**NEO COLONIALISM IN AFRICA**

Neo colonialism refers to the dominancy of independent African states by either the former colonial masters or the developed and industrial states of the world.

NB: Neo-colonialism is secondary colonialism and the highest stage of imperialism in Africa.

**Manifestations / Features of neo – colonialism in Africa**

* Giving of economic aid to African states with conditions attached. This aid comes from the USA, World Bank, IMF and foreign expatriates are sent to Africa to supervise the same.
* Presence of multinational companies in African states (MNCs) is a manifestation of Neo-colonialism. They are large scale companies e.g. coca-cola, MTN, Airtel, Shell, Barclays.
* Refusal of donor countries to give aid for development e.g. the industrial development in African countries. All funds are diverted to social infrastructure like education and health.
* Presence of numerous espionage (spy network) in African countries. These include FBI, CIA, Scotland Yard, KGB, these have continually reported Information from Africa including MOSSAD.
* Control of commodity Prices in the world market by the rich countries of the world is a feature of neo colonialism. It should be noted that African countries are price takers and developed countries are price makers.
* The signing of trade agreements and concessions is a feature of Neo – colonialism for example Uganda and Belgium in 1979 during the reign of Amin Dada.
* The continuation of colonial economic policies in African countries e.g. relying on agriculture as a raw material, being more importers of manufactured goods from the rich countries.
* Lack of industrialization by the post independent African states is a feature of neo – colonialism. African countries are still in traditional stage of production where agriculture is dominant.
* The collapse of economic integrations is partly related to neo – colonialism, this has been caused by the intervention of western Companies hence higher competition.
* Imposition of colonial constitutions in African countries is a form of Neo – colonialism i.e. African countries have still articles enshrined in their constitutions right from the colonial times i.e. the British, the French and the Dutch.
* Presence of white settlers in African countries is a sign of neo colonialism e.g S.A, Kenya, Zimbabwe.
* Relying on advice of expatriates in the decision making of African countries e.g. Senegal by 1960 getting advice from the French.
* The attempt to maintain military bases in newly independent African states is a sign of neo-colonialism e.g. Britain in Egypt, Belgium in Zaire (Congo) USA / USSR in Somalia and Ethiopia, France and Belgium in Rwanda.
* The engineering / supporting of military coups in Africa is a sign of neo – colonialism. These include the 1971 coup in Uganda supported by Britain, the 1974 coup in Ethiopia supported by Russia, etc
* The education system in African countries based in African countries i.e. More theoretical than practical also based on the foreign curriculum.
* Direct involvement of developed countries in the internal affairs of African states. This is exemplified by USA in Somalia, France in Nigeria between 1967- 1970 during the Biafra secession, Belgium in Rwanda between 1990 and 1994 during the genocide.
* Association of independent African states with the former colonial masters e.g. commonwealth for the colonial master, Francophone for the French colonies
* Use of evangelism in African states is a manifestation of Neo colonialism; this is manifested in the emergence of numerous churches in African states that has caused divisions in church.
* Western European type of democracy in African states i.e. political pluralism, i.e. the existence of multi party politics as a precondition for foreign aid.
* The use of foreign languages by African countries like English, Germany, French, Latin etc which has compromised the local languages hence undermining African unity.
* The use of print and electronic media in African countries e.g. Magazines, Films, YouTube, twitter, Skype, Facebook, Google+ which have had a direct impact on African countries.
* Sponsoring of rebels / opposition leaders against the governments in power i.e. giving them Forum to express their ideas e.g. the civil societies.
* Technological transfer / the use of foreign technologies
* Existence of foreign ideologies e.g. capitalism and communism
* Dominance of NGOs like DANIDA, USAID, UKAID etc.
* Western cultural imperialism reflected in the dress code i.e. see through, damaged jeans

**The Positive impact of neo -colonialism on development include/ Foreign Aid**

* Has led to increased development aid in African countries to fund projects e.g. establishing social services
* Neo - colonialism has provided emergence program relief aid in areas struck by disaster / calamities e.g. the Bududa case for Uganda.
* Has improved on political stability of African countries through the extension of military aid.
* Has encouraged the growth of functional democracy through institutions hence promoting peace e.g. the civil societies.
* Neo – colonialism has promoted good international relations i.e. from the countries giving aid e.g. the Chinese have infiltrated African continent.
* Has promoted technological transfers that have promoted increased productivity, improved quality services and goods.
* Neo – colonialism has helped to bridge the investment gap in African states. This has helped to alleviate unemployment and increased revenue collection in the long run.
* Has improved on the provision of the social survives e.g. education and health through the grants extended to Africa.
* Has eased communication through the introduction of international languages like English, French, Latin. Also electronic gadgets like phones and other plat forms have globalised the world.
* Promoted industrialization through direct foreign investment (FDI) and the multi – national investments. This has helped to improve on the growth path in Africa.
* Helped to fill the man power gap in Africa through the access to foreign expatriates.
* Has ensured government accountability through the supervision of projects under funding. This has helped to check on the institutionalized corruption in African countries.
* Have off set the budgetary deficits in African states. This is because the budgets of African states are not nationally fully funded.
* Promoted infrastructural development that has increased accessibility in Africa. This ranges from roads set up to increase marketing and finalizing development.

**Other factors for the development of Africa.**

* Natural resource endowment e.g. the harnessing of the available minerals e.g. Albertine oil in Uganda, oil in Nigeria, diamond in Tanzania
* The political stability that attract both local and foreign investment
* Availability of plentiful labor i.e. cheap and skilled to work in different sectors.
* The formation and membership to regional cooperation e.g. EAC, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC, etc
* The positive government policies on investment and development e.g. tax holidays for investors, subsidies etc.
* People’s positive attitude towards change i.e. hardworking populace.
* The existence of fertile soils that favor flourishing agriculture
* The able and focused leadership in terms of governance .

**Roles of neo – colonialism in under developed/ negative impact:-**

* Accelerated the foreign manipulation in decision making in African states
* Led to the continued exploitation of African resources
* Has undermined African independence where policies are determined by the developed world.
* Contributed to the collapse of African integrations e.g. EAC in East Africa by 1977
* Perpectuated political instabilities and coup – detats in Africa e.g. 1971 in Uganda, 1965 in Congo 1965 in Algeria etc.
* Made African states to be producers of what they can’t consume and consume what they don’t produce/
* Sabotaged industrialization programs in Africa.
* Influenced African states to accumulate foreign debts which keep in the viscous cycle of poverty.
* Led to cultural erosion through the demonstration effects e.g. foreign religions and languages.
* Has created a neo – social class society i.e. the rich and the poor which has increases income inequality with all the associated evils.
* Expanded the concept of brain drain making African states to be raped of technical experts.
* Has undermined African technological advancement or destruction of African craftsmanship innovation and inventions. These are precursors to development.
* Led to persistent balance of payment problems in Africa hence leaving African states impoverished i.e. developed states determine the market prices of goods.
* Made African states to adopt foreign ideologies like capitalism and communism. This has undermined non – aligned movement (NAM) and long term problems can’t be handled.
* Increased project repatriation or capital outflow by foreign investors. This has undermined capital accumulation in Africa.
* Promoted environmental degradation through the industries set up i.e. failure to control pollution which decimates the life span of Africans.
* Unemployment has increased due to unfavorable structural adjustment programs (SAPS) imposed on Africans i.e. forced retrenchment to downsize the numbers.
* Created puppet leaders in Africa who dance to the tunes of the supporters form the developed world.
* Made African education to be more theoretical or irrelevant or inappropriate to the current problems of African states.
* Made African states to be dumping grounds for poor quality products. These have side effects on the life of Africans.
* Increased immorality in African states e.g. prostitution and homosexuality.
* Neo – colonialism in form of aid has caused inflationary problems i.e. goods imported from inflated states.
* Devalued the currencies of African states. This is because determination of value is judged according to dollars, pounds etc.

**Other factors for under development of Africa.**

* Weak leadership in Africa
* Internal disunity in Africa which undermines development
* Poor government planning and priotization i.e. neglect of agriculture vs defense to increase political longevity
* Corruption and embezzlement in government sectors
* Tribalism / nepotism and favoritism which causes unfair decisions
* Existence of unstable political systems which scare investors.
* Low levels of technological advancement.
* Cultural rigidities / indoctrinations e.g. some peasants fear to use tractors for fear of causing soil infertility.