

(WEEK SEVEN

DATE:

CLASS: SS II

SUBJECT: Government

General Election of 1979

The crisis was not a violent crisis as the ones organized under the parliamentary system. The crisis was centred on the winner. i.e. none of the candidates was able to secure 25% of the total vote cast in the 2/3 of the states of the federation. Alhaji Shehu Shagari who was eventually declare the winner won 25% in 12 states as against 122/3 states based on the 19 states. The UPN candidate Chief Awolowo took the matter to the presidential election tribunal and consequently the supreme court. In all, the NPN candidate was declared winner.

General Election of 1983

It was an election conducted by the civilians after 13 years of military. Six political parties participated in the election including the new registered Advanced Party of Nigeria formed by Mr Tunji Braithwaite. The order of election was reversed starting with the presidential ,gubernatorial, senatorial, house of representative and state house of assembly. All parties except PRP fielded their presidential candidate in the 1979 election. The elections started on August 6,1983 amidst allegation of rigging at all level. This was followed by protest, violent rioting, looting etc. It was more serious in Ondo and Oyo state where the NPN was declared winner. Although the court reversed the ondo state gubernatorial election the victory of the NPN was short lived has the military took over government on the 31st of December,1983.

KADUNA STATE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE CRISIS

The crisis that rock the Government of Alhaji Balarabe Musa of the old Kaduna State could be seen as an inter-party rivalry. The Governor was elected on the platform of PRP in the 1979 general election whereas, the majority of the legislatures in the house were from the federal led party i.e. NPN.

The crisis began when the governor in line with constitutional requirements presented nominees for the position of commissioners to the house of assembly for approval. After three presentations and rejections, the governor decided to govern the state without commissioners. The action further compounded the acrimony between the two arms of government.

An impeachment motion was moved against the governor by the majority leader of the house, Alhaji Dauda Mani. After following constitutional procedures, the governor was impeach by the majority party having secured the two-third requirement votes to impeach the governor.

THE NIGERIAN CIVIL WAR

The Nigerian civil war started on the 6th of July 1967, and officially ended on January 15th, 1970.

REMOTE CAUSES OF THE WAR

1. Allegation of rigging of the western election of 1965. The crisis that followed prepared the ground for the military take-over.
2. The abolition of federalism and declaration of unitary state- abolishing the four regions by Gen. Aguiyi Ironsi on 24th May 1966
3. Fear of domination by the southerners
4. The counter-coup of 1966 and take-over of government by Lt. Col Yakubu Gowon against the wish of Lt Col. Ojukwu- who refused to recognize him.
5. The desire of the eastern region to control the oil just discovered in the region.

IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. The massacres of the igbos in the North between 29th September and 3rd October 1966.
2. The decree no 8 of the Gowon administration that seeks to strengthen the federal structure which was against the Aburi agreement that makes the regions stronger at the expense of the federal government.
3. The unilateral creation of twelve states by Gowon on May 27, 1967
4. The declaration of the sovereign state of Biafra by Ojukwu on the 30th of May 1967.
5. The declaration of state of emergency on the eastern region by Gowon and subsequent declaration of war against Nigeria by Ojukwu.

CONSEQUENCES OF THE CIVIL WAR

1. Loss of inestimable lives and properties. Most people died of starvation and hunger.
2. The civil war cost the country lots of money that could be used for developmental purposes.
3. It disrupted education in many parts of the country especially in the eastern region.
4. The civil war brought untold hardship on lots of families especially where the breadwinner was lost to the war.
5. Peace and tranquillity were jeopardized.
6. It led to mutual distrust.