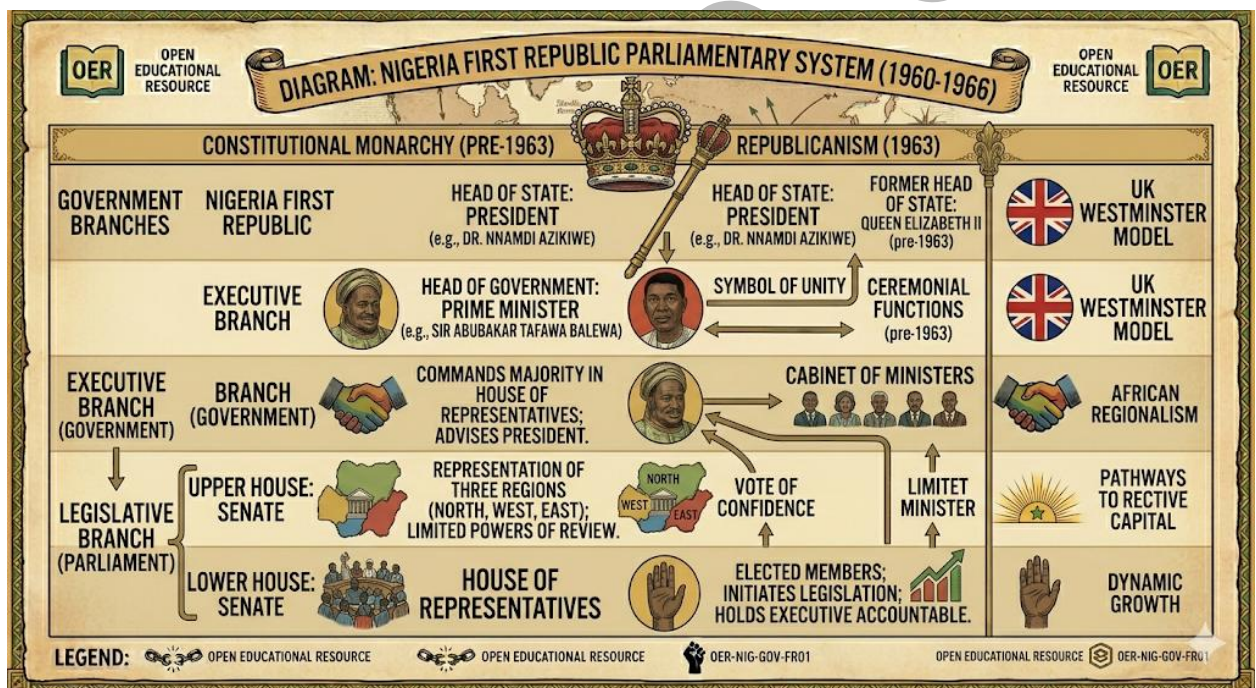
- **SLO 4.7** assess the breakdown of democratic institutions and the long-term legacy of political collapse for governance and national unity.

4.1 Foundations Of Post-Independence Governance

4.1.1 The First Republic and parliamentary system

The **First Republic** refers to Nigeria's system of government between 1960 and 1966, which adopted a **parliamentary system**. A parliamentary system is a form of governance where the executive authority is derived from the legislature, and the Prime Minister serves as head of government. In Nigeria, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa became the first Prime Minister, while Nnamdi Azikiwe served as ceremonial President. This arrangement reflected British influence and was intended to balance regional interests.

Fill in the blank: In the First Republic, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa served as _____ of Nigeria.



- Short description: Diagram showing Nigeria's parliamentary system structure during the First Republic.
- Caption: Figure 4.1 Structure of Nigeria's parliamentary system.

4.1.2 Role of political parties and regionalism

Political parties are organised groups that seek to gain power through elections and represent specific interests. In Nigeria's First Republic, parties were strongly tied to regions and ethnic groups. The Northern People's Congress (NPC) dominated the North, the Action Group (AG) was strong in the West, and the National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons (NCNC) held influence in the East. This **regionalism**, defined as political organisation based on geographical and ethnic divisions, created competition and tension among regions, making national unity difficult.



Fill in the blank: The Action Group (AG) was the dominant political party in the _____ region.

[Insert plate placeholder here]

- Short description: Image of Nigerian political party leaders during the First Republic.
- Caption: Plate 4.2 Leaders of Nigeria's First Republic political parties.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian political party leaders of the First Republic in a meeting or rally."
- Search string: "Nigeria First Republic political party leaders OER image"

4.1.3 Challenges of national integration

National integration refers to the process of uniting diverse ethnic, cultural, and regional groups into a cohesive nation. Nigeria faced significant challenges in this regard after independence. Ethnic rivalries, uneven development, and competition for resources weakened trust among regions. Political parties often prioritised regional interests over national unity, leading to instability. These challenges laid the groundwork for future political crises.

Fill in the blank: National integration in Nigeria was hindered by ethnic rivalries and competition for _____.

TABLE OF CHALLENGES: NATIONAL INTEGRATION IN NIGERIA AFTER INDEPENDENCE			
CHALLENGE	KEY CONTRIBUTING FACTORS	RELEVANCE & IMPACT	CONTEXT & EXAMPLES
ETHNO-RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS NORTH WEST EAST DEEP ETHNIC IDENTITIES; RELIGIOUS TENSIONS	INDIRECT RULE LEGACY REGIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES (e.g. SIR NNAMDI AZIKIWE)	COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL POWER INTER-ETHNIC CONFLICTS REVERSED	FIRST REPUBLIC REGIONALISM MILITARY RULE DISSOLUTION OF REGIONS
UNEVEN DEVELOPMENT ACROSS THE THREE REGIONS	LYTTLETON CONSTITUTION 1954: CENTRALIZATION vs. DECENTRALIZATION	ECONOMIC DISPARITIES POLITICAL INSTABILITY	DISPUTES OVER STATE FORMATION
POLITICAL INSTABILITY & CORRUPTION UNSTABLE CIVILIAN RULE INABILITY TO HOLD EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE; CORRUPT PRACTICES	MILITARY INTERVENTION INABILITY TO HOLD EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTABLE; CORRUPT PRACTICES LIMITED DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES	LACK OF NATIONAL COHESION POOR GOVERNANCE	BIAFRA CIVIL WAR SECOND, THIRD REPUBLIC FAILURES

Caption: Box 4.3 Challenges of national integration in Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing factors such as ethnic rivalries, uneven development, and regional competition.

Pilot questions 4.1



1. Who served as Nigeria's first Prime Minister in the First Republic?
2. Which political party dominated the Northern region during the First Republic?
3. What does regionalism mean in the context of Nigerian politics?
4. Name one challenge Nigeria faced in achieving national integration after independence.
5. How did political parties contribute to instability in the First Republic?

4.2 Civil-Military Relations And Coups

4.2.1 Causes of military intervention

Military intervention refers to the direct involvement of the armed forces in political governance, usually through a coup. In Nigeria, several factors contributed to military intervention after independence. These included corruption, electoral malpractice, ethnic tensions, and weak democratic institutions. The military presented itself as a corrective force, claiming to restore order and discipline where civilian governments had failed.

Fill in the blank: Military intervention in Nigeria was often justified as a response to corruption and _____ malpractice.

[Insert figure placeholder here]

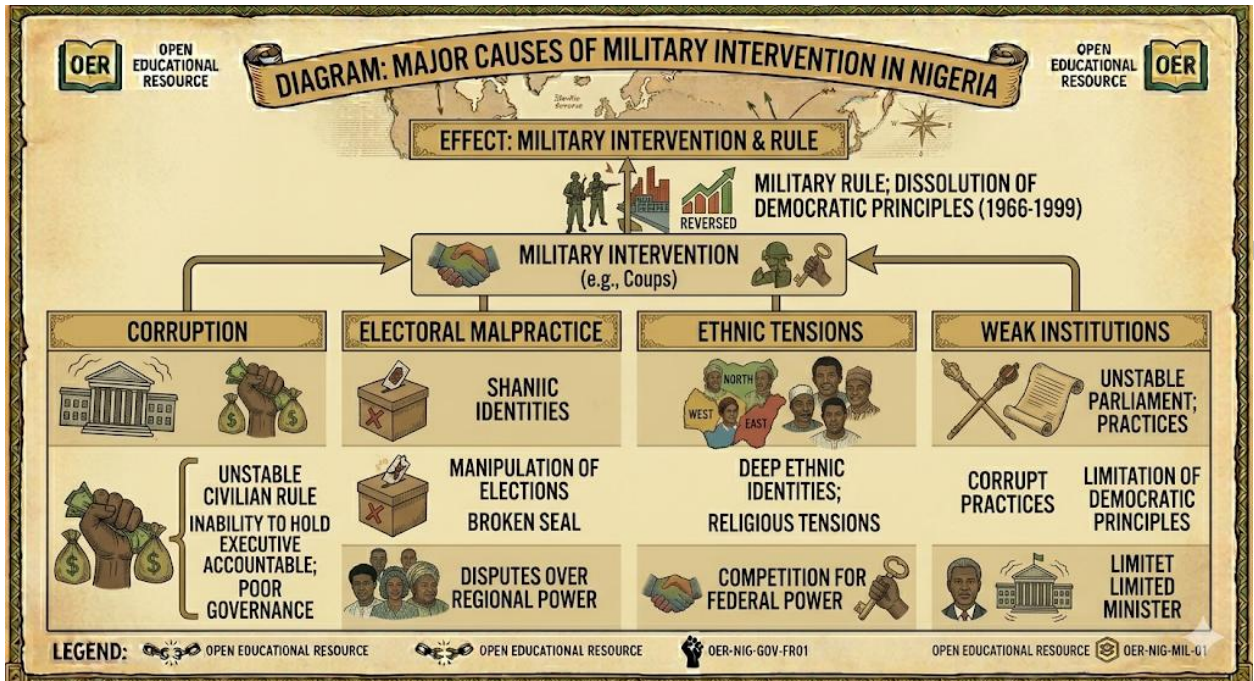
- Short description: Diagram showing causes of military intervention in Nigeria.
- Caption: Figure 4.4 Causes of military intervention.

4.2.2 The January and July 1966 coups

A **coup** is the sudden and illegal overthrow of a government by a small group, often the military. Nigeria experienced two major coups in 1966. The January coup, led by young officers, was motivated by frustration with corruption and political instability. It resulted in the assassination of key political leaders. The July coup followed soon after, driven by ethnic tensions and resentment against perceived domination by certain groups. Together, these coups marked the collapse of the First Republic and ushered in military rule.

Fill in the blank: The January 1966 coup was carried out by young _____ officers frustrated with corruption.





- Short description: Image of Nigerian soldiers during the 1966 coup period.
- Caption: Plate 4.5 Nigerian soldiers during the 1966 coups.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian soldiers in 1966 during coup operations."
- Search string: "Nigeria 1966 coup soldiers OER image"

4.2.3 Consequences of military rule

Military rule refers to governance controlled by the armed forces rather than elected civilian leaders. In Nigeria, military rule brought both immediate stability and long-term challenges. While coups temporarily halted political crises, they weakened democratic institutions, centralised power, and often suppressed civil liberties. The repeated interventions created a cycle of instability, making it difficult for Nigeria to establish lasting democratic governance.

Fill in the blank: Military rule in Nigeria weakened democratic institutions and suppressed _____ liberties.



TABLE OF CONSEQUENCES: MILITARY RULE IN NIGERIA			
CONSEQUENCE	KEY EXAMPLES & MECHANISMS		CONTEXT & ERA
 DISSOLUTION OF DEMOCRACY DISSOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES (1966-1999) (REVERSING <IMAGE 0>)	 COUPS & TAKEOVERS	 SUPPRESSION OF PARTIES	 WEAK PARLIAMENT
 HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & SUPPRESSION VIOLATION OF BASIC LIBERTIES POLITICAL PERSECUTION EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS	 ACTIVISTS & JOURNALISTS ARRESTED	 DECREEES & DECREEES	 USE OF FORCE
 ECONOMIC INSTABILITY & CORRUPTION MALADMINISTRATION; INCREASED CORRUPTION	 CENTRALIZED OIL RESOURCES	 INFLATION & DEBT	 NEPOTISM, EIL LIZKEWE, LIMITED LIMITED MINISTER
 LEGITIMACY ISSUES & ISOLATION INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNATION; LOSS OF GLOBAL INFLUENCE; DIFFICULTY IN RE-ESTABLISHING CIVILIAN RULE	 ECCATIVE RRTIESITION;	 SANCTIONS & BOYCOTTS	 LIMITED RECOGNITION
			 TRANSITION PROGRAMS
			 MARGINALIZATION
			 STRUGGLE FOR RE-DEMOCRATIZATION
			 CLIMATE OF FEAR
			 EROSION OF CIVIL SOCIETY
			 STAGNANT GROWTH
			 POVERTY & UNEMPLOYMENT
			 STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM
			 SAP
			 POST-ABACHA DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION
			 MILITARY RULE (1966-1979, 1983-1999)
			 ALL MILITARY ERAS, E.G., BABANGIDA, ABACHA

Caption: Box 4.6 Consequences of military rule in Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing consequences such as weakened democracy, centralised power, and suppression of civil liberties.

Pilot questions 4.2

1. What were some of the main causes of military intervention in Nigeria after independence?
2. What is a coup, and when did Nigeria experience two major coups?
3. Who carried out the January 1966 coup?
4. What motivated the July 1966 coup?
5. Name one consequence of military rule in Nigeria.

4.3 The Nigerian Civil War

4.3.1 Origins and causes of the conflict

The **Nigerian Civil War**, also known as the Biafran War, was fought between 1967 and 1970. Its origins lay in deep political, ethnic, and economic divisions. The January and July 1966 coups created mistrust among ethnic groups, particularly between the Igbo and the Northern Hausa-Fulani. The declaration of the Republic of Biafra by Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu in May 1967 was a direct response to perceived marginalisation and violence against the Igbo people. Economic factors, including disputes over control of oil resources, further intensified the conflict.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian Civil War began after the declaration of the Republic of _____ in 1967.

[Insert figure placeholder here]

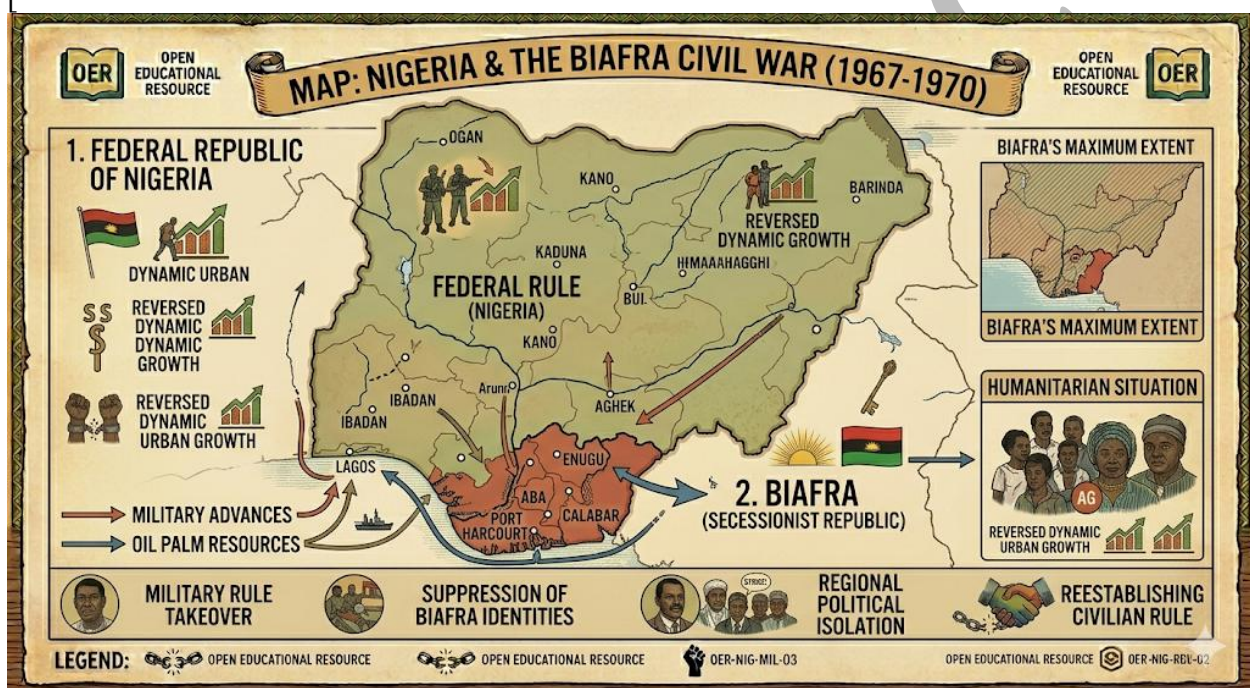


- Short description: Map showing Nigeria and the secessionist Republic of Biafra.
- Caption: Figure 4.7 Map of Nigeria and Biafra during the Civil War.

4.3.2 Key phases of the war

The war unfolded in several phases. Initially, Biafran forces achieved early successes, capturing territory and rallying support. However, the federal government launched counter-offensives, gradually regaining control. The conflict escalated into a prolonged struggle marked by blockades, sieges, and heavy fighting. By 1970, Biafra was militarily defeated, and the secession ended.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian Civil War ended in January _____ when Biafra surrendered.



- Short description: Image of Nigerian soldiers during the Civil War.
- Caption: Plate 4.8 Nigerian soldiers advancing during the Civil War.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian soldiers advancing during the Civil War in the late 1960s."
- Search string: "Nigeria Civil War soldiers OER image"

4.3.3 Humanitarian impact and aftermath

The war had devastating humanitarian consequences. The federal blockade of Biafra led to widespread famine, with millions suffering from starvation. International humanitarian organisations attempted relief efforts, but the crisis highlighted the vulnerability of civilians in wartime. After the war, the federal government adopted a policy of "No victor, no vanquished," aiming to promote reconciliation. However, the legacy of the conflict continued to affect Nigeria's politics, economy, and ethnic relations.



Fill in the blank: The federal government's reconciliation policy after the Civil War was described as "No victor, no _____."

TABLE OF HUMANITARIAN IMPACTS: NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (1967-1970) & RECONCILIATION POLICIES			
WAR & SECESSION	HUMANITARIAN IMPACT	RECONCILIATION POLICIES	OUTCOME & RELEVANCE
 DISSOLUTION OF BIAFRA & MILITARY RULE	 BIAFRA'S MAXIMUM EXTENT; UNSTABLE PARLIAMENT; CORRUPT PRACTICES	 MILITARY INTERVENTION & RULE; HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES (<IMAGE 2> style)	 ISOLATION; DISPLACED POPULATIONS
 FEDERAL BLOCKADE & ADVANCES	 FEDERAL RULE; DISPUTES OVER REGIONAL POWER (reversing <IMAGE 3> and <IMAGE 0>)	 BIAFRA CIVIL WAR; FEDERAL BLOCKADE (naval and land lines)	 STARVATION; MALNUTRITION
 INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT	 REESTABLISHING CIVILIAN RULE (<IMAGE 4> style)	 ETHNIC TENSIONS; DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS	 INCREASED MIGRATION; LOSS OF COHESION
 RECONCILIATION & INTEGRATION	NO VICTOR, NO VANQUISHED THREE R'S: RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION	NATIONAL COHESION; RE-DEMOCRATIZATION	
	 RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION		 POST-WAR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

LEGEND:  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-MIL-01  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-RDE-04

Caption: Box 4.9 Humanitarian impact of the Nigerian Civil War

- Short description: Table listing famine, displacement, relief efforts, and reconciliation policies.
- War humanitarian impact OER tablePilot questions 4.3

1. What event triggered the Nigerian Civil War in 1967?
2. Who declared the Republic of Biafra?
3. What were the key phases of the Civil War?
4. What humanitarian crisis was caused by the federal blockade of Biafra?
5. What reconciliation policy did the federal government adopt after the war?

4.4 Political Collapse And Legacy

4.4.1 Breakdown of democratic institutions

Democratic institutions are structures such as legislatures, courts, and political parties that uphold democratic governance. In Nigeria, these institutions weakened rapidly after independence due to corruption, electoral malpractice, and ethnic rivalries. The repeated military coups further eroded confidence in democratic processes, leaving fragile institutions unable to withstand political crises. This breakdown created a cycle of instability that hindered Nigeria's democratic consolidation.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's democratic institutions weakened after independence due to corruption, electoral malpractice, and _____ rivalries.

[Insert figure placeholder here]

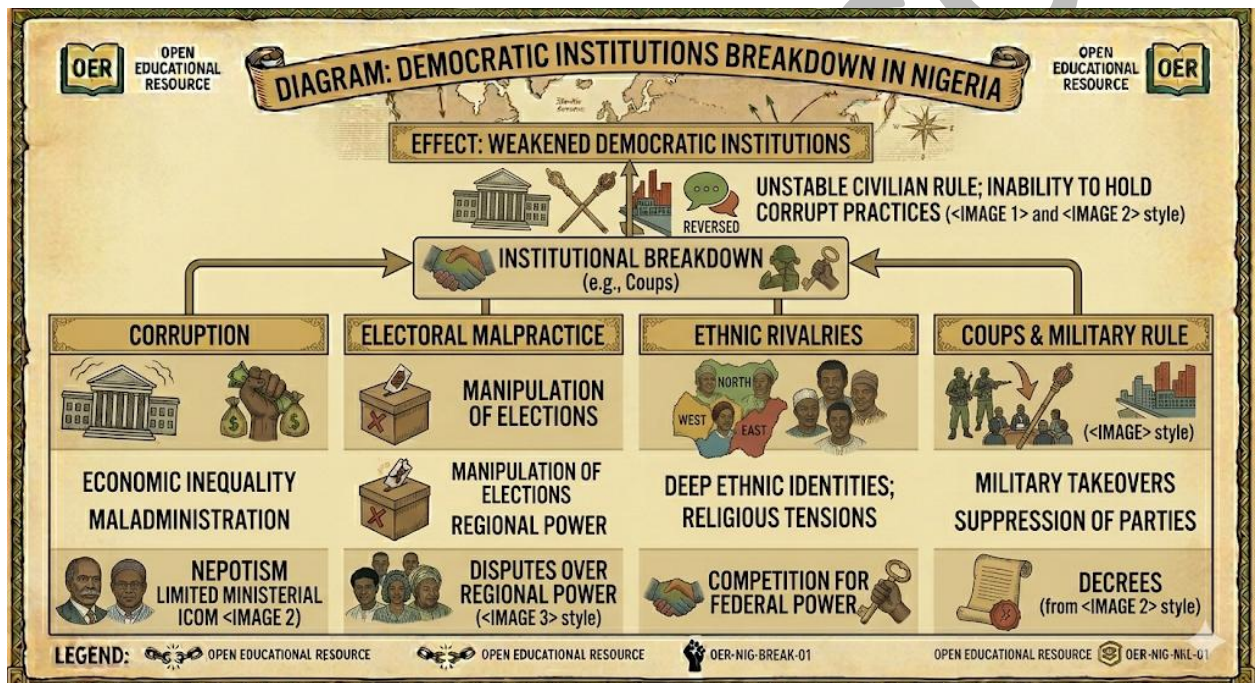


- Short description: Diagram showing the breakdown of democratic institutions in Nigeria.
- Caption: Figure 4.10 Breakdown of democratic institutions in Nigeria.

4.4.2 Long-term effects on governance and national unity

The collapse of democratic institutions had long-term effects on Nigeria's governance and national unity. Military rule centralised power, weakened accountability, and suppressed civil liberties. Ethnic divisions deepened, making it difficult to build trust across regions. These legacies continued to affect Nigeria even after the return to civilian rule, as governance challenges and regional tensions persisted.

Fill in the blank: Military rule centralised power and suppressed _____ liberties in Nigeria.



- Short description: Image of Nigerian military leaders during governance.
- Caption: Plate 4.11 Nigerian military leaders during governance.
- AI prompt suggestion: "Illustrate Nigerian military leaders in governance after coups."
- Search string: "Nigeria military leaders governance OER image"

4.4.3 Lessons for contemporary Nigeria

The experience of political collapse offers important lessons for contemporary Nigeria. Strong democratic institutions, respect for rule of law, and inclusive governance are essential for stability. Addressing ethnic divisions and promoting national integration remain critical tasks. By learning from the past, Nigeria can strengthen its democracy and avoid repeating cycles of instability.

Fill in the blank: Strong democratic institutions and respect for _____ are essential for Nigeria's stability today.



TABLE OF LESSONS: STRENGTHENING NIGERIA'S DEMOCRACY AFTER POLITICAL COLLAPSE			
LESSON FROM COLLAPSE	MECHANISMS FOR CHANGE	RELEVANCE & IMPACT	CONTEXT & ERA
 DISSOLUTION OF BIAFRA & MILITARY RULE BIAFRA'S MAXIMUM EXTENT UNSTABLE PARLIAMENT (<IMAGE 2> and <IMAGE 1> style)	 RECONCILIATION POLICIES THREE R'S: RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, REINTEGRATION  HUMANITARIAN ACTION (<IMAGE 3> style)	 REGIONAL COHESION LOSS OF COHESION 	 MILITARY INTERVENTION & RULE: HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES (<IMAGE 4> style)
 CORRUPTION & ELECTORAL MALPRACTICE ECONOMIC INEQUALITY MALADMINISTRATION MANIPULATION OF ELECTIONS DISPUTES OVER REGIONAL POWER	 STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS REBUILDING PARLIAMENT BUILDING WITH FULL SCEPTER PALLIAMENT AND SCROLL  INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY (<IMAGE 2> style)	 NATIONAL STABILITY INSTITUTIONAL BREAKDOWN REVERSED PARLIAMENT BUILDING WITH EMPPTER (<IMAGE 2> and <IMAGE 4> style)	 ALL MILITARY ERAS, E.G., ABACHA (<IMAGE 4> style)
 ETHNIC RIVALRIES & REGIONALISM DEEP ETHNIC IDENTITIES; RELIGIOUS TENSIONS; COMPETITION FOR FEDERAL POWER	 INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE UNIFIED BALLOT  FEDERAL CHARACTER PRINCIPLE (<IMAGE 2> style)	 NATIONAL INTEGRATION LACK OF NATIONAL COHESION (<IMAGE 2> style)	 FIRST REPUBLIC REGIONALISM DISSOLUTION OF REGIONS (<IMAGE 6> style)
LEGEND:  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-BQEAQ-02  OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE  OER-NIG-REL-01			

Caption: Box 4.12 Lessons for contemporary Nigeria

- Short description: Table listing lessons such as strengthening institutions, respecting rule of law, and promoting national integration.

Pilot questions 4.4

1. What factors contributed to the breakdown of democratic institutions in Nigeria after independence?
2. How did military rule affect governance and civil liberties?
3. What long-term effects did political collapse have on national unity?
4. What lessons can contemporary Nigeria learn from the collapse of democratic institutions?
5. Why is respect for the rule of law important for Nigeria's stability today?

Series summary

This Series has explored Nigeria's post-independence governance and the political collapse that followed. Starting with the foundations of the First Republic, we examined the parliamentary system, the role of political parties, and the challenges of national integration. We then moved on to civil-military relations, analysing the causes of military intervention and the impact of the 1966 coups. Following that, we studied the Nigerian Civil War, tracing its origins, phases, and humanitarian consequences. Finally, we considered the breakdown of democratic institutions, the long-term effects of military rule, and the lessons that can be drawn for contemporary Nigeria.

In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe the foundations of post-independence governance, explain the role of political parties and regionalism, analyse the causes and consequences of military intervention, outline the origins and phases of the Civil War, and assess the legacy of political collapse for Nigeria's governance and unity. These



outcomes equip you with the knowledge to critically evaluate Nigeria's early post-independence experience and connect it to ongoing challenges in democratic development.

Glossary of terms

- **Civil-military relations:** The interaction between the armed forces and civilian authorities in governance, often shaping political stability.
- **Coup:** The sudden and illegal overthrow of a government by a small group, usually the military.
- **Democratic institutions:** Structures such as legislatures, courts, and political parties that uphold democratic governance and accountability.
- **First Republic:** Nigeria's system of government between 1960 and 1966, based on a parliamentary model with a Prime Minister and ceremonial President.
- **Military intervention:** The direct involvement of the armed forces in political governance, often justified as a corrective measure against corruption or instability.
- **Military rule:** Governance controlled by the armed forces rather than elected civilian leaders, typically following a coup.
- **National integration:** The process of uniting diverse ethnic, cultural, and regional groups into a cohesive nation.
- **Parliamentary system:** A system of governance where executive authority is derived from the legislature, with a Prime Minister as head of government.
- **Political parties:** Organised groups that seek to gain power through elections and represent specific regional or ethnic interests.
- **Regionalism:** Political organisation and competition based on geographical and ethnic divisions, often leading to tension among regions.
- **Republic of Biafra:** The secessionist state declared in 1967 by Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu, which triggered the Nigerian Civil War.
- **Rule of law:** The principle that all individuals and institutions are subject to and accountable under the law.

Concept check questions

Objective questions

1. Who served as Nigeria's first Prime Minister in the First Republic? (Linked to SLO 4.1)
2. Which political party dominated the Northern region during the First Republic? (Linked to SLO 4.2)
3. What is a coup? (Linked to SLO 4.3)
4. In which year did the Nigerian Civil War begin? (Linked to SLO 4.5)



5. What reconciliation policy did the federal government adopt after the Civil War? (Linked to SLO 4.6)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain one challenge Nigeria faced in achieving national integration after independence. (Linked to SLO 4.2)
7. Describe one cause of military intervention in Nigeria's politics. (Linked to SLO 4.3)
8. Outline one humanitarian impact of the Nigerian Civil War. (Linked to SLO 4.6)
9. State one long-term effect of military rule on Nigeria's governance. (Linked to SLO 4.7)
10. Identify one lesson contemporary Nigeria can learn from the collapse of democratic institutions. (Linked to SLO 4.7)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the role of political parties and regionalism in shaping Nigeria's First Republic. (Linked to SLO 4.2)
12. Evaluate the consequences of military rule and the legacy of political collapse for Nigeria's governance and national unity. (Linked to SLO 4.7)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective questions

1. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
2. Northern People's Congress (NPC).
3. The sudden and illegal overthrow of a government by a small group, usually the military.
4. 1967.
5. "No victor, no vanquished."

Short-answer questions

6. Ethnic rivalries and competition for resources made national integration difficult.
7. Electoral malpractice and corruption were major causes of military intervention.
8. Widespread famine due to the federal blockade of Biafra.
9. Military rule weakened democratic institutions and suppressed civil liberties.
10. The importance of strengthening democratic institutions and respecting the rule of law.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* Political parties in the First Republic were regionally based, with NPC in the North, AG in the West, and NCNC in the East. This regionalism created competition and tension, weakening national unity.

Value-added response: Beyond regional dominance, these parties often prioritised ethnic



interests over national goals. This fostered mistrust and instability, undermining the parliamentary system and contributing to the eventual collapse of the First Republic.

12. *Basic response:* Military rule centralised power, weakened democracy, and suppressed civil liberties, leaving a legacy of instability.

Value-added response: The repeated coups entrenched authoritarian governance and deepened ethnic divisions. Even after the return to civilian rule, Nigeria continued to struggle with weak institutions, corruption, and regional tensions. The legacy of political collapse highlights the need for inclusive governance, strong institutions, and respect for the rule of law in contemporary Nigeria.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 4.1: Foundations of Post-Independence Governance

1. Abubakar Tafawa Balewa.
2. Northern People's Congress (NPC).
3. Regionalism means political organisation based on geographical and ethnic divisions.
4. Ethnic rivalries and competition for resources.
5. They prioritised regional interests over national unity, creating instability.

Part 4.2: Civil-Military Relations and Coups

1. Corruption, electoral malpractice, ethnic tensions, and weak institutions.
2. A sudden and illegal overthrow of government by the military.
3. Young military officers.
4. Ethnic tensions and resentment against perceived domination.
5. Weakened democracy and suppression of civil liberties.

Part 4.3: The Nigerian Civil War

1. The declaration of the Republic of Biafra.
2. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu.
3. Early Biafran successes, federal counter-offensives, prolonged fighting, and eventual surrender.
4. Widespread famine due to the blockade.
5. "No victor, no vanquished."

Part 4.4: Political Collapse and Legacy

1. Corruption, electoral malpractice, and ethnic rivalries.
2. It centralised power and suppressed civil liberties.
3. Deepened ethnic divisions and weakened governance.
4. The importance of strong institutions, respect for rule of law, and inclusive governance.
5. It ensures accountability and stability.

References and Attributions



- **Figures and Plates**

- Figure 4.1 Structure of Nigeria’s parliamentary system: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s parliamentary system with Prime Minister, President, and legislature during the First Republic.” Search string: “Nigeria First Republic parliamentary system OER diagram.”
- Plate 4.2 Leaders of Nigeria’s First Republic political parties: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian political party leaders of the First Republic in a meeting or rally.” Search string: “Nigeria First Republic political party leaders OER image.”
- Box 4.3 Challenges of national integration in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing challenges of national integration in Nigeria after independence.” Search string: “Nigeria national integration challenges OER table.”
- Figure 4.4 Causes of military intervention: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing corruption, electoral malpractice, ethnic tensions, and weak institutions as causes of military intervention in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria military intervention causes OER diagram.”
- Plate 4.5 Nigerian soldiers during the 1966 coups: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian soldiers in 1966 during coup operations.” Search string: “Nigeria 1966 coup soldiers OER image.”
- Box 4.6 Consequences of military rule in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing consequences of military rule in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria military rule consequences OER table.”
- Figure 4.7 Map of Nigeria and Biafra during the Civil War: AI prompt “Create a map showing Nigeria and the secessionist Republic of Biafra during the Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Biafra Civil War map OER.”
- Plate 4.8 Nigerian soldiers advancing during the Civil War: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian soldiers advancing during the Civil War in the late 1960s.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War soldiers OER image.”
- Box 4.9 Humanitarian impact of the Nigerian Civil War: AI prompt “Create a table listing humanitarian impacts of the Nigerian Civil War and reconciliation policies.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War humanitarian impact OER table.”
- Figure 4.10 Breakdown of democratic institutions in Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing corruption, electoral malpractice, ethnic rivalries, and coups weakening democratic institutions in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria democratic institutions breakdown OER diagram.”
- Plate 4.11 Nigerian military leaders during governance: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian military leaders in governance after coups.” Search string: “Nigeria military leaders governance OER image.”
- Box 4.12 Lessons for contemporary Nigeria: AI prompt “Create a table listing lessons Nigeria can learn from political collapse to strengthen democracy.” Search string: “Nigeria democracy lessons political collapse OER table.”

- **General References**

- Course content adapted from HIS 301: *Nigeria from 1900–1970* (Course outline and learning outcomes).
- Supplementary context drawn from open educational resources (OERs) on African post-independence governance, civil-military relations, and the Nigerian Civil War.



- Historical background informed by standard Nigerian history texts and scholarly works on colonial and post-colonial studies.

Course Title: Nigeria from 1900 – 1970

Course Code: HIS 301

Course Units: 3 Units

- **Colonial Conquest and Power Structures in Nigeria**
- **Colonial Infrastructure and Transformation of Pre-Colonial Regimes**
- **Decolonization Theories and the Struggle for Independence**
- **Post-Independence Governance and Political Collapse**
- **The Nigerian Civil War: Causes and Consequences**

Suggested Outline for Series 5: The Nigerian Civil War: Causes And Consequences

- **Part 5.1: Background to the Civil War**
 - Political tensions after independence
 - Ethnic divisions and regional rivalries
 - Economic factors and resource control
- **Part 5.2: Outbreak of the War**
 - The secession of Biafra
 - Early military campaigns
 - International reactions
- **Part 5.3: Humanitarian Dimensions**
 - Famine and displacement
 - Relief efforts and international aid
 - Civilian experiences
- **Part 5.4: Consequences of the War**
 - Political consequences and reconciliation
 - Economic impact and reconstruction
 - Social and cultural legacies

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined Nigeria's post-independence governance and the political collapse that followed, including the coups of 1966 and the outbreak of civil war. This Series takes us deeper into one of the most defining events in Nigeria's history: the Nigerian Civil War. Understanding its causes and consequences is crucial, as the war not only shaped the country's political trajectory but also left lasting social, economic, and cultural legacies that continue to influence Nigeria today.



The aim of this Series is to analyse the origins, outbreak, humanitarian dimensions, and consequences of the Nigerian Civil War, equipping you with the knowledge to evaluate both its immediate impact and its long-term significance for Nigeria's development and unity.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the background to the Civil War, focusing on political tensions, ethnic divisions, and economic factors. Next, we will examine the outbreak of the war, including the secession of Biafra, early military campaigns, and international reactions. Following that, we will consider the humanitarian dimensions, such as famine, displacement, and relief efforts. Finally, we will conclude with the consequences of the war, looking at political reconciliation, economic reconstruction, and the social and cultural legacies that continue to shape Nigeria today.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** describe the political tensions, ethnic divisions, and economic factors that formed the background to the Nigerian Civil War,
- **SLO 5.2** explain the secession of Biafra and outline the early military campaigns and international reactions,
- **SLO 5.3** analyse the humanitarian dimensions of the war, including famine, displacement, and relief efforts,
- **SLO 5.4** evaluate the political consequences of the war and the reconciliation policies adopted afterwards,
- **SLO 5.5** assess the economic impact of the war and the challenges of reconstruction, and
- **SLO 5.6** discuss the social and cultural legacies of the Civil War for contemporary Nigeria.

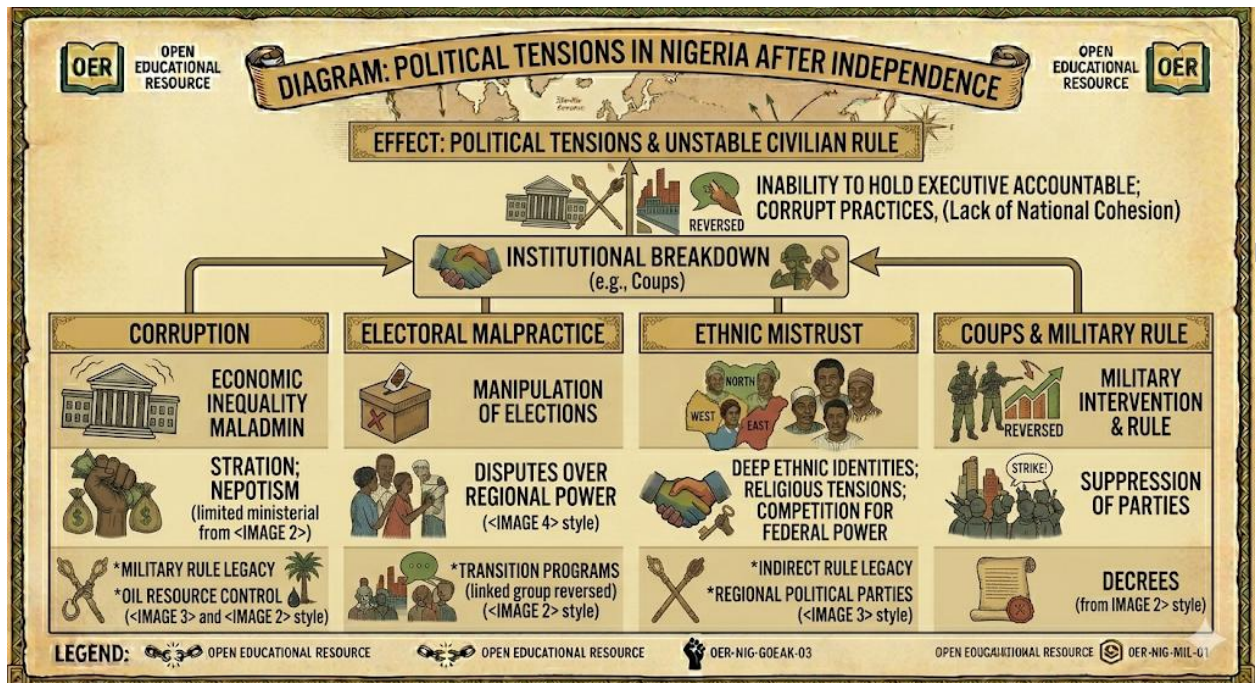
5.1 Background To The Civil War

5.1.1 Political tensions after independence

Political tensions refer to conflicts and disagreements among leaders and institutions that undermine stability. After independence, Nigeria faced significant political tensions due to corruption, electoral malpractice, and the collapse of trust between regions. The coups of 1966 deepened these tensions, as leaders from different ethnic groups felt marginalised or targeted. These unresolved disputes created fertile ground for conflict.

Fill in the blank: Political tensions in Nigeria after independence were worsened by corruption and _____ malpractice.





Short description: Diagram showing political tensions in Nigeria after independence.

- Caption: Figure 5.1 Political tensions after independence.

5.1.2 Ethnic divisions and regional rivalries

Ethnic divisions are social and political separations based on ethnic identity. In Nigeria, three dominant groups—the Hausa-Fulani in the North, the Yoruba in the West, and the Igbo in the East—competed for political power. These divisions were reinforced by **regional rivalries**, defined as competition between geographical areas for dominance and resources. The massacres of Igbo people in the North in 1966 intensified mistrust and pushed the Eastern region towards secession.

Fill in the blank: The three dominant ethnic groups in Nigeria were Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and _____.





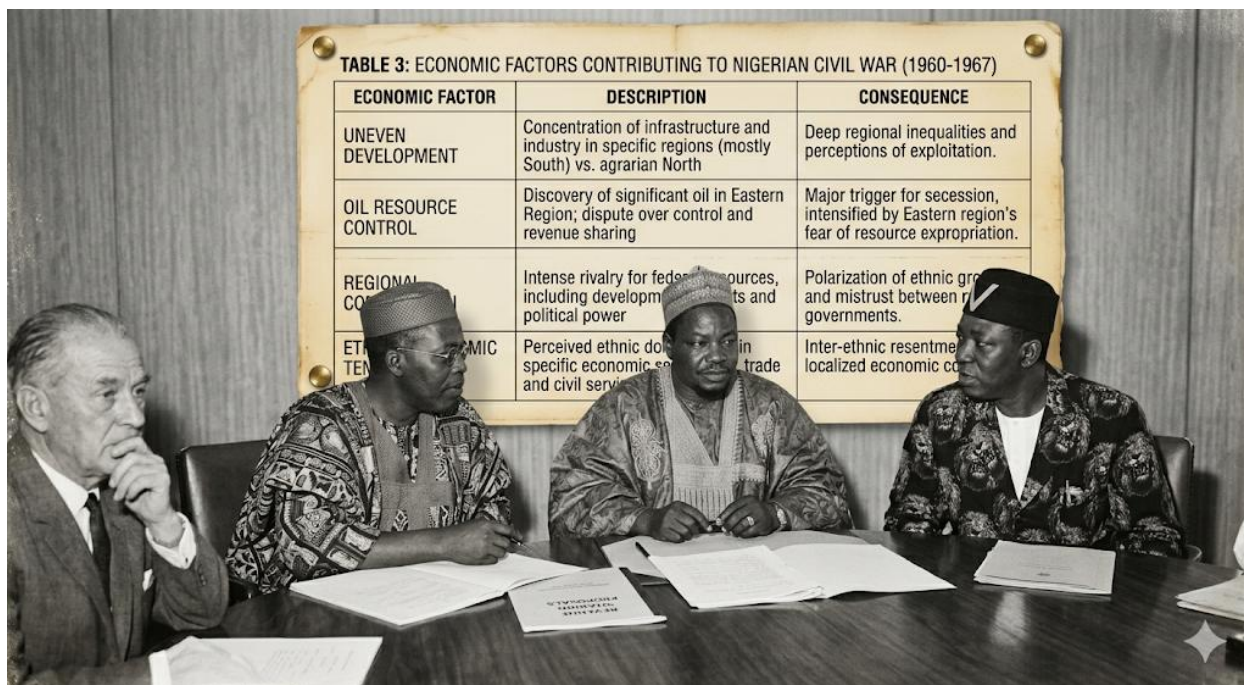
- Short description: Image of Nigerian ethnic leaders in the 1960s.
- Caption: Plate 5.2 Ethnic leaders in Nigeria during the 1960s.

5.1.3 Economic factors and resource control

Economic factors such as uneven development and competition for resources contributed to instability. Control of oil reserves in the Niger Delta became a major issue, as regions sought to secure economic advantage. The Eastern region, rich in oil, feared exploitation and marginalisation by the federal government. This struggle over **resource control**, defined as the authority to manage and benefit from natural resources, was a key driver of secessionist sentiment.

Fill in the blank: The Eastern region feared marginalisation over the control of _____ reserves.





Caption: Box 5.3 Economic factors contributing to the Civil War

- Short description: Table listing uneven development, oil resource control, and regional economic competition.

Pilot questions 5.1

1. What were the main political tensions in Nigeria after independence?
2. Name the three dominant ethnic groups in Nigeria during the 1960s.
3. What event intensified mistrust between the North and the East in 1966?
4. Why was control of oil resources a major issue for the Eastern region?
5. Define resource control in the context of Nigeria's Civil War.

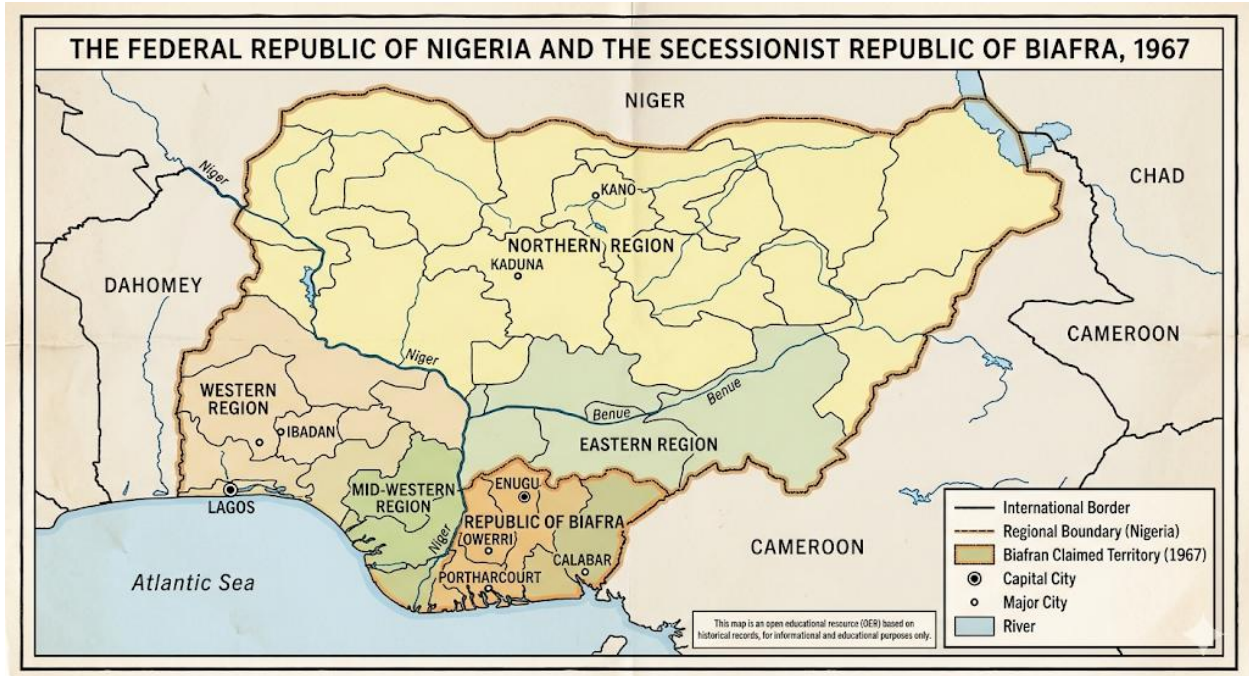
5.2 Outbreak Of The War

5.2.1 The secession of Biafra

Secession refers to the formal withdrawal of a region from a state to form its own independent government. In May 1967, Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu declared the independence of the Eastern Region as the **Republic of Biafra**, citing ethnic violence against the Igbo and fears of marginalisation. This act was the immediate trigger of the Nigerian Civil War, as the federal government rejected the secession and mobilised forces to preserve national unity.

Fill in the blank: Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu declared the independence of the Eastern Region as the Republic of _____.





- Short description: Map showing Nigeria and the secessionist Republic of Biafra in 1967.
- Caption: Figure 5.4 Map of Nigeria and Biafra at the outbreak of war.

5.2.2 Early military campaigns

Military campaigns are organised operations carried out by armed forces during a conflict. At the start of the war, Biafran forces achieved some early successes, capturing territory and rallying support. However, the federal government launched counter-offensives, determined to suppress the secession. These campaigns quickly escalated into full-scale war, with both sides suffering heavy casualties.

Fill in the blank: Early in the war, Biafran forces captured territory before the federal government launched _____.





- Short description: Image of Nigerian and Biafran soldiers during early campaigns.
- Caption: Plate 5.5 Nigerian and Biafran soldiers in early campaigns.

5.2.3 International reactions

International reactions refer to the responses of foreign governments and organisations to a conflict. The Nigerian Civil War attracted global attention, with some countries supporting the federal government while others sympathised with Biafra. Relief organisations attempted to provide humanitarian aid, and the war became a subject of international debate about sovereignty, human rights, and intervention.

Fill in the blank: International reactions to the Nigerian Civil War included humanitarian aid and debates about _____ rights.



INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS TO THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (1967-1970): AID & POLITICAL SUPPORT

A table detailing the involvement of key global and regional actors.

ENTITY (Country/Organization)	STAND/POLITICAL SUPPORT	MILITARY AID	HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF
UNITED KINGDOM	 Supported Federal Nigeria (Political)	 Significant supply of arms and armored vehicles	 Provided some relief through international bodies
SOVIET UNION	 Supported Federal Nigeria (Political)	 Major supplier of aircraft (MiGs) and heavy weaponry	Minimal
UNITED STATES	 Neutral (Initially), later supported Federal Nigeria (Political)	 Minimal, focused on relief	 Major donor to humanitarian relief efforts via NGOs
FRANCE	 Covert support for Biafra (Political)	 Clandestine supply of arms and ammunition	 Provided substantial medical and food aid
ISRAEL	 Supported Biafra (Political)	 Some covert arms supply	 Sent medical supplies and personnel
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA	 Supported Biafra (Political)	 Limited covert aid	Minimal
ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY (OAU)	 Supported Federal Nigeria (Political) – Principle of Territorial Integrity	N/A	 Coordinated some relief and sought diplomatic solution
IVORY COAST, GABON, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA	 Formally recognized Biafra (Political)	N/A	N/A
INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS (ICRC) & JOINTCHURCHAID	 Neutral (Humanitarian focus)	N/A	 Led major airlift of food and medicine to blockaded Biafra

This table is an open educational resource (OER) based on historical archival records, for informational and educational purposes only.

Caption: Box 5.6 International reactions to the Nigerian Civil War

- Short description: Table listing federal support, Biafran sympathy, humanitarian aid, and debates on sovereignty.

Pilot questions 5.2

1. Who declared the independence of the Republic of Biafra in 1967?
2. What was the immediate trigger of the Nigerian Civil War?
3. What successes did Biafran forces achieve in the early campaigns?
4. How did the federal government respond to Biafra's secession?
5. What were some of the international reactions to the Nigerian Civil War?

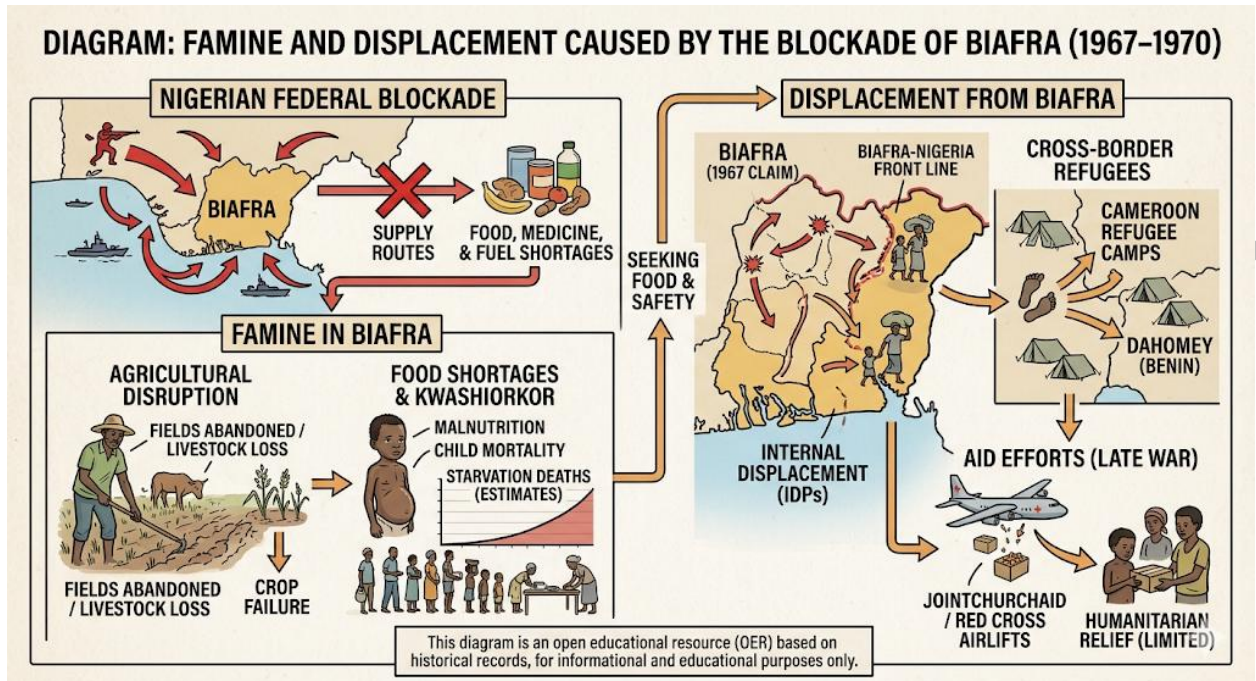
5.3 Humanitarian Dimensions

5.3.1 Famine and displacement

Famine is a severe shortage of food that leads to widespread hunger and malnutrition. During the Nigerian Civil War, the federal blockade of Biafra caused famine, leaving millions of civilians without adequate food supplies. Many families were displaced, forced to flee their homes in search of safety and sustenance. The humanitarian crisis became one of the most tragic aspects of the war, drawing global attention.

Fill in the blank: The federal blockade of Biafra during the Civil War led to widespread _____.





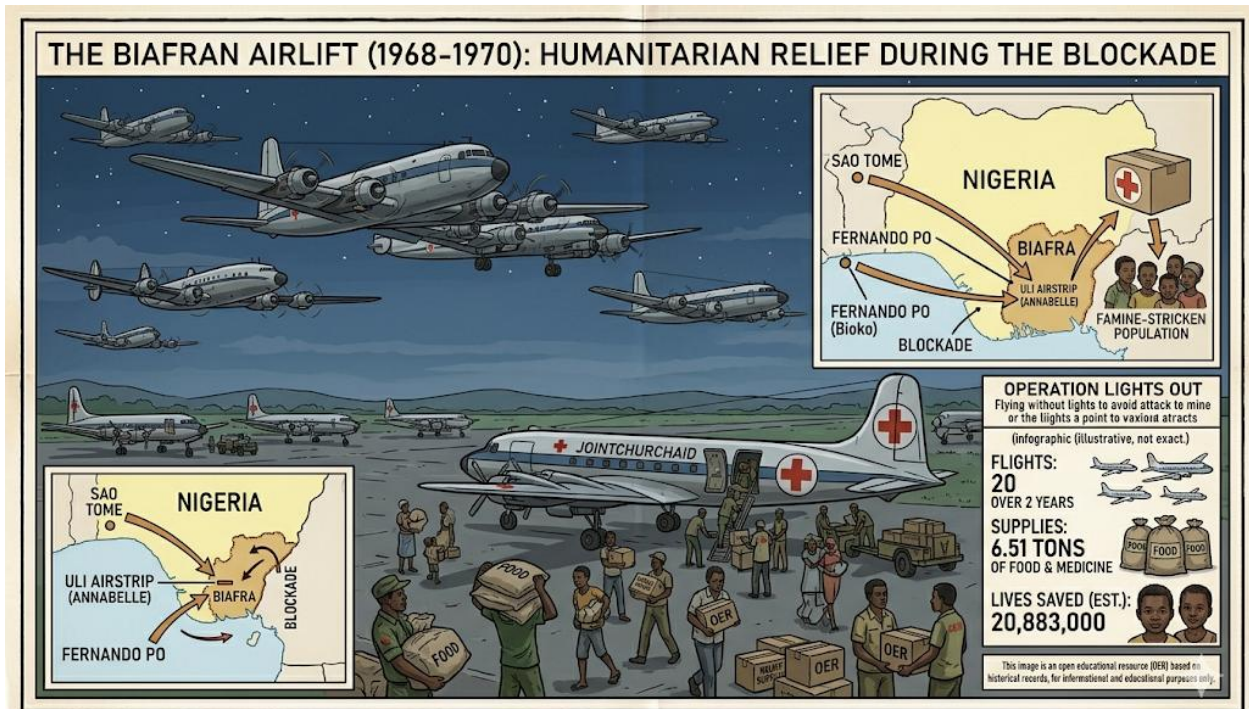
- Short description: Diagram showing famine and displacement during the Nigerian Civil War.
- Caption: Figure 5.7 Famine and displacement in Biafra.

5.3.2 Relief efforts and international aid

Relief efforts are organised attempts to provide food, medicine, and shelter to people affected by crises. International organisations such as the Red Cross and Caritas tried to deliver aid to Biafra, but the blockade made distribution difficult. Airlifts of food and medicine were attempted, yet many civilians remained in dire conditions. These efforts highlighted the challenges of humanitarian intervention in wartime.

Fill in the blank: International organisations attempted to deliver aid to Biafra through _____ of food and medicine.





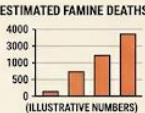
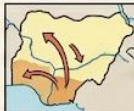
- Short description: Image of relief supplies being airlifted to Biafra.
- Caption: Plate 5.8 Relief supplies airlifted to Biafra.

5.3.3 Civilian experiences

Civilian experiences during the war included suffering from famine, displacement, and violence. Many families lost loved ones, while children were particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. The war disrupted education, livelihoods, and community life, leaving deep scars on society. These experiences remind us that wars affect not only soldiers but also ordinary people who bear the brunt of conflict.

Fill in the blank: Civilian experiences during the Civil War included famine, displacement, and disruption of _____ life.



TABLE: KEY CIVILIAN EXPERIENCES DURING THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (1967-1970)												
EXPERIENCE CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION & SPECIFIC EXAMPLES	VISUAL REPRESENTATION (Illustrative)										
FAMINE & MALNUTRITION (KWASHIORKOR)	Severe food shortages, particularly in blockaded Biafra, leading to mass starvation and the condition known as Kwashiorkor (protein deficiency) in children.	  ESTIMATED FAMINE DEATHS (ILLUSTRATIVE NUMBERS) <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Estimated Famine Deaths</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1967</td><td>~200</td></tr><tr><td>1968</td><td>~1000</td></tr><tr><td>1969</td><td>~2500</td></tr><tr><td>1970</td><td>~3500</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Estimated Famine Deaths	1967	~200	1968	~1000	1969	~2500	1970	~3500
Year	Estimated Famine Deaths											
1967	~200											
1968	~1000											
1969	~2500											
1970	~3500											
DISPLACEMENT & REFUGEE CAMPS	Millions forced from their homes due to fighting and advancing front lines. Seekers of refuge in overcrowded internal displacement camps and across borders (e.g., to Cameroon).	 										
AERIAL BOMBARDMENT & OCCUPATION	Civilian targets, markets, and hospitals bombed. Military occupation of towns and villages leading to direct hardship.	   OCCUPIED AREAS BOMBED CITIES										
ECONOMIC DISRUPTION & DEVASTATION	Breakdown of local and regional trade. Loss of livelihoods, assets, and livestock. Severe currency inflation.	  ASSET LOSS  TRADE DECLINE (ILLUSTRATIVE) <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Year</th><th>Trade Level</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1967</td><td>High</td></tr><tr><td>1968</td><td>Medium</td></tr><tr><td>1969</td><td>Low</td></tr><tr><td>1970</td><td>Very Low</td></tr></tbody></table>	Year	Trade Level	1967	High	1968	Medium	1969	Low	1970	Very Low
Year	Trade Level											
1967	High											
1968	Medium											
1969	Low											
1970	Very Low											
This table is an open educational resource (OER) based on historical records, for informational and educational purposes only. Not a source for specific, real-time data.												

Caption: Box 5.9 Civilian experiences during the Nigerian Civil War

- Short description: Table listing famine, displacement, loss of loved ones, and disruption of education and livelihoods.

Pilot questions 5.3

1. What caused famine in Biafra during the Civil War?
2. Which international organisations attempted to deliver aid to Biafra?
3. What method was used to deliver relief supplies to Biafra?
4. How were children particularly affected during the Civil War?
5. What aspects of civilian life were disrupted during the conflict?

5.4 Consequences Of The War

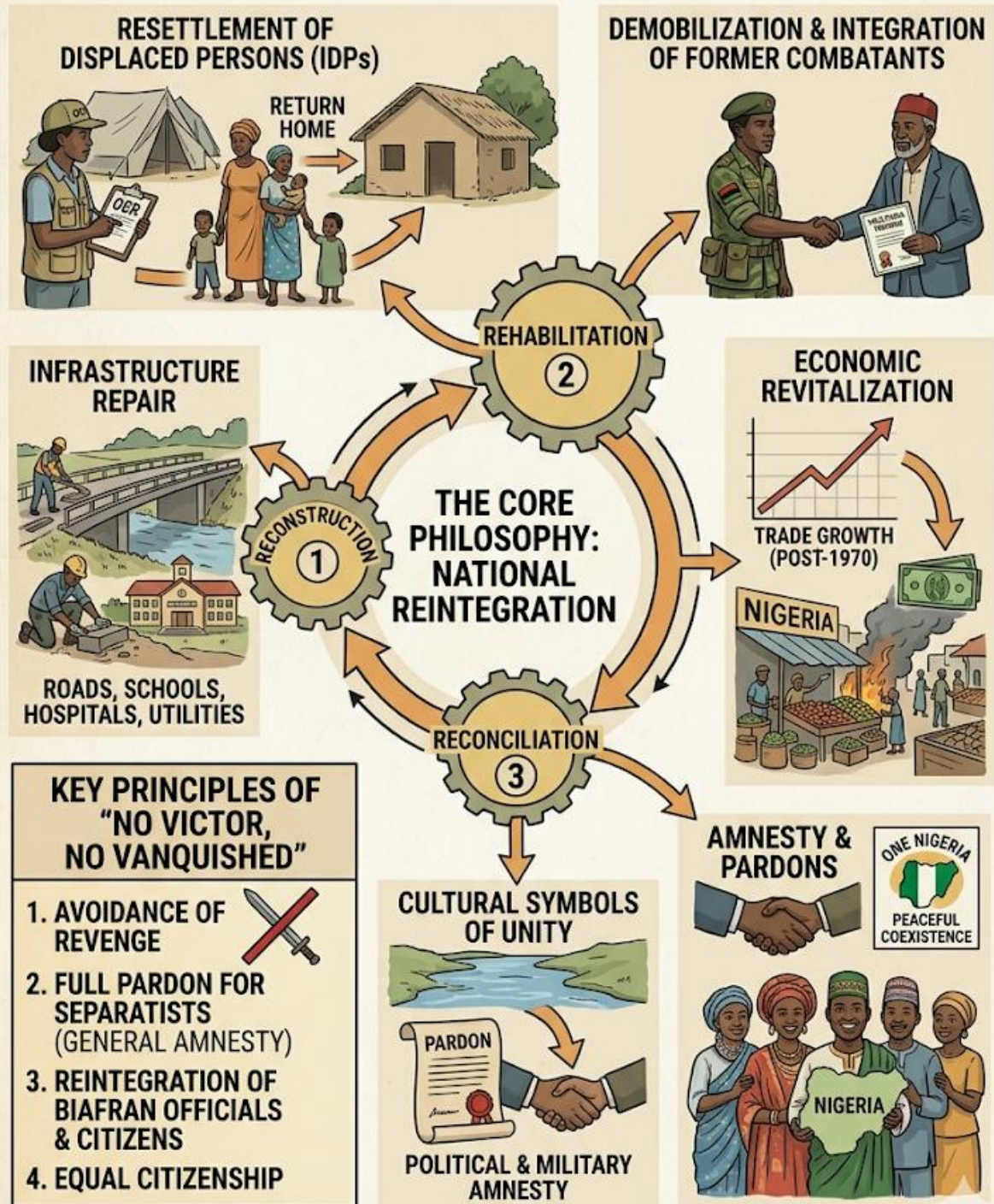
5.4.1 Political consequences and reconciliation

Political consequences are the effects of a conflict on governance and leadership structures. The Nigerian Civil War ended in January 1970 with Biafra's surrender. The federal government adopted a policy of **reconciliation**, expressed in the phrase "No victor, no vanquished." This meant that the government sought to reintegrate the Eastern region without punishment, aiming to rebuild trust and unity. However, political mistrust and ethnic divisions continued to influence Nigeria's governance long after the war.

Fill in the blank: The federal government's reconciliation policy after the Civil War was described as "No victor, no _____."



NIGERIA'S POST-CIVIL WAR RECONCILIATION POLICY: "NO VICTOR, NO VANQUISHED"



Short description: Diagram showing Nigeria's reconciliation policy after the Civil War.

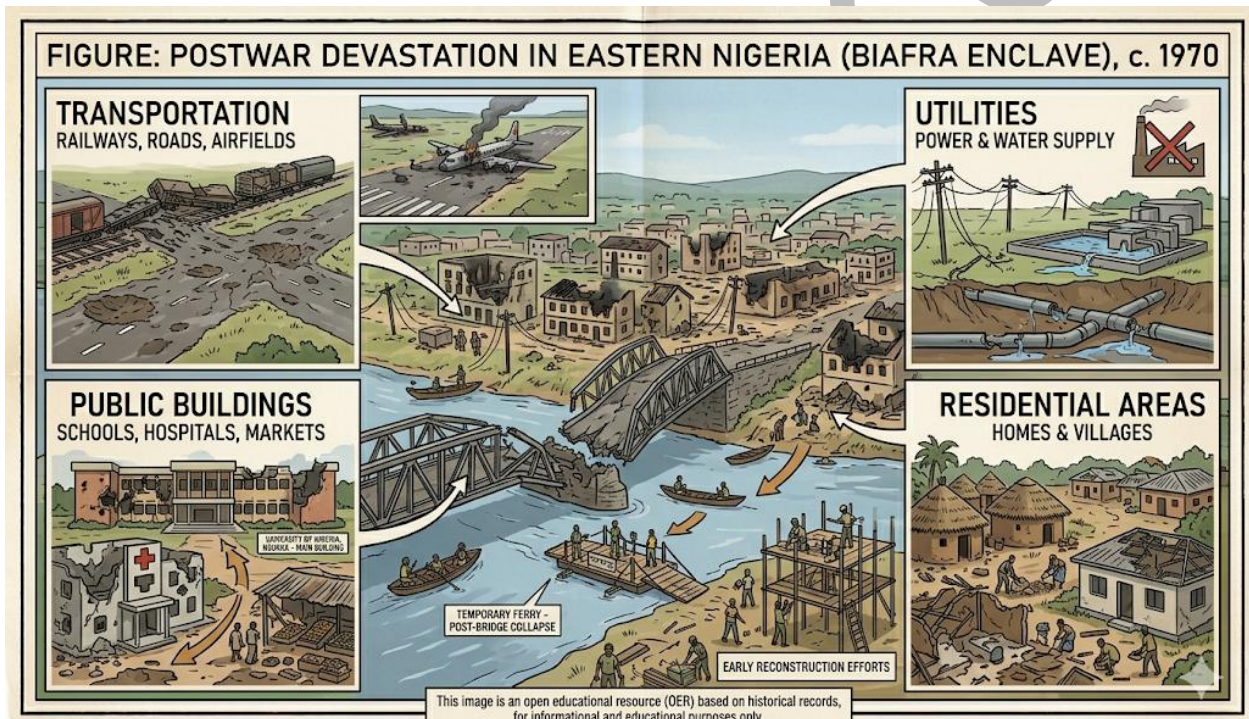


- Caption: Figure 5.10 Nigeria's reconciliation policy after the Civil War.

5.4.2 Economic impact and reconstruction

Economic impact refers to the effect of war on a country's economy. The Civil War devastated Nigeria's economy, particularly in the Eastern region where infrastructure was destroyed. Oil production, a major source of revenue, was disrupted. After the war, the government faced the challenge of **reconstruction**, defined as rebuilding infrastructure, restoring economic activity, and reintegrating displaced populations. Although efforts were made, uneven development persisted, leaving long-term economic scars.

Fill in the blank: The Civil War disrupted Nigeria's major source of revenue, which was _____ production.



- Short description: Image of destroyed infrastructure in Eastern Nigeria after the Civil War.
- Caption: Plate 5.11 Destroyed infrastructure in Eastern Nigeria after the Civil War.

5.4.3 Social and cultural legacies

Social and cultural legacies are the lasting effects of a conflict on society and cultural identity. The Civil War left deep scars on Nigerian society, with memories of famine, displacement, and violence shaping ethnic relations. Literature, art, and oral histories have preserved these experiences, ensuring that the war remains part of Nigeria's cultural consciousness. These legacies continue to influence debates about national unity and identity.

Fill in the blank: The Civil War's social and cultural legacies are preserved in literature, art, and _____ histories.



TABLE: SOCIAL AND CULTURAL LEGACIES OF THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR (1967-1970)		
LEGACY AREA	DESCRIPTION & SPECIFIC IMPACTS	VISUAL REPRESENTATION (Illustrative)
CULTURAL MEMORY & FAMINE	Persistent memories, particularly in the former Biafra, of the "Biafran Famine" (Kwashiorkor) as a defining trauma. Transmission through oral histories and family narratives.	 FAMINE MEMORIES
LITERATURE & ARTS	Profound impact on post-war Nigerian literature and arts. Exploration of war themes: conflict, displacement, loss, and resilience. Prominent "Biafra War Literature".	 WAR LITERATURE & CREATIVE EXPRESSION
SOCIAL STRUCTURES & IDENTITY	Disruption and reshaping of social relations and ethnic identities. Emergence of new social movements and political alignments. Long-term impacts on inter-ethnic trust.	 IDENTITY SHIFTS / SOCIAL DYNAMICS
ECONOMIC REALITIES & LIVELIHOODS	Long-term economic effects and shifts in livelihoods, especially in Eastern Nigeria. Disparity in development and persistent infrastructure challenges.	 DEVASTATED / RECONSTRUCTION
URBANIZATION & MIGRATION	Acceleration of urbanization due to displacement. Increased internal migration, and a significant diaspora.	 MIGRATION & URBAN GROWTH

This table is an open educational resource (OER) based on historical records, for informational and educational purposes only.

Caption: Box 5.12 Social and cultural legacies of the Nigerian Civil War

- Short description: Table listing famine memories, displacement, ethnic relations, literature, and art.

Pilot questions 5.4

1. What was the federal government's reconciliation policy after the Civil War?
2. How did the Civil War affect Nigeria's economy?
3. What was disrupted in Nigeria's economy during the Civil War?
4. What challenges did Nigeria face in reconstruction after the war?
5. How are the social and cultural legacies of the Civil War preserved today?

Series summary

This Series has examined the Nigerian Civil War, one of the most defining events in the nation's history. Beginning with the background, we explored the political tensions, ethnic divisions, and economic struggles that set the stage for conflict. We then considered the outbreak of the war, focusing on the secession of Biafra, the early military campaigns, and international reactions. Following that, we analysed the humanitarian dimensions, including famine, displacement, and relief efforts. Finally, we assessed the consequences of the war, looking at political reconciliation, economic reconstruction, and the social and cultural legacies that continue to shape Nigeria today.

In line with the Series Learning Outcomes, you should now be able to describe the background causes of the Civil War, explain the secession of Biafra and the early campaigns, analyse the humanitarian crisis and relief efforts, evaluate the political and economic consequences, and discuss the social and cultural legacies of the conflict. These outcomes equip you to critically



assess the Civil War's significance and connect its lessons to Nigeria's ongoing challenges of governance, unity, and development.

Glossary of terms

- **Civilian experiences:** The everyday realities of people during the Civil War, including famine, displacement, and disruption of community life.
- **Economic factors:** Conditions such as uneven development and competition for resources that contributed to instability and conflict.
- **Famine:** A severe shortage of food leading to widespread hunger and malnutrition, particularly in Biafra during the Civil War.
- **International reactions:** The responses of foreign governments and organisations to the Nigerian Civil War, including humanitarian aid and political support.
- **Military campaigns:** Organised operations carried out by armed forces during the Civil War, involving battles and territorial control.
- **Political consequences:** The effects of the Civil War on governance, including reconciliation policies and continued ethnic mistrust.
- **Reconciliation:** The process of restoring unity after conflict, expressed in Nigeria's post-war policy of "No victor, no vanquished."
- **Relief efforts:** Organised attempts by international organisations to provide food, medicine, and shelter to civilians affected by the Civil War.
- **Resource control:** The authority to manage and benefit from natural resources, particularly oil reserves in the Eastern region.
- **Secession:** The formal withdrawal of a region from a state to form its own independent government, as seen in the declaration of the Republic of Biafra.
- **Social and cultural legacies:** The lasting effects of the Civil War on society and culture, preserved in literature, art, and oral histories.

Concept check questions

Objective questions

1. Who declared the independence of the Republic of Biafra in 1967? (Linked to SLO 5.2)
2. What phrase summarised Nigeria's reconciliation policy after the Civil War? (Linked to SLO 5.4)
3. Which major natural resource was central to economic tensions before and during the Civil War? (Linked to SLO 5.1)
4. What humanitarian crisis was caused by the federal blockade of Biafra? (Linked to SLO 5.3)
5. In which year did the Nigerian Civil War end? (Linked to SLO 5.4)



Short-answer questions

6. Explain one political tension that contributed to the outbreak of the Civil War. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
7. Describe one early success achieved by Biafran forces. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
8. Identify one international organisation that attempted to deliver aid to Biafra. (Linked to SLO 5.3)
9. State one economic challenge Nigeria faced in reconstruction after the Civil War. (Linked to SLO 5.5)
10. Give one example of how the social and cultural legacies of the Civil War are preserved today. (Linked to SLO 5.6)

Long-answer questions

11. Analyse the background causes of the Nigerian Civil War, focusing on political, ethnic, and economic factors. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
12. Evaluate the consequences of the Civil War for Nigeria's governance, economy, and society. (Linked to SLO 5.4, SLO 5.5, SLO 5.6)

Answers to Concept Check Questions

Objective questions

1. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu.
2. "No victor, no vanquished."
3. Oil.
4. Famine.
5. 1970.

Short-answer questions

6. Electoral malpractice and corruption undermined trust between regions.
7. Biafran forces captured territory in the early stages of the war.
8. The Red Cross.
9. Rebuilding destroyed infrastructure in the Eastern region.
10. Through literature, art, and oral histories.

Long-answer questions

11. *Basic response:* The Civil War was caused by political tensions after independence, ethnic divisions among Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo, and economic struggles over oil resource control.

Value-added response: Beyond these immediate causes, the massacres of Igbo people in the North and fears of marginalisation in the East intensified mistrust. The federal government's



inability to manage ethnic rivalries and equitable resource distribution created conditions that made secession appear inevitable.

12. *Basic response:* The Civil War led to political reconciliation under the “No victor, no vanquished” policy, economic devastation requiring reconstruction, and social scars preserved in cultural memory.

Value-added response: In addition, the war entrenched ethnic mistrust, disrupted oil production, and left uneven development across regions. Its cultural legacies, expressed in literature and art, continue to shape debates about national unity. The war highlighted the importance of inclusive governance and equitable resource management for Nigeria’s stability.

Answers to Pilot Questions

Part 5.1: Background to the Civil War

1. Corruption, electoral malpractice, and regional mistrust.
2. Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo.
3. The massacres of Igbo people in the North in 1966.
4. Oil.
5. Resource control is the authority to manage and benefit from natural resources.

Part 5.2: Outbreak of the War

1. Colonel Odumegwu Ojukwu.
2. The secession of Biafra.
3. Capturing territory in the early stages of the war.
4. Launching counter-offensives to suppress secession.
5. Humanitarian aid, political support, and debates about sovereignty and human rights.

Part 5.3: Humanitarian Dimensions

1. The federal blockade of Biafra.
2. The Red Cross and Caritas.
3. Airlifts.
4. They suffered malnutrition and disease.
5. Education, livelihoods, and community life.

Part 5.4: Consequences of the War

1. “No victor, no vanquished.”
2. It devastated Nigeria’s economy, especially in the East.
3. Oil production.
4. Rebuilding infrastructure and reintegrating displaced populations.
5. Through literature, art, and oral histories.

References and Attributions



- **Figures and Plates**

- Figure 5.1 Political tensions after independence: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing corruption, electoral malpractice, and ethnic mistrust as political tensions after independence in Nigeria.” Search string: “Nigeria political tensions after independence OER diagram.”
- Plate 5.2 Ethnic leaders in Nigeria during the 1960s: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian ethnic leaders from the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo groups in the 1960s.” Search string: “Nigeria ethnic leaders 1960s OER image.”
- Box 5.3 Economic factors contributing to the Civil War: AI prompt “Create a table listing economic factors such as uneven development, oil resource control, and regional competition contributing to the Nigerian Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War economic factors OER table.”
- Figure 5.4 Map of Nigeria and Biafra at the outbreak of war: AI prompt “Create a map showing Nigeria and the secessionist Republic of Biafra in 1967.” Search string: “Nigeria Biafra secession map OER.”
- Plate 5.5 Nigerian and Biafran soldiers in early campaigns: AI prompt “Illustrate Nigerian and Biafran soldiers during early campaigns of the Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Biafra Civil War early campaigns OER image.”
- Box 5.6 International reactions to the Nigerian Civil War: AI prompt “Create a table listing international reactions to the Nigerian Civil War, including aid and political support.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War international reactions OER table.”
- Figure 5.7 Famine and displacement in Biafra: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing famine and displacement caused by the blockade of Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War famine displacement OER diagram.”
- Plate 5.8 Relief supplies airlifted to Biafra: AI prompt “Illustrate relief supplies being airlifted to Biafra during the Nigerian Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War relief supplies OER image.”
- Box 5.9 Civilian experiences during the Nigerian Civil War: AI prompt “Create a table listing civilian experiences during the Nigerian Civil War, including famine and displacement.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War civilian experiences OER table.”
- Figure 5.10 Nigeria’s reconciliation policy after the Civil War: AI prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s reconciliation policy ‘No victor, no vanquished’ after the Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War reconciliation policy OER diagram.”
- Plate 5.11 Destroyed infrastructure in Eastern Nigeria after the Civil War: AI prompt “Illustrate destroyed infrastructure in Eastern Nigeria after the Civil War.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War destroyed infrastructure OER image.”
- Box 5.12 Social and cultural legacies of the Nigerian Civil War: AI prompt “Create a table listing social and cultural legacies of the Nigerian Civil War, including famine memories and literature.” Search string: “Nigeria Civil War social cultural legacies OER table.”

- **General References**



- Course content adapted from HIS 301: *Nigeria from 1900–1970* (Course outline and learning outcomes).
- Supplementary context drawn from open educational resources (OERs) on African post-independence governance, civil-military relations, and the Nigerian Civil War.
- Historical background informed by standard Nigerian history texts and scholarly works on colonial and post-colonial studies.

