



THINK MY INDEPENDENCE

NIGERIA



On October 1st 1960, Nigeria is declared independent from Great Britain, and becomes a federal Republic.



# THE BRITISH RULE IN NIGERIA

The British presence in Nigeria began in the late **19th century**.

**Lagos became a colony in 1861**, and as the British made progress on the territory, **protectorates were created**.



In 1914, they amalgamated the protectorates, creating the **colony of Nigeria**. It also was the most populous country in sub-saharan Africa.

Back then, Nigeria was the **world's first producer of palm oil** and other commodities. In **1956**, oil was also **discovered in the Niger Delta**, which also nourished hope for economic growth.





# THE DIVISION OF THE COUNTRY INTO 3 REGIONS

During colonisation, **the country was organised into three regions**, which progressively disposed of their own governments, legislature and governor.

**WEST : MAJORITY OF YORUBAS**

**NORTH : MAJORITY OF IGBOS**

**EAST : HAUSSAS & FULANIS**



These divisions later on **fostered tensions between the different regions of Nigeria**, as national unity was often confronted with ethnic considerations. Inequalities of development between the areas also reinforced frustration.



# CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

In the 1940s, several demands for political reforms led to a series of constitutional changes in Nigeria.

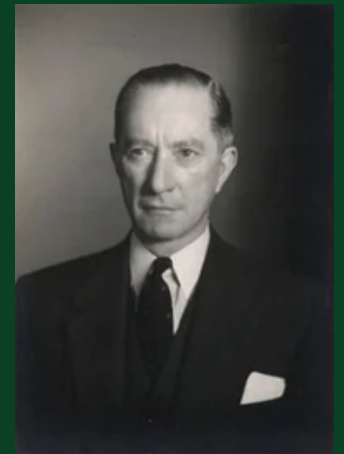


Arthur Richards,  
governor of Nigeria  
from 1943 to 1948

## 1946 - The Richards Constitution

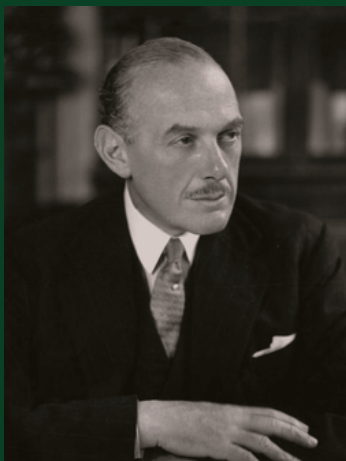
First introduced the concept of regionalism.

John Stuart  
MacPherson,  
governor of  
Nigeria from 1948  
to 1954



## 1951 - The McPherson Constitution

The three regions all had their own legislatures, and a central legislature was created, through the House of representatives



## 1954 - The Lyttelton Constitution

Which marked the first step towards self governance, and officially created the federation.

Oliver Lyttelton, Secretary of  
State for the Colonies, 1951 to  
1954





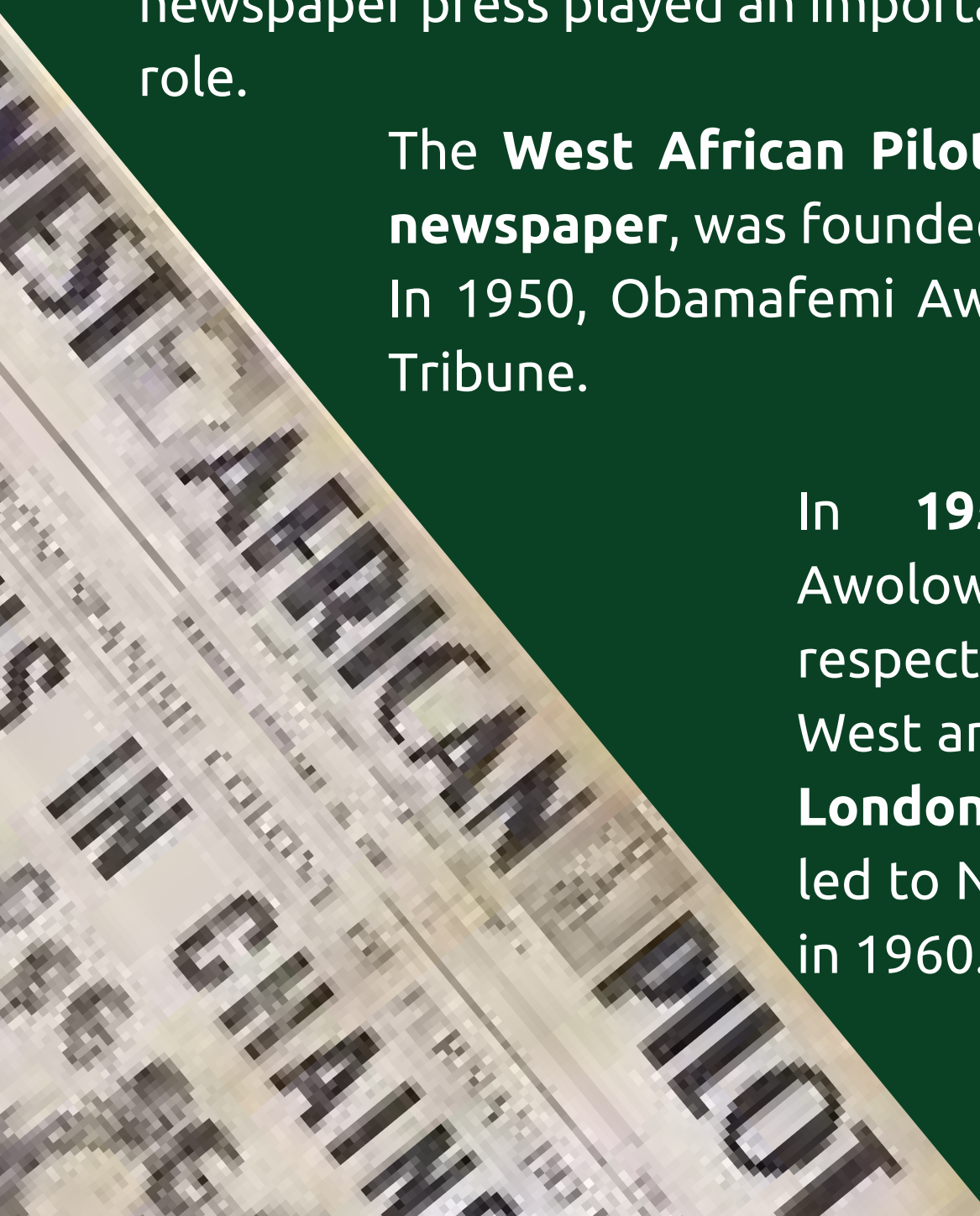
# THE DECOLONIAL MOVEMENT

The decolonial movement in Nigeria was a **non-violent one**, and came through with actions such as **strike actions, newspaper press and propaganda**. The newspaper press played an important role.



The **West African Pilot** for example, a **nationalist newspaper**, was founded in 1937 by Nnamdi Azikiwe. In 1950, Obamafemi Awolowo created the Nigerian Tribune.

In **1957 and 1958**, Azikiwe, Awolowo and Amadou Bello, respectively representing the East, West and North regions went to the **London Constitutional talks**, which led to Nigeria gaining independence in 1960.



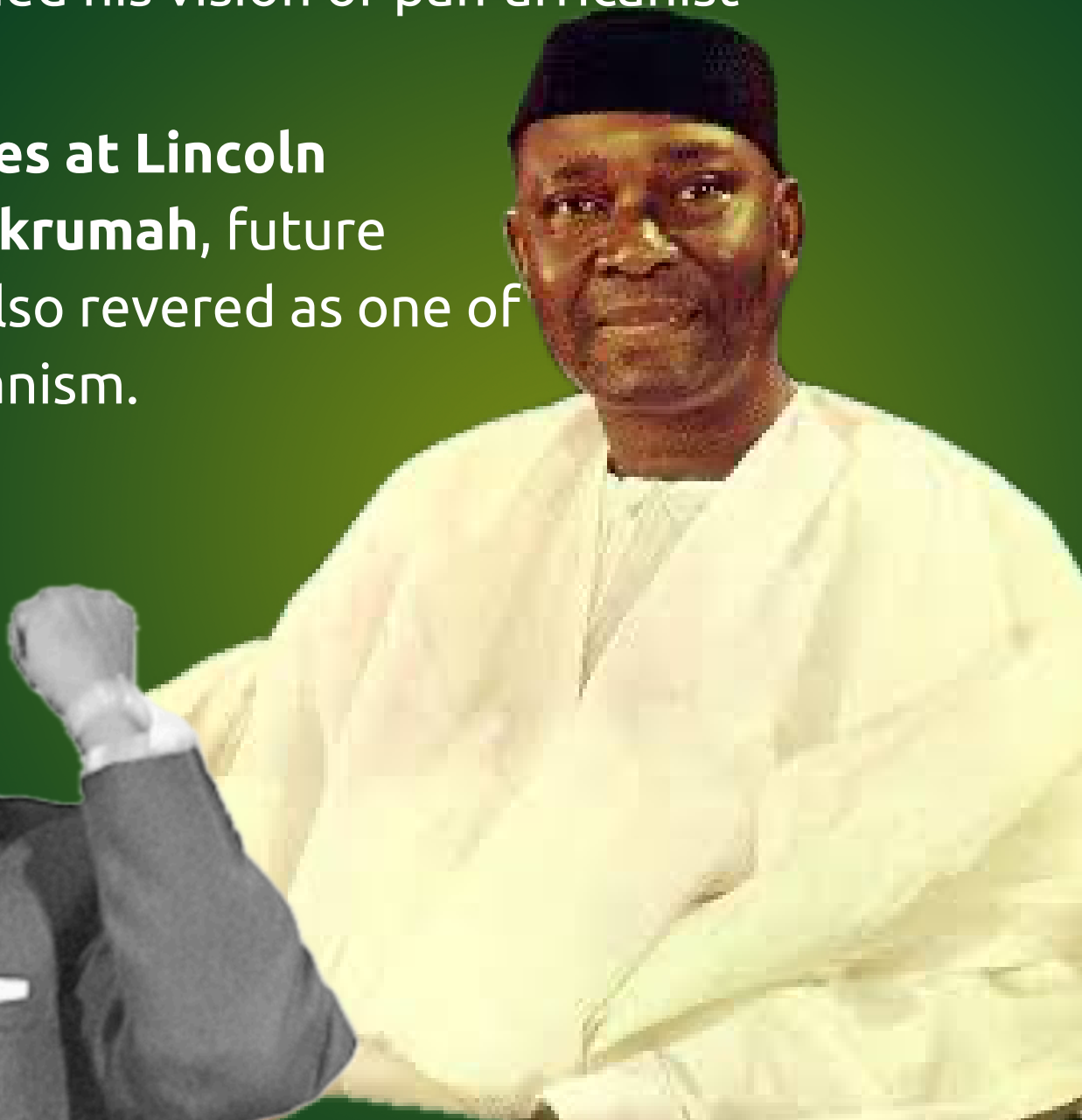


# FIGURES OF INDEPENDENCE OF NIGERIA

One of the most prominent figures in the Nigerian nationalist movement was **Nnamdi Azikiwe**. In 1937, he founded the West African Pilot. He worked alongside others to **mobilize public opinion in favor of independence**.

Azikiwe, also known as « Zik » went to study in the USA, where his experience strengthened his vision of pan-africanist ideology.

**One of his contemporaries at Lincoln University was Kwame Nkrumah**, future president of Ghana, and also revered as one of the founders of pan-africanism.





# TIMELINE

**1914**

A single colony, made of former protectorates, known as Nigeria is created.

**1957**

Nigeria gains self governance.

**1958**

Constitutional conference in London laying the ground for independence.

**1960**

Nigeria becomes independent with Sir Abubakar Tarawa Balewa as its first prime Minister.

**1963**

Nigeria becomes a Republic, with Nnamdi Azikiwe as its first president.




# THINK MY INDEPENDENCE



"For me, Nigeria's independence is an opportunity to reflect on the ideals of freedom enshrined in our Constitution that are the bedrock of our republic.

Our freedoms are under attack, we must stand together, no matter our politics, race or religion and defend them. Our difference, is our strength and our diversity is our unity.

There may be different tongues but let us stand together with one voice for our Motherland. One love always 

Farid, 26 yo