British Recolonization of Nigeria: Examining the New Reality

By

Chinedu Ogoke
Department of English and Communication Studies
Federal University Otuoke ezudike@hotmail.com

Abstract

Anticipation of freedom is what people feel strongly about. It was no exception when the Nigerian people thought of the day the British would get out of their lives forever. The British and the Americans, for instance, mark their freedoms. Colonization in those climes had expiry dates. With regard to Nigeria, the British are not contented with subjecting the people to slavery and then arrived for colonization, but now the British have ensured that independence is out of reach. Britain has successfully diverted the people's attention away from what is actually happening. This has been achieved through different schemes. Nigeria is a perfect setting for manipulating one group of people against the other. This is partly because some persons and, especially the leaders, are uninterested in achieving freedom from Britain. Britain addresses Nigeria's issues with a hint of authority or ownership. Lately, Britain has been unpretentious about dictating policies and decisions in Nigeria. the article highlights the fact that Nigeria's relationship defers from the British relationship with its Roman colonizers or its former colony of the USA. The essay calls for a re-evaluation of Nigeria's ties with Britain, for freedom to be achieved.

Key words: slavery, Post-colonial theory, Recolonization, football, values

Introduction

The Igbos and other indigenous people of Nigeria had hardly recovered from slavery, when, uninvited, the British set about with colonialism. The British forever altered the way of life of the people by bringing them and strangers under one roof as citizens of a country. The length of time spent in a conquered territory must affect the local people's psyche. That a stranger will proceed to staying beyond an envisaged time can be baffling. The course being embarked on by the British was strange and bewildering. The indigenous people had just what the

British need for their population in Europe. Wealth was not created to handed over to a stranger. But they watched all their powers disappear. The British have come up different reasons why colonialism was necessary, but the people Rational thought prevailed everywhere. There must be a justification for certain behaviors. To establish themselves firmly was not what the people bargained for. There was no equivalent of what the British brought with them. What the British tore to shreds was the values of the people. Under British colonial rule, they could not exercise the right to freely express themselves or to organize their lives.

The British stayed long enough to teach the people how to hate one another. While the people looked forward to a life free of foreign influence, the British looked to a future of servitude of the people. The British goal in the colonial era was to reduce the ability of the people to decide their fate, which they left in the hands of others. They must not demand from their leaders a score card of governance. The British delivered on handover. The type of government they left behind as they withdrew was well-suited for their aims. The loyalty the British expected at independence did not come. There was a bloody war that started with a coup and a counter coup. The war tested British ability to respond to a challenge to its authority in a former colony. For Britain, the war was necessary and served her various needs.

In the subsequent years, British puppets in leadership had been sent home from Washington or London to inform their people to accept IMF and World Bank high-interest loans or face rejection. Taking the loans strengthened British positions and hold. It has been unending comedies how worldwide people demonstrate, pleading with Britain and America to write off the loans, as the interests that are ten-fold the amount of the loans had been paid off. While Nigeria has been on edge with ethnic and religious tensions, Britain has kept an eye on the debts owed her and the spoils of conflict. It has enabled Britain to proceed with whatever devices and scheme she has for Nigeria. Britain has made surprising progress, re-emerging as Nigeria's modern colonizer, in spite of Competition from China. The U.S. is no longer too motivated to talk loudly about Nigeria, as long as her interests are not threatened. The E.U. is merely an understanding partner. The Nigerians themselves, through their romance with Britain as a fond colonizer or attachment to English football league, have stopped seeing Britain for what she is. The

Nigerians are and their leaders are more concerned about potential threats from other ethnic nationalities. Commentators should discard the term neo-colonialism, as it has lost its significance. The time to embrace the reality is now. The reality is that Nigeria has been recolonized by Britain.

Post-colonial Discourse and Theory

Post-colonial discourse has been a point of connection for many commentators on European colonization of many parts of the world in the modern times. The colonizing countries are Britain, France, Portugal, Spain and Japan. They colonized almost the entire African continent, parts of Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Americas. With its rising profile, the USA recorded a colonizing mission. Previously, Britain had been on the colonized map, following Roman occupation in the Middle Ages. While there was proximity in the earlier colonization, in much of the later colonization, the Europeans skipped their fellow Europeans to carry out the act in distant places. Antwi-Boateng clarifies this fact by referring to British and French adventures when he writes,

> The British and French were the dominant empires in the 19th and 20th century and the dominant actors of African colonization which took place in the 20th century. The fundamental goal of both British and French colonialism was to exploit Africa's resources for the benefit of their respective countries […]. The 'scramble for Africa showed the imperialist agenda which the Europeans had for Africa. This imperialist agenda was driven by social, economic and political factors. (180)

The colonized people have a lot to say about colonization, which many found disruptive, even though some others may give it pass mark. Anger welled up in the heads of the indigenous people over humiliations and exploitations they experienced. People needed avenues to talk about their grievances in literature, with the colonizer and the colonized represented in various forms. Some people propose compensation for the inhuman treatments local people in different regions faced. They believed that their claims were indisputable. All the correspondences come under one umbrella termed post-colonial theory. Post-colonial theory has since developed other forms. Homi Bhabha, Chinua Achebe, Edawrd Said and numerous scholars have made contributions, making it one of the largest gatherings of commentators (Bhabha).

It has been believed that, somehow, the abused societies have been made to undergo some healings. But the aggressor has been withdrawn in the discussions going on. What should not give the victims joy is that no lessons have been learned. There is actually nothing post-colonial in Britain's relationship with Nigeria presently. Neo-colonialism is even a deceptive way of qualifying the experience. The conferences and speeches and authorship of books and articles on the colonial experience have been wasteful exercises. The dimension of British reacquisition of the Nigerian trophy should be worrisome, and needs a reassessment. Britain should shake off its allergy for technological advancement and embrace true advancement, which is characterized by production and rendering of services, something China, for instance, is doing. Living off some colonized people perpetually is a crime. Pretending to be a rich country and belonging to a rich club without accompanying that with produce is fraudulent. In Nigeria, Britain is succeeding because she plays the game of helping one group to undermine the other while exploiting them all, and making the place a slaughter house. This may account for why British citizens remain unmoved by the country's colonial record and, in fact, celebrate it. This is not a healthy way to be a citizen. Subjecting this development to scrutiny, Antwi-Boateng describes various forms the neo-colonial arrangement can take. According to him,

> [n]eocolonialism has several characteristics. First, in extreme cases, a foreign power may station its troops in a neo-colonial state and directly control the government. Second, the conventional form is for a foreign power to exercise neo-colonialist control over a developing country via economic or monetary means. Third, the neo-colonialist state could be restricted to solely serving as the market for the manufactured products of the neo-colonialist power. Fourth, the neo-colonialist power could control governmental policy in the neocolonialist state through financial contributions towards the cost of administrating the neocolonialist state. This could be supplemented with the provision of personnel for the Civil Service in order to drive policy, control over foreign exchange and also the creation and stewardship of a banking system. (180)

Nigeria and Igbo Land under British Rule

The local people of lands and property, and established rulership over those people. They also engaged in transfer of populations in various places. The areas

came under the rule of the British monarch, as well as the British parliament and prime minister. In the U.S., it began in the days of Elizabeth I, when adventurers who had gone out came back with news that would make most people desire to get out of poverty, going into different parts of the world. Suddenly, the colonies opposed British lordship under King George. Britain governed those spheres, replacing the indigenous political, social and religious structures. The British appointed British administrators alongside local subordinates. Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica, etc, retained the queen of England as the head of state. Colonies in Asia, Africa and the Americas talked over independence with the British, which was granted.

In Nigeria, over 450 different nations and diverse peoples were welded together to produce one country. Administration of Nigeria remained in British hands, until 1965, when a prime minister, who was an indigene got into office, and the British left. There was indirect rule arrangement in the north, and a direct rule in the south. In the north, the British adopted emirs as the heads of the different communities, passing instructions through the emirs. In effect, the emirs took the place of a people and relayed same to the British authorities. There was vacuum in that regard in Igbo land, making the British initially disconnected from the people. Njoku reviews the differences among Igbos, that one Igbo entity was adapted in 1945, when the Igbo Union was formed. He discloses however that there was a political commonality among the Igbos, which was the practice of a republican system, even among Igbo communities that had monarchies. He presents part of his thesis thus,

> Granted the diversities among the various groups that comprise the Igbo speaking people of Southern Nigeria there is some democratic or republican character that unifies all their political organisations prior to the advent of European colonialism. These communities were either administered by male elders, the age grades, cult groups or interaction between the women elders and male elders. Even where monarchy existed like the Anioma, Onitsha, Oguta, there was the manifest democratic and republican spirit, which characterised Igbo societies everywhere.3 Decisions were reached through a series of consultations among the elders of the community. (101)

The British found a solution, using warrant chiefs they chose of the populations to paly similar role as the Fulani emirs in northern Nigeria. expectedly, the authority of the warrant chief was weaker than that of the Fulani emir. But they could still enforce rules through authority that was derived from the British officials, who reported to the queen as well as the British prime minister. The British governor in Nigeria made pronouncements on trade, like production of Nigeria's crude oil and gas storage. He took diplomatic decisions and entered into agreements with foreign countries and delegated government officials to the same with local communities. The British governor of Nigeria was obviously very visible and was talked about. He was associated with many events, was on the television and his image in the newspapers (Njoku 100, Adegbulu).

With independence in sight, the indigenous people were excited, and hoped one of them would take that spot, with others climbing to other roles. The impression was that, if a British would be sighted in the corridors of power again, it would be a visitor. Though they made their encounters at the corridors look like a meeting of terrible, hating enemies, they appeared magistral at independence discussions with the queen and her government. The talks centered on the mode of handover to the Nigerian nationals. The various administrative segments of government they were necessary for various federal government decisions. The British removed every obstacle to northern rulership. There was a northern prime minister and an Igbo president. Unknown to the Igbo president, authority in the coalition government should flow from the prime minister's office, a fact that was explained to him by the chief justice of the federation. The leader of the opposition, Obafemi Awolowo had been removed from the national stage, after being convicted and jailed for conspiracy to forcefully take over the government of Tafawa Balewa. Th Western region, where Awolowo had been premier was in turmoil. Awolowo had strong disputes with his deputy, Samuel Akintola, who became premier of the Western region. Akintola served as the north's foothold in the West. The crises in the West and in Tiv land had high possibilities of sending the country crashing. In the West, rival parties fought over elections, as party thugs cut down one another on the streets. Arson and any imaginable means, the way they set upon one another. They were loyalists of the Action Group. In Tiv land, conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and the indigenous people dragged on, with

the federal government, which was thought to be a sympathizer of the herdsmen, sent in Nigerian soldiers (Siollun 5).

The central government could not restrain itself any longer from the crises in the Western region, and was days away from declaring a state of emergency in the West or Yorubaland. People had begun to discuss possible military intervention in the country. The miliary got involved through a bloody coup by mostly Igbo military officers. The prime minister and thirteen other northern high-ranking politicians and military officers, including the premier of the Western region, Samuel Akintola, were killed. The coup plotters were motivated by national feelings, though assignments were miscarried by some who were swayed by ethnic considerations. That nationalistic, pan-Nigerian feeling accounted for the involvement of nonIgbos in the coup. Voices, Igbos and non-Igbos alike who argued that it could not have been an Igbo coup have discovered it is not safe to express certain views. When Obasanjo, who commanded federal troops against the Biafrans, who were largely Igbos, made that opinion a subject of a book of his tiled Nzeogwu, he lost one of his wives in a riot that followed the publication of the book. Ademoyega, a Yoruba and one of the coup leaders, wrote a book entitled *Why We Struck,* to explain how the coup was not an Igbo coup. But the tag of Igbo coup had stuck when the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) pronounced it an Igbo coup. The British High Commissioner to Nigeria built the case of an Igbo coup, with a tour of the northern states. The northerners were wary of what dangers awaited them, as Aguiyi Ironsi an Igbo man had taken over power. But Ironsi and another Igbo, Emeka Ojukwu, had stood between the coup plottersand power, Ironsi assuming leadership as the highest-ranking military officer in Nigeria (Siollun 6-20).

The British high commissioner at the time Francis Cumming-Bruce stirred northern soldiers to react, and the response was bloody, with over 130 Igbo and other south eastern officers murdered; including Ironsi and a Yoruba Col. Adekunle Fajuyi. Igbo civilians, women and children, were marked for death, with about 30,000 of them butchered across Nigeria, mainly in the north. Except to downplay the level of violence, the British government was silent. The queen chose to keep quiet or was never moved to utter a word. The event led to attempts to hold peace conferences, but everything led to an ill-conceived war that Britain

treated like a threat to its survival as a world power. About 3 million people, mostly Igbos, among them women and children perished in that war. Britain, clearly, did not want to miss an opportunity to make a comeback as the colonizer of Nigeria. Britain only felt her position rattled by the entry of the US in international politics during the colonial period, which accounted for the granting of independence to Nigeria and some other countries. To its relief, the US was prepared to act as an ally. Another event was the Cold War, in which British Nigeria was distracted by the Non-Aligned Movement. Britain knew she could partly neutralize that with the hold of the Commonwealth of Nations on Nigeria. the Commonwealth of Nations is an organization of Britain and those who had once been the subjects of the British monarchs (Siollun 20-30).

Once Britain found allies in the USA and Europe, she moved closer to Nigeria. it is still curious that someone who spent so much time with the British prime minister, and who must approve any action by the prime minister did not think it more important to utter a word. She did not. She was not upset by the destruction caused by war to ask the parties, some of whom had tea with her a few years before, to seek peace. Not uttering a word 52 years after Biafra required a type of control fit for a queen. Like the British establishment, she could not remove herself from those events. Her silence only deepens the belief that she was a player in the war. Britain and her queen were unfair to the Nigerians and the Biafrans over a needless war. Today, Nigeria has almost returned to where the country was before the war. Britain should take responsibility for the chaos that emerged shortly after British mischievous exit from a country Britain put together without seeking the people's opinion. Had Britain left with good intentions, the people would not have been cutting the throats of one another.

Britain in Nigeria after the War

Britain came from waging wars to having more fortune meals than any entity in the country, many years after British colonization officially ended. Knowing how the ethnic groups in Nigeria would spend the time with one another, Britain applied the divide-and-rule tactics.

Through exchange of visits and comments, Nigeria looks like a British outpost. Nigerian leaders are assured a place of shelter when they are on the run from foes back home. When Yakubu Gowon, one-time Nigeria leader heard while in

Ethiopia that he had been toppled by Murtala Mohammed, he did not run to any other country. Umaru Dikko, a Nigerian politician, was crated in Britain with the knowledge of the Nigerian military head of state then Mohammed Buhari. Many Nigerian politicians of equal rank had sought cover at the time in Britain. Nigeria came under severe British sanctions over the Dikko incident. Britain extended an enduring arm of friendship to Ibrahim Babangida, when Babangida toppled Buhari. Babangida enjoyed the queen's hospitality, which shows how well-received an African leader is in British eyes. One Linda Crocker, British foreign secretary at the time scolded Nigeria publicly for indecisiveness in collecting an IMF loan. Nigeria promptly complied. When Anglo-Zimbabwean farmers were being uprooted from Zimbabwe by Robert Mugabe, Britain arranged a resettlement deal for them with Nigeria, for majority of them were reluctant to accept the offer to relocate to Britain. They restarted life in Nigeria, with a few measures taken by the Nigerian government to ensure the farmers' comfort. Two SUVs, millions of dollars, and police security were placed at the disposal of each famer. It included a land lease for ninety-nine years. Nigeria is not expected to be in different camps with Britain on international diplomatic issues, an exception being during the Apartheid era in South Africa. When a Nigerian leader assumes power, he knows the greatest gratitude belongs to, he speeds off to 10 Downing Street, before showing up in Washington. 10 Downing Street must be overwhelmed by petitions from Nigerians because

Nigerians think of nowhere else that has their leaders' listening ears than that place. The U.S. is only a second choice. The leaders also rely on the British authorities than the U.S.A to tame opposition. Britain is a faithful shepherd. This was how Britain did the overseas segment of the work by picking up Alamesiegha and James Ibori in Britain, jailing them and eventually passed them to Obasanjo the Nigerian head of state, whom those two people had given a lot of trouble. A leader does not get such favors from Britain by chance.

British and Nigerian Bilateral Trade

Many British companies were not unfastened from the Nigerian economy when Nigeria had come off British control politically. They still performed what they did in the colonial times. Britain is not known as a country that produces industrial tools and heavy-duty machines, but the country's share in investments in Nigeria

was huge. Yields from providing the needs of the big Nigerian population was impressive. From writing materials, to printing services for exam matters and currency to pharmaceutical products to biscuits, shoes and toiletries, British goods have dug deep into Nigeria. Britain today leans heavily on the over 200 million Nigerian population for sales of its goods. Remove loyalty of Nigerian leaders to Britian, this development would not be sustained. Dutch-Shell oil company, owned jointly by Britain and Netherlands nationals, has made colossal profits in its over 60 years of oil prospecting in Nigeria. the profits are no longer estimated in hundreds of millions of dollars, but in billions of dollars. Only a few companies have arrived at such figures in a foreign land. Nigeria was ringed by rail lines in the colonial times, from the north to the coast. There were agro-industrial companies like P.A. David and Sons, construction companies like Taylor Woodrow, supermarket chains like Kingsway, The Royal Niger Company, which became the United

African Company (UAC), the United Trading Company (UTC), BRITISH WEST AFRICA CORPORATION LTD (BEWAC), John Holt, and a sprinkle of French outfits like R.T. Brisco.

Others were United African Company (UTC), American Lever Brothers, Union Bank and First Bank. Some of the companies were indigenized but the British retained major shares. British families have patents on textiles being sold in Nigeria (Nwakunor).

When a major incident about Nigeria is being discussed, CNN news network seeks exclusive input from the British prime minister out of the hundreds of heads of governments in the world.

A Nigerian head of state, Shehu Yar Adua, was only speaking n these terms when he referred to Britain as the 'father of Nigeria.' There is an assortment of titles how Britain can be referred to, but Nigerians refer to the country and people as 'our colonial masters.' It means that Nigerians have not been weaned off the master and slave relationship. That is why, sometimes, at the British parliament, among items to be discussed is a development in Nigeria, as if British parliamentarians are accommodating discourse from an arm of Britain. It shows that the Europeans

still respect the 1884-1886 Berlin Treaty. Some exchanges in Perkin's *The New Confessions of an Economic Hitman* gives us insight what transpires in some so-called third world countries. Here is an excerpt:

> "So we wait. We grow strong." "We will take our time," one of the men chimed in, "and then like a snake we will strike." "What a horrible thought!" I could barely contain myself. "What can we do to change this?" The English major looked me directly in the eyes. "Stop being so greedy," she said, "and so selfish. Realize that there is more to the world than your big houses and fancy stores. People are starving and you worry about oil for your cars. Babies are dying of thirst and you search the fashion magazines for the latest styles. Nations like ours are drowning in poverty, but your people don't even hear our cries for help. You shut your ears to the voices of those who try to tell you these things. You label them radicals or Communists. You must open your hearts to the poor and downtrodden, instead of driving them further into poverty and servitude. There's not much time left. If you don't change, you're doomed." (54)

Football and Recolonization

Football with its followership in Nigeria meets the criteria of the recolonization process. The Nigerian authorities first confirmed this by changing the name of the Nigerian Association (NFA) to Nigerian Premier, copying the English Premier League. Nigerian football fans today hardly acknowledge Nigerian local professional football to buzz around English club side football. They are unconcerned about Spanish or German or French football that also rate highly. If there is an international football event on TV, the commentators are usually English, even when the people kicking the ball might be Nigerians, Germans and not English. It still allows the English or British to live off Nigerians. It means that the colonization of the Nigerian mind has been deepened. They are doing things Sebastian Ofurum and Ernest Okonkwo had done with ease. Nigerian football fans meet physically and on social media to place bet and argue over English football clubs. Arsenal fans are reminded how noisy they are. Manchester football fans leave bottles and many overturned objects when they move through streets whenever they lose. Chelsea football fans do not live in a particular neighborhood, accounting for why the place is usually calm; but they are honest. There is only way to engage a Liverpool fan on any issue; you simply ignore him or her.

Therefore, people exhibit these traits because of what they have imbibed by being fans of some sports clubs. What it also shows is that Nigerian football degenerates while millions of dollars are moved to Britain for TV viewing licenses and fan articles. There is also decline in understanding oneself and the circumstances around one. If Nigerian leaders are not partakers in this game, they cannot be passive while the anomaly is going on. When it got to the extent of name change to Nigerian Premier League, then we cannot put anything beyond them.

Buhari and Britain

In 2018, when then Prince Charles of England visited Nigeria, the Nigerians took from among the major ethnic groups and the most senior monarchs or traditional rulers to pose in a compound with Mr. Charles. There was a sitting arrangement that was built around Charles. The Sultan of Sokoto and the emir of Kano flanked Charles. The Obi of Onitsha, representing Igbos and the Ooni of Ife representing the Yorubas sat at the back. What did anybody intend to achieve by that portrait between a master and his servants? The fact is that kingship was alien to over 90% of Igbo land when Igbo land started its relationship with Charles' ancestors. Onitsha is a small Igbo community that is in the same vicinity with non-Igbos who practised feudalism. The Sultan of Sokoto is Fulani. Fulanis are recent immigrants in Nigeria. it is curious how that sitting arrangement fits into the reality of the traditions of the indigenous people of Nigeria. This is a Nigerian version of Britain that is being repackaged. Britain has succeeded in making Igbo land tick with over 5000 ezes in 5000 Igbo communities, imitating the British royal system. Therefore, Nigeria has the British royal as the head of Nigerian ancestral lands (Abimbola).

Nigerian leaders split their medial tours between Germany and Britain, beginning from the 1970s. it shifted to Britain a few years ago. It accelerated as Mohammed Buhari took over. He has stood out as a leader who spent over ten months in his six years of leadership in Britain. The prime minister of Britain cannot return to his seat after spending an unexplained, accumulated one year in Nigeria. this is what Britain permits. Britain gives Buhari much cover. It is even dangerous to point this out in Nigeria. Buhari has a special place in the heart of British leaders, and Buhari is often seen in the company of the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, who claims to be quite close to Buhari. The archbishop and Mr. Buhari had been brought together many years ago when an oil worker stationed in Nigeria, where

Buhqri was minister of petroleum (Yusuf). Mr. Ike Ekweremmadu, a Nigerian senator, was working to free himself then from a legal entanglement, as he and his wife were charged with alleged attempt to traffic somebody to Britain to obtain the fellow's kidney for transplant for Ekweremmadu's daughter. According to Ekweremmadu, taking he young man to Britain arose out of an understanding with the young man to act as donor for a surgery for Ekweremmadu's daughter. Whatever the case, it reveals the fact that Britain has become the clearing house for various affairs of Nigerian leaders (Abdullahi).

One of these affairs is educational tourism involving children of rich Nigerians and, lately, other Nigerians. The public universities in Nigeria are no longer appealing to people who can acquire education elsewhere. There is infrastructure decay in the universities. The labs are antiquated, even to the extent of abandoning Bunsen burners for kerosine-powered stoves. The classrooms, with broken windows, are filled up, with a ratio of 200 students ot a lecturer. One of the things one notices in the university is lack of power supply. Records point to low quality education in the primary schools, up to university. In addition, because the government remains unresponsive to strike action by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), most public universities remain closed for up 8 months, even while Buhari was in Britain. Therefore, Britain accommodates the excesses of rich and corrupt Nigerians, under the guise of being the father land. British schools are the opposite of their Nigerian counterparts. The high tuition fees make them even more attractive to the Nigerians, who circulate on social media pictures of them and their children who graduate from British educational institutions. Public officials therefore intensify efforts to help themselves from public funds … for newspapers to carry the stories of them and their graduating children. Nigerians pick up the scent and the appetite to go to Britain. It is the appetite that is responsible for the stampede of Nigerian medical practitioners, especially, to Britain, where salaries that surpass their 24 month's earning await them. Buhari's children in British universities

British High Commissioner to Nigeria as Colonial Governor

When Britain ceased being the greatest power on earth, the country feared its acclaimed British empire where, in its own words, the sun never set, could evaporate. The country had been compelled by views around the world that, with

what the world was going through, colonization must not continue. The world had fought two brutal wars of liberation. In addition, the U.S. had an eye on further expansion. It wanted a share of the British possessions. Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower waved aside British protestations to keep the colonies. European colonizers had to give up their colonies. Britain tearfully presented to each colony membership of a British commonwealth of nations that was formed. It was formed to still have a grip on the former colonies. The ambassadors between Britain and a former colony of Britain would be known as High Commissioner. It was also meant o keep away competitors. Each member must not break the promise of working together as a family. Cultural ties and sporting activities and citizenship of the commonwealth made them feel close to one another. Surrounded by citizens of countries that would likely migrate to Britain because of conditions at home, Britain pruned down the number that could have access to Commonwealth citizenship, with Nigeria highly affected. But, pulling out of the commonwealth is not tolerated by Britain (Abiola).

In Nigeria, the US ambassador became very influential. This is not surprising because world's leadership fell to the U.S. and also because of U.S. posture around the world. Yet, in terms of influence, the British High Commissioner made it look prestigious like the British ambassador is known as High Commissioner, competed favorably with the American ambassador. Interestingly, the American diplomatic undertakings in Nigeria have been toned down for over six years now. It has opened a door to allow the overzealous British high commissioner a lot of scheming. The present high commissioner to Nigeria Ms. Catriona Laing is on the newspaper headlines like a politician on a campaign trail. People of Nigeria have invented what looks like a uniform for occasions. The high commissioner takesthe time to acquire and step out with governors of northern Nigeria in the same embroidered uniform. It is even a sectional and divisive act to have a forum of governors of northern Nigeria. it is insensitive to dorn the attire and reprehensible for a foreign country to identify with such a group in that manner. The high commissioner encourages prominent politicians to invite her to birthday parties. She goes about, sitting down with presidential aspirants, who just kicked off their campaigns, in their offices. She announces a tour of Igbo states in the manner Nigeria's leaders do. Occasionally, she utters, to those who may have forgotten, how Britain was committed to Nigeria's affairs. Certain standards are expected

from diplomats. That a diplomat's posting has sent him to a country is no guarantee to not put a lid on some viewpoints. The Nigerian ambassador to Britain cannot be so drunk with liberties to go to Wales, Ireland and Scottland to drop scolding comments. She is so involved in numerous activities that an observer may want to know, between the British ambassador to Nigeria and the Nigerian president, who is really in charge. In an election period, she is restless, being one of those people politicians receive in their offices. These solidarity visits are unnecessary, usually. The scheming is a total takeover of Nigeria.

Conclusion

Many Igbo and Nigerian societies were not run by aliens. They did not have to deal with an IMF or World Bank that would dictate how their economies should be managed. An external force must be worth their attention if suggestions passed over to them did not make their system malfunction. They must have discerned what the alien sought to achieve by any form of interference in their affairs. Men who executed decisions must obtain the approval of the weakest member of the community before taking action. The people also would review the opinions and actions of one of the executors of … to determine if the person should be trusted. Dishonesty would be frowned at and would not be encouraged. Colonial rule and contact with Britain diverted the people from the path of honor and virtue.

The British came with all forms of alien ways that left the local people bewildered. They witnessed the basest form of greed, strong desire to present falsehood as truth, pronouncements that shocked the people, savage attack on decency and hypocrisy. What is unacceptable is how this colonist has declared himself the perpetual ruler of the African, Nigerian or Igbo is what confounds the people. But it has been found to be true. The British did not release their hold on the Igbo people the British, backed by the E.U. and the USA, has rehearsed properly how to not only be relevant in the life of Nigerians, but to have increased their participation in every engagement of the Nigerian people or Igbos. Routinely, they cruelly had their way each time on who runs Nigerian and how the country should be governed, dismissing the people's wishes.

Twice, between 1986 and 2023, they have come up with policies that plunged the country into economic chaos. Their control of the country led to crises from the

1960s till present time. The country has been facing difficulties arising from religious intolerance, ethnic rivalry and suspicion, violence, etc. the British have been remorseless. The suffering, squeeze and control have been too prolonged. The post-colonial anthem has only met deaf ears. It feels like an aching tooth. It is weak and has lost its alure. The … recompense that was wished for from the colonizers is not going to come. It is distressful that all the noise about the colonies writing back is hollow. A redefinition is overdue. The misfortune that has fallen upon Igbos by their encounter with the British must be qualified appropriately. Igbo land has been re-acquired by Britain. The grind never abated. The experience should not be reduced to the simple term neocolonialism has been pointed out satisfactorily in this essay. What remains to be done is to demand real independence from Britain.

Works Cited

Abdullahi, Idowu. "Ekweremadu: A long road to Jail." Punch. 5 May
https://punchng.com/ekweremadu-a-long-road-to-jail/Abimbola, Oluwakemi. "Photos: Nigerian Monarchs Visit Prince
Charles in Abuja." 6 Nov. 2018. https://punchng.com/photos-nigerian-monarchs-visitprince-charles-in-abuja/
Abiola, Oladipo. "2023: UK High Commissioner Meets PDP Governors' Forum Chairman, Tambuwal." 3 March 2022. https://www.naijanews.com/2022/03/03/2023-uk-high-commissioner-meets-pdp-governors-forum-chairman-tambuwal/
Adegbulu, F. "From Warrant Chiefs to Ezeship: A Distortion of
Traditional Institutions in Igboland?" *Afro Asian Journal of Social Sciences. v*ol.2,no, 2, 2011.
Agbo, Njideka. Adetiba, Adedamola. "What Britain Did to Nigeria: A Short History of Conquest and Rule." *African Studies Quarterly*, vol. 20, no. 4, Dec. 2021, pp. 99+.
Antwi-Boateng, Osman. "New World Order Neo-Colonialism: AContextual Comparison of Contemporary China and European Colonization in Africa." *The Journal of Pan African Studies*, vol.10, no.2, April 2017.
Bhabha, Homi K. The Commitment to Theory. Summer 1988. content/uploads/sites/164/2022/03/Bhabha_Commitment_to_Theory.pdf
Daka, Terhemba. "I had a Fabulous Time in Nigeria, Says Outgoing British

High Commissioner." Guardian Nig. 6 April 2023. https://guardian.ng/news/i-had-fabulous- time-in-nigeria-says-outgoing-british-high-commissioner/

Ebeya, Sen. "Neo-Colonialism and the Question of National Autonomy, *African.*" *Research Review.* vol. 4, no. 1, 2010.

Ebiseni, Sola. "**S**outhern Governors' Forum: A Welcome Development." Vanguard, 11 May 2021. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2021/05/southern-governors- forum-a-welcome- development/

Fieser, Ezra and Yinka Ibukun. "The World's Poorest Countries Buckle under $3.5 Trillion in Debt. 12 Dec. 2023. **https://www.bloomberg.com/news/features/2023-12-13/debt- crisis-poorest-nationsowe-trillions-in-high-interest-rate-world**

John, Obikwelu Ifeanyi, Gerard-Marie Messina and Odumegwu, Andy Chukwuemeka. "The Effects of Neocolonialism on Africa's Development." *Pan African Journal of Governance and Development. v*ol. 4, no. 2.

Lawal, Olanrewaju. "UK Partners with Northern Governors' Wives to Address Gender- Based Violence." 01 Feb. 2020. https://punctualflopsubquery.com/dnn2hkn8?key=f24b0aaf975ee65a83aae9b19

Leonzon, Rizza Ma. "Obasanjo Highlights Blair's Role in Nigerian Debt Relief." Devex, 23 Feb. 2010. https://www.devex.com/news/obasanjo-highlights-blair-s-role-in-nigerian-debt- relief-64701

Alamy. "The Queen and Nigeria's Military Ruler, General Ibrahim Babangida, Travel by Carriage from Victoria Station to Buckingham Palace after the Nigerian Leader's Arrival in London." May 1988. https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo-the-queen-and-nigerias-military-ruler-generalibrahim-babangida-travel-107845470.html

Kawu, Ishaq Modibo. "Baroness Lynda Chalker and Nigerian Ruling Class' Colomentality." Vanguard, 26 Nov 2013. https://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/11/baroness-lynda-chalker- and-nigerian-ruling-classcolomentality/

Njoku, Uzochukwu J. "Colonial Political Re-Engineering and the Genesis of Modern

Corruption in African Public Service: The Issue of the Warrant Chiefs of South Eastern Nigeria as a Case in Point." *Nordic Journal of African Studies*. vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 2005, 99–116.

Nwakunor, Gregory Austin. "Forgotten Brides: Companies that Colonialism Built in Nigeria." 20 Dec. 2005. https://guardian.ng/saturday-magazine/cover/forgotten-bridescompanies-that-colonialisation-built-in-nigeria/

Odiije, Michael E. "Unintentional Neo-colonialism? Three Generations of Trade and Development Relationship between EU and West Africa." *Journal of European Integration*. vol. 44, no. 3, 30 Mar 2020, 347-363.

Ogar, Joseph Nkang, Leonard Nwoye and Samuel Akpan Bassey. "Archetype of Globalization: Illusory Comfort of Neo-colonialism in Africa. *International Journal of Humanities and Innovation.* vol. 2, no. 3, Sep. 2019.

Ojo, Emmanuel Oladipo. "Nigeria, 1914-2014: From Creation to Cremation?" *Journal of the Historical Society of Nigeria*. vol. 23, 2014, pp. 67-91.

Onuegbu, Festus Chibuike. "Neo-colonial Imperialism: The Trend and the Plight of African States. February 2023. *International Journal of Research in Arts and Social Science.* vol. 7, no. 1,

Perkins, John. *The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. Oakland: Berret Kohler Publisher, 2016.

Rieffel, Lex. "The Paris Club Owes Nigeria a Fair Deal." Brookings, June 2005. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-paris-club- owes-nigeria-a-fair-deal/

Siollun, Max. *What Britain Did to Nigeria: A Short History of Conquest and Rule*. London: Hurst Publishers, 2021.

Stambol, Eva Magdalena. "Neo-colonial Penalty? Travelling Penal Power and Contingent Sovereignty," *Sage Journals*. vol. 23, no. 4,

Ukpe, Essien U. "Neo-colonialism and Debt Crisis: A Challenge to Development in Africa (A Case Study of Nigeria)." J*ournal of Administration and Corporate Governance. v*ol. 1, no. 1, April 20212.

Yusuf, Kabir. "Buhari Has Spent 200 days in UK for Treatment Since Assuming Office."

Premiumtimes 1 August 2021
https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/477336-timeline-buhari-has-spent-200-days-inuk-for-treatment-since-assuming-office.html?tztc=