



# The Lake Chad Region and Its Identities: Geographical and Colonial Analysis

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## Abstract

*Countries in Africa are mostly classified based on geographical region or colonialism. These African countries have both similarities and differences which could be traced alongside the lines of language, culture, religion patterns and others. Some of these similarities and differences are present based on the region in which the country belongs to and historical factors of colonialism that shaped the identity of these countries. This paper analyses the differences and similarities present between the states in the Lake Chad region. This paper also discusses the differences and similarities of these countries when categorized geographically or by former colonial empires. As a continent, Africa is majorly surrounded by natural bodies of water. For context and easier understanding, a brief historical account is given for each country in the Lake Chad region. Following these are the similarities and differences identified in the Lake Chad region in the dimensions of study.*

**Keywords:** Colonialism, Geography, Africa, Lake Chad region, Conflict, Security

## GEOGRAPHICAL

Geographically, Africa could be divided in several ways. Sometimes, it is divided into Sub-Saharan Africa and Mediterranean Africa (mostly seen as an extension of the Middle East), and other times, it is divided into North, South, East and West Africa. Considering the Lake Chad region in terms of geographical categories would mean looking at the West, Central and North central Africa.

## COLONIALISM

The effects of colonialism in the continent is still very much present. Some of the political pressures that African countries have faced could be traced to the political pressures that divided the continent in the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union. During the colonial era, European countries extracted raw materials, minerals and slave labour from the African colonies and in return, education, medical care and infrastructural development was brought into Africa at differing degrees. The colonies were thus dependent on the colonial powers and this economic dependency continues in some countries today, long after the grant of independence. The effects of colonialism in the country, though was negative, had a positive notion of introducing democracy as a system of government to the continent.

The transition from a colony to an independent country for Africa was not civil and was mostly marked with struggle and unrest. Though each country had different experiences with

transitioning, most African countries were plagued with coups, rigged elections, military regimes and corruption, and soon, all of these became common phenomena in the continent.

## LAKE CHAD REGION

Lake Chad is located in the Sahelian zone of West-central Africa. It is historically ranked as one of the largest lakes in Africa and is bordered by Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria and Niger and provides water to over 30 million people living in these countries. The Lake Chad is economically important in the region. The size of the lake fluctuates with seasonal changes which demonstrates its sensitivity to climatic changes. The Lake Chad was once one of Africa's largest freshwater bodies and was a source of livelihood to about 30 million people. With the many conflicts that have plagued the countries in this region, there are several IDP camps, however, these camps lack adequate accommodation, food, water and sanitation. Governments of the countries in the region have put in several measures to combat the insecurities in the region. To deal with terrorist in the region, these governments created the Multinational Joint Taskforce made up of troops from Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad to launch military strikes against the insurgents of Boko Haram. They have also attempted to resolve the conflict between herders and farmers over pasture. That the lake is fast drying up is not news, but this is increasing the level of poverty in the region (Usigbe, 2020).

This region is made up of four major countries though it could be connected to others- Niger, Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon. The Lake Chad Basin was commissioned in 1964 by these countries for effective management of the region. Though all in this region, these countries were colonized differently and are in different regions of Africa.

## CHAD

Chad is the fifth largest African country. There are about 200 ethnic groups in the country. precolonial Chad was dominated by slavery and actively participated in the Trans-Atlantic slave trade. The country is divided into two main regions-north and south. Historically, the southern part was largely populated by several decentralised political and social groups and decisions were made by a group of elders and village council (Wood, 2002; Hancock, 2005). Religiously, the people of the south practiced a variety of religions and rituals. The northern part was more organised into larger centralised entities with a hierarchical structure and the people of the north were unified under Islam. This differences still creates tension and rifts between both regions of the country till this moment (Human Rights Watch, 2011).

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Chad became a French colony between 1900 and 1960. The conquest of Chad by the French empire was strongly challenged by the people of Chad and one intense opposition was with Rabah Fadlallah. Rabah though was born a slave, gained freedom and himself became a warlord and slave trader. In 1894, he had taken control of Borno and took the title of Emir of the faithful (Azevedo, 1998; Wood, 2002). Between 1880 and 1900, Rabah controlled most of what is now known as Chad (Azevedo, 1998). It was in this period that the French colonial conquest began in the country. The French began to send in forces but these forces were harassed and fought by Rabah and his forces (Collier, 1990; Wood, 2002). The fight between the French empire and Rabah continued till 1900 when Rabah was defeated and killed. The Kanem was subdued in 1909, several political entities were conquered and the last tribe, Tubu surrendered in 1920. In 1910, Chad was joined to the Afrique Equatoriale Francaise (French Equatorial Africa) (Kuper and Kropelin, 2006).

Chad was the most neglected colony of the French empire with little to no infrastructural and economic development. French civil administrators were unwilling to work in Chad, hence, the administration employed the use of canton chiefs to keep the colony in order and recruit forced labor. Asides from the exploitative forced labor in Chad, the locals suffered from famines and between 1913 and 1918, 30,000 people were recorded to have died from hunger (Lange, 1993). The enforcement of the head tax system forced Chadians to become workers in the colonial economy.

As other colonies fought in the Second World War alongside their colonial rulers, Chad contributed greatly to France's efforts in the war. And as the end of the war marked the end of colonial policies, forced labor and slave trade was abolished, and political parties legalised in 1946. Though several parties sprout out with the legalization of political parties, representing different

religions, regional and cultural areas, two major parties dominated the struggle for independence from France in Chad. These parties, the Chadian Progressive Party (PPT) and Chadian Democratic Union (UDT), represented the regional division that colonialism had enforced in Chad. On March 31, 1959, Chad held national elections and PPT won with a huge gap, and on August 11, 1960, Chad declared independence from France. The PPT became the governing party after independence was declared (Azevedo and Nnadozie, 1998).

Following the grant of independence, post-colonial Chad was marred with civil unrest and both internal and inter-state conflict. Francois Tombalbaye was Chad's first president and shortly after independence, he centralized all decision making to the presidency thereby diminishing the power of the parliament. In 1962, Tombalbaye eliminated all forms of opposition and turned Chad into a single-party state ((Azevedo and Nnadozie, 1998)). Under his administration, all appointed civil servants were Sara people in the South and the northern people were excluded. This further roused the tension that had existed between north and south pre-colonial era and was exploited by colonial rule. This tension was exacerbated by the President's declaration of a new tax on cattle and personal income, followed by the violence against tax collectors in the northern area. The people of Tubu rebelled against this rule and killed one soldier thus inciting retaliation from the regime. Though the rebels fled to Libya, the conflict opened the doors to civil war which started in 1966 that lasted for over 24 years and was characterised by several coups and political instability. In 1966, a group of Muslim intellectuals and nationalist met in Sudan to form the Front de Liberation Nationale (FROLINAT), with Ibrahim Abatcha as the general secretary. ((Azevedo and Nnadozie, 1998)) FROLINAT started a guerrilla campaign against the government and were their activities were only contained by French troops who also helped Tombalbaye hold on to power. In April 1975, Tombalbaye was assassinated by General Felix Malloum after several political mistakes. Malloum's administration started peacefully, however he had clashes of power with several actors in his administration.

Though a unified government was established after this between the rebel factions, with Wedei emerging as the President, fighting soon broke out again between the factions of Wedei and Habre which escalated into a civil war in 1980. Habre was said to have unified Chad. In 1989, a former ally, Idris Deby gathered various forces against Habre and made himself president. In 2005, Habre was charged and convicted for crimes against humanity.

In 1996, Chad held its first multi-party election that reaffirmed Debry as president and was re-elected in 2006, 2011 and 2016. Chad has fought several wars and has faced several rebellious acts (BBC News, 2016).

## CAMEROON

In the 1770s, the Fulani, an Islamic pastoral people of the western Sahel conquered most of what is now southern Cameroon and displaced its large population of non-Muslim inhabitants. European exploration began in Cameroon in the 15<sup>th</sup> century with the Portuguese arrival into the country for trade but they were limited by malaria. This limited European settlement and conquest of the interior until the late 1870s when quinine, a malaria supplement was made available. The Dutch slave traders established sugar plantations and gained control of the slave trade coast in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Early presence of Europeans in Cameroon was mainly devoted to coastal and slave trade. The northern part of the country was controlled by the Muslim slave trade network but were suppressed by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century by the presence of Christian missionaries.

In 1884, Germany, mainly interested in the agricultural products of the country, made Cameroon its colony. German government invested in Cameroon's infrastructures such as its railways, and several German companies established themselves in the colony. Germans form of rule was harsh and an unpopular system of forced labor. In 1911, at the Treaty of Fez, France ceded a small area of French Equatorial Africa to Germany and Germany ceded a small area of north Chad to France. In 1914, during the First World War, Britain invaded Cameroon from Nigeria and after the First World War, the colony was divided between Britain and France under the mandates of the League of Nations, though France gained a larger population of the country.

In August 1940, French Cameroon joined the free France. The system established by Philippe Leclerc de Hauteclocque was one that abolished freedom and neutralized any thought of independence. During the French administration, the coffee and cocoa industry increased, and roads and railways were constructed. In the British area, both northern and southern Cameroon were joined to Nigeria for the purpose of administration, and there was local participation in the government.

After the second world war in 1945, Britain and France continued to administer Cameroon as UN Trust Territories and in this period. Several political parties emerged and the largest was the Union of the Peoples of Cameroon (UPC) led by Ruben Um Nyobe. UPC demanded that both British and French Cameroon should be united into one independent country and in the mid-1950s, the party was banned. Several of the activists were arrested and beaten in prison. The party received the support of people like Gamal Abdel Nasser and Kwame Nkrumah. This led to rebellion in the country that killed thousands of people including Nyobe in 1958 and continued until after independence in 1961. In 1957, Cameroon was granted partial self-governance and on January 1, 1960 was granted independence. On May 5, 1960, Ahmadou Ahidjo became the president of the new nation. British Cameroon was administered as two areas, Northern Muslim, and Southern Christian Cameroon. Following independence, British Northern Cameroon attached itself to Nigeria and the South reunified with the Republic of Cameroon. The British South Cameroon was therefore referred to as West Cameroon and the French known as the East. on September 1 1966, the Cameroon National Union (CNU) was created by political parties of both West and East Cameroon. West Cameroon was however left out of decision-making processes and this led to feelings of exclusion and subordination by the people.

Though the country had gained independence, the French ambassador Jean-Pierre Benard was still considered as the president, and French advisers still gave advisers to the Ministers in charge. Economically, Cameroon still uses the CFA franc and operates policies as directed by France. In 1977, Cameroon became an oil-producing country, yet its oil revenues are managed in off-shore accounts controlled by France. In 1984, there was an attempted coup d'état by Issa Adoum. The country though has never had a successful coup, has been plagued with several protest against the one-party system.

Tensions have existed between the minority English speaking Cameroon and French speaking Cameroon. Just before the unification of anglophone Cameroon and francophone Cameroon, both sides had reached an agreement to share the executive branch of government between both sides. However, since the unification in 1961, Cameroon had been ruled by the francophone Cameroonian authoritative government (Orth, 2018). Since independence, anglophone activists have protested against their forced assimilation into francophone society (Anyangwe, 2018). In 2016, this crisis resurfaced when lawyers went on strike demanding that the government should stop appointing magistrates who spoke only French. Soon after teachers joined in the protest expressing their grievances against the employment of francophone teachers who spoke no English to teach other subjects aside from French in Anglophone schools. The protesters increased as other professionals joined in. in October 2017, Julius Ayuk Tabe, separatist leader, declared the independence of the Republic of Ambazonia, blaming the conflict on the refusal of Britain to grant the colony independence.

In an attempt to resolve the conflict, President Paul Biya expressed his willingness to communicate with the Anglophone region, and in 2018, the National Commission for Bilingualism and Multiculturalism, creating more English-speaking magistrates and bilingual teachers (Orth, 2018).

## NIGER

Being close to the Sahara Desert has forced the inhabitants of Niger to become Nomadic. Prior to European occupation in the area, Niger was occupied by the Hausa, Wazi and Songhai empire until its collapse in 1591. The Tuareg pushed into the north of the region and this culture is still practiced by some cities in Niger. Niger was one of the last African countries to be colonized by the Europeans, so it has a somewhat short colonial period. Niger was finally conquered as a colony in 1922 by the French and was granted independence in 1960. (IExplore, 2020). The country was rich in uranium though its economy relies on subsistence crops and livestock.

Niger faced brutal military rule that lasted for about 30 years shortly after independence after which there was a short period of democratic rule and then back to military rule. Since then, Niger has been a democratic state in its fifth republic, though it is plagued with political instability and conflict. The country has been influenced by Islam from the Middle East, hence, 90% of its population practice Islam. The rest of the population practices Baha'i faith, Christianity, and Animism (IExplore, 2020).

During the colonial period, Niamey became the capital of the country to facilitate trade along the river with other French territories in West Africa (Ray, 2003). The city also served as a connection point for trade of agricultural goods. As with other French colonies, Niger was administered through a governor general in Senegal and an individual governor in the country. In 1958, following the establishment of fifth French republic, French colonies were granted a membership into the French community which allowed them a form of self-governance. Niger was granted independence on August 3, 1960 with Hamani Diori as first prime minister and then president. Diori was in support of maintaining the traditional structures as well as the economic ties with France. His administration was however marked with corruption and failed government policies and this was followed by conflicts and protests.

After independence, Niger grew and attracted merchants from neighbouring countries including Nigeria, Benin and Togo. The profits from uranium were used to finance infrastructural development however a sharp drop in prices caused the rise of political and social tensions in the country. On April 15, 1974, Lt Kountche led a military coup that ended Diori's rule. The nation's president Major-General Kountche's attempt to resolve the tensions by imposing austerity measure only caused widespread protest in the country (Heath, 2010; Robinson, 2014). Niger has faced several conflicts and still suffers from these instabilities.

## NIGERIA

Prior to colonization, the history of Nigeria has been linked to earlier civilizations and the rise and fall of empires. In the South, the plateau area was a meeting point for cultural influences, the Bantu people developed more complex societies, and the Nok people were agriculturists that made tools and weapons of iron. In the north, strong systems of states were established. Two powerful empires were in existence, the Hausa-Bokwoi and Kanem-Bornu. People from these empires were converted to Islam and traded in gold, slaves, leather and other resources. The south-west was occupied by Yorubaland and the Benin Kingdom and they contributed greatly to the artistic heritage of the region. The south-east and Igbo people were mostly preyed on by slave traders and this grievance has been passed on to generations.

The first presence of European powers in Nigeria dates back to the 15<sup>th</sup> century when the Benin people began to trade with the Portuguese, selling slaves and receiving spices, firearms, education and Christianity. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the British displaced the Portuguese as the colonial masters and slave traders in the country. British colonial rule lasted until 1960 when Nigeria was granted independence. The country was divided into Northern protectorate, Southern protectorate and Lagos colony. The British used trade policies to influence the colony policies and deposed African leaders. Lord Lugard was the Governor-general and he instituted a policy of indirect rule through local chiefs and rulers in the north (Afigbo, 1991). From 1849, a more direct approach was implemented. Fernando Po was appointed to take charge of Biafra and Benin, and British trade and British political rule went hand in hand (HistoryWorld). Western education and development spread faster in the south than in the north and this is still a bone of contention in the country till this date. On October 1, 1958, the colony became the autonomous federation of Nigeria and on October 1, 1960, Nigeria was granted independence.

Nigeria's independence was led by the Northern People's Congress and the National Council of Nigerian Citizens. Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa became the prime minister and Dr Nnamdi Azikwe the first non-executive president (The Commonwealth, 2020). Following the grant of independence, Nigeria was plagued with several coups the first one being in January 1966 where Tafawa Balewa was killed. Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi became the military head of state. Aguiyi-Ironsi abolished the federation and instituted a unitary state. In July 1966, the northerners retaliated with another coup which Aguiyi-Ironsi was killed and Yakubu Gowon became head of state. He

returned the country to a federation, created 12 states, and included civilians in his government (The Commonwealth, 2020). In 1967, Nigeria was plunged into civil war with the declaration of independence of eastern Nigeria to become the Republic of Biafra by Lt-Colonel Chukwuemeka Ojukwu, though this could also be linked to the discovery of oil in the region (). Nigeria experience seven coups before its final turn into civilian and democratic rule.

A new Independent National Electoral Commission was set up in August 1998 and local elections were held in December of that year. The People's Democratic Party (PDP), All People's Party (APP) and Alliance for Democracy (AD) contested for the presidential elections and PDP with Olusegun Obasanjo as its candidate, won the election. The 1999 constitution which permitted the practice of Sharia law for consenting Muslims was published. This caused tensions between Christians who perceived this as a risk and the Muslims (The Commonwealth, 2020). The discovery of oil intensified the rise of corruption in the country. Nigeria is still plagued with conflict, political instability, under-development and corruption. The divisions caused by the colonial powers is still in existence.

There is not a lot of differentiation in viewing Africa in these two categories as one of the historical factors that play a role in the regional categorization of Africa is colonialism. From the accounts of these countries in the region, this, similar and different patterns are pulled out to discuss the region of Lake Chad.

## SIMILARITIES

### Colonization

Colonialism is a major factor of similarity in this region and two major colonial powers play a role in this event- France and Britain. Though these countries do not have identical historical accounts of colonialism, there are certain similarities present. A major theme is the exploitation of the countries' resources and labour. With this exploitation, policies were introduced and forced on these countries such as the imposition of the tax system controlled by the colonial powers. In Cameroon, for example, the locals were forced to work on the railway for trade routes which led to the death of so many locals in the country.

Dependency on colonial powers is another similarity in the region of Lake Chad after the discovery resources in the lands. Most African countries had become oil-rent countries in this period of resources discovery hence they were dependent on one product mainly sent to their former colonial masters. Aside from being dependent on single products, these countries were dependent on exports to the west, mainly their colonial rulers. Nigeria traded with Britain and only recently started trading with other countries, Chad, Cameroon and Niger trade with France and still operate trade with the CFA franc.

African colonies produced the raw materials in terms of resources and agricultural products and exported these goods to the West at relatively cheaper prices, and they imported the manufactured goods from the west at higher prices.

### Multi-ethnic and Multi-cultural

Ethnicity for Africans is an embodiment of values, behaviour, experience, traditions and so many other factors including language and culture. African countries prior to colonialism were tribalistic and still are. Societies functioned based on family, lineage, clan, family and tribe. Their identities are based on ethnicity. With the creation of boundaries and divisions by colonial powers that had no regard for already stated boundaries, African countries still relate with ethnic identities and this reflects in even the types of conflict that exists in the region. A similarity in the region of Lake Chad is its multiethnicity. All four countries in the region are multi-ethnic. Nigeria is a country with over 250 ethnic groups, Chad has 200 ethnic groups, Cameroon has 250 ethnic groups. Though smaller in size, Niger is also multi-ethnic with over 26 ethnic groups within.

The presence of diverse ethnic groups in the region demonstrated the importance of ethnicity in the region as is in most African countries. The diverse ethnicity of the countries was not uprooted by colonial rule, however, they were capitalised on and magnified the differences present in these

ethnic identities. Furthermore, these differences pitted ethnic groups against each other after the exit of colonialism from the continent. Independence marked the exit of colonial powers, the common enemy and ushered in ethnic conflicts which are used as tools for political ambitions as they have always been used even by colonial powers.

Also, in the lines of ethnicity is the presence of similar ethnic tribes in the region, i.e. one ethnic tribe being present in the four countries of the Lake Chad region. A common ethnic group in the region is Hausa/Fulani tribe. The transatlantic trade allowed the Hausa culture to influence neighbouring regions. Though independent political entities, the Hausa kingdom and its city states were major centres in the trade routes and so had relations with several societies. This further buttress the point that ethnicity plays a major role in African identities.

Ethnic allegiances have existed since pre-colonial era in Africa. But prior to colonization, these allegiances were flexible. Colonial rule cemented them as they were used to segregate between the populations.

### **Political instability**

Political instability is a major characteristic of African countries and this is based on both sides of categorization. This plagued most African countries after the grant of independence. This instability however arose from the magnified differences between ethnic groups in the country as well as the political exclusion of certain groups and region from political rule. Nigeria after independence was plagued with several coups, all happening in retaliation of the previous, and a civil war centred around the separation of the Niger-Delta region in the country. Chad's post-colonial era was plagued with civil unrest and coups based on the exclusion of a tribe from political appointments and power. Niger faced several protests and experienced brutal military rule after independence which only worsened with the fall in price of uranium. For Cameroon, though the country never had a successful coup, there has always been tensions and conflict between anglophone Cameroon and francophone Cameroon.

Corruption is a huge contributing factor to the instability that is faced in the country and this affects the economic strengths of these countries. The constant conflicts that is experienced in the countries and the region makes it one of the poorest regions in the world. Poverty is a trait that is seen in all categorization of Africa, either from the geographical lens or colonial lens. Africa is host to some of the poorest countries in the world.

## **DIFFERENCES**

### **Colonial rule and policies**

Although a similarity in the colonial category is colonial rule, the implementation of colonial rule in the countries were different. Anglophone Africa was ruled with the use of indirect rule and the policy of association and Francophone Africa ruled with direct rule and the policy of assimilation. In the region of study, the Lake Chad region, Nigeria is anglophone while Niger, Chad and the most of Cameroon is francophone.

With the use of indirect rule by Britain in Nigeria, the colonist used chiefs and traditional rulers to govern small political units which was seen to be less disruptive of the existing social order. The plan with this was to use existing tribal structures and traditions as channels for establishing rules while the British rulers exercised veto power. For the European powers and Lord Lugard the Governor, indirect rule was cost effective and limited the resistance to European rule.

Francophone Africa adopted the policy of assimilation and direct rule. French colonists placed the chiefs in subordinate roles and were only given stated powers and roles. These chiefs were however not based on existing rule but based on loyalty to French policies. Hence, the intention of France was to make French citizens of the Africans.

Another distinction in this regard was the intervention of the colonial rulers after the grant of independence. Britain was less inclined to intervene in the affairs of anglophone Africa and only intervened when needed. France on the other hand had maintained a close-knit relationship with its

colonies and are still the most influential foreign powers in her colonies. This is further seen in the creation of a common monetary zone for the federation and this currency is still used in the independent states.

### **Cultural imperialism**

Based on the difference in colonial rule, the cultures adopted by these countries were also different. Nigeria adopted the British law and policies and adopted the language and in Niger, Chad and Cameroon, French policies and language are predominant. The cultures of the colonial powers greatly influenced the cultures and perspectives of the countries. With tourism and foreign education, it is more common for Nigerians to travel to Britain than any other European country and this is common with former French colonies. More Cameroonians or Chadian visit France than any other European country. Language could be a reason for this. The former colonies adopted the language of the colonial powers and made it the official language. Therefore, Nigeria's official language is English, Chadians and Nigeriens speak French and Cameroonians speak mostly French and a small population speak English. These colonial languages became official languages of the independent country and a way for easy communication because of the multi ethnicity in these countries, hence multilingual. Though the official languages are English and French, tribes and villages have ethnic languages that they communicate with.

British colonies struggled for independence from the Europeans. Nigeria therefore had to struggle for its independence from the British. This was not the case for French colonies. In the era of independence, De Gaulle offered independence to French colonies though this was a tactic to retain some form of control over the independent countries.

### **Religion**

Prior to the entrance of Christianity and Islam into the region, African were traditionalists. Because of the region's encounter with the Middle East during the transatlantic slave trade, the religion of the region was influenced by Islam and this relates closely to presence of Hausa Kingdom in all four countries. Christianity was introduced to Africa by the colonial powers. The region is however split with religion. In Niger, the predominant religion is Islam which is practiced by over 90% of the population. Though Christianity was brought into the country with colonialism, only a few practices it, mainly the elite in the country. Christianity and Islam are almost practiced equally in the Chad, Nigeria and Cameroon. Christianity came in with the other western policies that were introduces like education. The presence of Islam in the countries also dates back to the slave trade routes with the Middle East. Similarly, these countries adopted the religion of the colonial masters but in varying proportions.

The porous border that these countries share makes them susceptible to the spill-over effect of conflict from any country. For example, presently, these countries battle with the Boko Haram insurgency which started out in Nigeria. They have also battled with famine, kidnapping and increased crime rates. To solve the challenges of the region, including political, economic and security instability, these countries have created forces like the MNJTF and the Lake Chad Basin.

In conclusion, African countries though in different regions and with different colonial origins are somewhat similar to each other. They are very diverse in ethnicity, they are cultural and recognize themselves with ethnicity rather than colonial boundaries. Countries in the Lake Chad region were plagued with both economic and political instability, protests and conflicts. The factor of colonialism is common for all, but the form is different. Differently, these countries had differing relations with colonial rulers and the end of the era. While anglophone Africa is less controlled by Britain, same cannot be said for francophone Africa. These countries therefore experience imperialism in different ways. The classification of Africa is truly perceived in many ways, but within these categories are differences and similarities.



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