



## Analysis of Colonialism and Its Impact in Africa

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### Abstract

The work took a hard and critical look on the impact of colonialism and its concomitant ally, imperialism on the African state. The analysis revealed that the present primary role of African states in the international world economy as the dominant sources of raw materials and major consumers of manufactured products are the results of long years of colonial dominance, exploitation and imperialism. Consequently, on attainment of independence by most African states from their colonial overlords, it was extremely very difficult to disentangle from the colonial perfected role for the state because of the systematic disarticulation in the indigenous economy and the intrinsic tying of same with the external economy of the colonizers. The work also made a startling stark revelation by discovering through analysis that the deep-seated corruption in most African states and the selfish behaviour of some of the political leaders to sit tight in office even when they have obviously outlived their usefulness in the eyes of their people, are attributable to the effects of colonialism and imperialism. The work concludes and recommends that for African states to overcome their present social, economic, political, health, education woes, etc., there is the urgent need for the people and the leadership to create their own indigenous identity, culture, technology, economy, education, religion, craft, etc. that would be interwoven in good governance.

**Key words:** Colonialism; Good governance; Impact; African states and Europe

### INTRODUCTION

Colonialism is the direct and overall domination of one country by another on the basis of state power being in the hands of a foreign power (For example, the direct and overall domination of Nigeria by Britain between 1900-1960). The first objective of colonialism is political domination. Its second objective is to make possible the exploitation of the colonized country.

When we talk of colonialism in Africa we are talking of phenomenon which took place between 1800-1960s. It is a phenomenon which is part and parcel of another phenomenon called imperialism. In fact, colonialism is a direct form of imperialism. This is why it is often said that "all colonialism is imperialism, but not all imperialism is colonialism".

Colonialism began as a result of changes in the mode of production in Europe (For example, the emergence of industrial revolution). The industrial revolution ushered in a new process of production in place of the earlier slave-based economy. The industrial revolution was a revolutionary trend in the history of mankind. The problem of how to lubricate machineries came up with the emergence of the industrial revolution. The slave trade and slavery have by this time fulfilled their basic function of providing the primitive capital. The quest for the investment of the accumulated capital and the need for raw materials led to the colonization of Africa.

The main focus of the study is on the analysis of

colonialism and its impact in Africa. The work will be examined under two broad headings. The first is the reasons for colonization of Africa and the strategies used to achieve the colonial objectives. The second is the impacts of colonialism in Africa. There will also be conclusion/reflections at the end of the chapter.

## **REASONS FOR THE COLONIZATION OF AFRICA AND THE STRATEGIES**

### **Used to Achieve the Colonial Objectives**

The colonization of Africa by European powers was necessitated by several factors. Notable, among the factors was the emergence of the industrial revolution which brought about a rapid change in the socio-economic transformation and technology of the European countries. The industrial revolution led to increase in production. The progress in the industry went faster than the progress in agriculture. It was becoming increasingly hard or difficult for the agriculture to satisfy the demand for raw materials required in the industries. There was therefore, the need for the European powers, for example, the British to go outside the country to look for additional raw materials. Furthermore, as a result of the decline in agricultural production, there was the problem of how to produce enough or adequate food to feed the fast growing urban population. In other words, the rural areas in Britain for example, were finding it increasingly difficult to produce enough food to feed the increasing urban population. Similarly, there was also need for market, not only for the production of raw materials but for food to sustain the increasing population. As a result of rapid increase in technology, new products were produced at a faster rate than the populations could dispose of. Africa with her large population constituted a ready market for such products. Furthermore, as result of low wages paid to workers, there was accumulation of profits by the industrialists at a faster rate than they could invest back. There was under-utilization of capital in Europe at this time, and a need to find where these capitals will be transported and invested for the creation of new products. It was during this process of investment of the surplus capital that imperialism emerged.

Chinweizu (1978, p. 35) while discussing the European conquest of Africa noted that “when Europe pioneered industrial capitalism, her demands upon the resources of the world increased tremendously. In addition to obtaining spices for her tables and manpower for her mines and plantations in the Americas, Europe set out to seize for her factories the mineral and agricultural resources of all the world. Her need to take African manpower to the Americas declined. She needed instead to put African labour to work in Africa, digging up for her the riches of African mines; the trading companies that had for centuries bought and sold on Africa’s coast were found

inadequate for seizing and carting off the raw materials of the African hinterland. Europe now felt a need to export her power into Africa’s interior to reorganize the farms, mines and markets for Europe’s greater profit. Her adventures banded together, obtained charters from their national governments, and came to seize the African markets, from the African middlemen with whom for centuries Europe had been content to trade. Africa’s coastal rulers naturally resisted all encroachments and battled to maintain the status quo. They strove to retain their position as middlemen, importing and distributing European wares to the hinterland, and collecting produce from the hinterland markets and selling it to European merchants who came to the coast. The new breed of European merchants, however, wanted direct access to the hinterland markets so that, by eliminating the profits of the African middlemen, they could enlarge European profits and directly supervise African production. The situation was ripe for conflict”. There was a severe struggle and conflict between the colonialists and the African chiefs in the attempt to take full control of the African economy. The colonialists needed raw materials for their industries and the way the African economies were organized at the time, they were not sure of steady supply of the required raw materials. This situation necessitated the quest for direct take over and control of the economy and administration of the African enclaves and states. The colonialists had to direct the economy in such a way that the required raw materials were produced. For example, if the colonialists required palm oil for their soap making industry, they had to compel Africans to concentrate on the production of this commodity in commercial quantities so that the industry concerned could have adequate and steady supply of this product. If the colonialists did not take full control and direct production in the economy, the African people who are the producers might decide to produce yams more than palm oil, because this might be what was in high demand within the local economy.

The colonialists also had to take direct control of the African economy and political administration in order to produce the type of food required for their industrial workers back home. One of the reasons for the colonization of Africa as we know is that the colonialists required additional food supply and spices for the fast increasing urban population as a result of the industrial revolution. The industrial revolution initially came with decline in agricultural production in Europe and as a result it was hard for the rural areas to produce enough food for the increasing urban population. There was therefore the need for market not only for the population of raw materials but for the food to sustain the increasing population.

Similarly, there was need for the colonialist to take direct control of the African economy and political administration in order to reorganize the economy and the markets to make it possible for integration into the world

market and international economy. The African economy before colonization was primitive and based on barter system. Since one of the objectives of colonialism was to find market for the European manufactured goods and raw materials for the industries, there was need for an organic linkage between the African economy and market with that of the international system controlled and directed by the colonizers. Through direct control of African economy and political administration made possible colonialism. Africa was compelled or forced to accept the international division of labour which assigned her the compulsory role of production of agricultural raw materials required by the industries in Europe.

This explains why up till today, the role of Africa economy and states in the world market or international trade is the production of primary goods and agricultural products. The advanced countries of Europe controlled the production of manufactured goods. As we know, one of the reasons for the colonization of Africa was the need for a suitable market where the numerous European manufactured goods could be easily disposed of at a reasonable profit. Since the African economy was essentially based on barter system, there was the need to monetize the economy to be in line with the European market and the international trade standard. This money was introduced as the only official acceptable medium of exchange and to enforce this, there was need for the colonialist to take direct control of the administration of the African colonies.

Furthermore, there was also the need for the colonialist to take full control of the African economy and administration to ensure that Africa was made a consumer nation for European manufactured goods. If this situation was not guaranteed, it would affect the development and progress of the new industrialization in Europe, because most of the industries would be compelled to close down if there are not ready market and consumers for their products. Also direct control of the African economy and political administration enabled the colonialist to ensure that African colonies or states did not take to manufacturing. It helped to restrict Africans and their technology to the confines or role of producing only primary goods or agricultural raw materials needed by the industries in Europe. This is the main reason why today African states find it very difficult to industrialize and to go into full manufacturing. This also explains why Africa is a consumer nation for foreign manufactured goods. The situation equally accounts for the present underdevelopment of the African states and their technology.

The colonialist had to take direct control of African economy and administration as a means of protecting the capitals they had transported from Europe to be invested in Africa. We are aware that one of the reasons for colonization of Africa was because the colonialists were looking for where to invest the surplus capital which was accumulated as a result of the industrial revolution. It was felt among the European merchants that for effective

and efficient management, as well as maximization of the capitals transported to the African colonies, there was need for their home governments either to take direct control of the African economy and political administration of the area or grant them permission to do so through a charter. Such a charter for instance, was granted to the Royal Niger Company by the British government until 1900 when it was revoked and the British government had to take full control and administration of Nigeria.

The capital brought in by the European merchants had to be protected through direct control and administration of the colonies in order to create a conducive atmosphere for its operation. It is important to note that initially, Africans lacked the type of technology necessary for the exploitation and maximization of the exported capitals. There was therefore the need to reorganize and reorient the African labour force to adapt to the requirements and demands of the exported capital. To get Africans interested in working for the Europeans or the industrialists/merchants who had exported the capital, there was need for compulsion or use of force. The capitals transported and industrial organizational life associated with it were alien to the African economy and labour force. It was therefore hard for the Africans to voluntarily and willingly move to seek for job in the new industries developed with the exported capital. The problem or question then was how the Africans could be compelled to work in the new industries and change their work attitude to that of industrial life without revolt or with minimum violence. The only option was to take direct control of their economy and political administration and then use government machinery through the proclamation of laws to compel them to move from their enclave and to abandon their traditional system of production in preference to that of their colonizers. Hence, the need for direct colonization of the African territories and the consequent imperialism.

The question we now wish to ask is, what factors made it possible for the direct colonization of Africa by European powers? In other words, what strategies did the colonialists use to maintain their direct economies and political domination of African states or territories during the period of colonial rule of the continent?

The colonialists used a number of methods and strategies to compel Africans to submit to colonialism and colonial administration. These included the use of conquest, forced labour, taxation, monetization of the economy, and payment of low wages. We now wish to examine how the colonialists used the above strategies/methods to maintain effective occupation and administration of their African territories during the period of colonial rule in the continent.

The first method or strategy used by the colonialist to colonize and maintain effective occupation and administration of African territories was by conquest. The various African states or territories were conquered

politically, economically, culturally, socially and enslaved. Commenting on the assault and conquest by Western Europe upon the rest of us, Chinwezu (1978, p. 3) aptly noted thus: "For nearly six centuries now, Western Europe and its Diaspora have been disturbing the peace of the world. Enlightened, through their Renaissance, by the learning of the ancient Mediterranean; armed with the gun, the making of whose powder they had learned from Chinese firecrackers; equipping their ships with lateen sails, astrolabes and nautical compasses, all invented by the Chinese and transmitted to them by Arabs; fortified in aggressive spirit by an arrogant, messianic Christianity of both the Popish and protestant varieties; and motivated by the lure of enriching plunder, white hordes have sailed forth from Western European homelands to explore, assault, loot, occupy, rule and exploit the rest of the world. And even now, the fury of their expansionist assault upon the rest of us has not abated".

Conquest made it possible for the European powers who were the colonizers to take direct control and effective occupation of African territories. According to Chinwezu (1978, p. 36), in response to pressure from their traders, the European powers began systematically to interfere with the sovereignty of African states and to intrude upon their internal affairs. The Europeans began to help one faction to depose a ruler and install another, and to bestow honours, titles and recognition upon those whose rule they found it in their interest to support. The officially trumpeted goals of such interference were to suppress the slave trade and to promote "legitimate" trade.

As elsewhere around the world, with the British in the lead, European insistence upon dominating trade brought gunboat diplomacy to the shores of Africa. European industrial power, embodied in the gunboats, had come to overawe Africa. The general effect was to undermine the power and sovereignty of African states. This era of gunboat diplomacy, consular interference and trader intrigue was inaugurated in 1810 when a British squadron of four ships with a total of ninety-eight guns was sent out to patrol some three thousand miles of the West African coast. Its mission was twofold: to enforce the British law of 1807 that declared the slave trade illegal and to protect British "legitimate" traders, that is, those who did not deal in slaves.

The arrival of the squadron exposed the military and political weakness of the African states. Where the African rulers had, for over three centuries, protected trade in their domains and guaranteed the peace of the coastal markets, they could no longer do so. Their ability, and hence their right, to determine the rules and limits of trade within their domains withered under the shadow of British guns. With gunboat sheltering them, British traders quickly lost their fear of and respect for the authorities of Africa's coastal states and principalities. They began to intrigue and displace Africa traders from control of the African side of the Euro-African trade. Before long,

the British forced unequal trade treaties upon them and insisted that they open the markets of their hinterland to British participation. When African rulers resisted such demands, trade wars and shooting wars erupted". In fact, conquest or use of force was the most effective and efficient strategy which enabled the European colonialists to maintain direct control and domination of African economy and political administration.

Apart from conquest, another effective instrument or strategy which enabled the colonialists to maintain direct control and effective occupation of the African territories was the use of forced labour. Africans were forced to work in the colonial plantations and industries. Since Africans were not used to colonial economy and system of production, there was need to compel them by force to work for the colonialists. This is because, since the new economy is alien to them, there was no way they can give their labour force willingly and voluntarily. To force Africans to work in the mines, sugar plantations and industries the colonialists employed a number of strategies to compel them to make their labour force available. Commenting on the colonial order and the use of forced labour in Africa, Chinwezu (1978, p. 55) observed that "having by conquest become masters of the continent, the European rulers of Africa began to seize resources and to organize their rule for long and profitable stay".

First they began to take out of African use of occupancy whatever land they wanted, and they simultaneously assembled African labour to mine the land for gold, copper, diamonds, asbestos, tin, iron and zinc, or to farm it for wool, sisal, palm-oil and kernels, cotton, cocoa, rubber and groundnuts. But as the African people were reluctant to dispossess themselves of their lands and unwilling to work for the profit of Europeans, such land as the Europeans wanted had to be confiscated and African labour compelled. The means of doing this was the adopting by a white ruling race of legal measures designed expressly to compel the individual natives to whom they apply to quit land, which they occupy and by which they can live in order to work in white service for the private gain of the white man. When lands formerly occupied by natives are confiscated, or otherwise annexed for white owners, the creation of a labour supply out of the dispossessed natives is usually a secondary object". Yes, the creation of labour supply out of the dispossessed natives is a secondary issue because the people lived on land and make their means of livelihood or survival from tilling and working on the land. Since they had been dispossessed of their lands, they had no other means of survival or livelihood than to work for the colonialists unwillingly. They were compelled to work for the colonialist because they must survive together with members of their families.

Chinwezu further noted that another method used by the colonialists to compel labour from Africans was the use of legal coercion. In Sierra Leone, for example, a high



and burdensome “hut-tax” was imposed. Its collection was harshly enforced. In order to earn money to pay it, Africans had to sell their labour to white men. Where taxation failed to turn out an adequate supply of African labour, compulsory labour ordinances made it “obligatory on persons of the labouring classes to give labour for public purposes on being called out by their chiefs or other native superiors. In 1895 such an ordinance was passed in the Gold Coast to compel chiefs to furnish carriers for a military expedition against Ashanti. But where, as in South Africa, the chiefs did not, for whatever reason, provide their allotted quotas of labour, native police were sent out to ‘collect the labour’. In South Africa, in order to meet the insatiable demands of the mines, methods more fruitful than compulsory labour ordinances were devised.

The grand plan was to break up the tribal system which gives solidarity and some political and economic strength to native life; set the Kaffir on an individual footing as an economic bargainer, to which he is wholly unaccustomed, take him by taxation or other ‘stimulus’ from his locality, put him down under circumstances where he has no option but to labour at the mines”. Through forced labour the colonialists were able to maintain direct control and effective occupation of the African territories. Their control and effective occupation of the African economy and political administration were unchallenged. The colonialists appropriated the surplus labour of Africa for their own profit and development. The African labour force was dehumanized and incarcerated.

Another effective strategy which the colonialist used to maintain direct control and domination of African territories was taxation. Taxation in the form introduced by the European colonizers was alien to most African people. Some African communities such as in Northern Nigeria paid tax to their rulers but this could be in cash or kind. The colonial authority insisted that Africans should pay their tax in colonial currency. The implication of this was that Africans would be compelled to work either in the colonial civil service or in the industries and plantations in order to earn the colonial currency to pay their tax. Since Africans were not allowed to pay their tax in kind such as using yams, cocoa-yams, livestock, palm oil etc., they were indirectly compelled to make their labour services available for the colonialist in order to earn the money to meet up with their civic colonial obligation. The colonialists imposed taxes on Africans for two reasons. The first was that it was a source of labour for their industries and plantations. The second reason was because they wanted the colonies to bear the cost of the personnel and the administration. The colonialists were not interested in using their own funds to run the colonial territories and administration. Their policy was whatever was spent for running the colonial administration must be raised and generated locally. Taxation was a very good effective instrument for mobilizing

African labour to work in the colonial plantations and industries: The punishment against a tax defaulter was enormous and overwhelming. Africans dreaded not to pay tax. Tax evasion was very difficult because the colonialists devised a very effective system of collection and accountability. The colonialists had up-date record or statistics of adult tax payers in any community. In some communities they did the collection through the assistance of the traditional institution. Africans were also made to see taxation or tax payment as a civic responsibility to the state. The implication of this was that a defaulter was treated as a criminal and the offence committed was against the state. This intimidatory approach to taxation was strong enough to compel almost all adult African males to seek for employment in the colonial services in order to earn adequate money to pay their tax. Thus, African labour was made readily available for colonial use.

Monetization of African economy was another effective instrument or strategy used by the colonialists to take direct control and political administration of the African territories. Prior to colonization, African economy was essentially based on barter system. Furthermore, even where a sort of currency was introduced these currencies lacked general acceptability, were too heavy or bulky and hardly divisible into smaller units of exchange. In fact, the currencies lacked the good qualities of a modern medium of exchange. It was necessary for the colonialists to monetize African economy in order to integrate it into the world market and international trade.

The currencies introduced in the African territories were those used by the colonialists back home. It was therefore easy for them to regulate the use and value of the currency as a means of maintaining effective control of the African economy and their administration.

The colonialists made the currency too difficult for Africans to obtain. The way they did this was to make the prices of raw materials and agricultural products produced by Africans to be too cheap. On the other hand, the colonialists made the prices of goods manufactured by them to be too dear or high, so that an African would spend all he had toiled for, for year or more to purchase a little of the foreign goods. The implication of this was that Africans kept on working hard and making their labour service available to the colonialists in order to enjoy some of the foreign manufactured goods they required. The consequence of this was that while Africans kept on becoming poorer, the colonialist profits kept increasing. Since the currency used in the African colonial territories was controlled by the colonialist, they determined the character and nature of development of the African economy and political administration. In fact, monetization of the African economy and introduction of currency institution was an effective imperialistic instrument used by colonialists to maintain effective control and domination of African territories.

The last strategy used by the colonialists to maintain direct control and administration of African territories was the payment of low wages to Africans employed in the colonial service. The payment of low wages to Africans was seen by the colonialists as a method or strategy to compel more Africans to make their labour services available to the colonial plantations and industries. For example, if a man was married and working for the colonialist, what he receives as wage could not keep him and his wife, family and relatives alive. The implication of the low wage paid to the African man was that his wife, children, relatives etc. would be compelled to join the colonial service in order to make ends meet. This was to the advantage of the colonialists because more labour force was made available for use in the plantations and industries. If the African man had been initially well paid or rewarded, there would be no need for his wife, children and relatives to join the colonial service. Instead, they would have worked in his farms or enter into trading. The low wage payment was as effective as other strategies earlier discussed, used by the colonialists to maintain effective control, domination and administration of the African territories. What we intend to examine now is the impact of colonialism in Africa.

## IMPACT OF COLONIALISM IN AFRICA

The major impact of colonialism in African is that it brought about the under-development of African territories in many different ways. It is usually argued in favour of colonialism that it brought western education and hence western civilization to the shores of Africa which by implication is a positive contribution towards African development. This argument will appear to be true on the surface level or superficially, but if it is subjected to critical analysis, it will reveal the hollowness or emptiness of colonial education which is partially responsible for the present African underdevelopment. The colonial education was not rooted in African culture and therefore could not foster any meaningful development within the African environment because it had no organic linkage. Furthermore, colonial education was essentially literary; it had no technological base and therefore antithetical to real or industrial development.

The poor technological base of most of the present day African states, which has been responsible for their underdevelopment stems from their poor foundation of education laid by the colonialists. Colonial education essentially aimed at training clerks, interpreters, produce inspectors, artisans, etc., which would help them in the exploitation of the Africa's rich resources. Colonial education did not aim at industrialization of African territories or at stimulating technological development within the African environment. Colonial education brought about distortion and disarticulation in African indigenous pattern of education which was

rooted in African technology. Before fully embracing colonial education, Africans were good technologists, advancing at their own rates with the resources within their environment. For example, Africans were good sculptors, carvers, cloth weavers, miners, blacksmiths, etc. They were able to provide and satisfy the technological need of the various African societies. The introduction of colonial education made Africans to abandon their indigenous technological skills and education in preference to one which mainly emphasizes reading and writing. This was the prelude or foundation for the present poor technological base of African states which has perpetuated their underdevelopment. As we know, education that is not deeply rooted in a people's culture and environment cannot bring about any meaningful technological advancement. This has aptly been shown in the unsuccessful attempt at the so-called technological transfer, which is more of a myth than reality.

Another important impact of colonialism in Africa is the disarticulation of their economy. Colonialism distorted African pattern of economic development in many different ways. There was disarticulation in production of goods, markets, traders, transport, provision of social amenities and pattern of urbanization etc. the colonialists introduced a pattern of international division of labour which was to the disadvantage of Africans. They assigned to Africa the role of production of raw materials and primary products for use by their industries at home. Africans were not allowed nor encouraged to go into manufacturing. The only industries Africans were encouraged to build were those that would facilitate in the processing of the raw materials for export. The African raw materials were bought at a very low price while manufactured goods from abroad were sold at expensive price. This situation accounted for the impoverishment of most Africans.

There was also disarticulation in the type of goods produced by Africans. The colonialists compelled Africans to concentrate in the production of goods meant for export. Africans were not encouraged to produce those goods required by the local population. This made many Africans to abandon the production of food items required to feed the teeming and growing population. The effect of this was food shortage and escalation in food prices. The present day situation where Africans now import their food is a carry-over from colonialism. The point being stressed here is that colonialism distorted the satisfaction of local needs in terms of food production and other requirements in preference to production and satisfaction of foreign needs especially the industries.

Colonialism also disarticulated African markets and trades. The traditional or original African marketing centres were distorted by colonialism. Most of the traditional African marketing centres or routes were formed based on local needs. When colonialism came and introduced a different need, this changed the original or

traditional marketing centers to new marketing centres because it rendered them irrelevant. Colonialists created new marketing centres and routes where their required raw materials could be easily bought and evacuated back home. This led to the gradual decay or death of most of the original or traditional marketing centres thereby distorting African pattern of development and urbanization. As we know, most of these traditional African market centres constituted the traditional or original African centres. Colonialism also made African trade to be mainly export-import oriented.

It integrated African trade and economy prematurely into the world market and international trade. It is a known fact that before a local economy fully integrates itself into the world economy or trade, it must have developed adequately its internal dynamics and forces of production. The consequences of premature integration is that such economy will be hijacked by the more advanced ones; and the vagaries in international trade will make the country concerned a perpetual debtor. Furthermore, premature integration cannot absorb shock from the international market and will never enjoy trade balance or comparative advantage. The export-import orientation pattern of African economy introduced by colonialism does not allow for accelerator and multiplier effects necessary for economy advancement and development. The raw materials produced by Africans were not used by industries located in Africa but abroad. Therefore, there was no organic linkage between the agricultural sector and the industrial sector in Africa. Consequently, the African economy could not move forward because the surplus profit appropriated from the economy by the colonialists are not ploughed back or spent within the economy.

This is where the accelerator and multiplier effects necessary for economy advancement and development come in. As we know, goods and services are sold for profit and income generation. If for example, Japan, an industrialized nation sells Sanyo television to an African state which could be Nigeria, the money paid for the product serves as profit and income for the television company located in Japan. If the company uses the money paid to it to buy something in Japan, it helps to accelerate the economy of Japan. This accelerator effect was totally absent in African territories during the period of colonialism. The absence of the accelerator factor/effect, created the propensity for Africans to keep importing continuously from outside without depending on their own goods.

Furthermore, the multiplier effect concerns the re-investment of profit appropriate from an economy. For example, under a normal economy and circumstance, when a profit is made from an economy, it is re-invested to stimulate and generate new profit. The profit can be re-invested into new enterprises within the economy. The re-investment of accumulated profit into an economy helps the economy to move very fast and to generate new

profits. The ability of re-invested profit to bring out new profit is referred to as multiplier effect. This was absent in the African economy during colonialism. This is because the colonialists did not re-invest profits appropriated from the African economy, rather they transferred the profits abroad for the development of their home economy. This greatly accounted for the present underdevelopment of most African economies.

The colonialists distorted and disarticulated the development of a comprehensive transport system in Africa. The transport network developed was not to link different towns and rural areas for purpose of effective communication and development. Transport routes were built by the colonialists to enable them to evacuate easily the raw materials from their sources or base to the destination point where they could be effectively exported abroad. The transport network developed was essentially rails and seaports. There was no good effort to develop an organised road network which would help to improve the lives of the African people and their interaction with their relations in the different parts of the territories. The distorted, disjointed, and disarticulated transport system developed by the colonialists did not allow for effective agricultural and economic integration within the different parts of the African enclaves and territories. There was therefore absence of economic integration and cooperation among the African territories during the period of colonialism.

Colonialism also brought about disarticulation in the provision of social amenities and the urbanization pattern in Africa. Most of the little social amenities provided during the colonial period were concentrated at a place. This made most people to migrate from the rural areas where these amenities were virtually non-existent to colonial urban centres where they could be found. The consequence of this was the struggle and over-use of these amenities and the attendant overcrowding of the areas (cities) and the problems of urbanization. The consequent problems of disarticulation of provision of amenities and urbanization include rural urban migration, overcrowding, filthy and slum environment, poor hygienic condition, spread of epidemic disease, social vices, tribal and ethnic problems etc. The management of the above problems created by colonial distortion and disarticulation of amenities and urbanization on Africa has remained a single most important problem confronting African states today.

Another important impact of colonialism in Africa was the emergence and institutionalization of classes and class struggle in the socio-economic and political life of the people. Colonialism aided a clear emergence and development of classes in Africa. These classes include comprador bourgeoisie, petty bourgeoisie, proletariat and the peasant. The African petty bourgeoisie serve as the conveyor belt through which the colonialists exploited and siphoned the economy of African countries. There

is a great harmony of interest between the African petty bourgeoisie and the European comprador bourgeois. This was why during the period of political independence, it was the African petty bourgeois that got the mantle of leadership. The African petty bourgeois maintained the same relationship with the erstwhile colonial masters and this is why they run the economy and political administration of their states in the same manner as the colonialists did.

Most of the African leaders or petty bourgeois maintain strong link with their erstwhile colonial masters. The African petty bourgeoisie maintained the long exploitation of the proletariat and the peasant classes. The rampant and complex nature of political instability and socio-economic malaise being experienced in most African states today has recourse to the nature and character of classes introduced in Africa by colonialism. The economic and other resources of Africa are shared between the petty bourgeoisie and their European/colonial counterparts, even in this contemporary time. The nature of political power struggle and distribution of wealth as well as economic resources in the contemporary African state are a reflection of the understanding and harmony of interest between the African petty bourgeoisie and their colonial partners/friends. The severe impoverishment of most Africans by their petty bourgeois leaders and marginalisation as well as oppression of the masses by those who have access to state power are offshoot of colonialism or colonial hang-over among African states.

## CONCLUSION

Colonization of Africa was not a very easy one. The colonialists fought with the chiefs and the African middlemen at the coast before they could penetrate into the hinterland or interior.

The reasons for acquisition of colonies by the colonialists as we have earlier mentioned include: the need for raw materials; the search for new market for the metropolitan industries where their surplus manufactured products as a result of the industrial revolution could be sold; the need to provide more food for the growing urban industrial population; and the need to find a place where the surplus accumulated profit from the industrial revolution could be invested to make more profit.

The African colonies or territories were grouped into different categories. There were colonies that were sources of minerals; colonies for plantation crops; colonies for European settlement and colonies for peasant production. The colonies under the first three categories include Congo, South Africa, Zimbabwe, etc. The colonies under the last category which is peasant production include Nigeria, Ghana, etc., also some of the colonies were selected as labour reserved while some others were simply trading areas.

The colonialists had different policies for their

colonies. For example, Britain used the system of indirect rule. Indirect rule policy concerns with the ruling of the people through their own people or traditional institutions with a close supervision from the British government. Also the French, another major colonizing European power in Africa, used the policy of assimilation and associations. Assimilation concerns with the total integration of the French colonial colonies into the main French government in Paris. Association policy came at a later stage as a result of the problems the French government encountered from their initial application of the policy of assimilation. The French assimilated the "assimilables" and associated with the "unassimilables". In the Belgium-Congo, the policy was different from that of the British and French, and this was also applicable to other European colonizing powers in Africa.

Colonialism had a devastating effect or impacts on the African colonies. It is responsible for the present situation explained by Walter Rodney in his book, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa*. Also, this fact was vividly articulated in Chinweizu, *The West and the Rest of Us*. Colonialism introduced a dichotomy between the centre and the periphery nations. The periphery nations are exploited by the centre nations. The periphery nations produce raw materials which are expropriated by the centre nations. Africa is periphery nation as a result of her colonization. African colonies produced raw materials which were expropriated by the colonialists (centre nations).

Furthermore, colonialism introduced a dual economic structure within the African economy. It also brought about disarticulation of African economy, education, trade, market, transport and currency institution. Colonialism made African colonies dependent by introducing a mono-cultural economy for the territories. It also dehumanized African labour force and traders. It forced Africans to work in colonial plantations at very low wages and displaced them from their lands. Similarly, the business of African traders or middlemen were taken over from them and controlled by the colonialists.

Colonialism did not allow for industrialization of Africa. It assigned Africa the role of production of primary goods or raw materials in the international division of labour. Colonialism encouraged and intensified class struggle, tribalism and ethnicity within the African colonies. These were strategies introduced by the colonialists in order to perpetuate or prolong their rule and domination of African territories. An example is the British colonial policy of "Divide and Rule" in Nigeria.

Finally, colonialism shaped both the economic and political structure of African colonies to be in line with the need of the metropolis. It ensured that African economic and political structures both in form and content serve the interest of their home government (European powers). Colonialism therefore, in all intents and purposes was a disservice to Africa.



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