LEGACY OF COLONIALISM AND INTER-ETHNIC CONFLICTS IN TARA BA AND ADAMA WA STATES OF NIGERIA (1960-1999)

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ABSTRACT
This report entitled “The legacy of colonialism and inter-ethnic conflicts in Taraba and Adamawa states in Nigeria,” is presented as a result of a study conducted in selected local government areas, in Taraba and Adamawa states, Nigeria. The study was based on three objectives: to examine the British administrative approaches towards ethnic diversity in Nigeria; to investigate the colonial legacy as the root cause of inter-ethnic conflicts in Taraba and Adamawa states of Nigeria; and to examine ways of addressing the colonial injustices that cause ethnic conflicts in North-Eastern province of Nigeria. The study took form of a descriptive survey design, with a study population constituted of local opinion leaders and history scholars. Interviews were used in collecting both primary and secondary data. Constant comparison technique was used in analyzing the data. The study found out that The British administrative approaches towards ethnic diversity in Nigeria were largely divisive, reinforcing the current ethnic conflicts. It also found out that the colonial legacy is still responsible for the recurrent ethnic tensions in the affected regions given the fact that colonial policies promoted dominance of some ethnic groups against others, and nothing was done to harmonize the ethnic differences in the country. It also found out that various efforts that can be applied to realize a unified Nigeria and foster peaceful coexistence are quite diverse, ranging from equitable distribution of resources, promoting a unified agenda, building national as opposed to ethnic institutions as a way of promoting national allegiance. The study concluded that much as the British were not the source of ethnic conflicts in modern-day Nigeria, most of their colonial policies served to entrench and continually perpetrate the ethnic tensions that still affect Nigeria to this day. He recommended that people should forget the past and work towards a better future, mechanisms to promote nationalism, equitable resource distribution and building a national army with a national character.