

BRITISH DECOLONIZATION ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE GROWTH OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: A CASE OF WESTERN NIGERIA, 1946-1960

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ABSTRACT

This is a study of British economic philosophy for Nigeria during the decolonization period, 1946 -1960. Several authorities have written on British decolonization economic policy with most of them concluding that it was a failure. British officials whose national axiom and orientation were overwhelmingly opposed to socialism formulated and implemented the policy under the aegis of the ruling Labour Party that was disposed to welfarism. The process of formulating the policy did not sufficiently involve British colonial officials in Nigeria and almost completely excluded Nigerians. The Nigerian political leaders that were handed the British policy were neither socialists nor capitalist but adopted mixed economy as the national ideology. This paper demonstrates that the *Colonial Development and Welfare Act* that ushered in long term development planning on whose threshold the public enterprises were established in the British colonies, for example, Western Nigeria failed because it was replete with contradictions.

KEYWORDS: *Decolonization Policy and the Birth of Public Enterprises in Nigeria, 1946-1960*