COLONIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM

INTRODUCTION

Colonial administrative systems were ways which were used by the colonial power to control the colonies during the colonial rule in Africa. The establishment of colonial system of administration was greatly determined by the person in the sport, circumstance in which the colony was acquired and character of the native to be administered by the colonial power.
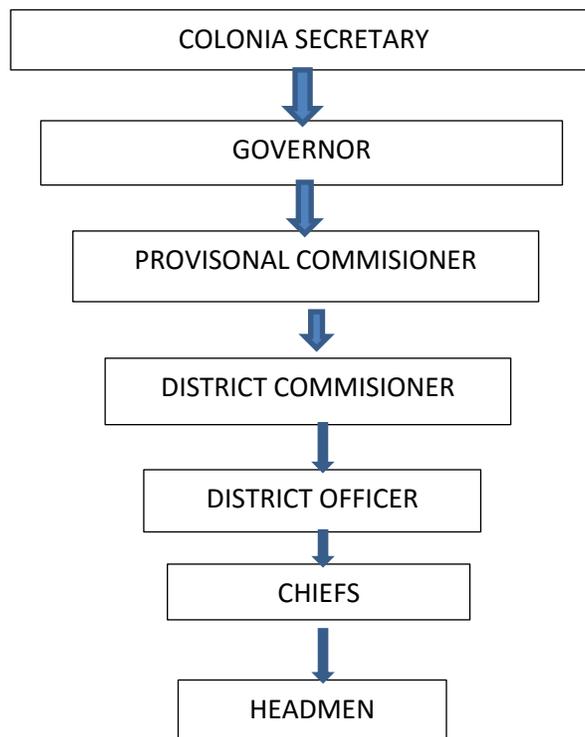
Types of administrative system used

- Indirect rule system (British)
- Direct rule system (German)
- assimilation ————→ association policy (France)

INDIRECT RULE SYSTEM

Indirect rule: was an administrative system which was used by the British to administer the colonial subject and colonies through the use of traditional chief and kings OR was an administrative system in which traditional rulers implemented the colonial policies .the British administrative style was more systematically formulated by an eminent colonial governor by the name of LORD LUGARD who implemented in northern Nigeria from 1900-1906 and spread elsewhere between 1912-1920.in Tanganyika indirect rule started later when Tanganyika was taken and handed to the British after first world war

Area:Uganda,Kenya,Nigeria, southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe),Ghana and Gambia

Structure of British indirect rule

COLONIA SECRETARY

↓

GOVERNOR

↓

PROVISONAL COMMISIONER

↓

DISTRICT COMMISIONER

↓

DISTRICT OFFICER

↓

CHIEFS

↓

HEADMEN

The reasons for introduction of indirect rule

a) Shortage of personnel/lack of enough man power: British had few European officials who could not administer the colonies effectively. The chiefs were highly needed to assist the British

b) Physical difficulties of the colonies: colonialist could not be employed in remote area which had thick forest, tropical disease and lack of transport. They decided to leave the chiefs who were used to the area

c) Language barrier/communication problem; local people could not ba able to communicate with the European because did not know English. Chief were seen as official who could be understood by he local population.

d) To avoid resistance: in a place like Nigeria where were powerful local rulers as the emirs of the Muslim north ,some accommodation had to be made to avoid conflicts

e) The system was cheap economically and strategically: British never used a lot of money to pay them. The government only depended on the chiefs to force the Africans to work and pay tax without incurring large sums of money for collection of tax.

f) The British made preference of indirect rule due to the fact that was suitable technique of governing illiterate masses of Africa.

Effects/weakness of indirect rule

➜ Indirect rule turned the African chiefs to puppets who were used by the British to colonize African societies.

➜ The system created social differences among the African. The chiefs and their families and society were privileged and favoured in education and health than the other ordinary Africans

➜ Indirect rule weakened the traditional administration. The traditional paramount rulers or sultan was no longer the head of the social and political order but subordinate of British overlord

➜ It created tribalism in Africa. Those chief who were given power regarded themselves to be superior to other.

➜ Rise of regional imbalanced: the area which had chief was developed in terms like social services likeschool,hospital and road network.

➜ The system cemented and centralized bureaucracy through the use of thedistrict commissioner which led today local government.

➜ It led to the emergence of a puppet class among the Africans

➜ The system of indirect rule failed to promote the welfare and development of the ordinary people.
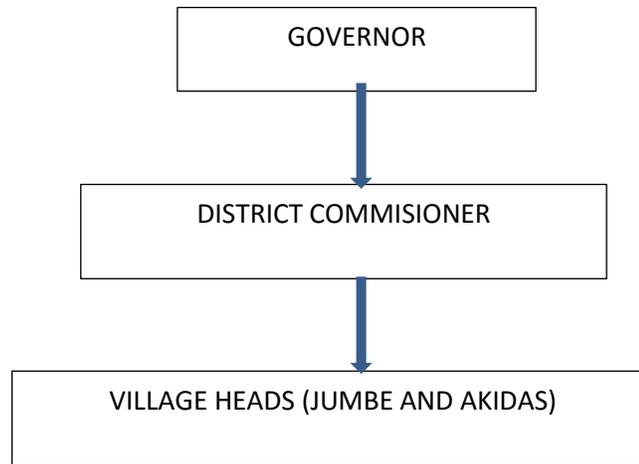
DIRECT RULE

Definition

Direct rule this was a colonial system of administration whereby the colonies were governed by European officials at the top position, Arab akidas and liwalis were at the bottom. This was the ruling used by German in colonies where administrators were appointed in local areas such as Jumbe and Akidas in Tanganyika.

Jumbe's were leaders of clans/small group, his duties were to collect taxes, to administrator laws and prepare people for economic development.

Structure of the direct rule

GOVERNOR

↓

DISTRICT COMMISIONER

↓

VILLAGE HEADS (JUMBE AND AKIDAS)

Reasons for Direct rule

i) It enabled them to be harsh and forced the Africans to produce raw materials, provided cheap labour in plantations and other factors.

ii) They avoided using traditional chiefs who were illiterates and back ward people; they thought that local chiefs could not know to administer people to meet colonial interests.

iii) They didn't trust the local rulers due to revolts of African. They thought that local chiefs could convince majority to resist.

iv) They wanted to enjoy their privilege by taking all posts. They thought that to use local chiefs will be a favour to Africans

COMPARISON AND CONTRASTS BETWEEN INDIRECT RULE AND DIRCT RULE.

Similarities

- ✓ Both systems aimed to exploit Africa and Benefit the colonialist.
- ✓ Both systems used military (coercive powers) to control the colonies they used police, prison, court and army to maintain law and orders.
- ✓ In both systems racial discrimination was encouraged. The whites considered themselves as superior that Africans, therefore Africans race was considered to have lowest status in the colonies.

✓ Both used Africans in their administration indirect rule, indirect rule used local chiefs while direct rule used Jumbes and Akidas.
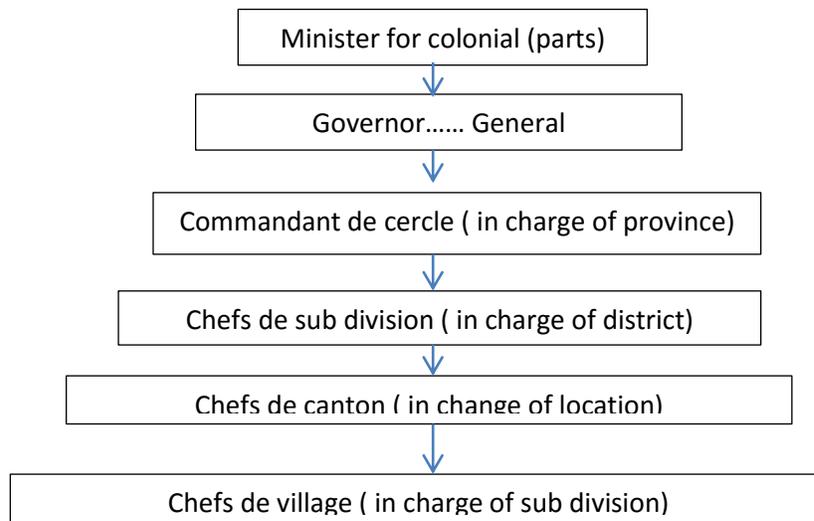
Differences

➤ Indirect rule the British depended on the used local chiefs in administration while direct rule the Germans did not use the local chiefs sent appointed official to rule the local subjects (Jumbes, Akidas and Liwalis).

➤ Indirect rule was cheap while direct rule was expensive. The local chiefs were paid low salaries and it didn't require trainings to mile because they had experience. Jumbes and Akidas were highly paid.

➤ Direct rule system was harsher than indirect rule; direct rule system was more oppressive and humiliative because the Jumbe's and Akida's were recruited outside their locality.

ASSIMILATION POLICY

Assimilation policy refer to the colonial administrative policy which aimed to deculturise Africans and make think and act as the French people. OR is the system which was introduced by French to her colonies with aimed to transforming African in to French citizen.

Hierarchy of France colonial administration

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        Minister for colonial (parts)
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          Governor…… General
                    ↓
   Commandant de cercle ( in charge of province)
                    ↓
   Chefs de sub division ( in charge of district)
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    Chefs de canton ( in change of location)
                    ↓
   Chefs de village ( in charge of sub division)
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Characteristics of assimilation policy

o The laws applicable in France were applied in the territories
o Assimilated African were allowed to participate in general election in Paris
o Assimilated African were allowed to register as French
o The French regarded their colonies as overseas province
o African traditional institution were excluded in French administration
o Assimilated African were given high post of education
o The French integrated the metropole economy with that of the colonies

Qualities of assimilated Africans

- To have been born in any of the communes/municipalities (saint lous,goree,rufisqque and Dakar)
- To have held with merit position in the French service for 10 years.
- To show evidence of good character
- To have military award
- To be able to speak French fluently.

Reasons for the introduction of assimilation policy

- ➤ The French regard their colonies as territories aiming economic exploitation and expansion of French rule.
- ➤ The French revolution of 1789 created France to respected right of man on the principle of liberty, equality and fraternity.
- ➤ Assimilation policy aimed to avoid African resistance against the French government .many Africans could consider themselves as equal with Frenchmen
- ➤ To prepare loyal class of African who will assist them in education, business and administration
- ➤ French cultural superiority. The French thought that the policy would attract Africans to internalize the French culture and language
- ➤ The policy was used an instrument to suppress African primitive tradition
- ➤ The French wanted to prepare a class of Africans that would help them in international conflicts.

Effects of assimilation policy

i) Economic dependence

Although the people of West Africa got their Independence in early 1960's they association. France is their source of market for their crops.

ii) It caused impacts on education system. The system of education used in those countries is still the same as in France.

The French speaking people in West Africa except Guinea still have mentality in many social and economic issues.

iii) The colony was incorporated into the French Republic and regarded as an overseas province of France. The French speaking people in West Africa still have close relationship with the French people than their fellow African countries.

iv) Assimilation policy weakened Islamic religion in West Africa especially in the "quartre commune" where Africans were forced to adopt Christianity.

v) Africans from Senegal were allowed to participate in the political matters of France. For example Blaise Diagne was elected as Deputy Speaker in the French Parliament.

vi) The policy destroyed African traditional Authority and leadership.

Assimilated Africans replaced many of the traditional leaders.

vii) The policy undermined African culture. Many assimilated Africans saw French as superior and embraced at. For example:- French became the official language in the colony.

ASSOCIATION POLICY

Association policy: refers to the French colonial administration system which the colonialist had to respect in culture of her colonial people and allow them to develop independently rather than force them to adopt French civilization and culture.
This policy was adopted in 1945 after French has abandoned assimilation policy.

Causes for the failure of assimilation policy/shift from assimilation to association

➜ The assimilation policy was economically expensive because France realized of spending too much money in educating Africans in schools to acquire their culture. The country was not ready to waste the money of tax payers
➜ The policy was attacked in France by French scholar, politicians and businessmen who brought out their views that the policy could not transform African culture and ways of life.
➜ The policy was not supported by Africans through it insisted on equality but most high ranking job were held by white and Africans remained at the bottom of the government.
➜ They faced criticism from Muslims in west Africa
➜ There was language diversity for Africans had several ethnic groups and language
➜ Shortage of manpower in the production of raw materials
➜ There great cultural difference between the French and Africans such as marriage, religion and belief system.
➜ The policy made African culture inferior so the Africans were not ready about it.

COLONIAL BUREAUCRACY

Colonial bureaucracy was an instrument or apparatus which included the employment of officials to assist in the administration of the colonial states.

Types of colonial bureaucracy

- Armed bureaucracy/colonial military institutions: refers to army and police force. These instruments aimed of maintenance of law, order and security of the colonial state. Example king African riffles KAR in 1902.among its functions
    - To suppressing African resistance
    - Maintenance of security in the colony
    - Preservation of peace
    - Power of arrest
    - Defense of the boundaries and fighting in the different area
    - Collecting information and supervising tax collection
    - To supervise public work
    - To effect land alienation

- Colonial legal institution/civil bureaucracy: refers to the colonial with advising the society, educating receiving people's claims, directing the procedures to be taken and give legal aid. Among of its functions:
    i) To make laws
    ii) To amend laws, acts and ordinances
    iii) To receive and handle peoples claim

Weaknesses of colonial bureaucracy

- Racial discrimination whereby there was no equal treatment between the whites, Asians and Africans
- It defends the status quo of the ruling class.
- It made out of few ruling families like chiefs and their sons
- It was so harsh to the Africans