The Nigerian Civil War: The Consequences of Imperialism.

Beginning of the War

Siege of Biafra
Britain in Nigeria

British Imperialism beginning in 1861 increased ethnic tensions and led the foundation for the Civil War.

"The rain that beat Africa began four or five hundred years ago, from the 'discovery' of Africa by Europe, through the transatlantic slave trade to the Berlin Conference of 1885. That controversial gathering at the world's leading European powers precipitated what we now call the Scramble for Africa, created boundaries that did violence to Africa's ancient societies and resulted in tension-prone modern states." There was a Country page one by Chinua Achebe author and survivor of the war.

Nigeria was a British protectorate from 1903-1960. It was under British control but retained some local autonomy through the preservation of tribal hegemons.

"They protected these local chiefs from any repression, it was impossible to people to challenge authority. Each chief and their administrative group fearing ethnic division." "Nigerian Civil War Begins: Global Events Milestone Events Throughout History" edited by Jennifer Stock.

"The roots of Nigeria's civil war can be traced to colonial rule: when the British forced three very distinct peoples, each living in their own region—the predominately Muslim Hausa-Fulani in the North, the Yoruba in the Southwest, and the Igbo in the Southeast—to integrate into a state that encouraged regional and ethnic competition." -John A. Katzen professor of African history at University of Houston.

The Igbo culture in the South allowed them to become educated which gave them more opportunities and caused resentment from other ethnic groups.

"Economic division between the ethnic divisions became apparent.

"The southern part had longer exposure to Europeans... because particularly the British had a policy of indirect rule. They allowed missionaries to run schools and hospitals," John Stanley Friesen, Survivor of the British War. 2019.

"Education, the white man's knowledge was a collective weapon of the entire community, it was the path to individual and family success." -The country page is by Chinua Achebe.
"The roots of Nigeria’s civil war can be traced to colonial rule, when the British forced three very distinct peoples, each living in their own region—the predominantly Muslim Hausa-Fulani in the North, the Yoruba in the Southwest, and the Igbo in the Southeast—to integrate into a state that encouraged regional and ethnic competition." - Karen A. Kemp, professor of African history at University of Houston

"The southern part had larger exposure to Europeans, because particularly the British had a policy of indirect rule. They allowed missionaries to run schools and hospitals." - John Stanley Friesen, Survivor of the Biafran War, 2011

"Education, the white man’s knowledge, was a collective disaster of the entire community. It was the path to individual and family success." - There was no country page 16 by Chinua Achebe

Following decades of colonialism, Nigeria gained independence on October 1, 1960. However, the British left Nigeria without a stable government in place.

A wood carving depicting a mother and child sought back from Nigeria in the 1960s.
Beginning of the War

**Thesis:** The Nigerian Civil war from 1967-1970 began due to ethnic tensions exacerbated by British control. The attempt to secession of Biafra and the destruction of the country during the war resulted in many attempts to compromise at the conclusion of the war, through the policy of “No victory No vanquished”, ultimately the ethnic divisions and economic disparity intensified by the war resulted in Nigeria’s failure to truly become one people.

**Beginning in 1960s:** A series of coups destabilized the government and resulted in violence between the Northern ethnic group, the Hausa-Fulani.

- “It destabilized the currency, made people jittery, increased the levels of tension. Food, milk, etc., prices skyrocketed. More military presence became obvious.” – Dike Orisie, survivor of the Biafran War, 2017
- After the second coup, a campaign of ethnic cleansing began in the northern region. Largely northern officials began the killing of several Igbo officers and civilians. From September to November 1966, one hundred thousand Igbo civilians living in the north were massacred. Hundreds of thousands more were killed or otherwise injured.” – The Nigerian Civil War Begins: July 6, 1967
- Repeated outbursts of violence between June and October 1966 peaked in massacres against Igbo living in the Sabon Garin, the foreigners’ quarters of northern Nigerian towns.” - Louise Heerden and D. Dick Moses

**The Igbo:** The Igbo ethnic group originated in the Biafran region, now战, during British imperialism. They dispersed and disrupted ethnic ties. The coups began immediately, motivating killings of Igbo in the northern territory, thus forcing the Igbo people back to Biafra.

- “Whether representatives of the Nigerian state systematically organized the killings remains debatable. At the very least, the Nigerian government tolerated the killings.” – Louise Heerden and D. Dick Moses
- Chukwumeka Ojukwu, called for Igbo to come to the Eastern region. He said the Federal government aided the genocide in the North and unable to protect Easterners.
- The Republic of Biafra was officially proclaimed on May 30, 1967.
- The discovery of oil in the Eastern region (Biafra) was a motivating factor for the Federal government’s cause. On July 6, 1967, the Federal government sent the army to the East and engaged the Biafrans.
- We witnessed the slow, sometimes unbearably fast slide into chaos. Images of famine, food and hope, fear, the fever, the distrust, distrust, distrust, and suspicion.” – Dike Orisie

Siege of Biafra

- By the end of 1967, U.S. forces had captured the Niger Delta and cut off Biafra’s access to the sea.” – The Nigerian Civil War 1967-1970
- A combination of military operations and local, air, sea, and land operations against Biafra and the destruction of its agricultural life by the Nigerian federal government led to the starvation, mass death, and flight of millions of Igbo.”- Boko-Haram
- “In response to the federal government’s blockade Biafra turned to propaganda to mobilize other nations to join their cause.
- “There were severe shortages of food, medicine, clothing, and housing. The economy of the region was shattered. Cities were in ruins, schools, hospitals, utilities, and transportation facilities were destroyed or inoperable.” – John Pike, contributor to CNN, MSNBC, and BBC, on global security.
- “The summer of 1967, contemporaries around the globe witnessed the emergence of a new ‘third world’ war in which the ‘Blackman’ was a common enemy. The suffering of the civilians in Biafra, particularly the women and children, came into prominence with photographs of children dying in the streets of Biafra, Republic of Biafra, which made headlines.” – Louise Heerden and D. Dick Moses.

The Republic of Biafra was declared on May 30, 1967. The federal government of Nigeria invaded Biafra on July 6, 1967, and engaged in a brutal and bloody war. The war resulted in the deaths of over 3 million people and the displacement of over 2 million others. The war ended in 1970 with the defeat of Biafra and the reunification of Nigeria.
**Siege of Biafra**

By 1969, the Nigerian Civil War had escalated, with the federal government加深 its blockade and military efforts against the Biafran forces. The Biafrans were faced with severe shortages of food, medicine, clothing, and housing, which made the situation even more desperate. The population faced extreme hardships, and the economy of the region suffered significantly.

The summer of 1968 witnessed the emergence of a new global issue: the Biafran crisis. Reporters and photographers in the west, particularly those working on the secessionist Republic of Biafra, were confronted with photographs that made headlines around the world. Louise Haxthausen and A. Dirk Moses

*In December 1968, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) estimated that fourteen thousand people were dying every day in Biafra.*

*Dr. Abuja sang to the Biafran soldiers and civilians who were in the Biafra Village.*

*“There were severe shortages of food, medicine, clothing, and housing. The economy of the region was shattered. Cities were in ruins, schools, hospitals, utilities, and transportation facilities were destroyed or cooperative.” John Pike, contributor to CNN, MSNBC, and BBC on global security.*

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After the War

After the war, the Nigerian Government enacted a policy of "No victors, no vanquished" in 1970. This attempt to unify the country by serving home for the war.

Many people soon were being enlisted in the federal armed forces. There were no trials and few people were imprisoned. Ojukwu, in exile, was made the illegitimate but efforts to have him reinstated failed. - Helen Chapin Metz

A compromise with the division of oil attempted to reduce regional tension

"Raced fifth globally in oil production, this nation has earned more than $340 billion and gas revenues since the 1970s." - Nnamdi Kileman

Nigeria still struggles with division despite the compromise

"Destruction in Biafra" - Life 1969

Political policy furthered the divide between Igbo people and other ethnic groups.

"While the misery of the Biafran war put an end to the separatist ambitions of many Biafrans, a lot of Igbo people still feel that they are not fairly treated in Nigeria." - "Biafran Leader Nnamdi Kanu." - BBC News

"While the Igbo comprise one of the three largest ethnic groups, they have fewer states than the Hausas in the north and the Yorubas in the south-west, and this has led to a smaller budget allocation." - BBC News

A resurgence in separatist movements have motivated a push for Biafra

To sign a movement in the Southeast seeking independence of the country, a large group of people - 50,000 - have died in the last six months. - BBC News
A resurgence in separatist movements have motivated a push for Biafra.

"While the Igbo comprise one of the three largest ethnic groups, they have fewer states than the Hausas in the north and the Yorubas in the south-west, and subsequently get a smaller budget allocation." "Nigeria treats us like slaves." BBC News

"While the misery of the Biafran war put an end to the separatist ambitions of many Biafrans, a lot of Igbo people still feel that they are not fairly treated in Nigeria." "Biafran Leader Nnamdi Kanu." BBC News

Political policy furthered the divide between Igbo and other ethnic groups.

"In Nigeria, a movement in the southeast seeking independence from the rest of the country has also gained steam – 50 years after a civil war over the same issue left one million people dead in one of the region's deadliest conflicts." "Agan and Essamba: Igbo and Essamba are Nigerian journalists.

Nigeria's president, Muhammadu Buhari declared a separatist group, the Independent Republic of Biafra, a terrorist organization and unleashed a military crackdown in the region. "Agan and Essamba."