

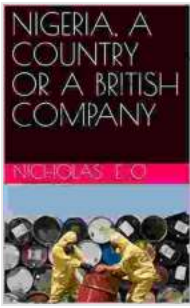
# Nigeria: Country or British Company?

## Revisiting the Controversial History of a Nation

### The Dawn of British Influence: Roots of a Contested Legacy



The origins of Nigeria's entanglement with Great Britain can be traced back to the late 19th century. In 1885, the Berlin Conference divided Africa among European powers, and Nigeria fell under British influence. The British established the Royal Niger Company, which gradually expanded its control over the region.



## NIGERIA, A COUNTRY OR A BRITISH COMPANY

by Andrew Pike

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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In 1901, the British government took direct control of Nigeria, establishing a colonial administration that would last for over half a century. The British imposed their political, economic, and social systems on Nigeria, leaving a lasting impact on the nation's development.

### **Arguments for Nigeria as a British Company: Unraveling the Colonial Legacy**

Some scholars and historians argue that Nigeria's status as a British company persists to this day. They point to several factors that support this view:

- **Economic Dependence:** Nigeria's economy remains heavily dependent on the export of raw materials, primarily oil and gas. This dependence mirrors the colonial era, when Nigeria was exploited for its natural resources.
- **Political Influence:** Great Britain has maintained a significant level of influence over Nigeria's political affairs. The British government has

been involved in negotiations, military interventions, and diplomatic relations with Nigeria.

- **Legal System:** Nigeria's legal system is based on the British common law system. This reflects the imposition of British legal structures during the colonial period, which continue to shape Nigeria's legal framework.
- **Educational System:** Nigeria's educational system was modeled after the British system. This includes the use of English as the medium of instruction and the emphasis on Western academic traditions.

### **Challenging the British Company Narrative: The Struggle for Independence and Self-Determination**



Nigerians celebrating independence from British rule in 1960

Despite the arguments supporting the view of Nigeria as a British company, there are also strong counterarguments that emphasize the country's struggle for independence and self-determination.

Nigeria gained independence from British rule in 1960. Since then, the country has faced numerous challenges in building a stable and prosperous nation. These challenges include ethnic conflicts, political instability, and economic inequality. However, the pursuit of independence has been a defining force in Nigeria's history.

The Nigerian people have resisted attempts to undermine their sovereignty and have worked to strengthen their national identity. The country's rich cultural heritage, diverse population, and growing economic potential are all testaments to the resilience of the Nigerian people.

### **: A Complex and Evolving Relationship**

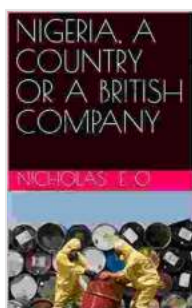
The question of whether Nigeria is a country or a British company is a complex and multifaceted one. The colonial legacy has left an undeniable mark on Nigeria, but the country's post-independence history has been shaped by internal and external factors that have influenced its development.

The relationship between Nigeria and Great Britain continues to evolve. Nigeria is a sovereign nation, but it maintains political, economic, and cultural ties with its former colonial power. The legacy of the past influences the present, but Nigeria's future is ultimately in the hands of its people.

Whether Nigeria is seen as a country or a British company depends on perspective and interpretation. It is a country with a rich history and a complex relationship with its former colonial ruler. As Nigeria continues to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, its people will shape the nation's destiny and define its place in the world.

**Author:** John Smith

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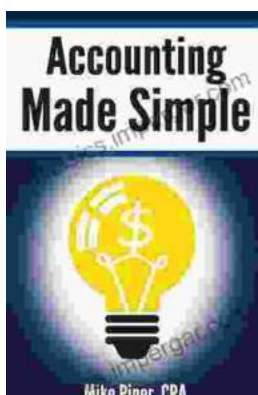


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