

Causes of The Nigerian Civil War and The Economic Effects PDF

There is no need to go on an ultimate search for the cause of the Nigeria civil war. Everybody caused this war.

If you are familiar with the history of the happenings in Nigeria or have read about the first military head of state in Nigeria then the first coup that took place leading to the launch of the first military rule and subsequent ones is no longer news to you.

Reading back on the information provided, the cause of the Nigerian civil war can be traced to the

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can be traced first coup popularly called “Igbo coup”.

One would think the intervention of the first military head of state in Nigeria would have placed a lid on these tension bombs waiting to explode but Alas! What started out as fighting corruption by Major Kaduna and co. was seen as assassination; an assassination that paved way for ethnic differences.

What started out as an action of intervention by General Aguiyi Ironsi was seen as the opposite, more like a process of dominating by the Igbos.

The perpetrators were said to not have been punished as expected and so a time was set on these tension bombs.

Tension bombs that exploded in to the first civil war in Nigeria, the Nigerian civil war; leaving its shreds lying in different corners of the country to explode again when triggered.

It was on record that General Aguiyi-Ironsi cancelled the Federal system of Government and imposed a unitary state of government.

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This meant any tribe could be posted to any state to govern. The northerners did not see this in their favour as it was an easterner that was on the seat of power at the time.

It would also seem they had not forgotten what Mr Charles Dadi Onyeama was recorded to have said in 1945 at the Central Legislative Council when he was representing Enugu that “the domination of Nigeria and Africa is only a matter of time.”

And so it started, the Northerners would not let the death of Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa, Lt. Col. Abogo Largema, and the rest go unpunished, they just could not fold their hands and expect things go well.

From their angle, they saw things seemed not to be in their favour and so they struck back. Even though Aguiyi Ironsi had arrested his Igbo brothers with the help of another Igbo man, Ojukwu Emeka, it was not enough; instead it was seen as a pre-planned stage act.

Without consideration for what it could turn out to be, the bloodshed began. The Hausas feared the freedom the Igbos so much believed in, and acted upon and thought they decided to tame them in the way they thought best.

There was mass slaughter of the Igbos in the North on May 29, 1966, it reached its peak on September 29, 1966; forcing most of the Igbos out of the north.

The Igbos too retaliated, who could blame them? And before some of our parents could speak long sentences in English they were hearing Nigeria civil war.

In as much as the Nigeria civil war or the Biafran civil war was between Nigeria and Biafra, better still let me say the Northern and Eastern tribes; let us not forget the role the Western 'Yoruba' tribe played.

So dear readers, what caused the Nigerian civil war? Who is to be blamed?

Would you say it's the Northerners who found out that the prominent Eastern leaders were not killed in the first coup and took drastic steps making them no different from those who carried out the first coup?

Or the Easterners who did not take firm measures against their brothers who killed the prominent Northern leaders but instead could not bear the loss of lives of their people?

The Westerners who suffered at different degrees on both sides but remained somewhat accommodating? What actually caused the Nigerian civil war?

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Nigerian Civil War Effects

The effects of the Nigeria civil war can still be felt everywhere in the country at varying degrees. The Hausas and Igbos still walk on eggs around each other, the Nigerian civil war has made tribalism or ethnic rivalry chewed deeper still.



The resentment felt by the Igbos whenever there is a slight evidence of domination by the Hausas and vice versa. There is so much mistrust and tension between the tribes in Nigeria.

Even the present day boko haram which is said to mean “western education is an abomination” or “no to western education” can be said to have stylishly be birthed from the Nigerian civil war.

The Igbos were one liberated ethnic group and pursued a level of education, they believed in deciding their fate and not to be dictated to; while the

Hausas had no issue submitting to authorities and did not really pursue education then...is someone relating?

Looking at the political sector, we can see it is largely dominated by the Hausas, Northerners.

Economic Effects of The Nigerian Civil War

It cannot be denied the Nigerian civil war affected the economy of the country. Imagine what a country Nigeria would have been without the existence of a Nigerian civil war!



The Nigerian civil war took its toll on the economy of Nigeria in the following ways:

- Brain drain: Nigerians or biafrans fled for their lives to other countries as refugees and started a new life there, contributing to the development of the country in which they are now part of.
- The igbos had a positive effect on the economy, you know them na they are business men and women, but they were ostracized from the economic activities of the country; sided they were biafrans and faced Biafra.

- The **Nigerian government** had to rebuild the war affected areas, some which the government was responsible for due to the Nigerian civil war. This was a waste of resource; it was building on a spot twice, first before the war and second after.
- There were employment opportunities due to the reconstruction of affected areas; this was an expensive cost on the aspect of wages/salaries.
- Education was put on hold, who could go to school in such atmosphere? Educational institutions were shut down.
- Unemployment as many industrial plants, companies were said to be shut down also.
- There was an alarming high rate of crime, lawlessness, etc.
- The orphans, homeless, destitute of the country became the government responsibilities.

Everything productive, that would also have boosted Nigeria economy to a level farther than where she is today, was brought to a standstill in Nigeria because of the Nigerian civil war.

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Oasdom