

COLONIALISM

Britain had a colonial presence in Nigeria for 100 years until its independence in 1960. Most of Britain's involvement was in the south, including introduction of Christianity (the north remains Muslim). Resources were exploited in and exported from the south, ports and infrastructure were developed especially around Lagos (Lagos Centricity). Administrative services (civil service) were also concentrated in the south. Education, educational attainment and adult literacy were only promoted in the south.

CLIMATE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The south has an Equatorial and Tropical Monsoon climate with heavy rainfall for most of the year. This ensures adequate water supplies and promotes some commercial agriculture such as palm oil, cocoa and corn production. The north has a much drier Savanna climate with a distinct dry season. Climate change is causing the southward spread of the desert, increasingly unreliable rainfall, soil degradation and soil erosion. Here, water insecurity and malnutrition are common. Unsustainable human activities such as deforestation, over-cultivation and overgrazing exacerbate the situation.

RESOURCES

Most of the resource wealth (oil and natural gas) of Nigeria is concentrated in the south and the immediate offshore regions. Agricultural production of export crops is also in the south. Heavy rainfall in the south also makes irrigation and Hydro-electric power possible.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The main network of roads and railways is in the south promoting industrial development. There is access to deep water ports at Lagos and Port Harcourt to aid exports and global trade. The electricity, gas and water networks are also denser in the south.

REGIONAL INEQUALITIES IN NIGERIA THE NORTH / SOUTH DIVIDE

TNC's (40+ TNC's in Nigeria)

TNC's are attracted to south Nigeria by the oil and gas. Companies such as Shell and Exxon have made large investments. Total FDI (foreign Direct Investment) has hit \$2 billion per annum. Companies are attracted by tax breaks, local infrastructure and low wages, EPZ's and FTZ's (Export Processing Zones, Free Trade Zones) The Lagos Free Zone has attracted food, beverage and consumer goods companies such as Kellogg's and Coca Cola.

CORE / PERIPHERY

Attracted by resources and infrastructure in the south the area has become a core region with a number of important growth poles. The area benefits from this growth and draws resources, capital investment and skilled labour from the rest of Nigeria, especially the north. The north is the peripheral region, with fewer resources and less investment to exploit the resources that do exist. Growth does not seem to spread from the south, but negative backwash effects limit development.

CUMULATIVE CAUSATION AGGLOMERATION AND THE MULTIPLIER EFFECT

These forces cluster industrial development in the south. Subsidiary industries set up near the main industries, growing urbanisation creates expanding local markets for goods and services, linkages and skilled labour all interact to further develop the area. Increased taxes and profits allow further investment in the area which creates a positive feedback loop.

