

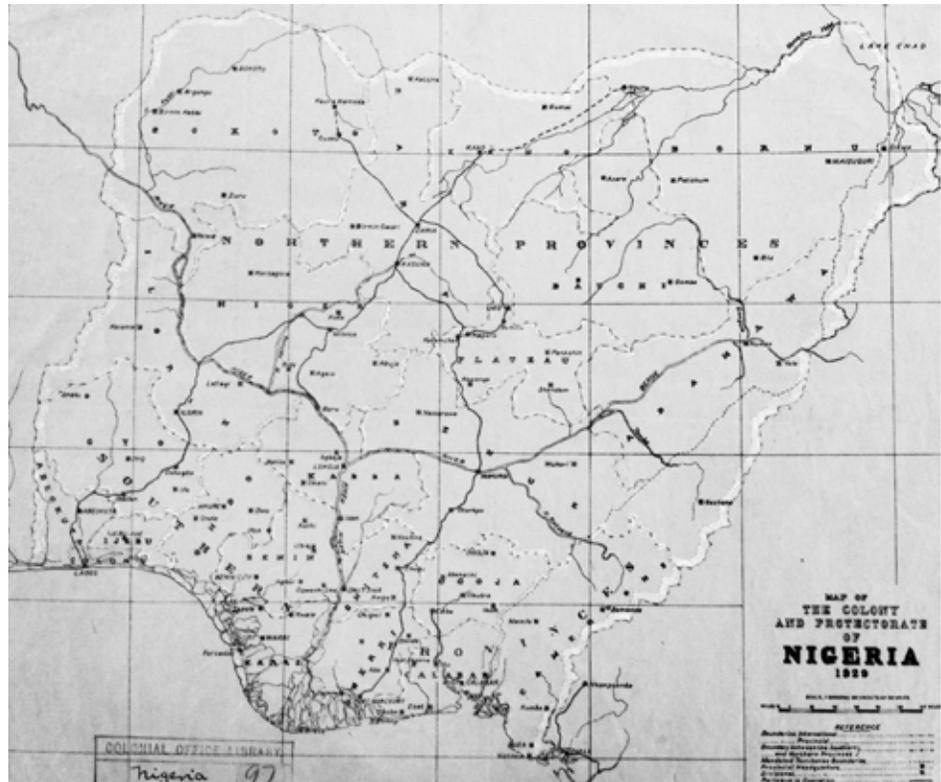
# Democratization and Colonial Legacies in Nigeria

EMILY HAUSER

Nigeria has experienced a tumultuous regime history - undergoing civil war, multiple regime transitions, and facing violent insurrections in the far south and north and episodic violence in Middle Belt. The central question of my research is why has Nigeria seen so many regime changes, both military coups and democratic transitions? What particular challenges does the country's history with variations of indirect rule present for post-colonial democratic institution-building?

This past summer, I spent six weeks conducting pre-dissertation research concerning colonialism in Nigeria at the UK National Archives. This pre-dissertation research allowed me to piece together administrative and political decisions from the top-level perspective of the British colonial administration. Some influential decisions include the 1914 amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates, Lord Lugard's initiation of policies of indirect rule and their subsequent variations across sub-national units, top-down administrative decisions to establish administrative regions, and the increasing autonomy granted to these units from the 1940s through Independence in 1960. This research included an analysis of Nigerian Government Gazettes, Original Correspondence, Colonial Reports, Native Administration policies, Blue Books of Statistics, and Administrative Maps. I used these resources to begin tracing the evolution of colonial period political and administrative systems, integration of Nigerians into these, and changes in the cleavage structures among domestic groups. Continued research will explore how these political developments affect democratic consolidation in the country.

Though the Nigerian polity has since 1960 undergone a number of administrative, political and constitutional changes, including moving from a three-region federation to 36 states, replacing a parliamentary system with a presidential one, and a series of constitutional changes



designed to ameliorate challenges associated with politically salient cleavages, decisions about political institutional designs made during the colonial era remain influential and often hotly contested. For example, a number of conferences have been scheduled in the upcoming year to reflect on the centennial of the 1914 amalgamation of the North and South. Nigeria's unity and efforts to consolidate democratic institutions are crucial contemporary issues.

This research in the UK National Archives provided a solid footing for continued dissertation research in the Nigerian National Archives next year. I was able to identify gaps in colonial administrative record which should be available via national, regional and local documentation of events and policies in Nigeria. While conducting research in the UK, I also spent several days a week studying intermediate/advanced Hausa at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) with Hausa linguist, Dr. Philip Jaggard. I hope to use this language knowledge in the field next year

during my dissertation research.

*Emily Hauser is a doctoral candidate in political science and former FLAS fellow (Hausa, summer 2012 & 2013). Funding for her research was provided by the UF Office of Research, the Center for African Studies, and Department of Political Science.*