

Secessionism in Nigeria

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The proclamation of Biafra by Igbo politicians in May 1967 was the only consequent attempt at secession. However, separatist tendencies were already strong in the 1950s, when the colonial administration and representatives of the African population negotiated the political structure of a future, independent Nigeria. Today ethnic and religious autonomy is popular in all parts of the federation, but it is unlikely that any region will make a serious attempt to secede because the prospect of losing access to the oil revenues is a strong deterrent, at least for the political elites.