

The Borders of Cameroon From the Origins to the Present Day: Stakes and Challenges

ZE EDO'O James Richard

Researcher at the Ministry of Scientific Research and Innovation, National Education Center, B.P. 1721 Yaounde, Cameroon

***Corresponding Author:**

ZE EDO'O James Richard

Email: jamesrichardzeedoo@yahoo.fr

Abstract: In the past, three natural elements made it possible to locate Cameroon geographically. It is indeed, from Lake Tchad, the coast and Mount Cameroon. This pre-colonial Cameroon consisted of traditional kingdoms and chiefdoms, each bounded by well-defined boundaries. Every golden kingdom, Traditional cheffery exercised its authority in its command territory and also recognized the presence of the neighbor. Indeed, the opening of Cameroon abroad in 1884 with the signing of the Germano-Douala treaty will enable it to be born on the international scene. From this point on, Cameroon's first land, sea and air borders are traced with an area of 480,000km². During its history, Cameroon underwent a triple colonization (German, English and French). This triple colonization did not end without consequences on the borders of Cameroon. Thus in 1911 appeared the great Kamerun with an area of 750,000km². The German defeat in Cameroon following the First World War in 1916 altered the boundaries as well as its surface area decreased. In the same year, France and Great Britain shared the Kamerun. France takes the 3/4 while Britain is satisfied with 1/4. This sharing will modify the border data. Thus, each colonial power will materialize the borders of Cameroon according to its aspirations. From independence until the advent of the Third Republic through reunification and unification; The borders of Cameroon have been the subject of numerous disputes from neighboring countries. The most illustrative example is the border dispute between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria over the Bakassi peninsula. Nowadays, the borders of Cameroon constitute spaces of reception at the same time zones of strong tensions. This situation leads to a state of insecurity in the borders of Cameroon. This is why at times we witness border conflicts, various aggressions and the landing of refugees from neighboring countries. This specter of disorder maintained within the borders of Cameroon derives its origins from the exogenous forces and the legendary hospitality granted by the State of Cameroon.

Keywords: Border, Pre-colonial, Colonial, Specter, State.

INTRODUCTION

The boundary designates the boundary of a territory which determines its extent (boundary or edge), it is also the boundary separating two states through a demarcation. Indeed, there are natural and artificial boundaries. In the history of the African continent, borders are a recurring factor in many conflicts. According to the African Union estimates, less than a quarter of African border lines are now defined. This lack of definition of borders leads to the existence of fuzzy zones within which the exercise of national sovereignty can only be problematic [1]. Cameroon is one of the few countries that is home to both natural and artificial borders. However, since the birth of Cameroon, has its borders remained stable or static? If yes, why? if not why? It is important to trace the evolution of the borders of Cameroon from the origins to the present day and to present the specter of threats that they face.

EVOLUTION OF THE BORDERS OF CAMEROON FROM THE ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT DAY

Evolution presupposes a change, a transformation. In this part two points will constitute the main part of our analysis: the borders of Cameroon precolonial and colonial.

The borders of pre-colonial Cameroon

The pre-colonial period refers to the period prior to the arrival of the Europeans in Africa. But it is considered here as any period that comes before the colonization of Africa by the Europeans. This period took effect before the Berlin Conference of 1884. In Cameroon, this period predates the signing of the Germano-Douala Treaty of 12 July 1884. Cameroon had no definite territory, was not a political entity, did not yet form a State. We refer to this territory as the territory of Cameroon, the whole region extending from Lake Chad to the Gulf of Guinea, limited to the West by

the Hausa cities and the Yoruba kingdoms, but its true limit is not well- East and south. Having no definite boundaries, three points will serve as a basis for locating the Cameroonian people. It is the Coast, Mount Cameroon and Lake Chad. As far as Mount Cameroon is concerned, it was a landmark from which navigators, since ancient times, would find their itinerary on the western coast of Africa, Africa. It was from Mount Cameroon that it was determined that the Carthaginian Hannon made an expedition which led him to establish colonies as far as Cernes. It came to the feet of Mount Cameroon that he called the Theon Ochema "the chariot of God." With the bays of Ambas and Biafra which served as a stopover, connecting the interior of the country with the coast and opening the populations to the outside world. In the northern part of the country, the basin of Lake Chad with the gap of Bar-El-Ghazal puts the zone in contact with the civilizations of the Nilotic basin during the trans-Saharan trade. This zone sees arriving in its soil the Arabs who found the civilizations of the Sao in North Cameroon. It is on the basis of these contacts with the Arabs and peoples of Cameroon that Europeans will lean on to penetrate into the region. The Cameroonian coast explored during the ancient journeys is cut off from the world during the Middle Ages when brilliant civilizations Northern part of the country. It would nevertheless regain its former role with the arrival of Europeans, especially Portuguese, who will make Cameroon's coast, the gateway to Cameroon during the modern period. These three landmarks draw roughly the contours of the " Territorial space of pre-colonial Cameroon without taking into account the divisions within this territory. The territorial space known today as Cameroon was dominated by two forms of political organizations: the centralized and the Diffuse power. The former are found among the foubé of Northern Cameroon and among the Grassfields [2]. It should be remembered that Northern Cameroon has had a glorious past marked by the succession of brilliant states around Lake Chad. The empire of Kanem and that of Bornou, immense federations of more or less autonomous provinces, were perfect illustrations of it. After the full conquest of the early seventeenth century, the lamidates created in the north of Cameroon by the jihadists were attached to the Emirate of Yola, the capital chosen by Modibo Adamu. In turn, Yola depended on Sokoto, the capital of Othman's empire Dan Fodio [3]. There were a total of 21 lamidates of unequal territory. In the lamidats, the chiefs called lamibé exercised both temporal and religious powers. In the Bamileke of West Cameroon, the organization was almost identical as in the Fulbe. The Grassfields region was divided into a multitude of monarchical states or chiefdoms according to the terminology chosen by the European colonialist. Each kingdom or chiefdom had its territorial space well traced and delimited by clearly defined boundaries. At this level each kingdom or chiefdom knew its neighbor.

But it sometimes happened that certain kingdoms or chiefdoms subjected the others by making conquests of the territorial space. Alongside the Bamileke states was the Bamoun kingdom. It was headed by a 16th-century dynasty and was founded by Ncharé [2]. The latter was a Tikar prince who left the Yoko plains and settled in the Noun plain with the warriors [4]. Once the indigenous peoples were subdued, Ncharé established his capital at Mfou-Ben, and the village which later became Fouban the royal city.

In traditional power societies, the Sudano-Sahelians of Northern Cameroon and almost all the peoples of the forest and coastal regions of South Cameroon have developed diffuse traditional powers; Some clan-like, others family-type. At this level the territorial space, to exercise its authority was unorganized, for example, the clan did not organize itself in a territorial entity, we found a clan here, we crossed other clans again to find its clan of belonging . In short, these clans were scattered, although sometimes possessing territorial and cultural boundaries. In the Septentrion, diffuse power was found among the Sudano-Sahelians, commonly called Kirdi. The latter are subdivided into twenty social groups distributed between the plains and the mountains. Before the arrival of the full conquerors, they were the masters of this vast region. On the whole, the political organization of the Kirdi was most summary; There was no state but only chiefs of clans and heads of families. At the territorial level, each clan had a clearly delimited geographical area. Particularly in the case of the Ekang, the majority group in the forest zone, now known as "Pahouin", a pejorative ethnonym imposed by Western researchers [2]. The Ekang are composed of the Fang, Beti and Bulu and constitute a nation in the European sense [5]. They had no invested king nor a designated extra-family chief. Their society was distinguished from that of the other Bantu groups in the great forest zone of South Cameroon by the predominance of kinship and the existence of pre-eminences. The social structure of the Ekang was organized into three segments: the tribe (Ayoñ), the clan (Mvog) and the family (Nda bot). Each of these segments was based on a well-defined geographical area, although scattered in the southern forest. Thus the same tribe could be found in Sangmelima, Ebolowa and Kribi, here it should be remembered that the boundaries were tangible despite their porosities. The same occupation of the territorial space was verifiable in the bassa of the Center and the Littoral. At the level of the coast, the traditional power among the Duala was the clan type exercised by princes from the Bell and Akwa clans. The territorial space Duala was divided into four principalities, namely Bonandjo (Bell), Bonaku (Akwa), Bonabela (Deido) and Bonaberi [4]. These principalities were later transformed into quarters but before Colonial intrusion each king exercised his power uncontrolled in his fief,

no chief or king could however impose his authority on the whole city. From what precedes the notion of frontier was respected in the precolonial Cameroon in the sense that the " Territorial space was occupied by kingdoms and chiefdoms. Each kingdom or chiefdom knew the boundaries of its command territory. It is true that certain kingdoms or chiefdoms came into conflict with others for the dispute over the territorial space, but the borders were known to all. In precolonial Cameroon, the notion of boundary was ambiguous but respected. The ambiguity here comes from the fact that the Cameroonians have sat down to define it and to specify all the contours related to it. The kingdoms or chiefdoms accorded each other respect to the level of the territorial space. Contact with the outside world opens a new era that defines and defines the notion of frontier.

The borders of colonial Cameroon

Colonial is a qualifying adjective that comes from colony. Indeed, the colony is a territory conquered, administered and exploited by a foreign power called metropolis, and this according to its interests. This colony problem begun since ancient Greece developed in the nineteenth century with the industrial revolution. Cameroon as it exists today was born of the colonial system elaborated at the Berlin Conference of 1884. The most diplomatic rendez-vous of the peoples of Europe and America that was going to balkanize the African continent. Even a new era for the future of Cameroon. Cameroon's colonial history has four main sequences: the German protectorate, the condominium, the mandate regime and the guardianship regime. All these sequences have a consequence on the borders of Cameroon. It should be remembered that Cameroon is in contact with the Portuguese in 1472, the Dutch in 1578, the English and French in 1650 and the Germans in 1868. Animated for several reasons, Europeans seize Africa and share it In the aftermath of the Second Berlin Congress which took place from November 1884 to February 1885. This imperialist thought reached Cameroon in the second half of the nineteenth century. Indeed, following the rivalries between France, England and Germany over Cameroon. England, the oldest European power on the coast of Cameroon, is imposed by evangelization, the struggle against the slave trade and human sacrifices. In recognition of these works of British pacification in Cameroon, the chief duala will solicit the English administration on the territory by letters addressed to the queen of England and to the prime minister. But Great Britain did not reply quickly to the Duala chiefs. For their part, the French did not waste time. They sign agreements with coastal kings such as Mukoko Manyame said Pass-all king Malimba. They are even more active in the northern part where they already had a foot in Chad and the Central African Republic. To avoid competition from English merchants, German

merchants seek the protection of the German government. After hesitation he agreed to protect them and sent Gustav Nachtigal in 1884 to negotiate and sign the annexation treaty of July 12, 1884. On July 14, 1884 Nachtigal hoisted the German flag on the Joss Plateau, Akwa Town and Deido Town. This is the official take of Cameroon by the Germans. England, on the other hand, became conscious and dispatched Consul Hewett to Cameroon. The latter arrived in Victoria on July 19, 1884, but too late. The country had been annexed for a week. He is called Toolate Consul. Finally, by agreements the English and French governments recognize the rights of Germany over Cameroon. After the signing of the German-Duala treaty, German penetration into Cameroon was long and difficult because of the fierce resistance of Cameroonians. In all the regions, Cameroonians have opposed resistance to German penetration in one way or another, but all its resistance has failed except one of the Nyem-Nyems in Galim-Tignère with their leader who Retired with his people on Mount Ndjim and whom the Germans did not manage to take until their departure from Cameroon in 1916. Two months only after the signing of the German-Douala treaty of July 12, 1884, German Chancellor Otto Von Bismarck summoned the 2nd Berlin Conference [6] from 15 November 1884 to 26 February 1885. Delegations are numerous and fourteen states have responded to the call. The final act of this Conference becomes a true charter of European colonization in Africa. It was in the name of these principles and under these conditions that Germany, in agreement with the fourteen congress states, sketched before them the undecided borders of what was already called German Cameroon [6]. It should be recalled that after the congress of Berlin, the first concern of the imperial government concerned the evaluation of the territory of Cameroon, of which it still occupied only the coast. After intense diplomatic activity, Germany succeeded in signing with the other colonial powers treaties guaranteeing the limits of Cameroon [7]. As early as April 21, 1885, just two months after the closing of the Berlin conference, Germany concluded a treaty with England. According to this agreement, Cameroon is separated from Nigeria by a line from the mouth of Akpwa Yafé to the rapids of the old Calabar [6] so the Germans assume all Mount Cameroon. The following year, that is to say, on May 6, 1886, another treaty made it possible to extend the frontier to the east of Yola. Four agreements were signed with France: on December 24, 1885, the Campo River served as Boundary to the southern border. This agreement stated that :

"His Majesty's Government the Emperor of Germany renounces in favor of France all rights of sovereignty and protectorate over the territories which were acquired south of the Campo River by subjects of the German

Emperor, Been placed under the protectorate of His Majesty the Emperor of Germany. He undertakes to refrain from any political action south of a line following the said river from its mouth to the point where it meets the meridian situated ten degrees east of Greenwich ... to the north of this line [6].

On the 15th of November, 1893, the agreement was reached. The agreement established the boundaries of the western border of Yola in Chad, the 3rd agreement was signed on February 4, 1894, an agreement was signed in Berlin, it was completed in 1908. It fixed the boundary From the confluence of the Sangha-Ngoko, to Lake Chad. But the 4th agreement came in 1911, in the eastern part of the territory, a rectification of the borders leading to the expansion of the German colony, which increased from 500,000 to 750,000 km² [7]. It must be remembered that in North Africa, the greatest rivalry is that of France and Germany over Morocco. This rivalry gave rise to two crises: the crisis in Tangier (1905) and the crisis in Agadir (1911), which ended in a compromise, France now has a free hand in Morocco but must enlarge the German Cameroon by a band of territory Comprising part of the Oubangui-Chari, the present Congo and Gabon. Germany ceded the duckbill to France to regularize the new frontier. The agreement signed on 4 November 1911 ceded to Germany 2 75,000 square kilometers to the east and south of Cameroon, a territory as large as half of France [7]. In fact, the new Cameroon, which measures 750,000 square kilometers, has its borders receding to the south lower than Spanish Guinea and to the east, two antennas join the Congo, near Bonga where it receives the Sangha And the other the confluence of the Oubangui and the Lobaye at Zinga. Germany in turn rectifies its frontier between the Chari and the Logone and yields to France the point of the duck's bill. From now on, the German Cameroons have access to the Congo and the Congo - Sangha - Oubangui, Ivindo - Ogoúé and Logone - Chad river channels [7]. The possession of the territories thus ceded took place in two stages: on October 1, 1912, the strip of land in northern Gabon and south of Spanish Guinea was transferred to the German Cameroons; The duck's beak passes to French Equatorial Africa (AEF); On February 1, 1913, the western zone of the Oubangui passes in turn to the German Cameroon. The First World War began in Cameroon with the attack of German positions on 5 August 1914. It ends with the capture of the fortress of Mora on 20 February 1916. Indeed, the condominium, which is a right of sovereignty exercised jointly by several powers over a country [8]. This condominium was theoretically applied in Cameroon. This project had failed because instead of a joint administration, the French neglected the administration and were consequently dominated by the English system which only exercised in Douala [9].

France was rather fed up with the idea of sharing Cameroon because she was not happy to cede New Cameroon. This sharing of Cameroon between the English and the French had been concretized by the agreement of 4 March 1916 called the Bonard-Law agreement (National Archives of Yaoundé (ANY), APA, 10813, Bonard Law agreement of 4 March 1916). This agreement had consequences on the borders of Cameroon. Thus, on 6 March 1916, General Dobell, on behalf of England and General Aymerich on behalf of France, divided Cameroon into two administrative zones The rest was occupied by France [6]. On March 14, 1916, a telegram from the French government asked General Ayméric to return to the AEF the territories ceded in 1911 to the Kamerun. From the period under mandate until reunification through the period under trusteeship and independence the borders of Cameroon have undergone modifications. In the period under mandate there was no significant border change in Cameroon, and so was the independence that occurred on 1 January 1960. On the other hand, on 11 and 12 February 1961 a plebiscite was held which enabled northern Cameroon to ' Integrate into the Nigerian federation. The first plebiscite had taken place on November 7, 1959, this vote was in favor of the Eastern Cameroon, because unanimously, Western Cameroon decided to be attached to the Eastern Cameroon. This plebiscite is not endorsed by the United Nations (UN). Hence the 2nd plebiscite from 11 to 12 February 1961 which facilitates the northern Cameroon of Western Cameroon to integrate itself in Nigeria. This situation has not affected the borders of Cameroon. The border in the northern part of Cameroon underwent modifications to the disadvantage of eastern Cameroon. From the reunification to the present day passing not the Federal Republic, the unification and the Republic of Cameroon, the borders of Cameroon were the subject of numerous Disputes from neighboring countries. The most obvious example is the border conflict between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Republic of Cameroon over the Bakassi peninsula. Indeed, Cameroon shares a border strip of 1500 km with Nigeria on the northwestern side of Cameroon. The maritime area of the border between Cameroon and Nigeria is not yet clearly documented despite the verdict of 10 October 2002 Pronounced in favor of Cameroon by the International Court of Justice of the Hague on the subject of the peninsula of Bakassi. This final verdict has consequences on the land and sea borders of Cameroon. From pre-colonial Cameroon to the present day, the borders of Cameroon have been analyzed. We note that in Cameroon precolonial, the boundaries were defined by natural elements such as Lake Chad, the Coast and Mount Cameroon. In colonial Cameroon the Germans traced the borders despite changes in 1911 and 1916. These frontiers inherited from colonization remain valid until today. Because it is this colonial layout defended by the State of Cameroon

that won him the verdict of October 10, 2002 in The Hague against Nigeria on the subject of the peninsula of Bakassi. However, a specter of security threat hangs over the borders of Cameroon, originating from the action of exogenous forces and the responsibility of the State of Cameroon.

THE THREAT SPECTRUM CONFRONTED BY THE BORDERS OF CAMEROON

We intend to insist on two points in this section: the action of the exogenous forces and the responsibility of the State of Cameroon.

The action of exogenous forces

We mean by exogenous forces all the actors and elements that do not belong to the State of Cameroon. Before showing that the action of the exogenous forces constitutes a threat to the security of the borders of Cameroon locating geographically the said borders. Indeed, Cameroon borders on six countries of Central Africa. All the borders of Cameroon have security problems. But the fact remains that each frontier has its own particular problems. Indeed, Cameroon and Nigeria share a land border and a maritime boundary. These border areas have long been the subject of Part of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The issues here are economical and safe. Take for example Lake Chad and especially the island of Darak which is Cameroonian. The drying up of water from Lake Chad on the Nigeria side has resulted in the overcrowding of Darak Island. It should be recalled that in this island fishing activities or transactions of any kind are conducted. In fact, the island of Darak is predominantly inhabited by Nigerians, i. e 80% of the population, whereas. The Cameroonian population in this island is estimated at 10% [10]. This is a threat to aboriginal people. But the sovereignty is exercised by the administrative authorities and the Cameroonian minority police forces. We believe that the security of the State of Cameroon is compromised because the foreign population is numerically superior to that of the territory in question. Long before the verdict of October 10, 2002, the Cameroon-Nigeria border was fixed by a Franco-British declaration of Milner-Simon in 1919, so from the Nigerian point of view the delimitation of the border was pending [11]. On the economic front, the volume of trade in fresh, smoked and dried fish is very important. Indeed, it is quite difficult to give in terms of quantity because there are formal and informal networks. Similarly, the currency used for any transactions, is the Nigerian Neira. The economic sovereignty of the State of Cameroon is not assured, although Cameroonian Customs has significant revenues in this island. The other border dispute between Cameroon and Nigeria is the main point of disagreement on the Bakassi Peninsula (about 1,000 km²) and the territorial waters attached to it, the subsoil of which is rich in hydrocarbon. Nigeria had recognized

Cameroon's sovereignty over Bakassi in 1975 by the Maroua agreement but subsequently the Nigerian government denounced the agreement. Thus, on 21 December 1993, the units of the Nigerian army occupied certain points of the Cameroonian territory in the Bakassi peninsula (Day of 18 July 2008). The war was now open but undeclared between the Republic of Cameroon and the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Despite the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 10 October 2002, recognizing the sovereignty of Cameroon in Bakassi. Until 9 June 2008, the Sub-Prefect of Kombo in Bédimo and the elements of the Cameroonian army are kidnapped and killed by unidentified suspects all accusing the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In his address to the Cameroonian nation on 31 December 2007, President Paul BIYA acknowledged that the borders of Cameroon are porous. This porosity will favor the entry into Cameroon of a Sunni group for preaching and Jihad, commonly called Boko Haram. Thus, on 10 April 2012, this group made its first foray into Cameroonian territory. On March 2, 2014, it moves on to a higher stage when a column of some thirty heavily armed fighters breaks into a village in Cameroon, in the Fotokol area, bordering Nigeria, in contact with a detachment of Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR), Special Force of the Cameroonian Army. According to Cameroon Tribune, the official record shows seven killed jihadists and one Cameroonian soldier killed. Faced with these surprise surprises of Boko Haram on Cameroonian territory, the Cameroonian government will react through its President Paul BIYA who still declared war against Boko Haram at the security summit on Nigeria in Paris. In total, the external actors on the border Cameroon-Nigeria jeopardize the security of the State of Cameroon. The Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Nigerian fishermen and the terrorist group Boko Haram constitute an early threat on the said border. What about the border between the Republic of Cameroon and the Central African Republic (CAR)? The territorial dispute between Cameroon and the Central African Republic over their borders. Cross-border relations between Cameroon and CAR are complex. This complexity is based on the type of relationship that the two countries maintain. Cameroon and the Central African Republic maintain economic relations. Because the RCA does not have a sea frontage, it imports its goods coming from outside the port of Douala Cameroon. For a number of years the CAR has accused the Republic of Cameroon of having moved the border post that separates them. Cameroonian authorities reacted by accusing the CAR of not mastering the territorial boundaries this accusation was defended by the Governor of the Eastern Region in the daily National Cameroon Tribune. The area of dispute in question is the subject of an old dispute. In 1974, the two countries made claims on the boundary demarcated by the former French colonizer. This land dispute found an interim and non-final

solution. This zone becomes a buffer zone separating the two states according to the French Press Agency (FPA) of March 09, 2001. Cameroon represents for the CAR a land of asylum. In view of the political crisis in CAR, Cameroon received 130,000 (one hundred and thirty thousand) Central African refugees. Insecurity in eastern Cameroon is also attributed to the CAR Seleka rebellion. They wanted to come and attack Central African refugees in Cameroon. Cameroon's border with the CAR had been closed for this purpose. Similarly, anti-Balaka fighters found themselves on the border of Cameroon with the Central African Republic, particularly in Garoua Boula because they were pursuing their brothers who had taken refuge in Cameroon. This disorder maintained at the level of the borders of Cameroon is due to a lack of organization of the forces of the order of the Cameroonian army. In the southern borders of Cameroon, notably with Congo, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, these are natural boundaries, here rivers divide Cameroon with the countries in question, but these borders are porous. Periodically there are insecurity movements despite the intense commercial transaction of fresh food coming from Cameroon to the countries mentioned above. Cameroon in return imports the drink, the perfumery coming from Equatorial Guinea. The three countries arrested sequester the Cameroonians in their country accusing them of all the various evils. This situation often results in severe tensions at the borders of Cameroon with the countries in question because the Cameroonians want to defend their brothers. The responsibility of the State of Cameroon being challenged.

The responsibility of the State of Cameroon

The State is an autonomous territorial entity which decides on the management of the affairs of its country without any control of any power. Cameroon is a sovereign state since its independence on January 1, 1960. Cameroon, in the Central African sub-region, produces 50% of the GDP of the Economic Community and Monetary Union of Central Africa (CEMAC). It also has half the population of this subregion. In terms of geography, Cameroon is the only CEMAC country that shares its borders with others. This geostrategic position makes Cameroon a regional crossroads and maintains various links with certain countries of the subregion. Cameroon's natural leadership position in the Central Africa subregion attracts many enemies. On the border, Cameroon's foreign policy is based on various principles, such as: the principle of State sovereignty, the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, the principle of international cooperation and the principle The intangibility of the borders inherited from colonization, and so on. In the management of the borders, what the State of Cameroon has been able to do is to preserve the borders inherited since colonization. But preservation is one thing, and securing is another.

All the borders of Cameroon have not been materialized and occupied by the Cameroonians. The most obvious example is the border between Cameroon and Nigeria on the Bakassi peninsula. At this level, a given is neglected by the State of Cameroon, it is the effective occupation of this border. Indeed, the island of Darak is occupied to 80% by the Nigerians. Here, the State of Cameroon has never taken initiatives to make the island populate by the Cameroonians. The State of Cameroon was content to erect Darak in a district and to create administrative and gendarmerie posts. In the southern borders of Cameroon, there is a chaos of mixed populations. We do not know who is aboriginal and who is a foreigner. Each claiming to be a native of the areas in question. The policy of the management of the borders of Cameroon remains reactionary because, the districts of Darak and Kyè-ossi were created in this movement. On the one hand, the State of Cameroon was content in the districts in question to create the administrative units without populating these areas by the Cameroonians. On the other hand, the State of Cameroon created the National Commission of Frontiers, which never functioned normally. However, in other countries, it is a body attached to the Presidency of the Republic and which works permanently on the securing and the delimitation of the international borders of the country. The State of Cameroon would benefit by putting this organ in motion. The organen question does not only deal with international border disputes, but also deals with the delimitation of the country at the national level, particularly with regard to the layout of administrative units. Cameroon would therefore benefit from copying this example from elsewhere. The management by the State of Cameroon of the war against Boko Haram is alarming in many respects. We salute the memory of the Cameroonian soldiers who fell on the battlefield. The creation of vigilance committees is a double-edged sword for the security of the State of Cameroon. These vigilance committees so far are still working well. They are made up of unemployed young people who find work rather by denouncing all suspicious movements within the borders in question. These young people are maintained by the State of Cameroon. What if the war between the State of Cameroon and the terrorist group Boko Haram ended? What would become of the vigilance committees? Will they not turn into a militia and turn against the State of Cameroon? We believe that the government would benefit by integrating them into the Public Service to preserve the future peace at the borders in question. Similarly, these vigilance committees have a problem of poverty. The fight against poverty in the border areas must be at the base of each border area. The state of poverty in the southern border area is not the same as that of the northern border area. We urge the State of Cameroon to be more vigilant to ensure the security of these borders.

CONCLUSION

Finally, to the question of how the borders of Cameroon have evolved we believe that in Cameroon pre-colonial three natural elements made it possible to locate geographically Cameroon namely Lake Chad, the Coast and Mount Cameroon. However, pre-colonial Cameroon was a founded nation of chiefdoms and kingdoms with clearly defined and established boundaries. In Cameroon, the State of Cameroon was born with borders drawn in 1911 and 1916 respectively. Thus, Cameroon is a colonial legacy. The colonizer had not well materialized all the borders of Cameroon that is why we are witnessing moments of border conflicts between Cameroon and its neighboring countries. Similarly, political regimes succeeding one another after colonization in Cameroon have not changed the situation in terms of border management. In Cameroon, the other threats hovering over the borders are due to climate change, which makes Lake Chad dry up; To the economy the unbridled search for outlets, markets to sell certain products; The political crises of the neighboring countries affect Cameroon especially at the borders with the landing of many refugees the CAR is a perfect example and finally the porosity of the borders of Cameroon is verifiable with the attacks perpetrated by the terrorist group Boko Haram.

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