

The United Nations and Britain in the Independence Process of the Trust Territory of British Southern Cameroons: Politics of Independence, Subjugation and Neo-nationalism in the Cameroons since 1946

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This paper makes an account to a controversial “minority” problem about Ex-British Trust Territory of Southern Cameroon’s process to independence, which characterized little application of statutory rules by Britain and the UN and caused a sense of annexation in the people, leading to a separatist struggle organized by a nationalist organization that evolved in different names, culminating to the “Southern Cameroons National Council (SCNC).” The work questions Britain and UN neglect with the death of Dag Hammarskjöld, in guiding the Trust Territory towards independence, and makes a critical analysis of SCNC’s ideology and approaches in its quests, and to determine the basis and validity of its claim.

Other authors are subjective to this question, claiming either secession or separation of the territory from, or its continuous vulgar assimilation by, Cameroon as justifiable. On the contrary, this paper brings a scientific verdict to the Southern Cameroon quandary, based on qualitative research design, and investigative methodologies including non-obtrusive observation. Evidence of formal propositions, the drawing of inferences and hypothesis testing are provided. Books, theses, journals, and archives comprise documented sources. The hypothesis states that, “As the incomplete independence process of Ex-Southern Cameroon renders the territory’s union with Cameroon republic un-statutory to UN rules and procedures, so is SCNC’s quest for a separation, and its approach to attain that goal un-statutory.”

It is a technical judgment that, Britain and the UN abandoned the course to Southern Cameroons’ independence, which subsequently led to her problematical union with, and lose of identity to, the Republic of Cameroon. In opposition to other ideologies, this study opines that the marriage is not an act of “Annexation” of Ex-Southern Cameroon by, or “Unification” of Ex-Southern Cameroon with, the Republic of Cameroon; it is an act of “Subjugation” of the Republic of Cameroon over Ex-Southern Cameroon. Thus neither, “Secession” or “Separation” of Ex-Southern Cameroon from the Republic of Cameroon, nor “Centralization” or “Decentralization” to the governance in a union between them is justifiable, but a “Federation,” vis-à-vis the terms of the course to Ex-Southern Cameroon’s independence. The predictive understanding is that lasting solution to the Southern Cameroons question lies in Britain and UN awareness to the current crisis in Cameroon, and resolve it before it attains a conflict stage, by considering Article 5 of Chapter 15 of UN Resolution 1608 of April 21, 1961 to grant the Independence of Ex-Southern Cameroons, constitutionally and statutorily to the 1946 Trusteeship Agreement.