

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION
WEEK: 2
TERM: THIRD TERM

Meaning of Colonialism

Colonialism can be defined as the policy or practice of acquiring full or partial political control of another country or territory, and exploiting it economically.

It can also be referred to as the establishment, exploitation, maintenance, acquisition, and expansion of a colony in one territory by a political power from another territory. It is an unequal relationship between the colonial power and the colony. It also means the policy or practice of a wealthy or powerful nation maintaining or extending its control over other countries.

The British System of Colonial Administration

Britain like other European nations sent its officials to its four West African colonies after the 1890 Brussel conference for effective occupation of the territories. By 1900 Britain has established political influence in her four colonies of Nigeria, the Gold Coast (now Ghana) Sierra Leone and the Gambia.

In West Africa, British crowned colonies include Lagos, Accra, Freetown and Bathurst colonies. These colonies were regarded as extensions of Great Britain so they were administered directly by the white British officials. The laws made in Britain were applied to these colonies.

BRITISH CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

1. **The secretary of state for the colonies:** The secretary of state for the colonies was also called the colonial secretary. He was a cabinet minister, he stood between the colonial government and British government, he formulated colonial policies, appointed colonial governors and could transfer the governors as he deemed fit. He received complaints from concerned nationalists of the various colonies which complaint were handled with a view to safeguarding the interests and objectives of the British crown over the colonies
2. **The Governor:** The administration of the British crown colonies was headed by a governor, who as the chief executive implemented British colonial policies. He was appointed from London through the secretary of states for the colonies. He also reported to the colonial secretary who presented such report to the British parliament. His other functions include- appointment of departmental heads, district

and residence officers and judges and exercised the power to remove and discipline any of them.

3. **Legislative council:** The legislative council made laws for the colonies. It had official members who were appointed by the governor, majority of whom were British citizens. The unofficial members were some African chiefs and European merchants who were nominated into the council.
4. **The executive council:** The executive council performed the functions of the executive arm of government. The executive council for each colony consisted of officials who were mainly whites. The council consisted of departmental heads, the secretary of the colonial government, Director of medical services etc. The council was responsible to the governor and advised him on government policies.

CROWN COLONY

A crown colony was regarded as British territory and it was **directly controlled from Britain**. The laws made in Britain were applied to these colonies. Crown colonies were established through military conquests, diplomatic missions and treaties with the local people. For instance the colony of Lagos was annexed in 1861 by John Beecroft of the British Royal Navy. The citizens of the crown colony were regarded as British subjects. The land and minerals located in the crown colonies belong to the British government. The crown colonial government administered the colony directly, while the governor made laws through proclamations. At the crown colonies the traditional rulers were not recognized.

Protectorates

A protectorate was a territory under the control and protection of the British government. Citizens of protectorates were classified as protected citizens, and were subject to the rule of their traditional rulers, who were answerable to the British authorities through the governor of the colony who administered the protectorate.

Trust Territories

The Trust Territory is a non-self-governing territory placed under the **authority of the United Nations**. Such a territory may be a formal mandate under the League of Nations, or a territory taken from another country after the Second World War. Such territories (trust territory) were usually placed under the supervision of the Trusteeship countries in the United Nations. Examples were: Tanganyika, Togoland, New Guinea, Colonies of Cameroun etc.

Native Administration

The colonial administration instituted a system of native administration in the protectorates, provinces and districts through the **indirect rule system** administered the people using the traditional political institutions of the people to govern the people.

The French Colonial Administration

The French colonial administration was a sharp contrast to that of the British. While the British authorities used **indirect rule system** while the French authorities used direct rule system known as the **policy of assimilation and later changed to association**. They were in control of the following territories in West Africa- Senegal, Ivory Coast (Cote d'ivoire), Dahomey (now Benin Republic), Niger, Guinea and Upper Volta (now Burkina Faso).

France established a loose federation of her colonies with headquarters in Dakar, Senegal and appointed a governor general resident in Dakar to supervise the activities of the federation.

The Policy of Assimilation

The French government first adopted the policy of assimilation in the administration of their territories in West Africa. Assimilation means attempting to make black Africans become French. The French government made the Africans to adopt and use French education, language, religion, law mode of dressing etc. The policy was made to substitute the African way of life formally and informally. It was imposed on the Africans as a result of the French government's belief that African culture was inferior and theirs being superior should be embraced by the people in their colonies.

The policy of assimilation regarded the French colonial territories as part of the extended French empire overseas and these territories were placed under the control of the French government in Paris.

Factors Responsible for the Failure of the Policy of Assimilation

The policy of assimilation failed and was abandoned by France as a result of the following:

1. The policy of assimilation introduced direct administration which required heavy financial commitment from the central government in France.
2. The policy failed because it was rigid and discriminatory in its application to the people in the interior and those in the communes of Senegal.
3. The preference of the African people for their culture and way of life.
4. French and African scholars criticized the adoption of assimilation as a policy that never meant good for the people of the West African sub-region.
5. The Muslims rejected this type of education for fear of being converted to Christianity.

6. The implementation of the indigenization policy, which included imprisonment without trial and forced labour, accounted for the failure of the policy.
7. The Second World War was also responsible for the failure. Colonialists were advised to relinquish their colonies, more so as the Africans who participated in the war no longer felt that the white men were superior as they previously assumed. Furthermore, the United Nations advocated the self-determination of people under colonial rule.
8. President Charles De Gaulle was determined to replace assimilation with association, as a result of the opposition of the African people.

The Policy of Association

Following the weakness and failure of the policy of assimilation, France conceived the idea of the policy of association to replace assimilation. Association was the policy by which Africans associated with France in the political and economic realms, not as **Frenchified** Africans, but as a people with their own distinct culture and traditions. It was the French form of indirect rule.

The policy of association preserved the culture, religion, customs and political units of the various colonies. It accorded traditional rulers necessary regard in the affairs of the colonial government.

Comparison of the British and French Colonial Administrations

	BRITISH COLNIAL SYSTEM	FRANCE COLNIAL COLONIAL SYSTEM
1	Britain did not make any attempt to bring her colonies together in a federation.	France, especially through assimilation, sought to impose French culture and civilization on the people.
2	The educated elite were not significant in the indirect rule system.	France gave the greatest recognition to the educated Africans. They were accorded the title and rights of French citizens.
3	Britain saw her colonies merely as colonies that would soon be on their own.	France provided social amenities and her development structures to her Colonies than Britain did. This was because France regarded these colonies as part of France
4	British colonies had their local body of laws or constitutions.	The French constitution was also applicable to the colonies, even though some sections were modified and amended to make them operational in the colonies
5	The British system encouraged the formation of political parties in her West African territories	French territories had representatives in the French parliament and other educated elite could join political parties in France.
6	Britain used the indirect rule system which utilized African traditional rulers,	France largely used direct rule through the policie assimilation and association.

	and retained the people's customs and laws in the running of local affairs.	
7	Britain granted some autonomy to the traditional rulers in the administration of their local areas and incorporated them into the indirect rule system	France rendered the institution of traditional rulers completely redundant in some places and used them in some other areas only to collect taxes and recruit Soldiers and labourers.

Merits of British and French Colonial Administrations in West Africa

1. Agriculture was greatly developed during colonial rule
2. The British and French colonial administrators established modern transportation and communication systems in different parts of West Africa..
3. Colonial rule brought western education to the people of West Africa.
4. The Christian missionaries accompanied colonial governments and spread Christianity to the African people.
5. Colonialism resulted in the establishment of larger political units encompassing the old traditional kingdoms.
6. Big cities like Lagos, Ibadan, Kaduna, Dakar, Accra and Abidjan developed during British and French colonial administration.
7. Colonialism facilitated inter-state trade among the countries under the same colonial master.
8. The activities of the western missionaries facilitated the level of social development in both colonies. For instance, they established health and educational facilities.
9. The introduction of the British and French legal systems provided improvements to, and modifications of, the African traditional laws.

Demerits of British and French Colonial Administrations in West Africa

1. Britain and France presented their cultures as superior to those of the African peoples.
2. Colonial education retarded socio-economic and political development of these countries. The form of education introduced was meant to teach Africans how to read and write English and French languages, and not really to train them for the socio-economic development of their countries.
3. Britain and France exploited the economy of West African countries. They derived raw materials from these countries to feed their industries and brought back finished products to them at high prices.
4. Both Britain and France introduced the capitalist ideology into their colonies. The system vests economic wealth and control in the hands of a few individuals.

5. The policy of assimilation made French speaking countries completely dependent on France.
6. Colonial administration created long-standing division and mutual distrust between the traditional rulers (and their illiterate subjects) and the educated Africans who were opposed to European involvement in the domestic policies of West African territories.
7. Colonial rule resulted in the balkanization and separation of peoples.

ASSIGNMENT

List countries colonised by the British or France.

REMEMBER: the 1st and 2nd student to complete copying the note, on or before resumption will get 1000mb each from the subject teacher.

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: INDIRECT RULE IN NIGERIA
WEEK: 3
TERM: THIRD TERM

Meaning of Indirect Rule

Indirect rule was introduced in Nigeria by Sir Lord Frederick Lugard. It is a process by which the British ruled through **chiefs** and their **councils** which were intermediaries. It can as well be seen as the system whereby the traditional rulers (native authorities) in British colonies were used to rule their own people under the supervision of the British officials. In other words, the local traditional political institutions were employed by the colonial masters to rule the natives.

The practice was very successful in northern Nigeria but in the south, it was not so successful.

The Reasons for the Adoption of Indirect Rule

The principle of indirect rule was adopted for the following reasons:

1. **The experience of Lord Lugard:** Indirect rule was first introduced in India and later in East and Central Africa. In these places, the system was successful. The success prompted Lord Lugard to introduce the system in Nigeria.
2. **Personnel reason:** Indirect rule was introduced because there were not enough Englishmen ready to work in Africa. For example, by 1914 there were only 9 British officers to administer the whole of northern Nigeria.
3. **Language barrier:** The problem of communication was another reason for the introduction of indirect rule. The people of Nigeria could not speak or understand English language and the British officials could not speak local languages. Therefore, indirect rule was used.
4. **The absence of good roads:** Most of the British colonies were large. To further compound this problem, most of the villages were linked by footpaths and people had to trek long distances before getting to their destinations.
5. **British policy of preservation:** Another reason that accounted for the adoption of this system was the British state intention to preserve all that were good in Africa.
6. **Problem of finance:** The British government used the indirect rule system because it was cheaper for them to use African traditional chiefs.
7. **The existence of good administrative systems:** Before the advent of colonialism, they were already good administrative systems in Nigeria. For instance, the Fulani/Hausa

Empire, the Yoruba and Benin kingdoms had good systems of keeping law and order. Therefore, the colonial masters decided to use the systems that were already in place.

8. **The experience of the American War of Independence in 1776:** One of the reasons for the adoption of indirect rule was the experience of the America War of Independence. The United States of America was a former British colony. The British invested a lot of money in that country, but unfortunately for them, the original inhabitants of the land took up arms and waged a revolt against them. Other powerful nations supported America and they won the war. Since then, the British decided never to invest in their colonies.

Indirect Rule in Northern Nigeria

One of the reasons for the indirect rule policy was for the purpose of local government along traditional lines. The system rested upon native courts and native authority ordinances.

The protectorate of northern Nigeria was divided into six provinces and each under a British official known as **Province Resident**. Each province was further divided into districts and placed under **District Commissioners**.

The system of indirect rule was successful in the northern Nigeria, and the following factors can account for this success:

1. The **Sokoto Caliphate** already possessed a highly developed and efficient system of administration needed by the colonial masters
2. The North had a centralized system of taxation and treasury officials. There were also Muslim cults and an outstanding army for both internal and external aggression.
3. There was also in existence a **tradition of submission** by the northerners to authority, as the Emirs were regarded as God's representative on earth.
4. The level of education of the people in the North was very low, that nobody could question the British system.
5. As a result of the nature of the northern traditional system, British officials were able to control the emirs and the emirs controlled the people. It was the successful application of the system in the north that prompted Lord Lugard to adopt the system in southern Nigeria.

Indirect Rule in Western Nigeria

The indirect rule recorded a partial success in western Nigeria contrary to Lugard's expectation. The Yoruba Oba did not possess absolute power. For instance, the Oba in

Yoruba traditional society was responsible to his council of chiefs (Oyomasi). They could dethrone him and force him to commit suicide, if he decides to rule autocratically.

Secondly, contrary to Lugard's expectations, power in Yoruba society was shared among a number of chiefs representing their linages over which the Oba had limited power.

Thirdly, by reason of the Oba's position as the spiritual head he could not appear in public except on special occasion. This made it difficult for the Oba to function as the head of the native administration that was created by the colonial masters.

On the whole, the checks and balances that existed in the Yoruba traditional system prevented the Oba from becoming autocratic. When the colonial masters attempted to increase the powers of the Oba, the people rose in opposition and this led to the Sayen riot of 1916 and the Ijeora massacre of 1918.

Why Indirect Rule Failed Partially in the West

1. The traditional political system in existence did not give the monarch or Oba absolute powers, even though the system was centralized.
2. The traditional political system was hierarchical in structure.
3. The Yoruba had a sizeable number of educated elite.
4. The tax collection system in the West was weak.
5. The principle of checks and balances was in practice.
6. The educated elite were excluded from the indirect rule system hence they opposed it.

Indirect Rule in Eastern Nigeria

The system of indirect rule failed in Eastern Nigeria because the Igbo lacked the traditional system of administration that was necessary for its success. For instance, the Igbo chiefs did not have much power like the northern Emirs. Thus, the people were not used to being controlled by the traditional rulers of any central authority. The people respected age, and leadership came from the entire council of elders.

In order to make the system of indirect rule work, the colonial masters introduced the position of **warrant chiefs**. This was however new to the people. The people saw the warrant chiefs as tyrants. This coupled with the introduction of taxation led to the Aba women riot of 1929 and the Calabar and Opobo riot the same year.

Why Indirect Rule Failed Significantly in the East

1. There were no traditional rulers in Igbo political system that could be seen as a central leader.
2. The imposition of warrant chiefs was a major flaw.
3. The system was fragmented and democratic, and did not allow for oppression.

4. The level of literacy was already high in the Eastern region when the system was introduced.
5. The system of taxation in existence in Igbo land was not authoritarian.
6. The traditional system was highly decentralized

Merits of the Indirect Rule System

1. The system was economical. It helped to solve the problem of limited financial resources and personnel.
2. The system preserved the good aspects of the indigenous political institutions. For instance, the people were allowed to administer their territories. In places like northern Nigeria it appeared as if the people were ruling themselves.
3. The system encouraged local community development. The colonial masters used part of the tax collected for the construction of roads, schools and hospitals.
4. The system also solved the problem of communication. If the colonial masters had ruled directly they would have had the problem of passing information across to the people.
5. The system helped to change some traditional beliefs and practices like human sacrifices and killing of twins.
6. Infrastructural facilities such as roads, railways and electricity were developed for effective administration.

Demerits of the Indirect Rule System

1. The system reduced the traditional chief to mere puppets and agents of the colonial masters.
2. The system directly caused the death of some traditional rulers.
3. In some places, the creation of the position of warrant chiefs led to widespread rioting.
4. Power was centralized in the hands of a few individuals at the expense of the masses. Therefore the masses could not participate in government.

ASSIGNMENT

Explain the following terms:

- a. Warrant Chiefs.
- b. Province Resident.
- c. District Commissioners.
- d. Sayen riot of 1916.

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: Nationalism
WEEK: 4
TERM: THIRD TERM

Meaning of Nationalism

Nationalism can be defined as a strong feeling of national consciousness and love for one's country, to take care of its own affairs and be free from foreign control and domination.

During colonial period, it was seen as opposition to European domination. Nationalism is the struggle against oppression and domination, a struggle for equality, political participation and self- government. It can be described as a movement for national independence. During colonial rule in Africa nationalism was centred on the desire of African people to be free from colonialism and to attain self- government.

Effects of Nationalism in Nigeria

1. It led to an increased participation of Nigerians in politics and in turn led to the inclusion of Nigerians in the legislative and executive councils.
2. It made Nigerians to be aware of the disadvantages of colonial rule and their political rights.
3. Nationalist movement led to the development of political parties in Nigeria e.g. the first political party in Nigeria – Nigeria National Democratic Party (NNDP) was formed by one of the nationalist- Herbert Macaulay.
4. The nationalist eventually achieved independence for Nigeria in 1960.
5. Nationalism checked the excesses of the colonial government.
6. Higher institutions of learning were established e.g. Yaba College.
7. Their struggle led to the inclusion of Nigerians in the civil service.
8. It brought about several constitutional reforms in Nigeria.
9. It led to the emergence of news-papers e.g. Lagos Daily News.
10. Their agitations led to the introduction and extension of Franchise in Nigeria (elective principle).

Factors that Led to the Rise and Growth of Nationalism in Nigeria

1. Independence of other countries e.g. India in 1947 and later Ghana in 1957.
2. The colonial policy of indirect rule excluded the educated elite from governance.
3. The activities of West African Student's Union (WASU) in Britain and U.S.A.
4. The establishment of United Nations Organization stimulated nationalist movements due to its stance on colonialism and Human Rights.
5. The 1941 Atlantic charter emphasized the right to self-determination by all people of the world.
6. Appointment and deposition of chiefs by the colonial masters also increased nationalism e.g. the Aba women riot of 1929.
7. The emergence of newspapers such as the West African Pilot, Lagos Daily News, etc. increased nationalism.-
8. The British Labour Party supported self- rule for the colonized territories.
9. The defeat of Britain by Japan.
10. The activities of the Pan-African Congress.
11. Activities of trade union e.g. Nigeria Civil Service Union 1921, NUT 1931, etc.

Some Key Nationalist Leaders and their Contributions to Nationalism

1. **Herbert Macaulay:** He formed the first political party in Nigeria (NNDP). He also established a newspaper launched in 1925. The Lagos Daily News. This helped in creating awareness and aroused the political interest of Nigerians. Herbert Macaulay is regarded as the father of Nigerian Nationalism.
2. **Nnamdi Azikiwe:** He was a strong Nigerian nationalist. He was a member of Nigerian Youth Movement, general secretary of National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroon (NCNC). He was the editor of West African Pilot. He represented the eastern region in the constitutional conferences. In all these activities he contributed seriously to the rise and growth of Nationalism in Nigeria.
3. **Chief Obafemi Awolowo:** He was the founding father of Action Group, (a political party) a party whose member spear headed the 1953 motion for Nigeria self government in 1956. Awolowo represented the western region in the constitutional conferences.
4. **Sir Ahmadu Bello:** He was the leader of the Northern People's Congress (NPC). He also was the premier of the Northern region. He also represented the Northern region in the constitutional conferences.
5. **Ernest Ikoli:** He was one of the founders of the Nigerian Youth Movement. All the political parties contributed toward the growth of nationalism.
6. **L. Akintola, Samuel Akinsonya, H.O. Davies, etc.** all contributed through their membership of the political party or the other.

Methods Used by Nationalists in their Opposition to British Rule in Nigeria/West Africa

1. **The use of press** e.g. West African Pilot, Comet, Daily Express, Lagos Daily News etc. were used as vocal points of opposition to the British rule.
2. **Strike, protests, etc.** e.g. 1945 nationwide strike in Nigeria and 1948 in Ghana (then Gold Coast).
3. **Constitutional Conferences.**
4. **Organizing seminars, symposia.**
5. **The use of political parties** e.g. NNDP in Nigeria, Convention people's Party (CPP) in Ghana, People's Progressive Party (PPP) in Gambia, Sierra Leone People's people (SLPP) in Sierra-Leone.

ASSIGNMENT

List ten other Nationalists

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: Traffic Regulations
WEEK: 5
TERM: THIRD TERM

CONTENT

1. The Meaning of Traffic Regulations
2. Some Traffic Regulations
3. Roles of Government and Individuals in Maintaining Traffic Regulations

The Meaning of Traffic Regulations

Accidents on our highways have become a common occurrence. These are caused by ignorance and lack of education on the part of most road users. It is as a result of this that the traffic regulations are designed to guide and educate every road user on the road to prevent or minimize accident on the highways.

Traffic regulations are the official traffic rules made by the government and enforced by the road safety agency of Nigeria called the Federal Road Safety Commission of Nigeria (FRSC).

Traffic on roads may consist of pedestrians, ridden or herded animals, motor-cycles, vehicles, streetcars and other conveyances which use the road for travelling. Traffic regulations are laws and rules which govern traffic, regulate vehicles, and facilitate the orderly and timely flow of traffic.

Some Traffic Regulations

1. **Registration of vehicles:** It is mandatory that every vehicle that plies the road must be registered or else such a vehicle would be impounded by the traffic officials. Drivers and vehicle owners are expected to register and renew the particulars or documents of their vehicles.
2. **Obeying traffic officials:** Traffic officials are traffic law enforcement agents who prosecute people that violate traffic rules as contained in the Highway Code. Some of these traffic officials include officers the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Vehicles Inspection Officers (VIO). At times, the police offer assistance when the need arises to assist traffic officials to control vehicles, especially during festive periods, public events and social gatherings or religious activities.

3. **Obeying speed limits:** There is a speed limit at which vehicles can move either on the highway or within the towns. Any driver who exceeds the speed limit and is caught by the traffic officials will be booked or fined.
4. **Avoiding drinking and driving:** It is an offence for someone to drink especially alcoholic drinks or take drug substances which can influence them and make them drive recklessly. Anyone caught by road/traffic officials violating this rule will be made to face the punishment of the law.
5. **No driving by minors (underaged persons):** A minor is anyone who is below the age required by the law of the land to engage in certain activities. For instance, in Nigeria, the age of accountability is eighteen years. Hence, anybody who is below the age of eighteen is regarded as a minor.
6. **Traffic signs and traffic lights must be obeyed,** e.g. ZEBRA CROSSING, ONE WAY, NO PARKING, GIVE WAY, NO U-TURN, etc., must be obeyed by road users.
7. **All drivers must possess a valid driver's license:** Driver's license is an identification document issued by the traffic regulatory agency as a permit or authority to drive a car. It can also be described as a document that certifies one to drive some or all types of vehicles. Before anybody could be issued with a driver's license, such must pass through some tests and procedures. A learner's permit would be issued for a learner to drive with an experienced driver beside such as individual, and after six months of mastering the art and skill of driving, the person would be entitled to collect the original driver's license. It is an offence for someone to forge the document.
8. Drivers are expected to stop for pedestrians to cross when they approach a **zebra crossing sign.**
9. **Obstruction of driver:** No person driving a vehicle shall allow any person to stand, sit or anything to be placed in such a manner as to hamper the driver or his control of the vehicle.
10. **Mentally or physically unfit** people are not allowed to drive.
11. **Overtaking:** Drivers must take the following precautions before overtaking.
12. **Overtaking is prohibited at blind turns** when indicated not to overtake by road markings or traffic signs.
13. **Overtaking only from the left hand side** (except when the vehicle ahead is turning right.)
14. **Before starting to overtake,** look in your rear view mirror and confirm that nobody else is overtaking you. If in doubt, do not overtake.
15. **Fire service vehicles and ambulances should be given free passage:** Every driver shall on the approach of fire service vehicles or an ambulance give a free passage by driving the vehicle to the left side of the road.

16. **Distance from vehicle in front:** The driver of the vehicle moving behind another shall keep sufficient distance from the vehicle in front (one vehicle length distance for every 15km/hr).
17. Using a road under construction is prohibited.
18. Loading a vehicle above the weight or number of passengers required by law is prohibited.
19. Obstructing a road Marshal or traffic Warden in the performance of duty is an offense.
20. Using a GSM phone while driving is prohibited.
21. Smoking or eating while driving is prohibited.
22. Failure of the driver or the front-seat passenger to wear safety belts while driving is prohibited.
23. Medical personnel or hospitals rejecting accident victims are wrong.
24. Driving with one hand, etc. is wrong.

Roles of Government and Individuals in Maintaining Traffic Regulations

Roles of individual in maintaining Traffic regulations

1. Engage in defensive driving, that is, driving to save lives, money and time in spite of the conditions around the individual and provocative actions of other road users.
2. Study all the traffic offences and signs, have them at your finger-tips and try your best to obey all the traffic regulations.
3. Do the work of driver in the event of road traffic crash. Such responsibilities of the driver are:
 4. Stop at the scene of the crash.
 5. Check if the driver is hurt.
 6. Check if anybody else is hurt.
 7. If not hurt, leave the scene of the crash to a safe location, summon courage and assist others.
 8. State the fact of the case if asked by law enforcement agents.
 9. Get skid marks, others' identifications and photographs.
 10. Report the crash at the nearest FRSC office or call the emergency number of the FRSC.
 11. Vehicle occupants should do their responsibilities such as:
 12. If not hurt, vacate the hazardous location on the highway.
 13. Give all necessary information.
 14. If hurt but can talk, explain where it hurt to First Aider.
 15. Cooperate with First Aider.

16. Volunteers as individuals should do the following responsibilities in the event of road traffic crash: Stop to help in every traffic crash cases; as by-standers, cooperate with First Aider; do not compound the pain of the victim with expressed emotions; Help to clear obstruction; do not constitute obstruction.
17. Individuals should not claim right of way, as claiming such right may claim lives.
18. Every driver as an individual should rest for 15 minutes after every 4 hours of driving, and avoid driving more than 10 hours in 24hours (or a day).
19. Doctors, nurses and health workers should attend to accident victims promptly.

Roles of Government in Maintaining Traffic Regulations

1. Setting up agencies that would implement traffic regulations, like the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA), Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Osun Youth Empowerment Scheme (O-YES), Youth Empowerment Scheme Oyo State (YES-O).
2. Enactment of laws to regulate traffic.
3. Organizing of public lectures/workshops by special and regular marshals or officers and men of the road safety corps, and transporters.
4. Television and radio announcement warning road users on roads ethics, over speeding and non-usage of worn-out tyres.
5. Road signs to help drivers and motorists. These signs should be educative and precise
6. Installing traffic lights at appropriate strategic locations.
7. Making sure that the salaries, wages and other entitlements of safety agents and officials are paid as and when due so that they will be motivated to make our roads safe by doing their work.
8. Providing equipped vehicles and other gadgets needed to do road safety work.
9. Providing a mechanism to remove any form of obstruction on the road. For instance, providing towing vans that would evacuate a bad vehicle.
10. Providing ambulances to road safety agents and hospitals for easy evacuation of road traffic crash victims.

ASSIGNMENT

Draw an informative road sign and a warning road sign.

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: GOVIC

TOPIC: Constitutional Development of Nigeria I – Pre-Independence Constitutions

WEEK: 7

TERM: THIRD TERM

THE HUGH CLIFFORD CONSTITUTION 1922

Meaning of Constitution

A constitution is a body of laws governing a country. No country in the world can function without a constitution. It is a source of authority and it gives function to the three arms of government. It determines the rights and duties of citizens. Constitution can be written or unwritten; rigid or flexible.

In Nigeria, our constitutional development is in two phases. The first phase was the period when Nigeria was under British rule (Colonial rule or pre-independence period) and the second phase was when Nigeria gained independence from British rule (Post Independence Period).

Nigeria fell under British rule in 1861. Lagos was made a crown colony and was directly administered from London.

Nigeria passed through different phases of constitutional development.

In 1914 Lord Lugard, the governor general amalgamated the northern and southern protectorates. Lord Lugard established the **Nigerian Council** that laid the foundation for constitutional development in Nigeria.

Background to the Clifford Constitution of 1922

The 1922 constitution was named after the then governor of Nigeria, Sir Hugh Clifford. It seemed to be a response to the 1920 NCBWA demand for elective principles in West Africa. The NCBWA (National Congress for British West Africa) was a group formed in 1917 by a group of intellectuals from Ghana, Nigeria, Gambia and Sierra Leone. This Congress was dominated by the Ghanians, led by Caseley Hayford, a lawyer from Accra. The objective of the group was to unite Nationalists of these countries for independence.

The Main Features of the Clifford Constitution

The features of the 1922 Clifford Constitution include the following:

1. **The Elective Principle:** The Clifford constitution was important in that it embodied for the first time the principle of election in Nigeria. The condition of election was the residential qualification of one year in any of Lagos or Calabar and a gross annual income of £100 per annum.
2. **The Executive Council:** The Clifford constitution also established an Executive Council to advise the governor. It was not until after 1943 that the first two unofficial Africans were appointed into the Executive Council. Thus, it was an all-European membership based council.
3. **New Legislative Council:** Of the 46 members of the Legislative Council- 27 unofficial and 19 official – four of the unofficial members were elected through limited male adult franchise; three from Lagos and one from Calabar.
4. **Formation of Political Parties:** Another major effect of the constitution was that it stimulated the formation of political organizations in the country such as the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP).
5. **Establishment of Newspapers:** The West African Pilot, Lagos Daily News etc. were introduced to trigger political activities.
6. **Proclamation:** The governor made laws for the Northern provinces through proclamations.
7. This constitution remained operative for 25 years.

Merits of the Clifford Constitution

The following are the merits of the 1922 Clifford Constitution:

1. The constitution introduced a new legislative council, which could only make laws for the southern provinces.
2. It kick-started the process that eventually led to Nigerian independence.
3. The governor retained the power to legislate for Northern Nigeria
4. The elective principle was introduced under this constitution. This gave birth to the formation of political parties and political activities.
5. A single executive council for Nigeria was first created under this constitution. It was composed of 12 members, all of whom were Europeans.
6. More seats were given to Africans in the legislative council than that of 1914.

Demerits of the Clifford Constitution

The following are the demerits of the 1922 Clifford Constitution:

1. It isolated the North from the other parts of Nigeria. In other words, it failed to bring the whole country together in one legislative house, even after the amalgamation. This situation lasted for twenty-four years.

2. A large percentage of Nigerians were disenfranchised by the limitation of franchise (adult male franchise) to Lagos and Calabar. Also, franchise was not extended to the Executive Council
3. The council met very infrequently for about 8 days on the average, every year.
4. The governor had veto power over issues both in the legislative and executive councils.
5. There were many more officials and nominated members than elected members in the legislative council.
6. Illiterates who were in an unofficial capacity dominated the legislative council.

THE ARTHUR RICHARDS CONSTITUTION 1946

Background to the Richards Constitution 1946

At the break of the Second World War (1939 – 1945), the governor of Nigeria was Sir Arthur Richards. He was in office between 1939 and 1944. In 1939, the Northern and Southern protectorates were made **provinces**. Northern Nigeria remained a province and Southern Nigeria was broken into two (eastern and western provinces). At the time of Richards' retirement in 1944, he had almost completed the new constitution, where he proposed **regionalism**. Sir Richards' constitution of 1946 replaced the 1922 Clifford constitution.

Main Features of the Richards Constitution

The following are the features of the 1946 Richards Constitution:

1. The Legislative Council was to legislate for the whole country.
2. The Legislative council now had 44 members, i.e. 28 non-official and 16 official members. The non-official members comprised 4 directly elected members (3 for Lagos, 1 for Calabar), and 24 indirectly elected members to represent the regions.
3. The income qualification of the aspirants was reduced from £100 to £50.
4. Nigeria was **regionalized** into West, East and North.
5. It established regional councils. The North had a regional assembly (House of Assembly) and a House of Chiefs while the East and west had only the House of Assembly.
6. The Governor General was head of the Legislative Council and the Executive Council.
7. Veto power was retained by the Governor General.
8. The Executive Council now had Nigerian members.

Merits of the 1946 Richards Constitution

1. One of the greatest achievements of the Richards Constitution was that it brought the North and the South under a common Legislative Council. It allowed the whole country to meet as a body and deliberate on the affairs of the country. Therefore, the Constitution achieved one of its objectives of promoting the **unity** of the country.

2. The Constitution introduced the concept of **regionalism** into the political history of the country.
3. Provision for few Nigerians in the **Executive Council** was made.
4. Provision of a bicameral legislature for the North (regional assembly and House of Chiefs)
5. The Constitution sharpened nationalism in Nigeria. As a result of the N.C.N.C. tour of the country to explain the deficiencies of the Richards Constitution, many people in the country became politically conscious and even some became members of political parties in order to fight colonialism and imperialism.
6. The Richards Constitution represented a constitutional advancement and paved the way for further rapid constitutional developments in the country. A highly centralized unitary constitution was not suitable for a country of the size and diversity of Nigeria.

Demerits of the 1946 Richards Constitution

1. The constitution was promulgated with the least possible consultation with the Nigerian people.
2. The constitution failed by not giving Nigerians responsibility in the actual administration of their country.
3. The governor still retained his veto powers thereby making a mockery of the Legislative Council.
4. The elective principle was still as restrictive as under the 1922 Constitution.
5. There was widespread dissatisfaction with the constitution which led to its collapse in 1949.
6. The right to vote was limited to people with high income or property.
7. European interests were still represented in the Legislative Council.

The Ibadan All Nigerian Constitutional Conference 1950

Despite the above features and improvements brought about by Richards's constitution of 1922, there were complaints when Sir John Macpherson became Governor of Nigeria in 1948. He initiated moves for Nigerians to agree to constitutional changes. After the debates at local village, province and regional levels, Ibadan general conference came into being in January 1950.

The following decisions were reached at the conference:

1. Increased regional autonomy within a united Nigeria (quasi-federal system).
2. That regional legislative council would be given limited legislative powers compared to 1946 constitution when regional legislative council had no power to make laws.
3. Ministerial responsibility for Nigerians which led to the creation of **councils of ministers** in the constitution.

4. Creation of larger and more representative regional legislature.
5. That the North was to provide 50% or half of the seats in the central legislature in Lagos.
6. More legislative powers to be given to the regions to be in line with their increased autonomy.
7. An independent commission to be appointed for revenue allocation.
8. The central house of representatives to be enlarged.
9. That the ordinances of central administration should override regional laws.

ASSIGNMENT

1. Lagos was annexed in the year _____
2. The Southern and Northern Protectorates was amalgamated in _____
3. NCBWA means _____
4. _____ Clifford constitution of _____
5. _____ Richard constitution of _____
6. NCNC _____ as _____ a _____ political _____ party means _____
7. The Clifford constitution had _____ members of the Legislative Council- _____ unofficial and _____ official – four of the unofficial members were elected through limited male adult franchise; _____ from Lagos and _____ from Calabar.
8. The Legislative in the Richard constitution had _____ members, i.e. _____ non-official and _____ official members.
9. The Clifford Constitution is known for _____
10. The Richard Constitution is known for _____

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: GOVIC

TOPIC: Constitutional Development of Nigeria I – Pre-Independence Constitutions II

WEEK: 8

TERM: THIRD TERM

THE MACPHERSON CONSTITUTION 1951(Quasi-Federalism)

Background to the 1951 Macpherson Constitution

Sir Arthur Richards' constitution had several defects and the defects attracted criticisms from Africans who had become increasingly politically conscious. The objective of the MacPherson's constitution therefore was to overcome the flops in the Richards constitution of 1946 and to accelerate the forward march towards democratic self-rule. This followed the increased and intensified agitations of nationalists.

Unlike sir Arthur Richard who drew up the 1946 constitution alone, John Macpherson had a strategy of involving the Africans in the preparation of the 1951 constitution. Thus he set up various specialized committees to study the constitution. He summoned divisional meetings in which divisional representatives were present, and finally a regional conference.

Basic Features of the 1951 Macpherson Constitution

The Following Are The Basic Features Of The Macpherson Constitution Of 1951:

1. The constitution established for the first time, a Legislative Council for the whole country called "**The House of Representatives**". It was made up of **149 members** as follows: President (appointed from outside the house by the governor), 6 Ex-officio members, 136 Representatives selected by the Regional Houses of Assembly and Chiefs, and 6 Special members appointed by the government to represent interests and communities not adequately represented in the house.
2. The constitution established a **Bicameral Legislature** for the northern and western regions, that is, a house of chiefs and a house of assembly for each and a unicameral legislature for the eastern region, i.e. a house of assembly only.
3. The constitution also established a **central executive council** known as the "**Council of Ministers**" and regional executive council. The executive council comprised of 19 members – the governor who was president, 6 ex-officio members and 12 unofficial members. The latter (the regional executive), consisting of the lieutenant governor, 5 official members and 9 ministers, was created for each of the regions of the country.

4. The constitution provided for a **legislative list for the central government at Lagos and the regional legislatures**. Hence the regional legislatures were empowered to make laws for the peace, order, and government of the regions in respect of agriculture, animal, health, fishing, forestry, education, etc. however, the central legislature had the power to veto a regional bill before it was assented to by the regional governor.
5. A **Public service commission** for the appointment, dismissal and other disciplinary control of public officers was established in Nigeria.
6. A **Revenue Allocation Formula**, based on the **principles of derivation, need and national interest**, was introduced. The constitution provided that the central government would return to the regional governments all the taxes that their citizens had paid. To achieve this, it was agreed that half of the revenue from taxes on tobacco and cigarettes should be given to the regions with respect to their respective consumption. This in effect, meant that the tobacco consumed in cities like Kano, Lagos and Port Harcourt which formed one half of the taxes on the citizens, be given to the Northern, Western and Eastern regions.
7. **The principle of needs**: this meant that grants be related to the needs of the people in each region without regard to the output or consumption of the region. To achieve this, the central government would make a substantial grant to regions in respect of every adult male tax payer in each region.
8. **The principle of national interest**: this meant that revenue should be spent for the purposes of national importance. To give effect to this, it was agreed that education should be given hundred per cent grant because it was considered of national importance. Because of differences in the rate of education among the three regions, the Northern region had a lion share of the grants on education.
9. The constitution was a principal instrument of policy due to the appointment of majority of the members of the council of ministers from the House of Representatives and the Regional Executive Councils. This helped to remove to an extent, **autocratic powers** of the governor and lieutenant governors.

Merits of the Macpherson Constitution

1. It Increased The Level Of Participation Of Indigenous People In The Government. For The First Time, The Number of Unofficial Members in the House of Representatives was overwhelming. It is significant to note that the number of Elected Unofficial Members was far greater than that of the Unofficial Nominated Members.
2. The constitution provided an opportunity for Nigerian nationalists to learn the art of constitution making.
3. It made for Nigerian, a quasi-federalism.
4. Direct election was introduced for both the federal and regional legislatures.
5. There was the extension of a bicameral legislature to the west.

6. The offices of speaker and deputy speaker of the legislative houses were created for the first time.
7. Nigerians were appointed as ministers for the first time.
8. Full legislative powers were given to both the central and regional legislatures.
9. The central legislature became known as the House of Representatives.

Demerits of the Macpherson Constitution

1. The introduction of regionalism had the effect of artificially dividing the country – a division which was beneficial to the colonial masters because the regions were given greater autonomy.
2. The principle of indirect election and the inclusion of special interests in the legislature were bitterly criticized by the nationalist leaders. The Nationalist Leaders wanted the abolition of special interests.
3. The N.C.N.C leaders wanted direct elections so as to give the electorate the opportunity to participate in the selection of their representatives.
4. The ministers in the central executive council were not in control of government departments but were in charge of specific government business. This made the government in the centre not responsible. Since the ministers were regionally selected, they were regional conscious instead of being national conscious.
5. The constitution made no provision for the appointment of a prime minister in the centre, and on account of this, the cabinet did not perform as a team. Each of the ministers received instructions from their respective regions.
6. None of the political leaders of the three major political parties was in either the House of Representatives or in the Central Executive Council.
7. The constitution was undemocratic in the sense that it was the Governor that provided questions whose answers formed the constitution. The constitution made no provision for the establishment of a second chamber in the centre and it did not provide for the house of chiefs in the eastern region.
8. The retention of official members in the centre and in the regions was also a defect.
9. Also, the constitution did not provide for a uniform electoral system, for in the northern region there was an indirect election while in both the eastern and western regions there was direct election.
10. The constitution also retained both reserved, veto powers and the governor might even legislate for the whole country in the interest of good government.

LYTTLETON CONSTITUTION OF 1954(True Federalism)

Features of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954

The following are the features of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954:

1. For the first time in Nigeria, true federalism was adopted where power was shared to the central and regional government by the constitution i.e. the **Exclusive list and the Residual list**.
2. The **lieutenant-governors** in the regions became known as governors.
3. The governor of the country became known as **Governor-General**.
4. The regional Houses of Assembly were given **residual powers** to pass bills into laws without the approval from the central government.
5. It provided for the post of a **Premier** as the leader of government in the regions. The leader of the political party with a majority in the regional assembly became Premier – Nnamdi Azikiwe, Premier for the East, Ahmadu Bello, Premier for the North and Obafemi Awolowo, Premier for the West.
6. There was regionalization of the **Civil Service**. Thus, the regions now had their civil service and judiciary.
7. Lagos was removed from the Western region and was made a federal capital territory.
8. The constitution also made provisions for a **federal supreme court** for the country.
9. The regional governors were to appoint ministers based on the advice of the premiers.

Merits of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954

The following are the merits of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954:

1. It provided a federal system of government for Nigeria.
2. A Federal Supreme Court replaced the West African Court of Appeal, and High Courts were provided for regions, including Southern Cameroon and Lagos.
3. More autonomy was granted the regions. For instance the regional executives were responsible for the formulation and execution of policies for their regions, except matters related to the Exclusive List.
4. Ministers were given portfolios.
5. It granted real law making powers to the regional legislatures.
6. It recognized the need for gradual integration of the various groups in Nigeria by passing power to the regions. Regional governments were given greater responsibility.
7. It paved way for regional self-government.

8. Separate elections were allowed into the regional and central legislative houses, unlike before where one was an electoral college of the other.
9. Ministers were given greater responsibility.
10. It retained the bi-cameral legislature for both the North and West, and a unicameral for the East.

Demerits of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954

The following are the demerits of the Lyttleton Constitution of 1954:

1. It made no provision for a second chamber at the centre and the East.
2. The post of Prime Minister was not provided for.
3. It did not provide for a unified electoral system throughout the country as only adult males voted in the North.
4. The Governor-General (head of state) and governors still retained their veto powers. It introduced a revenue allocation formula which over-emphasized derivation as against need and national interest.
5. Even though the Supreme Court was established, it had no power to entertain appellate cases in Nigeria. Also, it was not made the highest court in the country.

Assignment

Copy into your notebook and Fill the blank spaces.

1. The Macpherson constitution was introduced in 19_____
2. The constitution created a House of Representative with _____members.
3. Bicameral Legislature for the northern and western regions known as _____ and _____
4. Unicameral Legislature was created for the Eastern Region known as _____
5. The constitution also established a central executive council known as the _____ with _____ members.
6. True federalism was introduced by the _____ constitution in 19_____
7. The regional Houses of Assembly were given _____ powers, while the central House of Representative had the _____ powers.
8. _____ was the Premier for the East, _____ was the Premier for the North and _____ was the Premier for the West.
9. The Macpherson Revenue Allocation Formula was based on _____, _____ and _____
10. _____ for the appointment, dismissal and other disciplinary control of public officers was established in Nigeria.

CLASS: SS2

SUBJECT: GOVIC

TOPIC: Constitutional Development of Nigeria --Independence & Republican Const.

WEEK: 9

TERM: THIRD TERM

Background to the 1960 Independence Constitution

In preparation for Nigeria's independence, constitutional conferences were held to discuss the timing of self-government and other issues affecting Nigeria. There were resolutions from these conferences. These resolutions which included the following were later included into the 1960 Independence constitution:

1. A House of Chiefs for the East.
2. A bicameral legislature at the centre comprising of the Senate and the House of Representatives.
3. The creation of the office of Prime Minister.
4. A list of Fundamental Human Rights.

Main Features of the 1960 Independence Constitution

The following are the features of the 1960 Independence Constitution:

1. The governor-general, a representative of the Queen of England, became the Head of State while the Prime Minister, who would be elected, became Head of Government.
2. A national bicameral parliament was created, consisting of the Senate with **44** nominated members and the House of Representatives with **305** elected members.
3. The constitution made the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London, the highest/final Court of Appeal.
4. The powers of government were to be shared between the regional and federal governments. (Exclusive, concurrent and residual lists)
5. Provision was made for judges of the Supreme Court whose decisions were subject to confirmation by the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in Britain.
6. Procedures for amending the constitution were laid down.
7. It laid down the procedure for creating new regions. E.g. the Mid-western region was created in 1963.
8. Fundamental Human Rights were entrenched in the Constitution.
9. It created the Judicial Service Commission for the central government and the regions.

Merits of the Independence Constitution of 1960

The following are the merits of the 1960 Independence Constitution:

1. The Queen of England was head of the Nigeria government, but was represented by a Nigerian Governor-General, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe.
2. Nigeria became a full-fledged federation with three regions.
3. There was now a bi-cameral legislature for the three regions.
4. Fundamental human rights were entrenched in the constitution.
5. Emergency powers were conferred on the federal government, which it could exercise to declare a state of emergency.
6. The office of the Prime Minister was created at the centre.
7. The leader of the majority party in the House of Representatives, Sir Tafawa Balewa of the (NPC) was appointed the first prime minister of Nigeria.

Demerits of the Independence Constitution of 1960

The following are the demerits of the 1960 Independence Constitution:

1. The queen of England still acted as head of state for Nigeria. This speaks volumes of partial independence for Nigeria.
2. The governor general was rendered powerless. He was practically only a figure head.
3. Members of the Senate were appointed, instead of being elected.
4. Even though there was a supreme court in the country, it had no power over appellate cases. Nigerians could only appeal to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London.

THE 1963 REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION

Background to the 1963 Republican Constitution

Like other previous constitutions, the 1960 constitution has its defects. After Nigeria's independence two years later, political crises began to rear its ugly head in the Western Region.

In the Western region, crises eventually led to the split of the Action Group into two factions, the one led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo, and the other led by his deputy, Chief Samuel L. Akintola. However, there was a general consensus of political opinion, especially among all the political parties, that every trace of external interference in the

political affairs of Nigeria by the monarch in Britain is wiped out. Thus, a constitutional conference was held in Lagos on 2th and 26th July, 1963. It was also resolved that the Privy Council in Britain be replaced by the Supreme Court of Nigeria as the final and highest court of the land. All these finally led to the 1963 Republican constitution of Nigeria.

Features of the 1963 Republican Constitution

The following are the main features of the 1963 Republican Constitution:

1. It established a federal republican government for Nigeria.
2. The Queen ceased to be the Head of State of Nigeria.
3. The abolition of the Judicial Service Commission and the empowerment of the President to appoint judges of the Supreme Court on the advice of the Prime Minister.
4. The Supreme Court and not the Privy Council became the final court of appeal in Nigeria and it had the power of judicial review.
5. The constitution laid down the process for the creation of new regions and revenue allocation formula.
6. The president, as a ceremonial head, replaced the Governor-General.
7. The president of Nigeria was to be elected through the secret ballot for a period of five years by the Senate and the House of Representatives sitting together.
8. The head of government was the prime minister.
9. The number of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives increased to **56 and 312** respectively.
10. Revenue allocation was no longer based on the policy of derivation but on need, national interest and even development.
11. The President was given the power to appoint the Chief Justice of Nigeria, judges of the Supreme Court, judges of the high court based on the advice of the prime minister, instead of the Judicial Service Commission.
12. It led to the creation of a fourth region, i.e. the Mid-west region.

Merits of the Republican Constitution

The following are the merits of the 1963 Republican Constitution:

1. It abolished all forms of representation from Britain i.e. the Queen was no longer represented by the President.
2. It made possible the creation of a fourth region which was long overdue – the Mid-west region.

3. It made Nigeria a full-fledged republic.
4. It made the Supreme Court the highest court for all cases in Nigeria.
5. It encouraged team work through the collective responsibility of ministers.

Demerits of the Republican Constitution

The following are the demerits of the 1963 Republican Constitution:

1. The constitution was not supreme, rather **parliament** was supreme.
2. The prime minister was accountable to **parliament** and not to the people.
3. The supremacy of parliament culminated in arbitrary use of power by legislators.
4. The **president** was not popularly elected by the **electorate** of Nigeria.
5. Independence of the judiciary was not provided for as the Judicial Service Commission no longer had the power to appoint judges.
6. The constitution regionalized politics.
7. Lobbying or bribery and corruption characterized the election of the presidency by the National Assembly.
8. The constitution made it more **difficult to create new states**, thereby making one of the regions larger than the three others put together.
9. There was no separation but **fusion of powers**. The executive and the legislature were both fused. It did not make for effective performance.
10. **Carpet-crossing** was the common feature of the First Republic. Politicians were shifting party allegiance for some rewards.

Assignment

Copy into your notebook and fill the blank spaces below:

1. One of the disadvantages of the republican constitution was that the constitution was not supreme but the _____
2. The 1960 independence constitution created national bicameral parliament, consisting of the Senate with _____ nominated members and the House of Representatives with _____ elected members.
3. The number of members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Republican constitution increased to _____ and _____ respectively.
4. The Queen ceased to be the Head of State of Nigeria in the _____ constitution.
5. The fourth region was created in the _____ constitution, and it called the _____
6. The highest court before the 1963 Republican constitution was the _____

7. The 1960 and 1963 constitutions showed that Nigeria was practicing the _____ system of government.
8. Carpet-crossing is the _____

9. In the independent constitution, the _____ was appointed, while the _____ was elected by the parliament.
10. In the 1960, the Prime Minister was _____ and the President or Governor General was _____

CLASS: SS2
SUBJECT: GOVIC
TOPIC: THE 1979 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION
WEEK: 10
TERM: THIRD TERM

BACKGROUND TO THE 1979 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION

There were a lot of crises in the operation of the Republican constitution of 1963. These crises were mainly political e.g.; the Federal Elections Crises of 1964; the Western Elections Crises of 1965; the general tensed political atmosphere and thuggery/rigging etc. all those contributed to the first coup d' etat which dethroned the democratic government of the First Republic on January 15, 1966. The military was in power for the next **thirteen years until 1979** when the Lt. General Olusegun Obasanjo's military regime established a **Constitution Drafting Committee (CDC) in September, 1975**. The committee consisted of 49 members headed by Chief Rotimi Williams as Chairman. The work of drafting the constitution was completed in June, 1978. However, the Federal Republic of Nigeria constitution of 1979 was enacted under Decree No. 25 of 1978. The constitution came into operation on the 1st of October 1979. It was based on Nigeria's 19 states structure. We must note that this constitution ushered in the Alhaji Shehu Shagari administration.

The Main Features of the 1979 Constitution

1. It emphasized the **fundamental rights** of the Nigerian citizens, freedom of worship, association and mixed trade, etc.
2. The constitution provided for a **bicameral legislature** at the federal level and a unicameral legislature at the state level. The federal legislature comprised the Senate and the House of Representatives, and was called the National Assembly. For any bill to be passed into law, it must be carried by 2/3 majority of both the House of Representatives and the Senate at a joint sitting.
3. The **National Assembly** was responsible for making laws for the whole country. It could make legislation on both the exclusive list and the concurrent list. The exclusive list contained those issues that can be dealt with by the federal government of Nigeria whereas the concurrent list contained those items that both national and state assemblies could legislate upon. However, where there is any conflict between a federal legislation takes precedence. The Senate was headed by the Senate president while the House of Representatives was headed by a speaker.

4. It provided for the office of an executive governor. As for the law making body/organ, it has only the house of assembly. This was headed by a speaker.
5. At both the federal and the state level, the constitution provided for an independent judiciary. Thus the concept of separation of powers into the executive, legislative and the judiciary was upheld.
6. The parliamentary system of government was replaced by the presidential system.
7. It also dealt with the security of Nigeria. It provided for the Police, Army, and Navy and specified their functions.
8. It also provide for special bodies such as the Council of State, Federal Civil Service Commission, Federal Judicial Service Commission, National Defence Council, National Economic Council, National Security Council and the Police Service Commission.
9. The constitution, in addition, spelt out specific functions for local governments. These functions relate to grassroots administration in the states.

Merits of the 1979 Constitution

1. The president was responsible to the electorates because he was popularly elected.
2. It provided for separation of powers and checks and balances.
3. The absence of collective responsibility made ministers to be individually responsible.
4. The constitution was supreme, unlike the 1963 constitution which gave supremacy to the parliament.
5. It removes every element of regionalized politics in the formation of political parties.
6. The president had a free hand to choose his ministers even from outside his party and as such the best materials were appointed as minister.
7. The rights of individuals were fully elaborated and guaranteed.
8. The president could effectively check the activities of the ministers because they were individually responsible to him.

Demerits of the 1979 Constitution

1. The cost of running a presidential system was comparatively high.
2. The impeachment clause was too flexible. It could lead to instability, e.g. the removal of Alhaji Balarabe Musa, the Kaduna state governor during the Second Republic.
3. There was always clash or conflict between the executive and the National Assembly.
4. Too much power was concentrated in the hands of the president as both head of state and head of government. It could make the president transform into a dictator.
5. The constitution increased the level of corruption as lobbying was legalized.

6. The federal character as portrayed by the appointment of people into federal establishments could not reflect its true meaning. This is because some sections of the country would still feel neglected.

The Differences between the 1963 and the 1979 Constitutions

S/N	1963 REPUBLICAN CONSTITUTION	1979 PRESIDENTIAL CONSTITUTION
1	It was parliamentary in nature	It was presidential in nature
2	The prime minister was the head of government and the president, ceremonial head of state (the Queen).	The executive president was both the head of state and head of government and ceremonial head of state
3	The president was not directly elected but was chosen from the elected legislators in parliament.	The president was elected through direct election by the electorate in a general election.
4	The prime minister appointed his ministers only from his party members in the parliament	The executive president appointed his ministers from outside the parliament. He was not restricted to his party
5	A minister was a member of parliament as well as the executive.	A minister was not a member of parliament. He belonged only to the executive arm of government.
6	There was fusion of powers	There was clear separation of powers
7	There was collective responsibility of ministers. (Principle of collective responsibility).	There was individual responsibility of ministers.
8	The prime minister could be removed from office if a vote of no confidence was passed on him.	The executive president could be removed from office through impeachment.
9	There was parliamentary supremacy	There was constitutional supremacy

ASSIGNMENT

1. CDC before the 1979 constitution mean
-

2. CDC was formed in _____ and headed by _____
3. According to the 1979 constitution, for any bill to be passed into law, it must be carried by _____ majority of both the House of Representatives and the Senate at a joint sitting.
4. The federal legislature comprised the _____ and the _____, and was called the National Assembly.
5. Unlike the 1963 constitution, in the 1979 constitution, the _____ was supreme.
6. Unlike the 1963 constitution, where there was separation of power, in the 1979 there was _____.
7. The president was elected through direct election by the _____ in a general election.
8. The 1979 constitution ushered the first president----President _____
9. The military stayed in power for _____ years, before the 1979 change of government.
10. Before the 1979, the president was a _____ head.