

## 26. Africa – Problem regions

Governments have not been effective => food shortage => famines.

South of Sahara nearly every country is made up of *several ethnic groups* with their own languages and occupying own region => lack of respect for the national government.

Political parties tend to reflect *ethnic divisions* in many African countries.

*Cultural and religious differences* are apparent in Sudan, Chad and Nigeria (Muslim north part vs. Christian south part).

Rwanda and Burundi => conflict between 2 main ethnics (Hutu and Tutsi) = their spatial distribution is as complicated as that of peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina = great mixture of these ethnics.

By the time independence came, governments everywhere had accepted that they were responsible for health care, education and other social services and for economic affairs.

### Main characteristics of African countries after the end of colonial period

- few people were qualified as lawyers, doctors or teachers => lack of high-skilled labour
- poor infrastructure
- lack of technical, scientific and commercial institutions
- belated industrial development
- dependency on foreign technology and know-how

### Another political polarity

*Capitalist* (Kenya, Ivory Coast, Nigeria) countries with private enterprises

vs.

*Communist* (Algeria, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Angola) countries with centrally planned economy

**1980s:** most of the people in Africa were living under military regimes

- e.g. general Mobutu in Zaire – since 1965 he has governed the country through a political aristocracy using administrative, financial means + the police to maintain power over the country

### International conflicts in Africa

- *Morocco* attempted to incorporate Western Sahara (Spanish) into a Greater Morocco
- *Somalia* expanded westwards to Ethiopia
- *Libya* invaded N Chad to acquire parts of Tibesti mts. (mineral resources)
- *Angola* (rebellion forces) expanded 2x into S Congo (Zaire)

=> all such conflicts disrupt people's lives => they are unable to: e.g.

- plant and harvest their crops
- refugees find shelters in towns or neighboring countries

+ Sahel countries (Muslims vs. non-Muslims) suffer from risk of drought and desertification

### **Keywords**

refugees, military regime, capitalist vs. communist government, private enterprises, centrally planned economy,