

## **Topic: Federation In Nigeria**

### **Origin of Federalism in Nigeria**

Federalism is also a political concept in which a group of member is bound together by covenant with a governing representative head.

Federalism has been present in Nigeria since the former British colony was reorganized into a federation of three regions in 1946. Regionalism was introduced to the Nigeria system by the Richards Constitution.

Federalism is a system of government in which power is shared between the central and regional governments. It is a political system of government where there is division of power among the three tiers of government (federal, State and the local government).

### **Reason for the Adoption of Federalism in Nigeria.**

1. To protect and preserve the the local independence of every ethnic group in the country.
2. For the purpose of developing all part of the country.
3. Federalism was adopted to form to form a common and stronger government so as to secure the sovereignty of the country.
4. Federalism is adopted in Nigeria because of her multi- ethnicity; therefore only federal system can bring about peaceful co-existence among the different ethnic group.
5. It was also adopted to protect the interest of the minority

### **Structure of Nigeria Federalism**

#### **1960-1966**

Declared itself a republic and replaced the post of Governor-General with the post of President, a national bicameral parliament was established and the country was considered a federation of the three regions. The Mid-Western Region was formed from the Western Region in 1966, and Lagos, the capital, was effectively governed as an unofficial fourth region outside the bounds of the Western Region.

## **1967 -1975**

After the first coup and under the short-lived military government of Aguiyi-Ironsi, the country was reorganized under a central government. Following the counter-coup which resulted in Aguiyi-Ironsi's deposition and assassination, Nigeria was reorganized as a federal country, with three of the regions being divided into newer entities and all first-level subdivisions being renamed as states:

Eastern Region was divided into East-Central (Enugu), Rivers (Port Harcourt), and South-Eastern (Calabar) states; Northern Region was divided into Benue-Plateau (Jos), Kano (Kano), Kwara (Ilorin), North-Central (Kaduna), North-Eastern (Maiduguri), and North-Western (Sokoto) states; Western Region was divided into Lagos (Lagos) and Western (Ibadan) states. Mid-Western and the states of former Eastern Region made a bid to secede from Nigeria as the states of Biafra and Republic of Benin, resulting in the Nigerian Civil War.

## **1976-Till Date**

In 1976, six years after the end of the civil war, the states were further reorganized:

Benue-Plateau state divided into Benue (Makurdi) and Plateau states;  
East-Central state divided into Anambra and Imo (Owerri) states;  
Federal Capital Territory (Abuja) formed from parts of Niger and Plateau states;  
North-Eastern state divided into Bauchi (Bauchi), Borno, and Gongola (Yola) states;  
Niger (Minna) state split from Sokoto;  
Western state divided into Ogun (Abeokuta), Ondo (Akure), and Oyo states  
State boundaries and names were also reorganized.  
Akwa Ibom state split from Cross River;  
Katsina state split from Kaduna  
Abia State split from Imo;  
Bendel State divided into Delta and Edo;  
Enugu State split from Anambra;

Gongola State divided into Adamawa and Taraba;  
Jigawa State split from Kano;  
Kebbi State split from Sokoto;  
Kogi State formed from parts of Benue and Kwara;  
Osun State split from Oyo;  
Yobe State split from Borno.  
Bayelsa State was split from Rivers;  
Ebonyi State was formed from parts of Abia and Enugu;  
Ekiti State was split from Ondo;  
Gombe State was split from Bauchi;  
Nasarawa State was split from Plateau;  
Zamfara State was split from Sokoto.

### **Features of Nigeria Federation**

1. There is constitutional division of powers between the levels of government. In Nigeria, the constitutional powers are divided into exclusive, concurrent and residual list. Only the federal government can legislate on the exclusive list which includes defense, police affairs, fiscal and monetary policies. Both the federal and state government could legislate on concurrent list which include education, etc. it is only the state that is competent to legislate on the residual list which contains such items like land, chieftaincy titles, etc.
2. A federal state has a bicameral legislature, i.e. two houses of legislature.
3. The constitution of a federal state is supreme, i.e. sovereignty can only be located in the constitution.
4. The constitution of a federal state is often written and rigid.
5. A federal state is heterogeneous and geographically large.
6. Dual loyalty is entertained in a federal state. For instance, a Nigerian can at the same time be a Lagosian.
7. There is a body charged with fostering good relations among different levels of government.