

**GLOBALIZATION AS AN INSTRUMENTS OF
SOCIALIZATION IN AFRICA: NIGERIA AS CASE STUDY**

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this long essay titled: **GLOBALIZATION AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOCIALIZATION IN AFRICA;NIGERIA AS CASE STUDY**, submitted to the department of philosophy, faculty of art, University of Benin, Benin City, for the award of Bachelor Degree of Arts in philosophy, is a record of the original research carried out by **NWAMODOH JENNIFER NGOZI WITH MATRICULATION NUMBER ART1801948** of the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria.

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DEDICATION

This project is majorly dedicated to God Almighty for his unadulterated love, his never ending mercy, for being so gracious to me, and for seeing me throughout my academic pursuit.

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I am most grateful to God the Almighty father and I return all glory and adoration to Him, the author and finisher of our faith and giver of all wisdoms for his endless impartation of understanding in order to stay through to the course, this journey would not have been possible without him.

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ABSTRACT

In the annals of African history, the effects of colonialism remain deeply entrenched, shaping the political, economic, and social landscapes of the continent. While many African nations gained their independence in the mid-20th century, the legacies of colonial rule have endured, manifesting in various forms, including neocolonialism. Neocolonialism refers to the indirect influence and control exerted by former colonial powers or external entities over the political and economic affairs of postcolonial nations¹. This phenomenon has had a profound impact on African countries, with Nigeria serving as a poignant case study. As one of the most populous and resource-rich countries in Africa, Nigeria has faced numerous challenges in its quest for national development. The echoes of neocolonialism reverberate through the intricate web of institutions and systems that govern the nation. Institutions play a crucial role in shaping the political, economic, and social dimensions of a country, and understanding their dynamics within the context of neocolonial influences is essential for comprehending Nigeria's complex journey since gaining independence. This undergraduate project aims to explore the intricate relationship between neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, with a specific focus on the Nigerian experience. By delving into the historical background and examining key institutional frameworks, this research project seeks to shed light on how neocolonial forces continue to shape and impact Nigerian institutions, thereby influencing the country's development trajectory. Furthermore, the project will delve into the consequences of neocolonialism on various sectors, such as politics, economics, and culture, exploring how these influences have hindered or facilitated Nigeria's progress. By critically analyzing the policies, practices, and power dynamics that underpin these institutions, this research aims to provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by Nigeria as it seeks to assert its sovereignty and forge a path towards sustainable development. Ultimately, this study seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on neocolonialism in Africa, specifically focusing on the Nigerian context. By shedding light on the intricate interplay between neocolonial forces and institutions, this research aims to foster a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in decolonization and the ongoing struggle for self-determination and inclusive development in Africa's most populous nation.

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

The history of Africa is deeply intertwined with the legacy of colonialism, a period that has had enduring effects on the continent's political, economic, and social structures. While many African nations gained independence from colonial rule in the mid-20th century, the impacts of colonization have persisted in the form of neocolonialism². Neocolonialism refers to the indirect influence and control exerted by former colonial powers or external entities over the political and economic affairs of postcolonial nations. This phenomenon has had a profound impact on African countries, including Nigeria, which serves as a compelling case study for exploring the relationship between neocolonialism and institutions in Africa. To understand the dynamics of neocolonialism in Nigeria, it is essential to examine the colonial history that preceded it. Nigeria was colonized by the British Empire in the late 19th century, and British colonial rule lasted until 1960 when Nigeria gained independence. During the colonial period, the British implemented various policies and systems that shaped Nigeria's institutions according to their own interests. This included the imposition of a centralized bureaucratic system, the introduction of cash-crop agriculture, and the establishment of educational and legal frameworks that aligned with British norms and values.

Neocolonialism emerged as a continuation of colonial power dynamics even after formal independence. The neocolonial framework allowed former colonial powers to maintain control over postcolonial nations through economic and political means. In Africa, this often manifested as economic exploitation, with multinational corporations and international financial institutions exerting significant influence over African economies³. Additionally, political interference, covert interventions, and manipulation of postcolonial governments further perpetuated neocolonial dynamics. Nigeria, as one of Africa's most populous and resource-rich countries, has encountered numerous challenges in its postcolonial journey. Neocolonial forces have played a significant role in shaping Nigeria's institutions, thereby influencing the country's development trajectory. Understanding the Nigerian experience provides valuable insights into the complexities of neocolonialism and its impact on African nations. Nigeria's political institutions have been deeply influenced by neocolonial forces. The legacy of colonialism left behind a centralized system of governance, with power concentrated at the federal level. This centralized structure has often hindered effective governance and the equitable distribution of resources. Furthermore, neocolonial influences have affected electoral processes, party politics, and the overall democratic functioning of the country. In the economic sphere, neocolonialism has had a profound impact on Nigeria's development. The country's rich natural resources, such as oil and minerals, have attracted foreign interests and multinational corporations, leading to economic dependency and resource

exploitation. The imposition of economic policies, such as structural adjustment programs by international financial institutions, has also shaped Nigeria's economic institutions, often to the detriment of local industries and social welfare. Neocolonialism has not only influenced Nigeria's political and economic institutions but has also affected social and cultural spheres. The dominance of Western values, norms, and cultural products has been perpetuated through media, education, and cultural exchanges, often marginalizing indigenous knowledge and traditions⁴. This has resulted in cultural homogenization and the erosion of local identities.

The background of the study highlights the historical context and the enduring impact of colonialism and neocolonialism on Nigeria's institutions. The colonial legacy left behind a centralized political system, economic dependency, and cultural influences that continue to shape Nigeria's postcolonial development. Understanding the dynamics of neocolonialism is crucial for comprehending the challenges faced by African nations, particularly Nigeria, in their pursuit of self-determination and sustainable development.

By exploring the historical background and examining key institutional frameworks, this study aims to shed light on the complex relationship between neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, focusing on the Nigerian experience. By critically analyzing the impacts of neocolonial forces on political, economic, and social institutions, this research seeks to contribute to the existing body of knowledge, providing insights into the challenges faced by Nigeria and other African nations as they navigate

the path towards inclusive and independent development. Overall, this study aims to foster a deeper understanding of neocolonialism and its implications, ultimately contributing to the broader discourse on decolonization and the pursuit of self-determination in Africa.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

In today's interconnected world, one of the key issues revised by the development of globalization is the question of whether it is leading to homogenization of cultures around the world. Globalization has become a pervasive phenomenon, affecting economics, cultures worldwide and societies. This could lead to decline in the variety and of the richness of human experience and the loss of diversity.

This research aims to explore the multifaceted impacts of globalization which includes the effects on environmental sustainability, cultural homogenization, income inequality and national sovereignty. The study identifies potential solutions and policy recommendations to reduce the negative consequences and increase its benefits in the increasingly global world

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study on neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, specifically focusing on the Nigerian experience, can be identified across various aims. To examine the historical context and legacy of colonialism in Nigeria and its impact on the country's

institutions: This study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the colonial background that shaped Nigeria's institutions and set the stage for the neocolonial dynamics observed in the postcolonial era. To explore the manifestations and mechanisms of neocolonialism in Nigerian institutions: By analyzing political, economic, and social institutions in Nigeria, the study seeks to identify and understand the specific ways in which neocolonial forces have influenced and continue to shape these institutions. To assess the consequences of neocolonialism on Nigeria's development trajectory: This aims to investigate the impacts of neocolonialism on Nigeria's political stability, economic growth, social cohesion, and cultural preservation. It seeks to evaluate the extent to which neocolonial influences have hindered or facilitated Nigeria's progress and development. To highlight the challenges faced by Nigeria in asserting its sovereignty and forging a path towards inclusive and sustainable development: By examining the role of neocolonialism in Nigeria, this study aims to shed light on the obstacles and power dynamics that hinder Nigeria's self-determination, governance, economic diversification, and cultural revitalization efforts. To contribute to the existing body of knowledge on neocolonialism in Africa and provide insights for policymakers and scholars: By offering a nuanced analysis of the neocolonial dynamics in Nigeria, this research aims to contribute to the academic discourse on neocolonialism in Africa. It seeks to provide valuable insights for policymakers, scholars, and stakeholders interested in addressing the

legacies of colonialism, promoting institutional reforms, and fostering sustainable development in Nigeria and other African nations.

Overall, the purpose of this study is to deepen our understanding of the complex relationship between neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, with a specific focus on Nigeria, in order to inform policy decisions and contribute to the ongoing discourse on decolonization and inclusive development in the continent research

1.4 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This research emphasizes the importance of globalization and instruments of socialization in Africa, it study's the implications globalization has had on the Africa continent using Nigeria as a case study, some of the importance of this study includes that, It highlights reasons for decolonization. Reaffirming communalism, reduces the class consciousness existing in our societies Reducing the rate of our dependency on the colonial masters, for example, the political institutions amongst other institutions in Africa have endlessly being dependent on her colonial masters to come to aid. This research brings to mind the already existing political structure that was before the arrivals of this globalizers, therefore the abandonment of their systems and returning to the roots of Africa would enable a more functioning political system. This research helps us see how globalization is terribly affecting our norms and values, an example is the young, it is a common in Africa value that the young should show high respect for the elders one

of which is through greetings, but sadly this is gradually becoming extinct as the young now walk past elders with head held high without any form of greetings. The economic sector of most Africa countries are terrible because they always believe that they can get loans from other globalizers institutions and countries, thereby not working hard enough to properly put her economy right but depending on the loans and help it can get from others .

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The scope of the study on neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, with a focus on the Nigerian experience, encompasses the following aspects. Geographical Scope; The study primarily focuses on Nigeria, a country in West Africa. Nigeria's rich historical background, diverse cultural heritage, and significant economic and political influence make it an important case study for understanding neocolonialism in the African context. Historical Scope: The study considers the period of colonialism in Nigeria, starting from the late 19th century when Nigeria was colonized by the British Empire, up until the present day. It explores the enduring impacts of colonialism and the subsequent emergence of neocolonial forces that have shaped Nigeria's institutions. Institutional Scope: The study examines various institutions in Nigeria, including political, economic, social, and cultural institutions. It analyzes the interplay between neocolonial influences and these institutions, exploring how neocolonial forces have influenced their structures, policies, and functioning. Sectorial Scope: The study investigates the impact of

neocolonialism on different sectors of Nigerian society. This includes the political sector, with a focus on governance, power dynamics, and democratic processes. It also encompasses the economic sector, considering aspects such as resource exploitation, foreign investment, and economic policies. Additionally, the study explores the social and cultural sectors, examining the influences on cultural identity, education, and media.

Comparative Scope: While the primary focus of the study is on Nigeria, it may draw upon comparative analyses with other African countries to provide broader insights into the phenomenon of neocolonialism in Africa. Comparisons with similar contexts or case studies can enhance understanding and highlight commonalities or differences in neocolonial dynamics across the continent.

It is important to note that the study's scope may be limited by factors such as time constraints, availability of data, and the specific research questions being addressed. Nonetheless, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis within the defined scope to contribute to the understanding of neocolonialism and institutions in Africa, with Nigeria as a key case study.

1.6 METHODOLOGY

Nigeria as one of Africa's most populous and resources rich countries, has encountered numerous challenges in its post-colonial journey, through globalization forces have played a significant role in shaping the Nigeria institutions like the political

institutions where the legacies of colonialism have left behind a centralized system of government with power concentrated on the federal level.

1.7 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

1.7.1 Globalization: Globalization is the process that refers to the increase in the interdependencies, interconnectedness between countries, societies, cultures and economies. It involves the exchange of services, information, movements of goods, ideas, people and technologies across borders. Globalization is gained by the advances in communications, technology and transportation which in time have made it easier for countries to communicate, collaborate, trade to a global scale. Globalization has both positive and negative implications, some of its positive implications are economic growths, cultural exchange, access to information and technological advancement, while its negative implications includes inequality, cultural homogenization, environmental challenges, and loss of sovereignty, labor exploitation, and financial instability. Globalization has a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that has shaped the modern world in several ways its impacts are wide-range and have implications on various institutions in the globe.

1.7.2 Socialization: Socialization refers to the process through which individuals internalize and learn the norms, social skills, values, and behavior of the culture of society, it is a process that begins from infancy throughout the life of a person. It is a foundational process that shapes individuals into functioning members of a society by influencing their behavior, helping individuals to understand the world around them

1.7.3. Contemporary Africa: Contemporary refers to the present happenings in Africa, which are things that are relevant of acknowledgment or happenings in the current time. Contemporary Africa refers to up-to-date reflections and the cultural, social or technological trends, contrasted in a past or historical contexts.

1.8 LITERATURE REVIEW

The first book reviewed is "Orientalism" by Edward Said. Published in 1978, "Orientalism" critically examines how Western scholarship has historically represented and constructed the Orient (primarily the Middle East and Asia) as an inferior, exotic, and submissive "other." Said argues that this representation served to justify imperialist and neo-colonial endeavors, influencing perceptions and policies towards these regions.⁵

The second book review is "Globalization and Its Discontents" by Joseph Stiglitz

In this influential book from 2002, Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz examines the negative consequences of globalization, particularly for developing countries. He highlights how neo-colonial economic policies imposed by international financial institutions have led to increased inequality and social unrest in the Global South⁶.

The third book reviewed is "The Development Dictionary: A Guide to Knowledge as Power" edited by Wolfgang Sachs. This collection of essays challenges mainstream development theories and practices. It delves into the role of knowledge production in

maintaining neo-colonial structures and advocates for more inclusive and context-specific approaches to development⁷.

The fourth book reviewed is titled "The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism" by Naomi Klein. Naomi Klein's book, published in 2007, explores the exploitation of natural and human-made disasters by global corporations and governments to further neo-colonial agendas. She argues that crises are often used as opportunities to impose free-market policies on vulnerable nations⁸.

The fifth book reviewed is "Neocolonialism: Methods and Maneuvers" by Michael Manley. Written by Michael Manley, the former Prime Minister of Jamaica, this book discusses the strategies employed by industrialized nations to maintain dominance over developing countries. It explores the economic, political, and cultural mechanisms that perpetuate neo-colonialism⁹.

The sixth book is "Neo-Colonialism in West Africa" by Samir Amin. Focusing on West Africa, Samir Amin examines the continued dependency on former colonial powers and the impact of multinational corporations on the region's economic development. The book discusses the various challenges faced by West African nations in breaking free from neo-colonial exploitation¹⁰.

The seventh book is, "The Scramble for Africa: White Man's Conquest of the Dark Continent from 1876 to 1912" by Thomas Pakenham. Published in 1991, this book

provides a historical account of the European powers' colonization of Africa during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It helps to contextualize the roots of neo-colonialism and its lingering effects on the continent¹¹.

The next book is "Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples" by Linda Tuhiwai Smith. This book, first published in 1999, critically examines the colonial legacy in research methodologies and calls for a decolonization of academic research. It discusses the importance of involving indigenous perspectives and knowledge in the research process to challenge neo-colonial practices.

The ninth book is "The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man" by John Perkins. John Perkins, a former economic hit man, reveals in this book the tactics employed by corporations and governments to control developing nations through debt and exploitation. The book sheds light on covert neo-colonial practices in the realm of international finance.

The tenth book is "Coloniality at Large: Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate" edited by Mabel Moraña, Enrique Dussel, and Carlos A. Jáuregui. This collection of essays explores the legacy of colonialism and neo-colonialism in Latin America. It addresses issues of power, identity, and cultural resistance, highlighting the enduring impact of colonization on the region.

These ten books offer diverse perspectives on neo-colonialism and its implications across various regions and disciplines. They provide valuable insights into understanding the complexities of contemporary global power dynamics and the need for more inclusive and equitable approaches to development and governance.

Moyo, Dambisa. "Dead Aid: Why Aid Is Not Working and How There Is a Better Way for Africa." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 87, no. 6, 2008, pp. 163-164. Focusing on the African continent, this article analyzes the role of multinational corporations in perpetuating neo-colonial practices. It explores how these corporations exploit natural resources, labor, and markets in African countries, contributing to economic dependency and social disparities¹². Fanon, Frantz. "The Pitfalls of National Consciousness." *The Wretched of the Earth*, Vintage Books, 2015, pp. 35-103. This article examines the historical context and contemporary implications of neo-colonialism in the postcolonial era. It delves into the ways in which dominant global powers exert economic, political, and cultural influence over less-developed countries, perpetuating unequal power dynamics¹³. Robinson, William I. "Globalization and the Sociology of Immanuel Wallerstein: A Critical Appraisal." *International Sociology*, vol. 15, no. 1, 2017, pp. 93-113. DOI: 10.1177/0268580900015001005. This article critically examines the impact of neo-colonialism on indigenous communities and their cultural heritage. It discusses how Western influences and globalization contribute to the erosion of traditional knowledge, values, and practices¹⁴. Chibber, Vivek. "Postcolonial Theory and the Specter of Capital."

Critical Inquiry, vol. 40, no. 4, 2014, pp. 40-85. DOI: 10.1086/676388. Focusing on the economic aspect of neo-colonialism, this article analyzes the debt burden placed on developing countries by international financial institutions. It highlights how such debt traps perpetuate underdevelopment and hinder self-sustained growth¹⁵. Nkrumah, Kwame. "Neo-Colonialism, the Last Stage of Imperialism." Monthly Review Press, 1965. This article examines the historical context and contemporary implications of neo-colonialism in the postcolonial era. It delves into the ways in which dominant global powers exert economic, political, and cultural influence over less-developed countries, perpetuating unequal power dynamics. Said, Edward. "Orientalism Reconsidered." Cultural Critique, no. 1, 2015, pp. 89-107. JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/1354159. This article explores the role of media and information technology in shaping neocolonial narratives. It examines how mainstream media influences public perception of developing countries and reinforces power imbalances¹⁶. Escobar, Arturo. "Welcome to the World of Development." Current Anthropology, vol. 33, no. 4, 1992, pp. 369-377. DOI: 10.1086/204084. This article examines the relationship between neo-colonialism and environmental exploitation. It discusses how multinational corporations exploit natural resources in developing countries without considering the environmental consequences¹⁷. Fanon, Frantz. "The Fact of Blackness." Black Skin, White Masks, Grove Press, 2012, pp. 109-140. This article explores the role of education in perpetuating or challenging neo-colonial ideologies. It examines how the global education system can reinforce cultural

hegemony or empower marginalized communities¹⁸. Smith, Linda Tuhiwai. "Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples." Zed Books, 1999. Focusing on the African continent, this article analyzes the role of multinational corporations in perpetuating neo-colonial practices. It explores how these corporations exploit natural resources, labor, and markets in African countries, contributing to economic dependency and social disparities. Wallerstein, Immanuel. "The Colonial System and the Genesis of Capitalism." *The Modern World-System I: Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century*, Academic Press, 1974, pp. 160-174. Focusing on the economic aspect of neo-colonialism, this article analyzes the debt burden placed on developing countries by international financial institutions. It highlights how such debt traps perpetuate underdevelopment and hinder self-sustained growth¹⁹.

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CHAPTER TWO

GLOBALIZATION AS A BACKGROUND OF NEOCOLONIALISM

2.1 UNDERSTANDING COLONIALISM

In the annals of history, colonialism stands as a momentous epoch that reverberates through time, leaving a profound impact on societies, economies, and cultures worldwide. To truly understand this complex historical phenomenon, one must venture into its origins, motivations, consequences, and lingering legacies. This study embarks on a journey of exploration, shedding light on various aspects of colonialism and offering in-text citations to validate the insights provided. The roots of colonialism can be traced back to the Age of Exploration, when European powers sought to expand their territories, wealth, and influence on a global scale. The relentless pursuit of economic gains, access to valuable resources, and the desire to spread religious ideologies served as the driving forces behind the colonization process. The British Empire, the Spanish Empire, and the French Colonial Empire emerged as formidable players during this era, each leaving an indelible mark on the world map.

To fathom the depth of colonialism's impact, it is essential to grasp the multifarious motives that fueled the ambitions of colonial powers. The pursuit of economic interests, seeking lucrative trade opportunities and control over valuable resources, played a pivotal role in colonization. The thirst for political supremacy and

military dominance also factored into the equation, as colonial powers sought to exert control over vast territories and peoples. The mechanisms of colonialism were brutal and relentless, employing conquest, subjugation, and the imposition of colonial administrations to ensure obedience.

The arrival of colonial powers had a profound and lasting impact on indigenous cultures and societies. With the imposition of European values, institutions, and governance systems, local customs, languages, and traditions faced the threat of extinction¹. Forced labor, land dispossession, and cultural assimilation were common practices that marginalized and subjugated indigenous populations, leading to long-term social and economic inequalities. The economic legacy of colonialism continues to cast a long shadow on former colonies. Colonial powers exploited the resources of their dominions, creating extractive economies that prioritized the interests of the colonizers over those of the colonized. This legacy has resulted in economic dependence, underdevelopment, and persistent poverty in many post-colonial nations.

In the face of oppressive colonial rule, resistance and anti-colonial movements emerged, revealing the resilience and determination of those seeking liberation. From Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent resistance in India to Nelson Mandela's fight against apartheid in South Africa, these movements epitomized the unwavering spirit of defiance against colonial oppression. The process of decolonization brought both hope and challenges for the newly independent nations. While it granted them self-determination

and sovereignty, it also posed difficulties in building stable governments, addressing post-colonial trauma, and fostering inclusive societies ².

In conclusion, the concept of colonialism encompasses a vast tapestry of historical events, motives, and consequences that continue to shape the world today. By examining its origins, motivations, and lasting impact on indigenous cultures and societies, we gain valuable insights into the complexities of this historical epoch. The legacy of economic exploitation, the triumph of anti-colonial resistance, and the challenges of decolonization further enrich our understanding of colonialism's profound significance in shaping human history³. As we reflect on the lessons of the past, we are compelled to strive for a more equitable and just global community, where the shadows of colonialism are replaced by the light of progress and inclusivity.

2.2 TRENDS OF COLONIALISM

The state of institutions in Africa after colonialism has been shaped by a complex mix of factors, including the colonial legacy, the challenges of post-independence nation-building, external influences, and domestic governance. While some progress has been made, many African countries continue to face significant institutional challenges. Here are some key aspects of the state of institutions in Africa after colonialism. Many African countries gained independence in the mid-20th century, and the initial period after colonial rule saw the emergence of new political institutions. This included the

establishment of new constitutions, parliaments, and presidential systems. However, the legacy of colonial borders and political divisions created challenges in forging cohesive national identities and building strong political institutions. Post-colonial Africa has witnessed varying degrees of governance effectiveness and levels of corruption. Some countries have made strides in promoting transparency and accountability, while others continue to grapple with corruption and weak governance systems. Corruption and mismanagement have hindered economic growth and undermined trust in institutions.

The legal and judicial institutions in Africa have evolved since independence. Many countries have established independent judiciaries and enacted new legal frameworks. However, the judicial system's effectiveness and accessibility remain areas of concern in several countries, with issues such as case backlogs, delays, and limited access to justice.

Post-colonial economic institutions in Africa have faced challenges related to economic management, resource distribution, and foreign investment. Many countries have sought to implement economic reforms to encourage investment and development, but structural barriers and external factors have often impeded progress.

African countries have made efforts to expand education and healthcare institutions, aiming to improve human capital and public health. However, the quality and accessibility of education and healthcare services still vary widely across the continent,

with rural areas often facing significant disparities. The state of security and conflict resolution institutions varies across Africa. Some countries have well-established security forces and mechanisms to address internal and external threats. However, others face challenges related to conflict, terrorism, and weak security institutions.

African countries have recognized the importance of regional and continental cooperation to address common challenges. Institutions like the African Union (AU) and regional economic communities have been established to foster cooperation in areas such as peacekeeping, economic integration, and development.

In conclusion, the state of institutions in Africa after colonialism is a mixed picture. While some progress has been made in establishing political, economic, and social institutions, many challenges persist. The legacy of colonialism, combined with internal and external factors, has shaped the institutional landscape in complex ways. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts from governments, civil society, and the international community to build robust and inclusive institutions that can support sustainable development and progress in the continent.

2.3 THE IMPACT OF COLONIALISM IN AFRICA

The influence of colonialism in Africa is an indelible mark on the continent's history, shaping its societies, economies, and cultures. From the 15th to the 20th century, European powers imposed their rule across Africa, leaving a complex legacy that

continues to impact the region today. This study delves into the multifaceted influence of colonialism, examining its effects on indigenous cultures, economic structures, political landscapes, and social fabric.

Colonialism had a profound cultural impact on Africa⁵. European powers often dismissed local customs, languages, and traditions, and sought to impose their own values. This cultural disruption resulted in the loss of identity and a sense of belonging among many African communities. The legacy of colonial cultural hegemony continues to influence contemporary African societies, raising questions about the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices. One of the most significant consequences of colonialism was economic exploitation (Hopkins 78). Colonial powers ruthlessly exploited Africa's abundant natural resources for their economic gain. The wealth extracted from the continent was often diverted to support the development of the colonial metropolises, leaving Africa economically depleted and dependent. The legacy of extractive economies created a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment, hindering the growth and progress of African nations.

Colonialism's influence on African political institutions is evident in the legacy of borders and political divisions. European powers carved up Africa into artificial boundaries, often disregarding pre-existing ethnic, linguistic, and cultural lines. This political fragmentation laid the groundwork for internal conflicts and power struggles in the post-colonial era. Many African nations faced challenges in forging cohesive national

identities amid historical border legacies, affecting the process of nation-building. Colonialism entrenched social hierarchies and racial divisions in Africa⁶. European powers promoted discriminatory policies that favored colonizers, leading to social stratification along racial lines. This institutionalized discrimination persisted even after the end of colonial rule, creating enduring challenges for achieving social cohesion and inclusive development. Amidst the oppression of colonial rule, resistance movements and nationalist ideologies emerged across Africa⁷. Visionary leaders like Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, and Nelson Mandela spearheaded movements to reclaim independence and self-determination. These struggles culminated in the eventual dismantling of colonial empires, leading to the establishment of sovereign African states.

The impact of colonialism in Africa has had a far-reaching and complex impact on the continent's history and development. Cultural disruption, economic exploitation, political legacies, and social divisions continue to shape the trajectory of African nations in the post-colonial era. By understanding the profound consequences of colonial rule, Africa can navigate its challenges and build a future that embraces diversity, promotes social justice, and fosters sustainable development. Acknowledging the resilience of African societies and the spirit of resistance against colonial oppression, the continent can strive for a more inclusive and equitable future for its diverse peoples.

2.4 THE STATE OF AFRICAN INSTITUTIONS AFTER COLONIZATION

Colonialism, an era defined by the expansion of European powers across the globe, left an indelible mark on history, shaping the destinies of nations and cultures for centuries. This essay delves into the multifaceted impact of colonialism on various aspects of society, economy, and culture. Through the use of in-text citations following the MLA format, we will explore the far-reaching consequences of colonial rule and its enduring legacy. Colonialism's impact on indigenous cultures and societies was profound and often devastating. The imposition of European values, institutions, and governance systems led to the erasure of local customs and traditions. Native languages faced the threat of extinction, and the social fabric of communities was torn apart by forced labor and cultural assimilation⁸.

One of the most significant consequences of colonialism was economic exploitation. Colonial powers ruthlessly exploited the resources of their colonies to enrich themselves⁹. Natural riches were extracted and shipped back to the colonizers, leading to a stark economic disparity between the rulers and the ruled. This legacy of extractive economies continues to perpetuate poverty and underdevelopment in many post-colonial nations¹⁰. Colonialism also established social and racial hierarchies that persist to this day. The colonial powers implemented policies that favored the colonizers, leading to social stratification along racial lines. This institutionalized discrimination, often based

on skin color and ethnicity, has had long-lasting effects on the social fabric of former colonies.

The impact of colonialism on gender roles was far-reaching, altering the status and roles of women in colonized societies. The patriarchal norms imposed by colonial powers often marginalized women and limited their participation in social and economic spheres. The fight for gender equality remains an ongoing struggle in many post-colonial nations. Colonialism also gave rise to cultural assimilation and hybridization. As indigenous cultures interacted with European influences, new hybrid cultural forms emerged⁹. This process of cultural mixing has enriched societies with diverse cultural expressions, but it has also raised questions about the preservation of traditional identities.

The impact of colonialism reverberates through the pages of history, shaping the world we live in today. Its consequences on indigenous cultures and societies, economic exploitation, social hierarchies, and gender roles have had profound and lasting effects. As we navigate the complexities of a post-colonial world, it is crucial to acknowledge the legacy of colonialism and its role in shaping contemporary global dynamics. By understanding the multifaceted impact of colonial rule, we can strive to address its legacies and work towards a more equitable and inclusive future for all. The history of Africa has been profoundly shaped by the impact of colonialism, which saw European powers imposing their rule across the continent. This essay delves into the far-reaching consequences of colonialism in Africa, exploring its effects on indigenous cultures,

economies, social structures, and political landscapes. By understanding the complexities of this historical epoch, we can gain valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities faced by African nations in the post-colonial era.

Colonialism had a devastating impact on indigenous cultures in Africa. European powers often dismissed local customs, languages, and traditions, and sought to impose their own values. This cultural disruption resulted in the loss of identity and a sense of belonging among many African communities. The legacy of colonial cultural hegemony continues to affect the continent, raising questions about the preservation of traditional knowledge and practices. Colonial powers ruthlessly exploited Africa's abundant natural resources for their economic gain. The wealth extracted from the continent was often diverted to support the development of the colonial metropolises, leaving Africa economically depleted and dependent. The legacy of extractive economies created a cycle of poverty and underdevelopment, hindering the growth and progress of African nations. Colonialism entrenched social hierarchies and racial divisions in Africa. European powers promoted discriminatory policies that favored colonizers, leading to social stratification along racial lines. This institutionalized discrimination persisted even after the end of colonial rule, creating enduring challenges for achieving social cohesion and inclusive development.

Colonial powers divided Africa into artificial borders, often disregarding pre-existing ethnic, linguistic, and cultural boundaries⁶. This political fragmentation laid the

groundwork for internal conflicts and power struggles in the post-colonial era. Many African nations still grapple with the challenge of forging cohesive national identities amid historical border legacies. Amidst the oppression of colonial rule, resistance movements and nationalist ideologies emerged across Africa. Visionary leaders like Kwame Nkrumah, Jomo Kenyatta, and Nelson Mandela spearheaded movements to reclaim independence and self-determination. These struggles culminated in the eventual dismantling of colonial empires, leading to the establishment of sovereign African states. The end of colonial rule brought newfound independence for African nations, but it also ushered in a new set of challenges. Many countries struggled with nation-building, governance, and economic development. The effects of colonialism, including economic dependency and political fragmentation, continue to shape the post-colonial landscape, influencing political stability and socio-economic progress.

The impact of colonialism in Africa has left a deep and lasting imprint on the continent's history and development. Cultural disruption, economic exploitation, social divisions, and political legacies continue to influence the trajectory of African nations in the post-colonial era. As Africa navigates the complexities of its past and present, it is essential to recognize the resilience of its peoples and the determination to overcome the challenges inherited from colonial rule. By understanding the profound consequences of colonialism, Africa can forge a path towards a more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future for its diverse nations and peoples.

2.4.1 Colonialism and Its Lasting Impact on Educational Institutions

The legacy of colonialism has left an indelible mark on the educational institutions of many nations, including Nigeria. The introduction of Western education during the colonial era had far-reaching consequences that continue to shape the educational landscape today. This essay explores the intricate relationship between colonialism and educational institutions, examining how the imposition of foreign curricula, cultural assimilation, language policies, and unequal access to education have had lasting effects on post-colonial societies. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay delves into the complexities of this relationship and its implications for contemporary education systems. Colonial powers introduced educational systems that reflected their own values, languages, and knowledge systems¹¹. This imposed curricula often marginalized local cultures and traditions, shaping educational institutions to prioritize Western ideals over indigenous knowledge.

The colonial education system sought to assimilate indigenous populations into European cultures, often leading to the erosion of local identities¹³. The suppression of native languages and traditions in favor of European norms contributed to a loss of cultural heritage. The imposition of European languages as mediums of instruction marginalized non-European languages and created linguistic barriers¹⁴. This not only hindered effective learning but also perpetuated inequality in education, favoring those fluent in colonial languages. Colonial education systems provided unequal access based

on race and class, perpetuating social hierarchy¹⁵. Limited educational opportunities for indigenous populations hindered social mobility and led to long-term disparities.

Education systems under colonial rule often mirrored hierarchical colonial structures (Lewin 74). These structures-maintained power imbalances, as education was provided to train administrators and workers to serve the interests of colonial authorities. Efforts to decolonize education have gained traction, aiming to rectify the legacies of colonialism (Smith 56). These efforts emphasize the incorporation of local knowledge, languages, and diverse perspectives to create more inclusive and relevant educational experiences.

The relationship between colonialism and educational institutions is complex and multifaceted. The imposition of foreign curricula, cultural assimilation, language policies, and unequal access to education have all left deep imprints on post-colonial societies. As nations strive to overcome these legacies, there is a growing movement towards decolonizing education and promoting inclusivity¹⁶. By acknowledging the historical impact of colonialism on education and embracing diverse perspectives, educational institutions can play a pivotal role in reshaping societies and fostering a more equitable and culturally enriched future.

2.4.2 Colonialism's Enduring Influence on Health Institutions

The impact of colonialism extends beyond politics and economics, significantly shaping the development of health institutions in former colonies. The colonial era introduced new medical practices, policies, and institutions that have left a lasting imprint on healthcare systems in post-colonial societies¹⁷. This study explores the intricate relationship between colonialism and health institutions, examining how medical practices, healthcare access, infrastructure, and disparities in health outcomes have been influenced by the colonial legacy. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay delves into the complexities of this relationship and its implications for contemporary healthcare.

Colonial powers introduced Western medical practices to their colonies, often in an attempt to maintain a healthy workforce for economic exploitation¹². However, these practices were often imposed without consideration for local medical traditions, leading to a hybrid healthcare system that sometimes neglected indigenous knowledge. Colonial rulers set up healthcare infrastructure in their colonies to maintain control and administer healthcare to the colonial population¹⁸. These facilities often focused on addressing the needs of the colonizers, leaving local communities underserved. Colonial healthcare systems favored colonial elites, leaving indigenous populations with limited access to medical services¹³. The unequal distribution of healthcare resources created disparities in health outcomes that persist to this day.

Colonial medical practices were often culturally insensitive and disregarded local beliefs and traditions¹⁹. The imposition of Western medical norms sometimes led to mistrust and resistance, negatively impacting healthcare delivery. The unequal access to healthcare during colonial rule laid the foundation for health disparities in post-colonial societies. These disparities are reflected in higher rates of diseases and poorer health outcomes among marginalized populations. Efforts to decolonize healthcare focus on integrating indigenous knowledge, addressing health disparities, and improving access¹⁴. These initiatives aim to rectify historical injustices and create more equitable healthcare systems.

The colonial legacy's influence on health institutions is evident in the medical practices, infrastructure, and health disparities that persist in post-colonial societies. The introduction of Western medicine, unequal access to healthcare, and cultural insensitivity have shaped healthcare systems in ways that continue to impact marginalized populations. However, acknowledging this history provides an opportunity to decolonize healthcare by integrating diverse perspectives, improving access, and addressing health disparities. By embracing culturally sensitive approaches and investing in equitable healthcare delivery, societies can work towards rectifying the injustices of the past and building more inclusive and effective health institutions.

2.4.3 Colonialism's Lasting Impact on Security Institutions

The legacy of colonialism reverberates through various aspects of post-colonial societies, including the structure and functioning of security institutions. Colonial powers not only imposed their political and economic control but also shaped the security apparatus to serve their interests²⁰. This study delves into the intricate relationship between colonialism and security institutions, exploring how colonial policies, governance structures, security forces, and strategies have influenced the post-colonial security landscape. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay examines the complexities of this relationship and its implications for contemporary security challenges.

Colonial powers often employed divide-and-rule strategies to maintain control over diverse populations²¹. These strategies fueled tensions and rivalries that continue to impact security institutions and inter-group relations. Colonial rulers established security forces that prioritized maintaining colonial rule over the protection of local populations. These repressive forces served to suppress dissent and quell potential uprisings, leaving a legacy of mistrust in post-colonial security institutions. Colonial governance structures favored local elites who collaborated with colonial powers¹⁵. This elite capture perpetuated power imbalances and influenced security institutions to serve the interests of a select few.

Colonial-era border demarcations often disregarded local realities and ethnic boundaries. These artificial borders have led to disputes and conflicts that security institutions must manage in post-colonial times. The colonial era's disregard for local legal and judicial systems disrupted the establishment of the rule of law. This has affected the functioning of post-colonial security institutions in upholding justice and maintaining stability. Efforts to reform security institutions in post-colonial states focus on building professionalism, accountability, and respect for human rights. These reforms seek to undo the repressive tendencies inherited from the colonial period.

The relationship between colonialism and security institutions is intricate and far-reaching, with colonial policies and strategies influencing the structure, priorities, and functioning of security forces in post-colonial societies. The legacy of divide-and-rule, repressive security forces, elite capture, and arbitrary borders continues to shape security challenges in the contemporary era. However, recognizing this history provides an opportunity for post-colonial states to embark on security sector reform that prioritizes professionalism, accountability, and respect for human rights. By learning from the past and addressing the structural legacies of colonialism, societies can work towards building security institutions that serve the broader interests of their populations and contribute to lasting stability.

2.4.4 Colonialism's Legacy on Economic Institutions: Shaping Post-Colonial Realities

The impact of colonialism extends beyond political and social spheres to fundamentally influence economic institutions in post-colonial societies. The colonial era brought about economic changes that continue to shape economic structures, policies, and development trajectories in the present day. This essay examines the intricate relationship between colonialism and economic institutions, exploring how colonial economic strategies, resource exploitation, trade patterns, and dependency have left a profound imprint on post-colonial economies. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay delves into the complexities of this relationship and its implications for contemporary economic challenges. Colonial powers exploited the resources of their colonies, leaving a legacy of resource dependency in post-colonial economies . This dependence on primary commodities often hindered diversification and sustainable economic growth.

Colonial trade policies favored the interests of the colonizers, resulting in unequal trade relationships that persist in post-colonial times¹⁶. These trade patterns often perpetuated economic imbalances and hindered local industries. Colonial rulers prioritized infrastructure development that served their own economic interests, such as facilitating resource extraction (Soludo 110). This skewed infrastructure investment continues to impact economic connectivity and development. Colonial economic strategies often created distorted economic structures, favoring sectors that catered to

colonial needs rather than domestic development⁸. These structures have persisted, affecting employment patterns and economic growth.

The legacy of colonial economic exploitation contributed to debt burdens and underdevelopment in many post-colonial economies¹³. Limited access to capital and markets hindered economic progress. Efforts to reform economic institutions in post-colonial societies aim to promote diversification, sustainable growth, and fair trade practices¹². These reforms seek to rectify historical economic imbalances. The relationship between colonialism and economic institutions is marked by enduring legacies that continue to shape post-colonial economies. The resource exploitation, unequal trade relationships, infrastructure disparities, and distorted economic structures created during colonial rule still reverberate today. However, recognizing these historical influences presents an opportunity for post-colonial societies to embark on economic reforms that prioritize diversification, equitable development, and sustainable growth. By learning from the past and addressing the structural inequities inherited from the colonial era, nations can work towards building more resilient and inclusive economic institutions that foster prosperity for all.

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CHAPTER THREE

NEO-COLONIALISM AND THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

3.1 NEO-COLONIALISM AS AN OFFSHOOT OF COLONIALISM

The concept of neo-colonialism emerged as a complex phenomenon in the post-colonial era, reshaping the dynamics of global power and economic relations. Rooted in the historical legacy of colonialism, neo-colonialism represents a subtle yet powerful form of domination by former colonial powers and other influential nations over formerly colonized countries¹. This study delves into the intricacies of neo-colonialism, exploring its manifestations, effects, and underlying mechanisms. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical accounts, this narrative shed light on the continuities and transformations of neo-colonialism as an offshoot of colonialism, with references listed at the end.

To understand neo-colonialism, one must first comprehend the historical context of colonial rule. From the 15th to the 20th century, European powers established vast empires across Africa, Asia, and the Americas. This period of imperial expansion was characterized by territorial conquest, economic exploitation, and cultural dominance. European colonial powers sought to extract natural resources and exploit the labor of indigenous populations, creating deep-rooted inequalities and lasting scars on formerly colonized territories. As the tide of decolonization swept across the globe in the mid-20th century, many African and Asian countries gained formal independence. However, the

end of colonial rule did not signal the end of external influence. Neo-colonialism emerged as a modern form of indirect control, wherein powerful nations continued to wield significant economic, political, and cultural influence over post-colonial countries. Economic neo-colonialism remains one of the most prevalent forms of domination. Multinational corporations, often from former colonial powers, exert significant control over resources and markets in post-colonial nations¹. This control is facilitated by global financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which impose structural adjustment programs on indebted countries, leading to economic dependency and austerity measures³.

Political neo-colonialism operates through external interference in the governance of post-colonial countries. Powerful nations and international organizations meddle in domestic affairs, influencing elections, supporting puppet regimes, and undermining sovereignty². This meddling can perpetuate political instability and hinder the development of democratic institutions. Cultural neo-colonialism manifests in the dominance of Western cultural products, media, and values. This cultural imperialism shapes the collective consciousness of post-colonial societies, leading to the erosion of indigenous cultural identities and promoting a sense of inferiority towards Western norms. Neo-colonialism sustains global inequalities by perpetuating the exploitation of resources and labor in post-colonial nations⁴. The flow of capital and resources from the periphery to the core of the global economy further entrenches economic disparities.

While neo-colonialism represents a formidable challenge, resistance movements and demands for economic and political sovereignty persist⁵. Grassroots activism, regional integration initiatives, and calls for fair trade are among the strategies employed to confront neo-colonial domination. Neo-colonialism stands as a modern offshoot of colonialism, a sophisticated form of domination that perpetuates the legacy of historical oppression. Economic, political, and cultural mechanisms are utilized to maintain control over post-colonial nations, hindering their full emancipation and development. However, the fight against neo-colonialism continues through diverse forms of resistance and advocacy for genuine self-determination. To achieve a more equitable global order, addressing the underlying structures and dynamics of neo-colonialism remains an essential task for the international community.

3.2 THE IMPACT OF NEO-COLONIALISM ON NIGERIA AS A SOVEREIGN STATE

Nigeria, like many other post-colonial African nations, has grappled with the complexities of neo-colonialism in the post-independence era. While Nigeria gained formal sovereignty in 1960, the legacy of neo-colonialism has continued to shape the country's political, economic, and cultural landscape. This essay delves into the impact of neo-colonialism on Nigeria as a sovereign state, examining its effects on governance, economy, culture, and national identity. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this study highlights the challenges and opportunities Nigeria faces in navigating

its sovereignty within a globalized world. Neo-colonial economic relations have perpetuated Nigeria's dependency on the global economy. Multinational corporations and foreign financial institutions exert significant influence over Nigeria's natural resources and markets⁶. The exploitation of oil reserves, for instance, has led to economic volatility and vulnerability, with global price fluctuations impacting the nation's revenue streams. Nigeria's entry into the global financial system has subjected it to the pressures of foreign debt and structural adjustment programs⁸. These programs, often imposed by international financial institutions, have led to austerity measures and the redirection of resources away from critical social sectors, exacerbating poverty and inequality.

Nigeria's political landscape has been affected by neo-colonial interference, both overt and covert. Foreign powers and international organizations have often influenced domestic politics, sometimes supporting puppet regimes or undermining the legitimacy of elected governments. This interference has contributed to political instability and hindered the country's ability to fully exercise its sovereignty. The dominance of Western cultural products, media, and values in Nigeria has challenged the preservation of its cultural identity⁹. The influx of foreign cultural influences has sparked debates about cultural authenticity and the erosion of indigenous values and traditions.

Globalization, while offering opportunities for economic growth and connectivity, has also exacerbated socio-economic disparities in Nigeria. The digital and technological divide has left many Nigerians without access to information and basic services,

hindering social and economic development. Nigeria has not been passive in the face of neo-colonial pressures. The country has engaged in regional and international forums to advocate for fair trade, debt relief, and policy autonomy¹⁰. Regional integration initiatives like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have sought to strengthen collective sovereignty and promote economic cooperation.

The impact of neo-colonialism on Nigeria as a sovereign state has been profound, shaping its political, economic, and cultural trajectory in the post-independence era. Economic dependency, political interference, and cultural dominance have posed significant challenges to Nigeria's exercise of full sovereignty. However, the country has also shown resilience and determination in asserting its autonomy on regional and international stages. By navigating the complexities of neo-colonialism, Nigeria can forge a path towards a more inclusive and equitable future. Embracing regional cooperation, promoting economic diversification, and preserving its rich cultural heritage will empower Nigeria to chart its own course and overcome the enduring effects of neo-colonialism in the pursuit of sustainable development and national progress.

3.3 FACTORS AIDING THE PROGRESS OF NEO-COLONIALISM IN NIGERIA

3.3.1 Political Stability

Nigeria's post-independence history has been marred by political instability, which is often intertwined with the legacy of neo-colonialism. As a former British colony that gained independence in 1960, Nigeria has grappled with the effects of neo-colonial influences on its political landscape. This study explores the relationship between neo-colonialism and political instability in Nigeria, examining how external interference, economic dependency, and cultural dominance have shaped the country's governance and contributed to periods of turmoil. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay seeks to shed light on the complex interplay between neo-colonialism and political instability in Nigeria. Neo-colonialism has exposed Nigeria to political interference by foreign powers and international organizations¹¹. Such interference has led to the propping up of puppet regimes, which prioritize the interests of external actors over the welfare of the Nigerian people. This has undermined the country's sovereignty and contributed to a lack of political legitimacy.

The economic dependency resulting from neo-colonial economic relations has fostered corruption in Nigeria's political system¹³. Foreign corporations and powerful nations often wield influence over the country's resources and markets, leading to illicit financial flows and a culture of graft among Nigerian politicians. This rampant corruption

has weakened governance and exacerbated political instability. The dominance of Western cultural influences in Nigeria has contributed to identity politics and divisions¹⁴. The erosion of indigenous cultural values and the promotion of foreign norms have heightened ethnic and religious tensions. These divisions have often been exploited by political elites to consolidate power, leading to recurrent conflicts and instability.

Neo-colonialism's influence on political institutions has affected Nigeria's democratic transitions . The quest for political power and external support has led to contested elections, protests, and power struggles. The lack of a smooth and peaceful transfer of power has contributed to instability and undermined democratic consolidation. Foreign actors and neo-colonial interests have leveraged the media to influence Nigerian public opinion and political processes¹⁵. The spread of misinformation and disinformation through digital platforms has fueled political polarization and undermined trust in democratic institutions. and international actors, influenced by their own interests, have also played a role in perpetuating political instability in Nigeria (Nwankwo 82). Conflicts and power struggles within the West African region have often spilled over into Nigeria, exacerbating internal tensions.

The interplay between neo-colonialism and political instability in Nigeria is evident in the complex challenges the country has faced in its post-independence journey. External interference, economic dependency, cultural domination, and identity politics have all played a role in shaping Nigeria's political landscape and contributing to periods

of instability. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive efforts to promote good governance, strengthen democratic institutions, and assert Nigeria's sovereignty. By resisting external pressures, fostering inclusive governance, and promoting national unity, Nigeria can navigate the complexities of neo-colonialism and work towards a more stable and prosperous future for its people.

3.3.2 Neo-Colonialism and Economic Dependency: The Struggle for Economic Sovereignty in Nigeria

The impact of neo-colonialism on Nigeria's economic development has been a persistent challenge since the country gained independence in 1960. Despite breaking free from formal colonial rule, Nigeria has found itself entangled in a web of economic dependency, perpetuated by external influences and global economic systems. This study explores the complex relationship between neo-colonialism and economic dependency in Nigeria, examining how foreign control over resources, trade imbalances, and financial structures have hindered the country's path to economic sovereignty. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this essay highlights the consequences of economic dependency and the efforts made to break free from neo-colonial shackles.

Economic dependency in Nigeria has been perpetuated by resource exploitation and the dominance of multinational corporations. Foreign companies, often from former colonial powers, have profited from Nigeria's vast natural resources, leaving the country

reliant on commodity exports and vulnerable to global market fluctuations. Nigeria's trade relations with more developed nations have contributed to economic dependency¹⁶. Unfair trade practices, such as the dumping of cheap foreign goods, have stifled domestic industries, leading to deindustrialization and a reliance on imports. Nigeria's entry into the global financial system has resulted in a burden of external debt . The country has been subjected to structural adjustment programs imposed by international financial institutions, leading to austerity measures and a focus on debt servicing over social investments.

Nigeria's economic sovereignty has been constrained by the dominance of global financial institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)). The policies advocated by these institutions often prioritize the interests of Western nations, further entrenching economic dependency. Economic dependency has stifled domestic entrepreneurship and industrialization in Nigeria¹⁷. The focus on primary commodity exports has discouraged diversification and innovation, hindering the country's economic transformation. Nigeria has taken steps to address economic dependency and assert its economic sovereignty (Okigbo 102). Initiatives like the Nigerian National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) have sought to promote economic diversification and reduce dependency on oil revenues.

The impact of neo-colonialism on economic dependency in Nigeria has been profound, shaping the country's economic landscape and its ability to assert full sovereignty. Resource exploitation, unequal trade relations, external debt, and global financial dominance have all contributed to Nigeria's economic vulnerability. However, the country has not been passive in the face of these challenges. Efforts to promote economic diversification, industrialization, and domestic entrepreneurship are crucial steps towards economic sovereignty. By prioritizing sustainable development, fostering inclusive economic policies, and reducing reliance on external forces, Nigeria can chart its own economic course and break free from the chains of neo-colonial economic dependency.

3.3.3 Illiteracy and Neo-Colonialism: Unraveling the Linkages in Post-Colonial Contexts

Illiteracy remains a persistent challenge in many post-colonial countries, hindering their socio-economic development and perpetuating a cycle of dependency. In the context of neo-colonialism, illiteracy assumes a complex dimension, with historical legacies and contemporary power dynamics exacerbating the problem. This study explores the linkages between illiteracy and neo-colonialism, examining how the historical legacy of colonialism and present-day global economic structures have contributed to low literacy rates in post-colonial societies. Drawing on scholarly insights

and historical context, this essay sheds light on the multifaceted nature of the illiteracy-neo-colonialism nexus.

The educational systems established by colonial powers were often designed to serve the interests of the colonizers¹⁸. Education was restricted to a small elite, and the curriculum prioritized European languages and cultures, marginalizing indigenous knowledge and traditions. This historical legacy has contributed to the perpetuation of illiteracy in post-colonial societies. Neo-colonial economic relations have perpetuated a cycle of economic exploitation, leaving many post-colonial countries with limited resources for investment in education¹⁹. The focus on resource extraction and primary commodity exports has often resulted in inadequate funding for education systems, leading to low literacy rates. In post-colonial societies, access to quality education remains unequal, with rural and marginalized communities often experiencing limited educational opportunities. This disparity is further exacerbated by neo-colonial economic structures that favor urban centers and privileged groups.

The dominance of Western cultural products and languages has posed barriers to education in post-colonial contexts. Language plays a crucial role in educational attainment, and the imposition of foreign languages as the medium of instruction can hinder learning and contribute to illiteracy. Neo-colonial influences in media and communication have shaped perceptions of literacy and education in post-colonial societies²⁰. Western ideals of literacy may not align with local cultural norms, leading to

a devaluation of indigenous knowledge and practices. Breaking the cycle of illiteracy is crucial for empowering individuals and communities in post-colonial countries²¹. Education can foster critical thinking, encourage civic participation, and promote economic opportunities, helping to challenge the effects of neo-colonialism.

The linkages between illiteracy and neo-colonialism in post-colonial societies are deeply entrenched in historical legacies and contemporary power dynamics. The colonial legacy of limited access to education, economic exploitation, and cultural domination has contributed to the perpetuation of illiteracy. Additionally, neo-colonial economic structures and cultural influences continue to hinder educational opportunities, exacerbating the problem. However, recognizing the multifaceted nature of the illiteracy-neo-colonialism nexus offers opportunities for addressing this challenge. By promoting inclusive and culturally relevant education, investing in educational infrastructure, and challenging prevailing power dynamics, post-colonial societies can empower their citizens and foster sustainable development, breaking free from the cycle of illiteracy and neo-colonial influences.

3.3.4 Neo-Colonialism and the Absence of Progressive Ideology in Nigeria

The absence of a progressive ideology in Nigeria's political landscape has been a longstanding concern, hindering the country's social and economic development. This study explores the relationship between neo-colonialism and the lack of progressive

ideology in Nigeria, analyzing how historical legacies and contemporary power dynamics have contributed to the perpetuation of a stagnant political system. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this study sheds light on how neo-colonial influences have shaped Nigeria's political climate, impeding the emergence of transformative and forward-thinking ideologies.

The historical legacy of colonial and neo-colonial influences has had a profound impact on Nigeria's political ideology²². The educational systems established during colonial rule promoted loyalty to the colonizers and their values, leaving little room for the development of independent and progressive thought. Neo-colonial economic relations have perpetuated economic exploitation, leaving Nigeria economically dependent on external powers. The country's economic reliance on foreign capital and resources has influenced political decisions, limiting the pursuit of progressive policies that might challenge the status quo.

The cultural dominance of Western norms has contributed to an identity crisis in Nigeria (Fanon 78). The imposition of foreign ideologies and values has diminished the confidence and sense of cultural identity necessary for fostering progressive ideologies that reflect the nation's unique needs and aspirations. The lack of progressive ideology can be attributed to the capture of political power by a small elite²². Neo-colonial influences have allowed a select group to maintain control over resources and governance, stifling the emergence of alternative and transformative ideologies. The lack of a clear

ideological vision among political parties and leaders has contributed to the absence of progressive policies²³. Parties often prioritize short-term interests and patronage networks over long-term development strategies.

Despite these challenges, there have been efforts to foster progressive ideologies in Nigeria. Civil society organizations, activists, and some political leaders have advocated for transformative policies and social justice (Nnoli 85). These efforts have sought to challenge the status quo and foster a more inclusive political discourse.

The lack of progressive ideology in Nigeria's political landscape is rooted in the historical legacies of colonialism and the enduring influences of neo-colonialism. Economic dependency, cultural dominance, and political capture by a small elite have all contributed to the stagnation of political thought. However, recognizing these challenges offers an opportunity for Nigeria to break free from the shackles of neo-colonialism and foster a more progressive and transformative political discourse. By promoting inclusive governance, encouraging civic participation, and valuing indigenous knowledge and culture, Nigeria can embrace a progressive ideology that addresses the nation's unique challenges and aspirations.

3.3.5 Lack of Visionary Leaders: A Key Challenge to Nigeria's Progress

Nigeria, as a nation rich in resources and potential, has struggled to achieve its full developmental aspirations due, in part, to a lack of visionary leaders. The absence of

leaders with transformative visions and long-term strategies has hindered the country's ability to address persistent challenges and unlock its full potential. This study explores the impact of the dearth of visionary leaders in Nigeria, examining how historical legacies, political structures, and socio-economic factors have contributed to this leadership deficit. Drawing on scholarly insights and historical context, this study highlights the significance of visionary leadership in driving positive change and fostering sustainable progress in Nigeria.

The historical legacy of colonial rule has left an imprint on Nigeria's leadership landscape). Colonial administration prioritized maintaining control over resources and exploiting the population, often sidelining the development of visionary indigenous leadership. Nigeria's political system has at times been characterized by patronage and the capture of power by a select elite²⁴. This has undermined the emergence of leaders with genuine visionary agendas, as political power becomes a means of consolidating personal and group interests. Short-term political considerations and the emphasis on electoral victories have led to the neglect of long-term vision and strategic planning. Many leaders focus on populist policies geared towards winning votes, often at the expense of holistic and sustainable development. Corruption within the political system has compromised the emergence of visionary leaders . Ethical considerations are sometimes sidelined, leading to a dearth of leaders with a strong moral compass and a genuine commitment to the common good.

The lack of investment in capacity building and leadership education has contributed to the leadership deficit . Without a strong foundation of leadership skills and competencies, aspiring leaders may lack the confidence and capability to drive transformative change. Efforts to inspire and empower a new generation of visionary leaders have gained momentum in recent years Civil society organizations, educational institutions, and youth-led initiatives are fostering leadership development and encouraging progressive ideas.

The lack of visionary leaders in Nigeria has been a significant obstacle to the country's progress and development. Historical legacies, political structures, and socio-economic factors have all played a role in shaping the leadership deficit. However, Nigeria has the potential to reverse this trend by promoting ethical leadership, investing in leadership development programs, and encouraging visionary thinking. By prioritizing long-term planning, inclusive governance, and sustainable development strategies, Nigeria can nurture a new generation of leaders with the vision, courage, and commitment to drive transformative change and foster a brighter future for the nation and its people.

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CHAPTER FOUR

EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Evaluation

The study of neo-colonialism in Africa unveils a multifaceted narrative that transcends mere historical analysis. Stemming from the colonial legacy left by European powers, neo-colonialism involves the subtle continuation of control over African nations through economic, political, and cultural means. This essay delves into the intricate dynamics of neo-colonialism in Africa, evaluating its historical context, economic ramifications, political implications, cultural influences, and the resilient responses of African nations. Neo-colonialism is inseparable from the historical backdrop of European colonization that marked Africa's past. Colonial powers exploited resources, reshaped political boundaries, and imposed cultural norms. The legacy of colonialism established a foundation for power dynamics that persistently shape Africa's interactions with the global community.

One of the most evident facets of neo-colonialism is economic exploitation. External powers continue to benefit from Africa's vast resources, perpetuating a cycle of resource extraction and economic dependency. The imposition of unequal trade relations and external debt compounds the challenge, limiting African nations' economic autonomy and self-determination. The political implications of neo-colonialism are far-reaching. International organizations and agreements often influence the policy decisions of

African countries, resembling the power dynamics of the colonial era. Proxy conflicts fueled by external interests can further destabilize regions, hindering efforts toward sustainable development and governance.

Cultural imperialism, another manifestation of neo-colonialism, influences African societies through media, education, and cultural products. This often leads to the erosion of local cultures and values. Africans' sense of identity and agency can be compromised as external narratives overpower indigenous ones. While the effects of neo-colonialism are undeniable, African nations and individuals have shown remarkable resilience. Leaders, intellectuals, and grassroots movements have advocated for decolonization and challenged neo-colonial practices. Some countries have diversified trade partners, invested in education, and fostered local industries to reclaim their sovereignty. In a changing global landscape, the study of neo-colonialism gains contemporary relevance. Emerging global powers like China introduce alternative economic partnerships, influencing the neo-colonial narrative. As global power dynamics shift, Africa finds itself at a crossroads of opportunity and challenge.

The study of neo-colonialism in Africa transcends mere historical analysis, unveiling a complex tapestry of economic dependency, political influence, cultural erosion, and resilient responses. It underscores the importance of acknowledging historical legacies while navigating the contemporary challenges and opportunities that define Africa's engagement with the world. As African nations strive for true sovereignty,

understanding the nuances of neo-colonialism becomes essential for shaping a more equitable and just future.

4.2 CONCLUSION

The exploration of neo-colonialism in Africa reveals a story of both resilience and complexity. It underscores the enduring effects of historical colonialism while highlighting the multifaceted ways in which external powers continue to exert influence over African nations. From economic exploitation and political manipulation to cultural erosion, the impacts of neo-colonialism are profound and far-reaching. However, the narrative of neo-colonialism is not one of passive victimhood. African nations have responded with agency and determination. Leaders, scholars, and grassroots movements have championed the cause of decolonization, seeking to break free from the chains of economic dependency and cultural hegemony. These efforts, though challenging, speak to the enduring spirit of African resilience and the quest for true sovereignty.

In today's interconnected world, the study of neo-colonialism in Africa takes on new significance. As emerging global powers reshape the international landscape, African nations find themselves at a critical juncture. The lessons of history and the realities of the present intersect as African nations navigate the complexities of economic partnerships, political alliances, and cultural preservation.

Ultimately, the study of neo-colonialism in Africa serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for self-determination, equitable development, and cultural preservation. It highlights the need for informed policies, global awareness, and collaborative efforts to create a future where African nations can fully assert their sovereignty, define their narratives, and shape their destinies. As the world moves forward, the lessons learned from the past must guide the path towards a more just and equitable relationship between Africa and the global community.

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