

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,