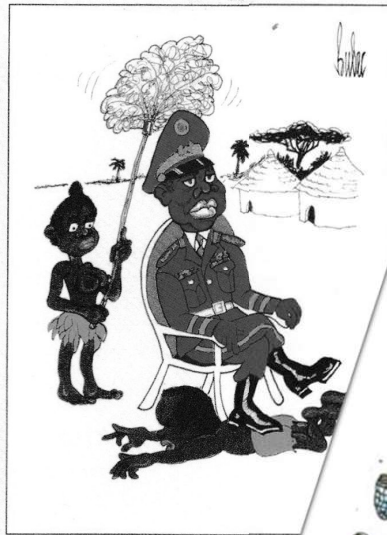
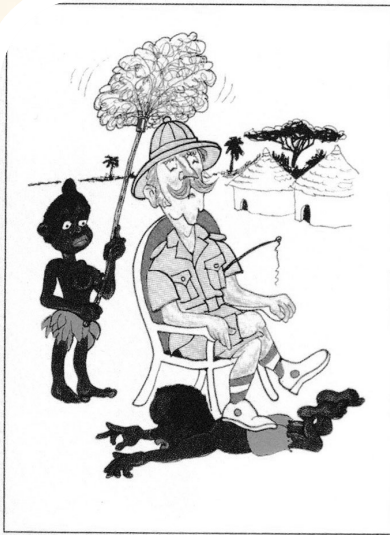


Decolonisation and North-South Divide



perfected her discipline, having resolutely
itself, she now seizes that moment, and, s
and by gallant allies in Europe, but rely
strikes in full confidence of victory.

Decolonisation after 1945

The reasons why decolonisation took place are many and complex, varying widely from one country to another. Three key elements played a major role in the process after 1945: colonised peoples' thirst for independence, the Second World War which demonstrated that colonial powers were no longer invulnerable, and a new focus on anti-colonialism in international arenas such as the United Nations.

Most African states achieved independence in or after 1960 and quite often European colonial powers were reluctant to give up their colonies leading to a series of independence wars (e.g. Irish War of Independence 1919-1921; First Indochina War 1946-1954; Algerian War 1954-1962). In addition, wars often erupted between the formerly colonized peoples themselves due to ethnic and/or religious conflicts as the Europeans did not care about indigenous groups when they traced their colonies' borders (e.g. Nigeria).

North-South Divide

Several theories have been put forward to explain the North-South Divide. *Environmental determinism* holds that climate and terrain largely determine success. The *Dependency theory* is the notion that resources flow from a 'periphery' of poor states to a 'core' of wealthy states which is a system established in colonial times. *Modernisation theory* seeks to explain linear social evolution from 'pre-modern' to 'modern' societies – and some countries 'are not there yet'. *Political theory* sees the main problem in the corrupt rulers which in many former colonies have taken over power after independence. Other scholars think that southern countries lack *factors of production* (i.e. land, labour and capital goods).

Some key dates

- 1910 – South Africa
- 1917 – Balfour Declaration
- 1922 – Ireland + Egypt
- 1941 – Ethiopia
- 1947 – India
- 1951 – Libya
- 1956 – Sudan
- 1956 – Morocco + Tunisia
- 1997 – Hong Kong

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