

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