



Civic Education – SS1 First Term



Week 10: Nationalism and Global Civic Issues



Lesson Topics

1. Meaning of Nationalism
 2. Reasons for Nationalism
 3. Roles of Individuals, Groups, and Political Parties in Promoting Nationalism
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Lesson Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students should be able to:

- ✓ Define **nationalism** and explain it in a Nigerian context.
 - ✓ State and describe the **causes** and **motivations** behind the rise of nationalism in Nigeria.
 - ✓ List and explain the **roles** played by individuals, groups, and political parties in advancing Nigeria's independence.
 - ✓ Understand how nationalism relates to **global civic issues** like self-determination, freedom, and justice.
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1. Meaning of Nationalism



What is Nationalism?

Nationalism is a strong feeling of **loyalty, pride, and love** for one's country, and the belief that the country's **interests, culture, identity, and sovereignty** should come first. It is the **desire of people to govern themselves**, preserve their culture, and protect their freedom.

In Nigeria, **nationalism was the movement that led to the struggle for freedom from British colonial rule.**



Key Point: Nationalism goes beyond just waving the flag; it involves **standing up for your country's dignity, unity, and development.**



Who Is a Nationalist?

A **nationalist** is a person who actively promotes the interests of their country. Nigerian nationalists stood up against oppression and worked for independence.

Examples of Nigerian Nationalists:

- **Herbert Macaulay** – Often called the "Father of Nigerian Nationalism"
 - **Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe** – First President of Nigeria; used media to spread nationalist ideas
 - **Chief Obafemi Awolowo** – Formed political parties and promoted education
 - **Sir Ahmadu Bello** – Championed regional development in Northern Nigeria
 - **Mrs. Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti** – Campaigned for women's rights and independence
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2. Reasons for Nationalism

Nigerian nationalism did not happen by chance. Several **conditions, experiences, and injustices** under colonial rule led to the rise of this movement.



A. Colonial Oppression and Injustice

- Harsh treatment of Nigerians by British officials
- Imposition of taxes and forced labor
- Nigerians had **no political say** in their own country

For example, the 1929 **Aba Women's Riot** was a protest against excessive taxation.



B. Racial Discrimination

- Africans were treated as **inferior**.
 - Top government and civil service jobs were reserved for the British.
 - Even in schools and hospitals, segregation existed.
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C. Lack of Political Representation

- Colonial policies excluded Nigerians from making important decisions.
 - Laws were passed **without consulting the people**.
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✓ D. Economic Exploitation

- Nigeria's resources (oil, palm oil, cocoa) were used to benefit Britain.
 - Nigerians remained poor, while British officials lived luxuriously.
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✓ E. Western Education

- Educated Nigerians began to understand their **human rights**.
 - They read about freedom movements in America, India, and Europe.
 - They knew that **self-government was possible**.
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✓ F. Role of the Media

- Newspapers like **West African Pilot**, **Lagos Daily News**, and **The Comet** were used to:
 - Educate Nigerians
 - Criticize the colonial government
 - Spread nationalist ideas
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✓ G. World War II Influence

- African soldiers who fought in the war **returned home with new ideas** about freedom and justice.
 - The war showed that **white people were not invincible**, and that **colonialism was unfair**.
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3. Roles of Individuals, Groups, and Political Parties in Promoting Nationalism

Nationalism gained strength through the **active efforts of people, associations, and political movements**.

◆ A. Individuals and Their Contributions

Nationalist	Contribution
Herbert Macaulay	Fought early British policies and formed the NNDP (1923)
Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe	Used newspapers and speeches to demand independence

Nationalist	Contribution
Chief Obafemi Awolowo	Founded Action Group party; promoted education and unity
Sir Ahmadu Bello	Supported Northern development and nation-building
Anthony Enahoro	Moved the 1953 motion for Nigeria's independence
Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti	Led women's movements against injustice and inequality

🧠 These people helped **mobilize the masses**, organize protests, and fight for **civil rights**.

◆ B. Groups and Trade Unions

Groups and unions brought people together for **collective action**. Some examples include:

Group	Role
Nigerian Youth Movement (NYM)	Encouraged educated youths to unite across regions
Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT)	Spread education and political awareness
Trade Union Congress (TUC)	Fought for better working conditions
Women's Associations	Protests against taxation and women's oppression

These groups:

- Held **rallies, marches, and strikes**
- Wrote **petitions** to colonial authorities
- Supported **political candidates** with nationalist goals

◆ C. Political Parties and Their Roles

As nationalist efforts grew, many **political parties** emerged to fight for Nigeria's freedom.

Party	Contribution
NNDP (Nigerian National Democratic Party)	Founded by Herbert Macaulay – first Nigerian political party
NCNC (National Council of Nigeria and the Cameroons)	Led by Nnamdi Azikiwe – promoted national unity
AG (Action Group)	Led by Awolowo – promoted education and federalism
NPC (Northern People's Congress)	Represented Northern interests and advocated for gradual independence

These parties:


- Campaigned for **self-government**
- Pressured the British to allow **elections**

- Promoted **unity among regions and ethnic groups**
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Connection to Global Civic Issues

Nigeria's fight for independence is similar to movements in other countries:

Country	Civic Issue
India	Gandhi led peaceful protests against British colonial rule
South Africa	Nelson Mandela fought against apartheid
USA	Martin Luther King Jr. led the Civil Rights Movement

 These global civic issues reflect **a shared desire for justice, equality, and freedom** around the world.