HISTORY – JS THREE

Second Term note

Scheme of work

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(5) Berlin conference

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British Contact With Nigeria

The British had contact with Nigeria in three ways:

(1) First as explorers

(2) Second as traders

(3) Third as missionaries

HOW BRITISH CONQUERED NIGERIA TERRITORIES

There were two major ways Britain conquered Nigeria territories:

(1) Signing of treaties

(2) Waging of war

(1) Signing of treaties: Some of the traditional rulers in Nigeria communities signed peace agreement or treaty allowing the British to operate in their area in exchange for protection by the British army while some signed the treaty to avoid being attacked by the British army. The first of such treaty was signed by Calabar when the Obong of Calabar subjected his throne to that of the Queen of England around 1884. Other places or towns that signed treaty with the British government are Borgu, Katsina and Egba in Abeokuta

(2) Waging of war: Some communities that restricted British dominance were attacked by British troops and their traditional rulers were either killed, disposed, exiled or forced to sign a document that turned them to British subjects. Communities like Benin, Sokoto, Kano, Bauchi, Yobe, Warri, Aro- Chuckwu, Brass, etc were forcefully conquered by the British army

BRITISH SYSTEM OF COLONIALISM

The system of colonialism used by the British was:

(1) Direct rule : This was a system of colonialism where British directly administered the people without having to use an intermediary to reach the people they were ruling over. Lagos colony and its environment were administered using direct rule system. Some of the towns or pre colonial states that resisted British dominance before they were conquered also were administered using direct rule system. These places include Benin and Delta provinces

(2) Indirect rule: Indirect rule was first introduced in the Northern protectorates before he tried introducing Indirect rule system to southern part of Nigeria. It was a system of administration where the traditional rulers were used by the colonial administrators to rule the people while acting on the colonial administrator's instructions on certain matters

The indirect rule system was adopted by Lord Lugard because there was no enough money and facilities to directly rule the vast Northern territory and there was shortage of manpower since fortunately Sokoto Caliphate had an already established or a well developed system of government across the North where Emirs were in charge of various Emirates which were under Sokoto Caliphate. Fredrick Lord Lugard decided to use this existing structure with a few modifications.

EVOLUTION OF NIGERIA STATE

The history of Nigeria state and her relationship with the British can be traced back to 1849 when British created a consulate in the Bright of Benin (Badagry area) and the Bright of Biafra ( Niger Delta area).

This was done to check slave trade activities in those areas. Following the success recorded by their explorers, the British developed economic interest in the territories around Niger area and were ready to stop France and Germany from gaining access and control of the Niger area territory.

By 1861, Britain annexed Lagos area and it's immediate environment and turned Lagos to a British Crown Colony. British business merchants like taubman Goldie also played key role by ensuring that he promoted British imperial and economic interest in the Niger area trading up into the hinterland from the Bright of Biafra along the River Niger to the middle Belt and the Northern region.

The British chartered company called the Royal Niger Company had successfully monopolized trading activities in Niger area driving away competing merchants from other countries such that at the Berlin conference of 1884/1885,it was easy for British to lay claim to the Niger area that today is the country called NIGERIA

BERLIN CONFERENCE OF 1884/1885

In the early 19th century, Europeans had to struggle for territories in the interior part of Africa in search for ivory, gold, palm oil, etc

When this struggle was becoming intense among European countries, Britain and France saw a need to persuade Germany to convey a conference where all European countries interested in territories on the continent of Africa can come together and regulate European colonization and trade in Africa.

Otto Can Bismarck who at that time was German chancellor invited thirteen (13) European countries and the United States of America to Berlin for them to work out a treaty and a joint policy that will regulate their colonization activities on the continent of Africa. The conference opened on 15th November,1884 and ended on 26th February,1885

MAJOR FEATURES OF BERLIN TREATY

(1) Slave trade should officially be stopped in Africa

(2) African territories should be shared among interested European countries on the basis of effective occupation of the territories before the conference

(3) The Berlin act gave exclusive right to each European country to legally colonize and claim land ownership of territories given to them

It is important to note that Royal Niger Company which was established in 1879 as a trading company represented the British government with the interest in the Niger area. The company was first called the United African Company (UAC) and changed its name to National African Company (NAC) in 1881 and then to Royal Niger Company (NCR) in 1886. The company was formed by Sir George Taubman Goldie with other British merchants. They were able to convince participants at the Berlin conference of the strong presence of British interest in the Niger area.

COLONIAL CONQUEST AND ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIA

The conquest of Nigeria started from coastal areas (south) into the interior parts of Nigeria. Notable areas that we're existing in Nigeria and experienced different British colonial conquest were Benin, Warri, Itsekiri, Bonny, etc

Like Warri which was headed by Olu of Warri. Nana Olomu was made the governor of the Benin, the Governor of the Benin River and the head of the leading traders or trading house in Itsekiri land. He monopolized the trade and served as an intermediary between the Urhobo people and the Europeans. Because of this, he was invited by the British consul which he refused to honour because of he was aware of the date earlier suffered by Jaja of Opobo. Ebrohimi, his capital and hometown was captured in 1895 and he was arrested in Lagos . He was sent on an exile to Calabar and later to Accra

THE CONQUEST OF LAGOS

King Kosoko was then the king that time and he refused to sign the Anti Slavery treaty and besides, hostile to Europeans which eventually led to his removal. Akintoye was installed as the new oba of Lagos and he immediately signed the Anti- Slavery treaty and allowed missionaries and traders to transfer their base from Badagry to Lagos. The British consul became resident in Lagos from 1852.

On 5th August,1861, king Dosunmu who succeeded his father, king Akintoye after his death ceded his kingdom to the British after signing the treaty of succession.

THE CONQUEST OF YORUBA LAND

The British took advantage of the Ijaye war (Yoruba civil war) to advance their interest at Ikorodu in 1865 and also signed treaties with local rulers of Badagry, Ado, Ipokia, Ebute-Metta and Oke Odan. These towns were joined to Lagos colony and stop France from Porto-Novo (Benin republic)

In 1892, the British wage war against the Ijebu people while the Egba people signed a peaceful treaty with the British. The British consul at the time was Carter.

THE DEFEAT OF OPOBO KINGDOM

It was founded by Jaja of Opobo in 1869 whose original name was Mbanaso Okwara Ozurumba. He was sold to Bonny and Bonny was a commercial center in the Niger-Delta Area. He left Bonny because of rivalry among the people to establish a new town called Opobo. Soon after the establishment of Opobo city, Jaja began to control palm oil trade in that region as Igbo,Anang and Ibibio hinterland traders now moved their palm oil through Opobo. He did everything possible to prevent European traders from trading directly with the hinterland. He was invited by the British and sent on an exile to Accra and later to Saint Vincent in West Indies

BRASS TOWN

It was situated in the creeks of the Niger Delta area and could not engage in farming activities because of too much water. Before the arrival of the Europeans, the Brass people traded with people of Aboh and Onitsha who were in the hinterland but when the British company came to Nigeria, they disrupted the order of trade between Brass and the hinterland communities. So, traders coming from Brass to the hinterland to trade were treated as foreigners and had to pay money to the British company. This Monopoly made the people of Brass to attack Royal Niger Company and in returned, in 1895,the British attacked and captured Brass

BENIN EXPEDITION

By 1888,the British were already in control of trade in Yorubaland, the British Royal Niger Company became interested in trading activities in Benin kingdom. The reason for this is because Benin kingdom had very fertile land for palm oil and rubber production and was rich in natural resources like the ivory. The then Oba of Benin ,oba Ovonramwen monopolized trading activities in Benin kingdom. After the attempt made by the British to reconcile with the king failed,1200 soldiers were sent to Benin which destroyed and captured Benin with three days

CONQUEST OF SOKOTO CALIPHATE

The last of the war waged by the British over Nigeria territories was in Sokoto. West African Frontier Force was established in April 1898 by Fredrick Lord Lugard to ensure that British government take full charge of all the territory under it from 1st January,1900 when NIGERIA officially was to become a protectorate of British government

The West African Frontier Force was stationed at Jebba (in present day kwara state) as Frederick Lord Lugard travelled to Lokoja (in present day Kogi state) to mount the Union Jack (British flag) which officially indicated that Northern NIGERIA and Southern Nigeria has now become British protectorate and Fredrick Lugard was now the first High Commissioner of the new Northern protectorate of Nigeria with her headquarter in Lokoja

By 1901, Lugard started to attack and conquer Northern Emirate one after the other as a strategy to weaken Sokoto Caliphate. He conquered Bids and Kontagora (in present day Niger state) and in February 1901, he conquered Yola(capital of present day of Adamawa state),in September 1901,he conquered Bauchi(the capital of present day Bauchi state) in February 1902 and by April 1902,he had captured Zaria, Lorin, Nasarawa and Borno. The only opposition he had left was Kano, Katsina and Sokoto. By February,1903, Kano city was conquered and by 13th March,1903, British troops entered and waged war against Sokoto caliphate but Caliph Attahiru fled to Gusau (capital of present day Zamfara state) from Sokoto

Caliph Attahiru was able to re-enforce his army at Gusau to engage in final battle with the British troops. He was however killed in the battle on July,1903 while trying to recapture his caliphate. Lord Lugard and his troops marched to Katsina and the Emir of Katsina willingly surrendered to British troops without a fight and he signed peace treaty with Lord Lugard

BRITISH COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION

Lagos colony was under the administration of a Governor who had the sole authority to administer the colony with assistance coming from the legislative council. The southern protectorate was divided into three provinces of the western provinces, central province and eastern province. Each of the provinces was administered by a commissioner. The Governor overseas and control the entire southern Nigeria

In the Northern protectorate, it was administered by the High commissioner under the overall control of the Governor in Lagos. The legislative council and the Executive council were the medium through which the Governor administered the protectorate of southern Nigeria while he governed the north using proclamations. The council structure of administration is as follows:

Governor

High commissioner (lieutenants Governor)

Commissioner (Major province)

Residents (Minor province)

District officers (Division)

Assistant Districts Officers (Districts)

Native Authorities

Colonial Administration Staff

AMALGAMATION OF NIGERIA IN 1914

Amalgamation is the process of combining or uniting things or territories together. The Northern and Southern protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated by sir Fredrick Lord Lugard in 1914. Lord Lugard was brought from Uganda in 1895 to lead the military campaign of British government in Nigeria. Amalgamation was introduced for easy/better administration of the two regions and for economic reasons and this was when Mr. Lewis Vernon Harcourt was the secretary of state for colonies in Britain. Lagos was made the seat of government (i.e, capital of the new colonial territory called Nigeria). Walter Egerton (colonial master) of the southern region merged southern protectorate and the colony of Lagos together in 1906.

REASONS FOR THE AMALGAMATION OF NIGERIA

(1) To unify different parts of Nigeria together

(2) For economic reasons to finance budget deficit of Northern protectorate

(3) For administrative convenience

(4) To facilitate transportation of people and goods across the length and breadth of Nigeria

PERSONALITY WHO KEY ROLES IN NIGERIA AMALGAMATION

(1) Taubman Goldie

(2) Fredrick Lord Lugard

(3) The European missionaries

(4) Traditional rulers

NATIONALISM

It can be defined as the expression of people's desire for self-determination and self-governance. It is a socio political drive where people desire to directly be involved in the process of governance to determine their future

FACTORS THAT LED TO NIGERIA NATIONALISM (internal factors)

(1) Unpopular colonial rule

(2) Foreign control of trade and economy

(3) Discrimination of Nigeria workers in the civil service

(4) Establishment of political parties

(5) Increase in the activities of trade union

(6) Improved educational facilities

(7) Establishment of newspapers

FACTORS THAT LED TO NIGERIA NATIONALISM (external factors)

(1) Atlantic charter

(2) Influence of America

(3) Independence of Asia countries

(4) Attitude of British Labour Party

(5) United Nation charter

(6) Influence of Nigeria students in London

(7) Support from Ex- service men

NATURE OF NIGERIA NATIONALISM

Before second world war in 1939, nationalists were demanding for more political participation by blacks in politics and legislation, they were asking for better prices for agricultural produce and export, etc. However, after the second world war in 1945, the nature of nationalism in Nigeria changed to a call for Independence. Some of these nationalist leaders are:

(1) Herbert Macaulay

(2) Nnamdi Azikwe

(3) Obafemi Awolowo

(4) Ahmadu Bello

(5) Tafawa Balewa

(6) Anthony Enahoro

(7) Aminu Kano

Nigeria was granted her Independence from British colonial rule on 1st October,1960