

The Challenges of 190 Years of the Spanish versus British Pre-Colonial and Colonial Manipulations of Equatorial Guinea/ Fernando Po / the Bight of Biafra 1778-1968

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Abstract: The main focus of this paper is to illustrate how the Spanish gained control of Equatorial Guinea during the late 18th and what prompted the British to mark their presence briefly for the continuation of Spanish lucrative imperialistic ambitions in the African Gulf of Guinea. That those European challenges in the zone lasted till the Second half of the 20th Century brings out the main pre-colonial and colonial agents which were appointed by the Spanish and British Monarchical and Republican Governments with a total of 110 appointed in different portfolios to manipulate the destiny of the Africans and looted resources for their home countries in their mission of the so-called civilization of the Black Africans in the forested zones. This is because the young generation of African historians who are shortsighted and thinking of demanding colonial crimes from their main Western European actors of the time have to know which of their agents were appointed and more research can be done on periodical considerations in order to rate the degree of atrocities and colonial crimes committed coupled with the looting of African extracted natural resources for the construction of Europe to the detriment of the African countries and Kingdoms they subdue even larger than their homeland. In 1778, the Spanish gained control of Equatorial Guinea via the Treaty of El Pardo which was an agreement between the Spain Empire and the Kingdom of Portugal. From 1778 to 1810 Spain directed Spanish Guinea through the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, based in present-day Argentina. This marked the effective beginning of Spanish strength in the African territory and the British once more passed through Fernando Po, linking to the Bight of Biafra to show their presence in this part of the Gulf of Guinea in the name of British suzerainty. The scrutinized of diverse specialized sources and documents enable us to engage on historical method in our analyses using clear statistical table to censor European presence in the territory until 1968.

Keywords: Challenges, Spanish, British, Manipulations, Agents, Imperialism, Monarchical, King.

INTRODUCTION

The Guinean region is a traditional name for the region that lies along the Gulf of Guinea. It stretches north through the forested tropical regions and ends at the Sahel. The Guinean Forests of West Africa is a belt of tropical moist broadleaf forests along the coast, running in the west from Sierra Leone and Guinea through Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana and Togo, ending at the Sanaga River of Cameroon in the east. The Upper Guinean forests and Lower Guinean forests are divided by the Dahomey Gap, a region of savanna and dry forest in Togo and Benin. The forests are a few hundred kilometres inland from the Atlantic Ocean coast on the southern part of West Africa. Pre-colonial history. The first inhabitants of the region that is now Equatorial Guinea are believed to have been Pygmies, of whom only isolated pockets remain in

northern Río Muni. Bantu migrations between the 17th and 19th centuries brought the coastal groups and later the Fang. Elements of the latter may have generated the Bubi (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Equatorial_Guinea). In 1844 the Spanish made a second effort at effective occupation of Fernando Po, and their first exploration of the mainland was carried out in the two decades ending in 1877. Meanwhile, the Spanish had expelled the British Baptists from Fernando Po in 1858, and in 1879 they began to use it as a penal settlement for Cubans. Following the Spanish-American War (1898), Spanish Guinea remained ([www.britannica.com > place > Equatorial-Guinea](http://www.britannica.com/place/Equatorial-Guinea)). However, the last Spanish colony to claim independence from Spain in 1968 was a territory in West Africa—Equatorial Guinea—a nation-state where Spanish still serves as the official language.

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A few years before Spanish Guinea's independence in 1968, exports per capita were the highest in Africa. Moreover, this little known Spanish colony. (www.europenowjournal.org › 2018/02/28 › a-forgotten). From 1960 to 1968, Spain tried a system of partial decolonisation to keep the province within the Spanish territorial system, which failed due to continued anti-colonial activity by Guineans. On 12 October 1968, Spain conceded the independence of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (en.wikipedia.org › wiki › Spanish Guinea).

The Spanish Empire, also known as the Hispanic Monarchy or the Catholic Monarchy during the early modern period, was a colonial empire governed by Spain and its predecessor states between 1492 and 1976. One of the largest empires in history, it was, in conjunction with the Portuguese, the first to usher the European Age of Discovery and achieve a global scale, controlling vast portions of the Americas, territories in Western Europe, Africa, and various islands in Oceania and the Pacific. It was one of the world's most powerful empires of the early modern period, becoming known as "the empire on which the sun never sets", and reached its maximum extent in the 18th century (History of Equatorial Guinea). The Spanish colony in the Guinea region was established in 1778, by the Treaty of El Pardo between the Spanish Empire and the Portuguese Empire. Between 1778 and 1810, Spain administered the territory of Equatorial Guinea via its colonial Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, based in Buenos Aires (in present-day Argentina). From 1827 to 1843, the United Kingdom had a base on Bioko to combat the continuing Atlantic slave trade conducted by Spain and illegal traders. Based on an agreement with Spain in 1843, Britain moved its base to its own colony of Sierra Leone in West Africa. In 1844, on restoration of Spanish sovereignty, it became known as the "*Spanish territory in the Gulf of Guinea*". (Fernando Po", *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 1911).

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1986). By the treaty of Paris in 1900, Spain was left with the continental enclave of Río Muni, 26,000 km² of the 300,000 stretching east to the Ubangi River, which the Spaniards had previously claimed. The mainland received significant attention from Spain only after the Spanish Civil War (1936–39). In 1959 the status of Spanish Guinea was changed, and the region was reorganized into two provinces of overseas Spain, each of which was placed under a civil governor. The citizens, including the Africans, were granted the same rights as those enjoyed by the citizens of Spain. In 1963 a measure of economic and administrative autonomy for the two provinces—which were henceforth known as Equatorial Guinea—was agreed on by plebiscite. The movement toward independence began to take shape at the end of 1967. Early the following year the Spanish government suspended autonomous political control and, with the subsequent approval of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), proposed that a national referendum be held to approve the new constitution. The constitution was overwhelmingly approved on August 11 and was followed by parliamentary elections in September and by the proclamation of independence on October 12, 1968.

1. Brief Presentation of Spanish Guinea as Pull Factor of Spanish and British Prolong Imperialism in the Lucrative Zones of the Gulf of Guinea

This section deals with two main issues in relations to the challenges of Exploration, Expropriation and Exploitation (3Es) ambitions of Western European imperialism across the African Gulf of Guinea with the highlights of conflicting interests and agreement of the two Western European imperialist great powers in consideration of fertile landscape with natural and human resources they were in needs in their pre-colonial and colonial ambitions.

1.1. Considerable Landscape of Execution of 3Es Agenda

Equatorial Guinea is a Central African country located on the west coast of Africa Gulf of Guinea. It consists of Río Muni (also known as Continental Equatorial Guinea), on the continent, and five islands (known collectively as insular Equatorial Guinea): Bioko (formerly Fernando Po), Corisco, Great Elobey (Elobey Grande), Little Elobey (Elobey Chico), and Annobón (Pagalu). Equatorial Guinea comprises of two portions– the mainland and the insular. The mainland Río Muni is surrounded by Gabon on the south and east and Cameroon on the north. Río Muni also includes several minute islands–Elobey Chico, Corisco and Elobey Grande. Bata is the administrative capital of the mainland. Formerly a colony of Spain with the name Spanish Guinea. The capital is Malabo, on Bioko. Continental Equatorial Guinea is a roughly rectangular territory bounded by Cameroon to the north and Gabon to the east and south. Near the coast are the small islands of Corisco and Great and Little Elobey. Bioko, by far the largest of the islands,

lies off the coast of Cameroon in the Bight of Biafra. Annobón, a volcanic island, lies south of the Equator and almost 400 miles (640 km) to the southwest of Bioko. (René Pélissier, online). The coast of Río Muni, the continental portion of the country, consists of a long stretch of beach with low cliffs toward the south. A coastal plain about 12 miles (20 km) wide abuts the coastal hills, which lead to inland plateaus (called *mesetas* in Spanish) that rise toward the frontier with Gabon. There are several ranges of hills. The central range divides the Mbini (Benito) River basin to the north from the southern basin of the Utamboni (Mitèmboni) River. The Niefang-Mikomeseng range north of the Mbini River is somewhat lower. All these ranges form segments of the Cristal Mountains in Gabon. The Mbini River (known as the Woleu River in Gabon) runs generally from east to west through central Río Muni; it is nonnavigable except for the first 12 miles (19 km) inland. To the north the Campo River (called the Ntem in French-speaking Africa) marks part of the frontier with Cameroon. The Utamboni River flows through the south. To the southwest the Muni is not itself a river but the estuary of various rivers of Gabon and southern Equatorial Guinea. To the east the de facto border with Gabon follows the meandering course of the Kié (Kyé) River, rather than the legal frontier at latitude 11° 20' E. The rivers of mainland Equatorial Guinea provide limited hydroelectric power generation and waterpower at some lumbering sites (United States Department of State).

The coastal plain is overlaid by sedimentary deposits. The hinterland is composed primarily of ancient metamorphic rocks that have undergone a lengthy process of leaching and erosion, so that the resulting soils are relatively infertile. The main island, Bioko, is about 45 miles (72 km) long and 22 miles (35 km) wide. Its extinct volcanic cones, crater lakes, and rich lava soils form a contrast with the landscape of the mainland. In the north Santa Isabel Peak (Basile Peak), an extinct volcano, soars to a height of 9,869 feet (3,008 metres). In the centre of the island, Moca Peak and the Moca Heights present an alpine type of landscape. (René Pélissier, online). The southern part of the island, remote and scarcely developed, consists of the Gran Caldera range, which is rugged and indented by torrents and crater lakes. Bioko's coast is largely inhospitable, consisting for the most part of a cliff about 60 feet (20 metres) high, broken occasionally by small inlets and beaches. The southern coast is very steep and dangerous to shipping; San Antonio de Ureca, located along this stretch, is among the most isolated settlements on the island. Malabo, located on the northern coast, has a relatively good harbour, built on the partially sunken rim of a volcano. The Musola River and other torrents are exploited for hydroelectric power. Annobón is an isolated fragment of the country, about 93 miles (150 km) southwest of the island of São Tomé in Sao Tome and Principe and about 400 miles (650

km) southwest of Bioko. Like the latter, it is a volcanic island but is less elevated, consisting of a conglomeration of cones, including Mount Santa Mina and Mount Quioveo. The highest elevation is about 2,200 feet (670 metres). The small, rugged island is not quite 4 miles (6 km) long by 2 miles (3 km) wide. (United States Department of State). The insular consists of Bioko formerly named Fernando Pó and Annobón; a volcanic province. The country possesses important natural resources such as petroleum, uranium, manganese, timber, fish and some unexploited deposits of gold. (U.N Standing Advisory Committee, 1997).

1.2 Conflicting Interests and Agreement of the Two European Imperialist Great Powers

In the late 19th Century, Spanish settlers established cacao farms to generate income. The Spanish oversaw a base in Bioko which was initiated by the United Kingdom. In an agreement drafted between the UK and Spain, the UK moved its base to Sierra Leone. The base in Bioko was renamed Spanish Territory of the Gulf of Guinea. In 1778, the Spanish gained control of Equatorial Guinea via the Treaty of El Pardo. The treaty was an agreement between the Spain Empire and the Kingdom of Portugal. From 1778 to 1810 Spain directed Spanish Guinea through the Viceroyalty of the Río de la Plata, based in present-day Argentina. In 1900 via the Treaty of Paris, the Spanish remained in control of Río Muni; leaving Spain with control of just that portion of Guinea. During 1926 to 1959, the monarchy of Spain rejoined Bioko and Río Muni calling it the colony of Spanish Guinea. The economy thrived on the growing and sale of coffee, cacao and logging. Spanish Guinea endured three segments of decolonization. From 1946 to 1959, the Portuguese attempted to reclaim the stake it previously held in the country; its status went from colony to province. From 1960 to 1968, the Spanish partially decolonized the country while keeping some control; the plan was thwarted by the Guineans. (Farida Dawkins, 2018). The island of Bioko (formerly Fernando Po) was sighted by the Portuguese explorer Fernão do Pó, probably in 1472. At first it was called Formosa ("Beautiful"). Annobón was probably sighted by Ruy de Sequeira on a New Year's Day (www.britannica.com > history-of-Equatorial-Guinea). The pygmies, or small people, were the first known inhabitants of Equatorial Guinea before Bioko Island was discovered by Portuguese explorer Fernando Po in 1671. The island was named after him and, together with Annobon, was colonized three years later. They remained under Portuguese control until they were ceded to Spain in 1778(www.studycountry.com > guide > GQ-history).

Moreover, this little known Spanish colony was the fifth largest producer of cocoa on the continent, a surprising status given its size compared to its neighboring rivals: Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, or Cameroon. During the second half of the 15th Century,

while searching for a path to China through the Atlantic, Spanish and Portuguese explorers quickly realized that several islands that they encountered on the way provided an ideal ground for planting highly lucrative sugar cane or for accessing timber. Slave labor was key to this master plan with most of the captives being brought from the West African mainland. In 1778, the Spanish Crown took possession over Fernando Po from the Portuguese with the aim of developing an aggressive presence in the West African slave trading networks. At the time, Cuba was slowly yet steadily becoming a sugar plantation colony, a process that was accompanied by a growing demand for slave labor. However, the Spanish failed to establish a

strong base here for the same reasons that the Portuguese had in the previous three centuries. The Crown's investment in the island was also inconsistent. (Adriana Chira).1844 - Spanish settled in what became the Province of Rio Muni as the mainland of what later became Equatorial Guinea. In 1904 - Fernando Po and Rio Muni become the Western African Territories, later renamed Spanish Guinea. Under Spanish colonial rule for most of the modern era, Equatorial Guinea gained independence in 1968. At the time of independence, Equatorial Guinea had one of the highest per capita incomes and the highest literacy rates in Africa (United States Department of State, Office of the Historian, Foreign Service Institute).

Map-I: Location of Equatorial Guinea in Central African States



Sources: Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. Online, May 25, 2022.

Map-2: Location of Equatorial Guinea in the African Gulf of Guinea



Source: Piracy and Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea - Al Jazeera ...studies.aljazeera.net/en/reports/.../2012612123210113333.html, online May 25, 2022.

2. Presentation of Principal Diplomatic Agents of 3Es as Facilitators of Pre-Colonial and Colonial Manipulations

This section deals with a total of 110 pre-colonial and colonial agents appointed by the Spanish Monarchies and Presidents for the effective management of 3Es with the British presence felt in the area of Fernando Po, linking to the Bight of Biafra in the Nigerian colonial administration. It brings out the names of monarchies and presidents within the period of study as seen on the four tables below.

2.1 Illustration of Hegemonic Pre-colonial and Colonial Actors in the Spanish Sphere of Influence in the Gulf of Guinea

In fact, there were 31 Spanish pre-colonial representatives beginning with the ranks of Governor appointed in 1778 known as Felipe de los Santos Toroy Freyre, conde de Argelejo and ended with Governor Antonio Canoy Prieto who was appointed in 1883 and controlled till 28 December 1884 barely one month as the Berlin Colonial Conference on Africa was organized in November of the same year. Others were appointed by the Spanish Monarchies as Assistant Governors. Within that period, the British suzerainty was felt from 6 agents between 1827 and 1858 having the ranks of Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. From the official recognition of the Spanish as the main colonial master of Spanish Guinea at the end of the Berlin Colonial Conference held in Germany under the Chairmanship of the then German Chancellor, Otto Von Bismarck, Spain took the challenge to appoint 73 colonial representatives between 1884 and 1968 beginning with Waldo Pérez Cossio as A.G and ending with Víctor Suances Díaz del Río as Commissioner-General who witnessed the declaration of independence in 1968 with the name Republic of Equatorial Guinea. It should be noted that 7 Spanish monarchies played key role between 1759 and

1873 as Kings of the Spanish Kingdom before the birth of the first Spanish Republic marking the end of monarchical orders. Hence from 1874 when Spain moved from a Kingdom to a Republic till 1968 when independence was granted to the former colony, 4 outstanding presidents appointed Republican diplomatic agents who effectively masterminded the activities of 3Es in the African Gulf of Guinea in the lands of the Equatorial Guineans. Details about the names of different actors of pre-colonial and colonial agents with changing portfolios are well indicated on the four tables below.

List of abbreviations used on tables

- G: Governor
- A.G: Acting Governor
- N.R: Nationalist Rebel in Fernando Po
- R.D: Republican, in Dissidence in Río Muni Sub-governor
- C.G: Commissioner-General
- S: Superintendent
- A.S: Acting Superintendent

Some specific focus on European imperialist confusions and conflicting ambitions

- First Phase of Spanish Suzerainty 1778-1827 : Pre-Colonial Era
- Second Phase of Spanish Suzerainty in the Pre-Colonial Era 1858-1884
- Spanish Assumption of Her Colonial Phase 1885-1968
- Self-Rule as Equatorial Guinea 1964-1968

British Suzerainty 1827-1858: Pre-Colonial Era: Superintendents and Governors of Fernando Pó (1849–1855 also British Consuls of the Bight of Biafra -Nigeria)

Table-1: Thirty one Spanish Pre-colonial Agents in the Moderation of Exploration, Expropriation and Exploitation of Spanish Suzerainty over Equatorial Guinea

No.	Names of pre-colonial agents	Period in office	Portfolio
1	Felipe de los Santos Toro y Freyre, conde de Argelejo	24/10/1778 - 14 /11/ 1778	G
2	Joaquín Primo de Rivera y Pérez de Acales	14/11/ 1778 -30 /12/ 1781	G
3	Vacancy	30 /12/ 1781 -27/10/ 1827	----
4	Carlos de Chacón y Michelenaes	27 /05/1858 - 1 /09/1859	G
5	José de la Gándara y Navarro,	01 /09/1859 -30 /06/1862	G
6	Pantaleón López de la Torre Ayllón	30 /06/1862 - 1 /08/1865	G
7	Francisco Osorio	01/08/ 1865 -31 /08/1865	A.G
8	Félix Recio	31 /08/1865 -18 /09/ 1865	A.G
9	José Gómez de Barreda y Ruiz de Mazmela	18 /09/1865 - 01 /04/1868	G
10	Félix Recio	01/04/ 1868 -9 /08/1868	A.G
11	Joaquín de Souza y Gallardo	9 /08/1868 -18 /07/ 1869	G
12	Clemente Ramos	21 /08/1869 - 11 /09/1869	A.G
13	Manuel Vial	11/09/ 1869 - 21 /01/ 1870	A.G
14	Zoilo Sánchez Ocaña	21 /01/1870 -11 /06/1870	G
15	Manuel Vial	11 /06/ 1870 - 16 /08/1870	A.G
16	Felipe C. Argüelles	16 /08/1870 -14 /02/ 1871	A.G

No.	Names of pre-colonial agents	Period in office	Portfolio
17	Federico Anrich Santamaríaes	14 /02/1871 – 28/04/1871	G
18	Felipe C. Argüelles	28 /04/1871 - 01 /10/1871	A.G
19	Antonio Vivar	01 /10/1871 - 23 /06/1872	A.G
20	Pedro Osa	23/06/ 1872 -5 /12/ 1872	A.G
21	Ignacio García Tudela	5 /12/1872 -22 /11/1874	G
22	Jacobo Varela	22 /11/1874 – 22/01/ 1875	A.G
23	Diego Santisteban y Chamorro	22 /01/ 1875 -13 /02/1877	G
24	Alejandro Arias Salgado	13 /02/ 1877 - 01 /02/ 1879	G
25	Luis de la Pila	01 /02/1879 - 21 /04/1879	A.G
26	Juan Aguilar	21 /04/1879 - 20 /06/1879	A.G
27	José Montes de Oca y Aceñero,	20 /06/1879 - 24 /07/1879	A.G
28	Enrique Santaló y Sáenz de Tejada	24 /07/ 1879 - 03 /09/1880	G
29	José Montes de Oca y Aceñero	3 /09/1880 - 24 /01/1883	G
30	Francisco Romera	24 /01/1883 - 25 /01/1883	A.G
31	Antonio Canoy Prieto	25/01/ 1883 - 28 /12/1884	G

Source: Compiled by us with information from different documents: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: List of colonial governors of Spanish Guinea – Wikipedia *en.wikipedia.org* › wiki › List_of_colonial_govern...

This is a list of European (*Spanish and British*) colonial administrators responsible for the territory of *Spanish Guinea*, an area equivalent to modern-day. Consulted on January, May 2022.

Table-2: Seventy Three Spanish appointed Diplomatic Agents of effective colonization of Spanish Guinea 1884-1968

No	Names of main Colonial Agents	Period in Colonial Office	Portfolio
1	Waldo Pérez Cossio	28 /12 / 1884 – 28/01/ 1885	A.G
2	José Montes de Oca y Aceñero	28/01/ 1885 - 01 /10/ 1887	G
3	Juan de la Rocha	01 /10/1887 - 8 /11/1887	A.G
4	Luis Navarro	08 /11/ 1887 -4 /02/1888	G
5	José María Ibarra y Autrán	04 /02/1888 - 20 /04/ 1888	A.G
6	Antonio Morena Guerra	20 /04/ 1888 - 21 /04/ 1890	G
7	José María Ibarra y Autrán	21 /04/ 1890 - 4 /11/ 1890	G
8	José Gómez de Barreda	4 /11/1890 - 22 /12/1890	G
9	José de Barrasa y Fernández de Castro	22 /12/ 1890 - 24 /12/1891	G
10	Antonio Martínez	24 /12/ 1891 - 10 /04/1892	G
11	Eulogio Merchán y Rico	10 /04/1892 -12/05/ 1893	G
12	Dionisio Shelly	12 /05/ 1893 - 17 /05/1893	A. G
13	Pio Porcell	17 /05/1893 - 01 /06/1893	A.G
14	Dionisio Shelly	01 /06/ 1893 - 29 /07/ 1893	A.G
15	José de la Puente y Bassavé	29 /07/ 1893 - 16 /02/1895	G
16	Agustín Cuesta	16 /02/1895 -21/07/ 1895	G
17	Adolfo de España y Gómez de Humarán	21/07/ 1895 - 19 /05/1897	G
18	Armando Pontes	19 /05/1897 -19 /06/ 1897	A.G
19	Mateo Mezquida	19 /06/ 1897 -21 /07/ 1897	A.G
20	Manuel Rico	21 /07/ 1897- 19 /10/ 1897	G
21	José Rodríguez de Vera	19 /10/1897 -07 /11/1899	G
22	Francisco Guarro	07 /11/1899 - 30 /11/ 1899	A.G
23	Guillermo Lacave	30 /11/ 1899 -12 /12/1899	A.G
24	Francisco de Paula Dueñas Martínez	14 /12/ 1899 - 03 /03/ 1901	G
25	José de Ibarra y Autrán	03 /03/ 1901 - 25 /02/1905	G
26	José Gómez de la Serna	25 /02/1905 - 26 /03/1906	G
27	Diego Saavedra y Magdalena	26 /03/1906 -20 /09/1906	G
28	Ángel Barrera y Luyando	20 /09/1906 – 18/02/ 1907	G
29	Luis Ramos Izquierdo y Vivar	18 /02/ 1907 - 17 /08/ 1908	G
30	Luis Dabán	17 /08/1908 - 30 /09/ 1908	A.G
31	Diego Saavedra y Magdalena	30 /09/ 1908 - 19 /10/1908	A.G
32	José Centaño Anchorenaca	19 /10/1908 - 10 /09/1910	G
33	Ángel Barrera y Luyando	10 /09/ 1910 - 08 /02/1924	G
34	Carlos Tovar de Revilla	08 /02/1924 -08 /02/1926	G

No	Names of main Colonial Agents	Period in Colonial Office	Portfolio
35	Miguel Núñez de Prados	8 /02/ 1926 - 01 /03/ 1931	G
36	Adolfo García Amilivia	01/01/ 1928 – 14/08/ 1928	A.G
37	José Domínguez Manresa	02 /08/ 1930 - 01 /03/1931	A.G
38	José Domínguez Manresa	20 /04/ 1931 - 01 /11/1931	A.G
39	Gustavo de Sostoa y Sthamer	01 /11/1931 - 14 /11/ 1932	G
40	Pedro Agustín González Ordóñez	14 /11/ 1931 – 15/11/1932	A.G
41	José Domínguez Manresa	15/11/ 1932 - 10 /07/ 1933	A.G
42	Estanislao Lluesma García	10 /07/ 1933 - 01 /09/1934	G
43	José Domínguez Manresa	01 /09/1934 - 05 /09/1935	A.G
44	Ángel Manzaneque Feltrer	5/09/ 1934 - 10 /12/1935	G
45	Luis Serrano Maranges	15 /06/ 1935 - 10 /12/1935	A.G
46	Luis Sánchez Guerra y Sáinz	10 /12/1935 -25 /09/ 1936	G
47	Estanislao Lluesma García	15/09/ 1936 - 25 /09/1936	Absent as G
48	Carlos Vázquez Ruiz	25 /03/1936 -12 /04/ 1936	A.G
49	Luis Serrano Maranges	25 /09/1936 - 01 /01/1937	A.G /N.R
50	Miguel Hernández Porcel	25 /09/1936 - 14 /10/ 1936	A.G / R.D
51	Carlos Vázquez Ruiz	12 /12/ 1936 - 14 /12/ 1936	A.G
52	Manuel de Mendivil y Elíoes	01/01/ 1937 - 15 /12/1937	G
53	Juan Fontán y Lobé	15 /12/ 1937 -5 /03/1942	G
54	Natividad Calzada y Castañeda	12 /06/ 1938 - 21 /09/1938	A.G
55	Víctor Suances Díaz del Río	30 /08/1939 - 15 /12/1939	A.G
56	Fernando González Lavín	22 /08/1940 – 16/09/ 1940	A.G
57	Víctor Suances Díaz del Río	16 /09/1940 - 17 /05/1941	A.G
58	Pedro Cano Manuel Aubarede	14 /08/ 1941 - 13 /10/ 1941	A.G
59	José Luis Soraluze Irastorza	13 /10/1941 - 05 /03/1942	A.G
60	Mariano Alonso Alonso	05 /03/1942 – 12/02/ 1944	G
61	Rufino Pérez Barrueco	18 /10/ 1943 - 12 /02/ 1944	A.G
62	Juan María Bonelli Rubio	12 /02/1944 - 6 /03/1949	G
63	Joaquín Bosch de la Barrera	13 /09/ 1944 – 2/03/ 1945	A.G
64	Joaquín Bosch de la Barrera	09 /08/ 1946 -22 /02/ 1947	A.G
65	Carlos Rodríguez Solano y Dueñas	12 /04/1948 - 08 /08/1948	A.G
66	Pedro Grajera Torres	6 /03/1949 -04/ 1949	A.G
67	Faustino Ruíz González	04/1949 - 21 /02/ 1962	G
68	Hermenegildo Altozano Moraleda	11/1953 - 1954	A.G
69	Francisco Núñez Rodríguez	21 /02/1962 - 01 /01/ 1964	G
70	Francisco Núñez Rodríguez	01 /01 1964 - 10 /03/1964	G
71	Pedro Latorre Alcubierre	10/03/ 1964 – 07/1964	G
72	Pedro Latorre Alcubierre	07/ 1964 – 08/ 1966	C.G
73	Víctor Suances Díaz del Río	08/ 1966 - 12 /10/ 1968	C.G
	Independence as Republic of Equatorial Guinea	12/10/1968	

Sources: Compiled by us with information from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: List of colonial governors of Spanish Guinea – Wikipedia [en.wikipedia.org › wiki › List_of_colonial_govern...](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_colonial_governors_of_Spanish_Guinea)

This is a list of European (*Spanish* and British) *colonial administrators* responsible for the

territory of *Spanish Guinea*, an area equivalent to modern-day.

Table-3: Six British Agents of British Suzerainty 1827-1858

No	Names of British agents	Period in Colonial Office	Portfolio
1	William Fitzwilliam Owen	27 /10/ 1827 - 04 /04/1829	S
2	Edward Nicolls	4 /04/1829 -1830	S
3	John Beecroft	1830 -1831	A.S
4	Edward Nicolls	18 /08/1831 -1833	S
5	John Beecroft	1833 - 10 /06/ 1854	S
6	James W. B. Lynslager	10 /06/ 1854 -27 /05/1858	A.S

Sources: Compiled by us with informations from diverse documents. The above are British colonial administrators who were responsible for the territory of Spanish Guinea, an area equivalent to modern-day Equatorial Guinea for about thirty one years.

It should be noted that the above pre-colonial and colonial diplomatic agents were appointed by the Spanish Monarchies with Monarchical orders which started on 10 August 1759 and ended on 11 February 1873 following the birth of the first Republic of Spain

as indicated on table No.4 below. But those concerning the British in Fernando Po and the Bight of Biafra on table No.3 linking to Nigerian colonial administration were appointed by the Kings and Queens of England, Great Britain or in simply fact the British Monarchies.

Table-4: Spanish Monarchical Orders / Presidents who Appointed the Pre-Colonial and Colonial Agents of 3Es of Hegemonic Domination in the Territorial Inhabitants

No	Name of monarchies	Period in the throne
1.	Charles III	10 /08 / 1759 -14 /14/1788
2	Charles IV	14 /12/ 1788 - 19 /03/ 1808-19 /03/ 1808
3	17. Ferdinand VII	19/03/1808 - 6 /05/ 1808
4	Joseph I	06/06/ 1808 - 11 /12/ 1813
5	Ferdinand VII	29 /09/ 1833 - 29 /09/1833
6	Isabella II	29 /09/ 1833 - 30 /09/ 1868
7	AmadeoI	16 /11/ 1870 - 11 /02/1873
No	End of spanish kingdom Names of the head of state	Period in the office
	THE BIRTH OF THE FIRST Spanish Republic (1873–1874) <i>President of the Republic</i>	
1	Alfonso XII	29 /12/ 1874 - 25 /11/ 1885
2	Alfonso XIII	17 /05/ 1886 - 14 /04/1931
3	Juan Carlos I	1931-1936
4	General Francisco Franco	1 /10/ 1936-1975

Sources: Compiled by us with informations from : *José Rodolfo et al.*, www.reyesdeespaña.com. Archived from the original (SWF) on 2011-07-15. Retrieved 2010-09-14. [en.wikipedia.org > wiki > List_of_Spanish_monarchs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Spanish_monarchs) List of Spanish monarchs - Wikipedia.

The only monarch from this dynasty was Joseph Bonaparte I, imposed by his brother Napoleon I of France after Charles IV and Ferdinand VII had abdicated. The title used by Joseph I was King of the Spains and the Indias, by the Grace of God and the Constitution of the State. He was also later given all of the titles of the previous kings. A government in opposition to the French was formed in Cádiz on 25 September 1808, which continued to recognize the imprisoned Ferdinand VII as king. This government was diplomatically recognized as the legitimate Spanish government by Britain and other countries at war with France. This was followed by the House of Bourbon from 1813 to 1868 with Charles IV's eldest son was restored to the throne. Again, the title used was king of Castile, Leon, Aragon, by the Grace of God (*José Rodolfo et al.*, 2011). The second in this era was the House of Savoy between 1870 and 1873 characterised by the Spanish Glorious Revolution. After the Spanish Revolution of 1868 deposed Isabella II, while a new monarch was sought, a provisional government and regency headed by Francisco Serrano y Domínguez from 8 October 1868 until 2 January 1871 was established. Amadeo was elected as king and the new title used was King of Spain, by the Grace of God and will of the nation. From Spanish Republic was created with the first President Alfonso XII as peacemaker from 1873–1874. Then the House of Bourbon 1874–1931 witnessed the as Isabella II's eldest son was restored to the throne as she had abdicated in his favour in 1870 as a Constitutional King of Spain.

Thereafter, Spanish Republic 1931–1939 with Juan Carlos I then interrupted by dictatorship of General Francisco Franco 1936–1975. On 1 October 1936, General Francisco Franco was proclaimed "Leader of Spain" in the parts of Spain controlled by the Nationalists after the Spanish Civil War broke out. At the end of the war on 1 April 1939, General Franco took control of the whole of Spain. In 1947, Franco proclaimed the restoration of the monarchy but did not allow the pretender, Juan, Count of Barcelona, to take the throne. In 1969, Franco declared that Juan Carlos, Prince of Spain, the Count of Barcelona's son, would be his successor. After Franco's death in 1975, Juan Carlos succeeded him as the King of Spain. ([www.britannica.com > topic > list-of-Spanish list of Spanish monarchs | Britannica](http://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-Spanish-list-of-Spanish-monarchs)).

2. 2. The Initiation of Effective Labour Situation of Appropriate Manipulations of Human and Natural Resources

According to reports penned by British vice-consuls in Fernando Po, small planters were much more likely to breach labor contracts and to force laborers into highly exploitative situations because they had access to less liquid capital. In 1913, the Spanish government passed a new labor ordinance in response to British pressures. Employers lost access to migrant laborers if they failed to pay them three months in a row. Contracts could not be longer than two years, and rations had to be distributed on a daily basis. Flogging was not permitted, and the supervisors who flogged

workers could be fined (Adriana Chira). However, laborers were to be punished for misdemeanors such as leaving the plantation without permission, insubordination, “groundless” complaints. These measures brought smallholding cocoa planters to collapse. However, by this point, the Spanish government was more interested in supporting large plantations. Two other labor migration schemes would supply Fernando Po with migrant workers. Between 1914 and 1927, the Spanish government had an agreement with Liberian authorities that allowed planters in Fernando Po to access Liberian laborers. The tactics used in such recruitments relied however on coercion. Moreover, many of the workers shipped to Spanish Guinea would not return after their contracts ended. As the Liberian government was expanding the infrastructure, they started looking on the agreement with the Spanish with skepticism (Sundiata Ibrahim K, 1996). They eventually withdrew from it in 1927. Some private agreements soon followed that allowed for the ongoing flow of laborers until 1930. Following the establishment of the Second Spanish Republic, colonial policies shifted towards increasing Guinea's economic output. To that end, the government limited the influence of Claretian Catholic missionaries and legal rights of the native population. On 13 July 1936, Spanish nationalist legislator José Calvo Sotelo was assassinated in Madrid by Guardia de Asalto members, setting a nationalist coup in motion four days later. The outbreak of the civil war in the Spanish mainland, led to confrontations between the supporters of the left wing Popular Front and clericales (supporters of the nationalist rebels and the Catholic church) across the colony. Tensions continued to escalate during the course of the summer as bank accounts were frozen and shipments failed to reach the colony Fernando Po planter support for Franco during the Spanish Civil War was rewarded in the 1940s (Wharton 2005, *Clarence-Smith Gervase 1985*). The Francoist regime used Spanish Guinea as a model colony, a showcase of European munificence. Corporatist economic policies and price controls helped capital investors reap high profits. In 1942, Spanish and British authorities signed a labor migration agreement. By the mid-1950s, close to 16,000 workers from Nigeria were working in Fernando Po. Throughout the 1940s, their labour would enable cocoa and coffee producers in Spanish Guinea to supply 11percent of all imports reaching Iberian Spain. The Spanish colonial administration managed to extract cash crops from the island by means other than plantation cultivation or the direct coercion of indigenous Bubi and migrant workers. Catholic education and land distribution were two other policies used to control the Bubi. They were mostly planned by Catholic missionaries (the Claretians) and by the *Patronato de Indígenas* (1904), an institution modelled on the colonial regime in South America (Barrie Wharton, 2006).

It was the population of Río Muni that would drive the anti-colonial initiative forward. Spanish military rule in Río Muni began in earnest in 1926. Voyages of exploration had occurred in the 1870s, but attempts to occupy territory only started half a century later, likely motivated by a need for labor on Fernando Po. In 1926, the military was sent to “pacify” the native population, the Fang: the war was brutal, the colonial investments that followed low, and many of the Fang forced to work on cocoa plantations in Fernando Po. Moreover, the war against the Fang provided a training ground for some of Franco's supporters in the Civil War. It is then unsurprising that it was the Río Muni population that would clamor for independence. By the 1960s, in response to anti-Spanish mobilization in the area, the regime provided Guinea with limited autonomy; in 1968, it granted it full independence. The Crown established garrisons of the Colonial Guard throughout the enclave by 1926, and the whole colony was considered ‘pacified’ by 1929. Río Muni had a small population, officially put at a little over 100,000 in the 1930s. Its people could easily escape over the borders into Cameroon or Gabon. Moreover, the timber companies needed growing amounts of labour, and the spread of coffee cultivation offered an alternative means of paying taxes. The island of Fernando Po continued to suffer from labour shortages. The French only briefly permitted recruitment in Cameroon. The first president, Francisco Macias Nguema (1968-1979), was from Río Muni (Barrie Wharton, 2006). A labour treaty was signed with the Republic of Liberia in 1914; the transport of up to 15,000 workers by sea was orchestrated by the German Woermann-Linie, the major shipping company. In 1930 an International Labour Organization (ILO) commission discovered that Liberian contract workers had “been recruited under conditions of criminal compulsion scarcely distinguishable from slave raiding and slave trading” (Enrique Martino). The government prohibited recruiting of Liberian workers for Spanish Guinea. The persisting labour shortage in the cacao, coffee and logging industries led to a booming trade in illegal canoe-based smuggling of Igbo and Ibibio workers from the Eastern Provinces of Nigeria. The number of clandestine contract workers on the island of Fernando Po grew to 20,000 in 1942. A labour treaty was signed with the British Crown in the same year. This led to a continuous stream of Nigerian workers going to Spanish Guinea. By 1968 at the time of independence, almost 100,000 ethnic Nigerians were living and working in Spanish Guinea (Sundiata, Ibrahim K, 1996). The economy was based on the exploitation of the commodity crops of cacao and coffee, produced at large plantations, in addition to logging concessions. Owners of these companies hired mostly immigrant contract labour from Liberia, Nigeria, and Cameroon. Spain mounted military campaigns in the 1920s to subdue the indigenous Fang people, as Liberia was trying to reduce recruiting of its workers. Between 1926 and 1959, Bioko and Río Muni as the colony of Spanish

Guinea were united and planters began to recruit Igbo laborers, who were smuggled in canoes from Calabar, Nigeria. Fernando Po was developed after the Second World War as one of Africa's most productive agricultural areas. (William Gervase Clarence-Smith, 1986).

2. Transition between ending Republican Dominant of Spain and Self-Determination to Equatorial Guineans

On 19 September 1936, the chief of the Colonial Guard lieutenant colonel Luis Serrano Maranges launched an uprising on Fernando Poo overthrowing the Republican Governor-General Sanchez Guerra in a bloodless coup. Following Francisco Franco's orders, Serrano took over the governorship and imposed martial law, declaring the colony to be at war. Vice-Governor Miguel Hernandez Porcel who was based in Bata, refused to recognize Serrano. On 23 September, *clericales* on the colony's mainland organized a militia and marched on Bata in support of Serrano, and Porcel dispatched a force to stop them. The two columns met at Comandachina close to the Ekuku river, they clashed after shouting their respective mottos. Two native soldiers were killed in the action as the Republicans emerged victorious. The leaders of the *clericales* in the mainland were expelled to French Congo, many later traveled Fernando Poo. The colony thus became split between the pro-nationalist Fernando Poo and the Republican Río Muni (Wharton, Barrie, 2005). The conflict in combination with the disruption of global trade during World War II caused the colony to experience shortages in food and medication as well as high inflation. After taking control of the colony the nationalists Hispanicized the names of the local districts, legally unified Fernando Poo and Río Muni with the rest of Spain and gradually emancipated the native population. The ideals of nationalism spread among the first generation of emancipated natives, who later led the colony to independence (Clarence-Smith Gervase, 1985).

The post-war political history of Spanish Guinea had three fairly distinct phases. From 1946 to 1959, it had the status of a "province", having been raised from "colony", after the Portuguese Empire made overtures to take it over. From 1960 to 1968, Spain tried a system of partial decolonisation to keep the province within the Spanish territorial system, which failed due to continued anti-colonial activity by Guineans (Campos Alicia, 2003). On October 12, 1968 Equatorial Guinea gained independence under the first President Francisco Macias Nguema being from an ethnic Fang in the Province of Rio Muni. Unfortunately for him, the mechanisms of neo-colonialism from the former colonial master which instructed his installation to be done by the her last colonial administrators Víctor Suances Díaz del Río who was the C.G. This issue was to urge the new Head of State to serve as a trustworthy

collaborator with the neo-colonial actors at post-independence. Like many Fang who harbored the militant nationalism of *alar ayong*, which was characterized by impatience with Spain's continued neo-colonial presence, Macias resented his Spanish benefactors was the beginning of his failures according to the Spanish continuous agents. In fact, resentment soon turned to distrust and paranoia, and the opportunity to purge the perceived threat of foreign culture in general and "intellectuals" in particular presented itself a mere one hundred and forty five days after independence (Fegley Randall, 1989).

The precipitating event that ignited the mass killing is generally agreed to have been an attempted coup on March 5, 1969, which reportedly involved support from Spain, which had granted Equatorial Guinea independence in 1968A few months earlier, in January 1969, rumors of an attempted coup led by the defeated candidates from the September 1968 election resulted in the detention and execution of the alleged plotters in Bata prison, followed by a state of emergency that resulted in a Spanish military intervention. (World Peace Foundation, August 7, 2015). After the events of March 5, former political opponents were murdered and senior cabinet members, diplomats, the Catholic Church, and agents of "Spanish imperialism" were soon implicated in plotting the coup as well (Cronje Suzanne. 1979). In response, Macias unleashed his paramilitary youth force known as "Juventud en Marcha con Macias" (Youth on the March with Macias) to seek out and expel Spanish citizens. By the end of March 1969, most of the Spanish population of 7,000 had fled the country. Macias established three security forces, the Guardia Nacional, the JMM and the Milicia, which were embedded in every level of government. The number of crimes that were punished by death expanded, as a police state monitored every level of life. (sites.tufts.edu > 2015/08/07 > equatorial-guinea). In March 1969, Macias also closed his country to the outside world—banning journalists, a decision that the former colonial power, Spain, supported. Franco criminalized mention of Equatorial Guinea in the Spanish media. Macias' behavior became increasingly erratic as his despotic rule progressed, and he used his knowledge of traditional witchcraft to bolster his legitimacy and terrify the population into submission. He had fishing boats burned and roads mined to prevent escape (Baynham Simon, 1980).

CONCLUSION

The History of Equatorial Guinea is marked by centuries of pre-colonial and colonial dominations by the Portuguese, British and Spanish imperialists Great Powers from the mid-18th to the 20th Centuries. That small European Kingdoms were able to celebrate their hegemonic aggrandizements thereby subdued larger African local Kingdoms which were more than their natural geographical spaces. Although greatest in terms of technological advancement and military superiority

frequent discontent and resistance movements developed by the Africans could not totally halted their ambitions of 3Es until 190 years. The first inhabitants of the region that is now Equatorial Guinea are believed to have been Pygmies, of whom only isolated pockets remain in northern Río Muni. Bantu migrations between the 17th and 19th centuries brought the coastal groups and later the Fang. Elements of the latter may have generated the Bubi. (www.sahistory.org.za/dated-event). Equatorial Guinea is the only country in Africa where Spanish still serves as the official language. A few years before Spanish Guinea's independence in 1968, exports per capita were the highest in Africa. In 1471, the Portuguese navigator Fernao do Po sights the island of Fernando Po, which is now called Bioko then in 1777 she cedes the islands of Annobon and Fernando Po as well as rights on the mainland coast to Spain, giving it access to a source of slaves. Thereafter in 1844, Spanish settled in what became the Province of Rio Muni refereeing to the mainland Equatorial Guinea which gave birth in 1904 Fernando Po and Rio Muni become the Western African Territories, later renamed Spanish Guinea till 1968 when Spanish Guinea granted independence and becomes the Republic of Equatorial Guinea with Francisco Macias Nguema as the first president. When the Spanish Civil War broke out in 1820, rebel forces took control of the colony. The mainland of Equatorial Guinea became a Spanish colony in 1900. With increasing nationalist sentiment and escalating pressure from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, the journey to independence was underway. (www.britannica.com/event).

Spanish Civil War, (1936–39), military revolt against the Republican government of Spain, supported by conservative elements within the country. When an initial military coup failed to win control of the entire country, a bloody civil war ensued, fought with great ferocity on both sides. The Nationalists, as the rebels were called, received aid from Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany. The 1936 uprising in Spanish Guinea was an armed conflict over the control of Spanish Guinea during the course of the Spanish Civil War fought between the republican and nationalist forces between September and October 1936. The nationalists initially took control of Fernando Poo on 19 September, later seizing control of the rest of the colony 19 September - October 1936. Profiting from the weakness of Spain, France was able to confine mainland Spanish Guinea to its present limited extent. Economic development started only at that time and was concentrated on the richer and healthier Fernando Po. The mainland received significant attention from Spain only after the Spanish Civil War (1936–39). (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Equatorial_Guinea). Nevertheless, the Africans have the legitimate rights to resort for pre-colonial and colonial claims with clear evidence drawn from different diplomatic agents of 3Es with varieties of portfolios only to intimidate Africans who looked at them, honoured the actors as overlord. Our main

findings shows that those European agents were fully engaged towards the national interests of their countries to the detriment of the victimized countries of African with much focus on specific sphere of influence in the lucrative Gulf of Guinea of the Southern Atlantic Ocean. Another main pre-occupation is to find out what the Spanish have been thinking and waiting about presenting their ancestors equity from the era of slavery and slave trade of human beings from Africa in the trans-Atlantic slave practices during the pre-colonial era, What about the harmful atrocities of colonization committed by their agents in the African territories up to the transitional period of independence and the institution of all tools of neo-colonialism which left most African countries on political and social upheavals coupled with economic and financial crisis which frequently proves civil wars and military coup d'état? The 21st Century of young African historians and related fields should however think more positively and constructively towards nation-building rather than supporting the mechanisms of neo-colonialisms which are detrimental towards economic growth and development as means of preventing frequent chaos due to the peoples' feelings of national frustrations in any form. This paper pave the ways for further research activities using the identified pre-colonial and colonial agents appointed by the Spanish and British Monarchical orders and Republican Presidents in their own specific choice of appointments of the main agents of 3Es in the African country located in the Gulf of Guinea with such activities recorded for 190 years as indicated in this study.

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