

British Prescribed Model of Independence and its Concussion: The India-Pakistan, Israeli-Palestinian and Cameroon Slides

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Abstract

Original Research Article

Created at San Francisco in 1945, the United Nations Organization (UNO) has been battling out to fulfil its primary motive; that of maintaining world peace and security but crises in former British colonies of India-Pakistan, Israeli-Palestinian and Cameroon are a hard nut for this organisation to crack. Therefore, this study intends to find out the reasons for prolonged crises in these regions and the impact of this on the UN authority. The research adopted the qualitative method. After due consultation of periodicals, reports, UN resolutions and many other policy documents, data analysis attributed the cause of persisting conflicts in the above former British territories to the complicated British prescribed model of independence to these colonies. This research underscores that at the eve of independence, if the British were not separating a one-time people, she was uniting a one-time people she separated (the case of India-Pakistan and Cameroon respectively) or she was creating a new state (the case of Israel in the Arab world). These British cartographic blunders ensued serious problems of nation identity, minority, sovereignty and many other issues very complicated for the UN to manage. Further insight revealed that members of the Security Council used their veto powers to thwart and frustrate effective decisions and actions of the UN. For about 77 years, the UN has not been able to find a formula to remedy the situation. This paper concluded that the UN inability to fulfil its prime objective (world peace and security) in former British colonies has put into question its international authority and autonomy. Consequently, many countries have abandoned their obligations to the organization in favour of their regional organizations, living the future of the UN and global peace bleak.

Keywords: British Prescribed Model of Independence, Concussion, UN, Global Peace.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Crises in some former British colonies are not only giving the UN headache but have rubbished the authority of this organisation. This is due to the indelible scar of colonialism, as humanity continue to pay the prize of this European devilish act. Glaring examples are incessant crises between India and Pakistan since 1947, the Arab-Israeli conflicts since 1948 and the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon since 1961. This study noted that these war prone states defying world peace and security are former British colonies, disclosing that crises spilled out in the above post-colonial British territories immediately after independence. A visit to the causes of these crises revealed that it was due to the British prescribed model of independence. Therefore, this research intends to revisit the British prescribed model of independence in the above countries and to survey the UN fruitless efforts to bring lasting peace in these regions. To that effect, it took interest at the problematic

British prescribed model of independence, UN peace efforts and concussion on its authority.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study adopted the qualitative method of research to explore, explain and describe the British prescribed model of independence in India and Pakistan, Middle East and Cameroon and impact on these people, the UN international authority and the sustainability of global peace. A survey of primary sources; reports from human right groups and non-governmental organizations, UN resolutions, respective government decisions and decrees were the basis of data collection. Besides, this research also invited secondary sources like books and other library documents, as well as internet and iconographic sources helped to gather in-depth data on the troubling situation in the above case studies and consequences on the UN and international peace.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

III.1. Some problematic British prescribed models of independence

This study took interest on the case of India and Pakistan, Israeli-Palestinian in the Middle East and Cameroon.

III.1.1. The India-Pakistan Slide

India was a British colony from 1858 to 1947 (Stanley, 2024) [1]. In 1919, post-World War One events and especially the treaty of Versailles with its version of self-determination encouraged Indians to demand for independence. The British could not bear the pressure from Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi) and his Congress Party. Even British concessions to bring in a new system of elected governments for various provinces of India whereby Britain was to keep the central control with all Indian parliament to give advice did not go through. At this juncture, the British colonial administration under Lord Louis Mountbatten was obliged to grant independence to India. But what was the nature of sovereignty granted to Indians?

Like in British Cameroons, the British decision to award self-government to India met with internal confusion and difficulties. British India had many religions. About two-third of the people were Hindus and a third Muslims. Gandhi and the majority of the Congress Party were Hindus. Muslims could see that the Congress

Party would likely win the elections for an all-Indian parliament. The fear as to whether a mainly Hindu India will be fair to Muslims led to the creation of the Muslim League led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah; a political party which began insisting on a separate country; Pakistan. But Muslims and Sikh minorities lived next to Hindus in some areas and partition would cause dislocation and tension among the people. For two years the British failed to get the Muslim League and the Congress Party to work together. This ruined any chance of a single independence for the people of all religions. In 1947, the British announced they were leaving India within a year. Within six months, the Congress Party and Muslim League set up separate governments for the two new countries, India and Pakistan. In August that same year, Britain divided the sub-continent and granted independence according to borders set by the British-let commission.

Dapo (2017), intimated that the UN Security council adopted resolution 29, recommending that the General Assembly admit Pakistan as a member of the UN [2]. Under the scheme of partition provided by the Indian Independence Act of 1947, Kashmir was free to accede to India or to Pakistan. But its decision to accede with India became a subject of dispute that led to fighting later that year. This culminated to the setting up of two different administrations in Kashmir as seen in the following map.

Map 1: The of Kashmir, the disputed region between India and Pakistan



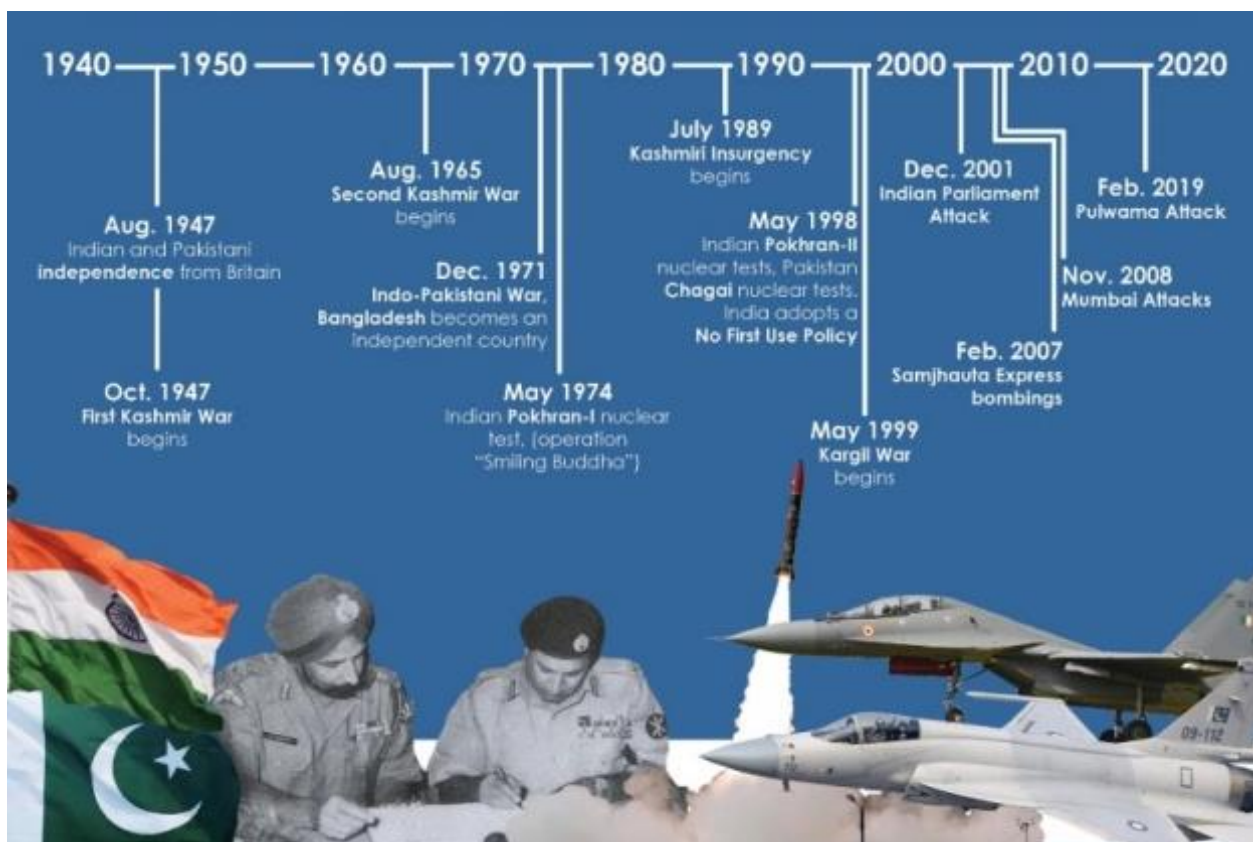
Source: Ilyas Khan (2019), Kargil: The forgotten victims of the world highest war, BBC News, Islamabad, accessed from <https://www.bbc.com>, on 06/09/2024 at 1:55am.

¹ Stanley Wolpert, (2024), Indian and Pakistani history, consulted on 07/03/2024 at 6:22pm, available at www.britannica.com

² Dapo Akande, (2017), The partition of India and Pakistan: Lessons on the Un membership in the event of a break-up of a State, consulted on 09/03/2024 at 8:10pm, available at www.ejiltalk.org

According to Holt & Winston, Britain granted this independence without adequate preparation for keeping peace^[3]. The question is where was the UN? The study observed that it was mute, ceded its role of conflict prevention and peace builder in India to Britain.

Therefore, it failed to prevent war in India but only surfaced with the escalation of war between the Hindu and Muslims. From 1947 till date, these two countries plunged into a series of wars as seen on the picture below;



Picture 1: India–Pakistan History of Conflict

Source: SSBcrack, (2024), accessed from <https://ssbcrack.com>, on 07/09/2024, at 3:00pm

With the opening of fire between the Hindu and Muslims in 1947, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 39 (1948) in January 1948, establishing the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate in the dispute. In April 1948, by its resolution 47 (1948), the Council decided to enlarge the membership of UNCIP and to recommend other measures including the use of observers to stop the fighting. Therefore, UNCIP became the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) under General Nimmo. The Security Council, by its resolution 91 (1951), decided that UNMOGIP should ensure ceasefire in Kashmir. The failure of UNMOGIP led to the creation United Nations India-Pakistan Observation Mission (UNIPOM) under the newly appointed chief Major General B.F. Macdonald⁴. But this did not stop fighting. Plenty of

Hindu and Muslims lived on the wrong side of new frontiers, amid scenes of riots and slaughter worse than before. About 10 million people fled across new frontiers and more than a million were killed in the process⁵. Hostilities continued in 1965 and the UN continued to pass a series of ineffective resolutions. On the 04th September 1965, the UN Security Council passed resolution 209 the UN Security Council passed resolutions 209 and 210. Two days later, it passed resolution 211 calling for a ceasefire. All these UN commissions and resolutions were very ineffective as fighting persisted, marred by untold bloodshed and material damage on both sides.

The British was blamed for handing over power to India and Pakistan a month later and ten months earlier than anticipated and adopting hastily drawn borders

³ Holt Rinehart & Winston, (2005), World History, Harcourt Education Company, New York, pp.846-847.

⁴ United Nations, India – Pakistan, consulted on 09/03/2024 at 4:54pm, available at www.peacekeeping.un.org.

⁵ Joe Scott, (1989), The World since 1914, Heinemann education, pp. 96-98.

which were created by the Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the British lawyer who lacked basic knowledge of India and was given just five months to redraw all the borders of South Asia. Immediately after the partition, about two million people lost their lives in the most horrific manners. Decapitated dead bodies, limbs strewn along road sides, wanton rape and pillaging was the order of the day. There were about 14 million refugees, which according to Ryan (2020) was the largest mass migrations in human history [6]. Besides human lost, Indians and Pakistanis alike lost enormous material wealth as fighting continue and the UN continue to move from one resolution to another. Like in India and Pakistan, the scenario was same in the Middle East.

III.1.2. The Middle East Slide

The Middle East is another region where the UN is unable to maintain peace and security. This is as a result of British conflicting promises and subsequent creation of the state of Israel in the region. Before 1914, the Middle East was an Arab region. From North Africa to the Persian Gulf shared a common religion, Islam, and a common language, Arabic. Jerusalem was a holy city for Christians and Jews as well as Muslims. Therefore, there were some Jews living nearby in Palestine just as they were some Christians. But Palestine was an Arab land. There had not been a country called Israel since Roman times. It is worth noting that before 1914, Palestine and all the Arab land from Egypt to the Persian Gulf were parts of the Turkish Empire. During the First World War, Turkey fought alongside the Germans. To win the support of both the Arabs and the Jews, the

British in 1917, promised independence to the Arabs and through a letter from the British Foreign Secretary, Lord Arthur James Balfour to Lord Walter Rothschild, promised the creation of the state of Israel⁷. This was to canvas for support which enabled the British army to drive the Turks out of Palestine and other Arab lands. After the war, Palestine became a mandate under the British control. Britain was now in an awkward position with two promises to fulfil. Not sure of what to do, and still in need for Arab support in case of an eventual war with the Axis, she decided to set a limit on Jewish immigration into Palestine in 1939, following the arrival of Adolf Hitler to power in Germany in the early 1930s. But this policy lasted only for two years after the war and the United States (US) government demanded that the British allow the Jews into Palestine. However, Jews that already settled in Palestine began guerrilla campaign against the British. At this juncture, Britain was already exhausted by war and started giving up its worldwide empire and could not afford a costly struggle to keep the Jews out of Palestine, especially if the US opposed it. Thus, in 1947, Britain announced her withdrawal the following year and to hand over the territory to the UN^[8].

In 1948, the UN suggested the partition of Palestine into two, one for the Jews and another for the Arabs. Jerusalem would be an international city. The Jews agreed but the Arabs refused. With the withdrawal of the British in 1948, the Jews announced the setting up of the state of Israel.



Map 2: The Creation of Israel (1948)

Source: Dimitrios Karamitrios, (2024), Israel map photos, images and Pictures, accessed from <https://www.shutterstock.com>, on 07/09/2024, at 1:11am.

⁶ Ryan C. Perkins, (2020), 1947 partition of India & Pakistan, consulted on 09/03/2024 at 7:46pm, available at exhibits.stanford.edu

⁷ Jewish virtual library, consulted on 21/03/2024 at 10:30pm, available at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org

⁸ Ibid. p. 127

At the dawns of the creation of this State, war threats began to loom in the air as Azzam Pasha, the Secretary of the Arab League declared that, “*This will be a war of extermination and momentous (extraordinary) massacre*” and Israeli extremists responded by saying “*We intend to attack, conquer and keep (territory) until we have the whole of Palestine*”^[9] Immediately, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Iraq sent forces to help Palestinians destroy the new State of Israel, and the first Arab-Israeli war began, leading to the destruction of many lives, properties and more than 750,000 refugees. Since then, the Arabs and Jews have been constantly at war; 1948-1949, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1976, 1982, 1987, 1994.... Since October 2023, there are on-going attacks and counter attacks between the Arabs and Israeli in the Gaza and West Bank, claiming thousands of lives, mostly civilians, properties destroyed and all sorts of atrocities. Yet the UN is unable to humble both camps. It is poised to resolutions without any effective move towards peace and security in this region.

The UN has taken quite a good number of resolutions, 242, 338, 1515 as well as the Madrid principles, with non-yielding any success^[10]. Despite the UN efforts, though Israel appreciated the UN for the role played for the establishment of the State, on the other hand she felt that the UN did not do enough to ensure her security^[11]. Where was the UN when General Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal in 1956 and Israeli, British and French conspiracy over through Nasser? It is important to note that the UN was inapt and was able to show up only when the US under President Dwight Eisenhower for fear that the Soviet Union would be drawn into the crisis, ordered the withdrawal of the Anglo-French forces from the Suez zone. The UN was now used as an instrument of negotiation and its peace keeping force was sent to patrol the cease-fire line between the Israelis and Egyptians in the Sinai desert^[12].

In 1967, even with the patrol of UN troops in the Sinai Peninsula, this organisation failed to stop Israel from capturing the peninsular and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in the six-day war or evaded Egypt and Syria war against Israel in 1973. It was thanks to the U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger and his shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Egypt as well as Israel and Syria to obtain an agreement. The US continue to over shadow

the UN in its peace efforts when in 1978, President Jimmy Carter invited Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin and Sadat of Egypt at the Camp David Accord in Maryland for peace talks^[13]. In 1994, after the Israeli attacked and killed 29 Palestinian in the West Bank city of Hebron, it was the US, Russia and the European Union that aided the joint peace plan^[14]. However, today, the Middle East remains a hot potato in the hands of the UN. The scenario is the same in Cameroon.

III.1.3. The Cameroon Slide

Like in India and Pakistan or the Middle East, Cameroon also embraced post independent crisis which today has muted the UN. After the First World War (1914-1918), German Kamerun (1884-1914) was partitioned and administered as category “B” of the Leagues’ mandate and later the UN trust territories under the French and British administration^[15]. The French took ¾ of the territory (East Cameroon) while Britain took ¼ of the stretch along the Nigerian boarder (British Northern and Southern Cameroons). The balkanization of Cameroonians with little regard to their history, culture and or geography, consequently split cultural units or placed divergent cultural identities within Cameroon. This colonial cartographical blunder sowed the seed of the subsequent discord in Cameroon. However, the error had been committed and one would have expected that at the eve of independence, the UN should have been diligent not to commit another error. But that was not the case.

It should be noted that besides the struggle for the independence of Cameroon, was a stumbling problem of the nature of independence of British Cameroons, given that this country was a victim of colonial partition. Cameroonians in the British occupied territory were confronted with triple choices of acceding sovereignty. They were trapped between either gaining independence by joining the Federal Republic of Nigeria, or gaining independence by joining the Republic of Cameroon or by gaining independence as a separate political entity. But studies revealed that the UN rejected the “Third option”, that of gaining independence as a separate political entity^[16]. According to Ngoh, the “Third option” was the territory’s most popular option

⁹ Holt Rinehart & Winston, (2005), World History, Harcourt Education Company, p. 891.

¹⁰ Eskinder Debebe, United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East peace process, (2021), consulted on 11/03/2024 at 3:03am, available at unsco.unmissions.org

¹¹ Louise Fischer, An ambivalent relationship : Israel and the UN, 1945-1949, consulted on 11/03/2024 at 3:23am, available at www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

¹² Holt Rinehart & Winston, (2005), World History, Harcourt Education Company, p. 894.

¹³ Ibid. pp. 898-899.

¹⁴ Ibid. p. 900.

¹⁵ Fanso V.G., (2017), Cameroon history for secondary schools and colleges, From prehistoric times to twenty-first centuries, Revised and updated combined edition, Team Work Press, Bamkika’ya-Kumbo, p. 210.

¹⁶ Anthony Ndi, (2013), Southern West Cameroon revisited 1950-1972, Unveiling inescapable traps A trap of international conspiracies and treachery, vol. one, Paul’s p Press, Bamenda, pp. 130-133.

[¹⁷]. He disclosed that the British policy was consistently tailored towards the territory's attainment of independence in association with Nigeria. This was with evidence from the British Chief Executive declaration that "...a separate independent Southern Cameroon would be a poor weak country... unable to stand alone and would have to accept whatever terms were offered them". Besides, a confidential letter of June 1960 from Godfrey Caston of the United Kingdom office at the UN stated that "We the British government ought now to use all our influence to prevent this third option idea from been raised at the UN"¹⁸. It should be noted that this option surfaced during a working dinner at the fourth Committee meeting of the UN on the 30th September 1959 to reconcile British Southern Cameroonians on the form of independence of the territory. The "Third option" came up to bridge the political divide between Foncha's Kamerun National Democratic Party (KNDP) and Endeley's Kamerun National Congress (KNC)-PM Kale's Kamerun People's Party (KPP) alliance. During this dinner, Foncha and EML. Endeley supported by the United Kingdom (UK) came up with the idea that Cameroonians under the British administration should be given the opportunity to gain independence as a separate political entity. A compromise agreement that was later called the "Third option" became the UN document

A/C4/414 for an independent British Cameroons [¹⁹]. But unfortunately, the UN in complicity with the British thwarted this idea and ruled out this option during the plebiscite of 1961 [²⁰]. This was contrary to the UN resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 which clearly stated that "inadequacy of political, economic... preparedness should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence [²¹]. Besides the reasons that led to the rejection of the "Third option" was the fact that the UN allowed the Cold War to cloud its objectivity. This, and the failure of the UN to respect Article 76(b) of the UN charter and principle as well as UN resolution 1514 (XV) and holding onto the financial circumstances of Southern Cameroons in denying the "Third option" brought this research to affirm with Ngoh that it was the UN that torpid the "Third option". This author lamented the fact that the UN decolonization policy was largely dictated by the interests of the United States, Britain, France and the Afro-Asian bloc. This bloc was against British Cameroons independence and used the UN to achieve their independence²². Finally, through a plebiscite in 1961, British Southern Cameroon achieved independence by joining the Republic of Cameroon while British North Cameroon opted for and joined Nigeria as depicts on the maps below.



Map 3: German Kamerun

Source: Jacques Leclerc (2018), A brief History of Cameroon, accessed from <https://www.uottawa.ca>, on 7/09/2024, at 12:41 am.

¹⁷Victor Julius Ngoh (2023), Former Southern Cameroon The "Third option" and the Anglophone problem, 1959-2022: A historico-conflict study, p. 84.

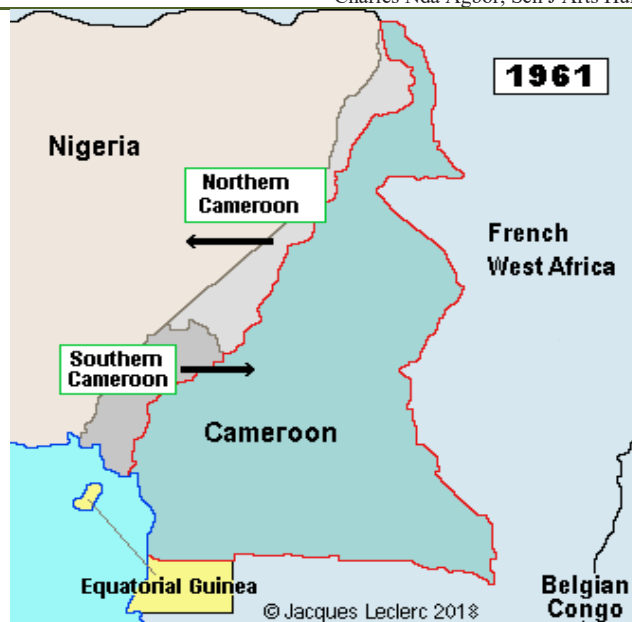
¹⁸ ibid. p. 90.

¹⁹ Monono, Churchill Ewumbue, Delicate Negotiations for reunification: A tribute to Cameroon's building diplomacy, 1959-1963, Buea CEREDDA, 2018, p. 100

²⁰ Southern Cameroons Gazette vol. 7, No. 4: Southern Cameroons plebiscite 1961, The Two Alternatives (Buea: Government Press, 1961, p. 4.

²¹ Victor Julius Ngoh, (2011), The untold story of Cameroon reunification, Presprint Plcp. 35.

²² Victor Julius Ngoh, Victor Julius Ngoh (2023), Former Southern Cameroon, The "Third option" and the Anglophone problem, 1959-2022: A historico-conflict study, pp. 106-107.



Map 4: The Partition of Cameroon

Source: Jacques Leclerc (2018), A brief History of Cameroon, accessed from <https://www.uottawa.ca>, on 7/09/2024, at 12:41am.

Today, the consequences of this UN/British error are glaring. The partition and subsequent reunification of Cameroon is a remote cause of the Anglophone crisis. Since 2016, Cameroon is on flames with a raging armed conflict in the North West and South West regions of the country, causing untold human casualties. Besides claims of lives, speaking to journalists at the UN office in Geneva, United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) spokesperson, Toby Fricker intimated that over 80% of schools in this region were shut down, a direct interpretation that children suffer the most in this crisis. They are being recruited and abused in all forms, brutally slaughtered and killed, sexually assaulted, attacked, kidnaped and used to destroy private and public properties [23].

Beside human casualties are material damage. Schools, hospitals, public and private edifices and other facilities are sacked and destroyed.

III.2. Concussion of British prescribed model of independence on countries under study

Amongst others, it is a dead trap to humanity, and an anti-nation building.

²³ Gaelle Massack, (2019), Over 80 percent of schools in the Anglophone Cameroon shut down, as conflict worsens, retrieved from www.news.un.org, on 27/08/2024, at 8:35am.

²⁴ Naveed S. Sheikh, (2009), Body count, a quantitative review of political violence across world civilizations, University of Louisville, the royal AAL AL-Bayt institute for Islamic thought, Jordan, pp. 9-19.

III.2.1. A dead trap for humanity and human rights abuses.

The British prescribed model of independence has turn post-colonial states; India, Pakistan, Middle East and Cameroon into human slaughter houses. With respect to the case of Indo-Pakistani wars, Sheikh, (2009), disclosed that about 3,138,384 people have perished in these confrontations [24]. This, excluding injuries sustained and displaced persons. In the Middle East, while McCarthy (2021) estimated the human cost of these conflicts between 2008 and 2020 to be about 5590 Palestinians and 251 Israeli dead [25], Rjoob and Topcu (2024), on their part were interested in the 76 years old global death toll of these conflicts. According to these authors, about 134000 Palestinians lost their lives. Women and children being the most affected. Out of the 35034 Palestinians killed in the Israeli-Hamas war since 2023, 14944 were children and 9849 were women [26]. On the side of the Israel, Clay Arnold (2024) intimated that more than 6000 Israeli including 4000 soldiers and 2000 civilians perished in these bloody confrontations [27]. The case of Cameroon is not indifferent. The Anglophone crisis in the two English speaking regions has recorded quite a good number of human and material casualties. According to the Human Right Watch, the Anglophone crisis has claimed about

²⁵Naill McCarthy (2021), The human cost of the Israeli-Palestinian conflicts, accessed from <https://www.statista.com>, on 14/09/2024 at 7:38pm.

²⁶ Awad Rjoob and Gulsen Topcu (2024), Israeli's occupation: 76 years of Palestinian tragedy, accessed from <https://www.aa.com.tr>, on 14/09/2024 at 8:22pm

²⁷ Clay Arnold (2024), Israel/Palestine (1948-present), accessed from <https://uca.edu>, on 14/09/2024 at 8:41pm

6000 lives, caused about 598000 of internally displaced and about 2000000 people needing humanitarian assistance [28]. The International Crisis Group on its part added that about 600000 children have been deprived from effective schooling in these two regions [29].

Besides human casualties are material damages. This ranges from personal or private and public properties. Within the context of the Anglophone crisis, the target is schools and hospitals. The following pictures portray the gravity of this crisis.



Picture 2: Remnants of the Mamfe District Hospital burned by unidentified armed men (08/06/2022)
Source: Bisong Etahoben, Anglophone separatists in Cameroon raze Mamfe district hospital, retrieved from www.humanglemedia.com, on 27/08/2024 at 8:50pm

Though no human lost was registered in this incident, sources revealed that almost all structures of this health facility except the pharmacy were destroyed³⁰.



Picture 3: The Kumba District Hospital set ablaze by un identified persons (11/02/2019)
Source: Sawa Brice, (2019), Press release: Fire at Kumba District Hospital, retrieved from www.medcamer.org, on 27/08/2024, at 9:10pm

Moki, (2019), in his report divulged that about four people, including two patients were killed during this unfortunate evil incident [31]. As of Mokube, (2023), about 12 district hospitals were destroyed in the South West region. This was not without consequences. There was an increase in mortality due to the prevalence

of many diseases, with malaria leading. The dead toll caused by malaria moved from about 113 in 2015 to about 236 in 2018 [32]. The education sector was not spared. Many schools were equally damaged. Below are images of tragedies in some of these schools.

²⁸ Bazzara-Kibangula, Cameroon: Events of 2022, www.hrw.org, consulted in August 14th, 2024, at 7:14am.

²⁹ Elvis Arrey Ntui, Cameroon, www.crisisgroup.org, consulted in August 14th, 2024, at 8:08am.

³⁰ Bisong Etahoben, Anglophone separatists in Cameroon raze Mamfe district hospital, retrieved from www.humanglemedia.com, on 27/08/2024 at 8:50pm

³¹ Edwin Moki Kindzeka, (2019), Cameroon Hospital attacked; Medical staff, patients flee, retrieved from www.voanews.com, accessed on 31/08/2024, at 9:10am

³² Mokube Diomo Iya Narondo, (2023), The Impact of the Anglophone Crisis on Education and Health in the North West and South West Regions, Cameroon, in Journal of intellectual property and human rights, Volume 2, issue 12, pp. 64-73, retrieved from <http://journals.academiczone.net/index.php/jiphr>, on 28/08/2024, at 10:34pm.



Picture 6: A school building set ablaze at Eka village North West (11/01/2019)

Source: Kouagheu Josiane, (2021), “They are destroying our future”, Human Right Watch report on Cameroon, retrieved from www.hrw.org, on 27/08/2024 at 9:36pm.

If a school was not set ablaze or vandalized, students were attacked and assassinated as the case of the

attack on Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy-Kumba on the picture below.



Picture 5: Attack on Mother Francisca International Bilingual Academy-Kumba, killing 7 children (24/10/2020)

Source: Kouagheu Josiane, “They are destroying our future”, 2021 Human right report on Cameroon, retrieved from www.hrw.org, on 27/08/2024 at 9:36pm.

In the North West region, between 2016 and 2019, this war recorded a number of implications in the education sector. About 311 students and 162 teachers were attacked, in the course of which 2 students and 66 teachers were killed, 465 schools vandalized or occupied by separatists and 108 schools were set ablaze.

Consequently, school enrolment dropped from 210094 to 24604. In the South West region, the scenario was the same. Out of 419 schools in 2016, only 241 were functional in 2021, 20 schools vandalized and or burn down³³. This brought untold consequences on education in this country.

Table 1: Impact of crisis on the basic education sector in Cameroon

Items	North West Region	SouthWest Region	Total
No. of schools in operation prior to the crisis	3136	2241	5,377
Number of schools currently operational	127	768	895
No. of schools closed	3009	1473	4482
No. of pupils affected	121,673	201014	322687
No. of teachers affected	9806	6034	15840

Source: Mbicho Monju Patrick & Chick Fomunjong Jimm, (2020), The Anglophone Crisis in Cameroon: Exploring development gaps during the Crisis. Report WACSI, Accra Ghana, p. 12, retrieved from www.wacsi.org, on 27/08/2024, at 11:15pm.

From the table above, it is clear that this crisis paralyzed education in both regions. These three cases of British prescribed models of independence have brought untold pains to humanity and enormous repercussions on the international community.

III.2.2. Anti-Nation Building

The prototype of the “nation-state” combines a singular national identity with state sovereignty, understood as the territorial organization of unshared political authority. “The territoriality of the nation-state” seeks to “impose supreme epistemic control in creating

³³ Mokube Diomo Iya Narondo, (2023), The Impact of the Anglophone Crisis on Education and Health in the North West and South West Regions, Cameroon, in *Journal of intellectual property and human rights*,

Volume 2, issue 12, pp. 64-73, retrieved from <http://journals.academiczone.net/index.php/jiphr>, on 28/08/2024, at 10:34pm.

the citizen-subject out of individuals.” “Inventing boundaries” and “imagining communities” work together “to naturalize the fiction of citizenship.” Across the global South, colonial demarcations of zones of control and influence left in their wake political units lacking correspondence between their territorial frame and the cohesion of culture and political identity. This statist frame precludes imaginative flowerings of self-determination in tune with the interests and aspirations of diverse communities both within and beyond received colonial boundaries. The colonial demarcations, with little regard for the history, culture, or geography of the region, often split cultural units or placed divergent cultural identities within a common boundary. As a consequence, crisis escalated in many postcolonial states. Building of state-nations procreates the problem of minorities, ethnicities, ethno nationalism, separatism, and sub-state nationalism.

The career of Pakistan and Cameroon as a postcolonial state circumscribed within an inherited territorial frame substantiates this political grammar. Hailed as the triumph of ideology over geography, these countries are literally caught and exist between lines drawn by colonial powers – the Radcliffe Line (1947) in the east of Pakistan [34] and the Picot line (1916) in Cameroon [35]. This has led to a sequence of ellipses drawn and redrawn by battles and treaties; identifiable by traces of blood, bullets, watchtowers, and ghost settlements from recurring wars over provisionally divides Kashmir into areas held by India and Pakistan. The scenario is same in the Middle East, with the Israeli and Arabs laying claims over Palestine. All these rendered the building of a nation state difficult and the population of these states very unsecured as well as challenge the authority of the UN.

III.3. reasons for UN failure and impact on its authority

III.3.1. Undermined the UN International authority

Crises in Pakistan, the Middle East and Cameroon are seemingly above the UN’s intervention. Perpetrators of these war hives have consistently defy the authority of this international peace watchdog. Despite the gravity of the situation in these territories and multiple Human Rights Watch calls for the UN Secretary

General (SG) to regularly put these crises at the centre of discussions in UN constituted bodies like the Security Council, the General Assembly and Human Rights Council, and engaged discussions with the Cameroonian government and its international and regional partners, the UN is either mute or became a bulldog dog. Prior to these crises, this paper observed that the UN is reduced to no substance and ineffective resolutions. This can be seen in some of its desperate and fruitless attempts to call for a ceased fire between warring factions.

Following conflicts between India and Pakistan, the UN has an endless list of resolutions; (38, 39, 47, 51, 80, 201-300 303, 307...) [36], yet far from a lasting solution to end the crisis. In the Middle East, the situation is worst, with UN sources indicating thousands of resolutions; the last in August 2024 being S/RES/2748 [37]. The scenario is seemingly the same in Cameroon, with the Anglophone crisis that erupted since October 2016. In September 2017, the UN SG, Antonio Guterres urged Cameroonian authorities to promote measures of national reconciliation aimed at finding a durable solution to the crisis, including by addressing its root causes [38]. In May 2018, the UN declared a humanitarian crisis in Southern Cameroons and started organising aid. Through this declaration, the UN assumed responsibility for the safety of civilians in Southern Cameroons, and to this end, it could intervene against warring parties. The UN also called for impartial investigations of possible human rights violations in the Anglophone region. On November 20, 2018, the UN condemned both sides; the separatists for abductions, school attacks and killings of policemen, and the government for carrying out extrajudicial executions. On February 7, 2019, Allegra Baiocchi, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Cameroon, acknowledged that the situation was a “forgotten crisis” and should be given priority in the UN’s agenda. On May 6, 2019, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet announced that there was still a window of opportunity to end the crisis, but the Cameroon government had to take decisive action to win the trust of the population in Southern Cameroons [39].

On June 22, a group of 5 noble peace laureates called on the UN Security Council and the UN SG and

³⁴ Tayyab Mahmud, (2010), Colonial cartographies, postcolonial borders, and enduring failures of international law: the unending war along the Afghanistan-Pakistan frontier, in *Brooklyn journal of international law*, vol. 20, No. 1, pp. 1-80.

³⁵ Victor Julius Ngoh, (2019), Cameroon 1884-Present (2018), The History of a people, Design House Limbe, p. 90.

³⁶ UN documents for Jammu and Kashmir: Security Council Resolutions, Security council report, accessed from <https://securitycouncilreport.org>, on the 18/09/2024, at 9:40pm.

³⁷ UN documents for Israel/Palestine: Security Council Resolutions, Security council report, accessed from <https://securitycouncilreport.org>, on the 18/09/2024, at 10:15pm.

³⁸ Franck Kuwonu, (2019), Crisis worsens in Cameroon, retrieved from <https://www.un.org>, accessed on 30/08/2024, at 1:01am.

³⁹ International reactions to the Anglophone crisis, (2022), retrieved from <https://en.m.wikipedia.org>, accessed on 30/08/2024, at 12:35am

the African Union (AU), the Common Wealth of Nations, and *la Francophonie* to “ensure that Cameroon’s Anglophone Conference is on the agenda of the fourth coming UN Security Council meeting and all United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) sessions before the UN Security Council”. On July 1st, 2020, in resolution 2532 (2020), the Council unanimously underlined its support of the appeal of the UN SG for a global ceasefire in all conflicts as the world battles the COVID-19 pandemic [40]. With all these, this research observed that like in the Middle East, India and Pakistan, the UN Security Council remain inefficient, powerless, helpless and continue to linger around with fruitless utterances despite the gravity and cost of these crises. Why is the UN Security Council unable to bring peace to crisis it masters the genesis and even contributed in sowing the seed? This question, giving these case studies, brought this research to subsequently question the reasons for the UN failure.

III.3.2. Reasons for the UN failures in India and Pakistan, Middle East and Cameroon

For close to 77 years today, restoring peace in the above former British territories is a hard nut for the UN to crack. This paper observed that the UN has been successful in its peacekeeping efforts only in crises which did not directly involved the interest of great powers (United States of America [USA], Russia, China, France and Britain) and that any attempt against any such power was thwarted and undermined by the power and allied in question. For example, Hope (2023), disclosed that the USA is noted for defying UN resolutions, especially in the case of the Israeli-Arab conflicts⁴¹. This will certainly answer the worry of Norman (1997), who in blaming the UN noted that; “*There is a problem about exactly when the UN should become involved during the course of a dispute. Sometimes it hangs back too long, so that the problem becomes more difficult to solve; sometimes it hesitates so long that it scarcely becomes involved at all...⁴²*”. Veto powers used their rights to frustrate and delay decisions of the General Assembly and or the Security Council. This in turn delayed the UN prompt reaction and intervention to crises. With this, many countries have lost trust in this organization and no longer pay their functional dues and many have turn to their respective regional organizations. It was also discovered that the lack of a permanent army, limited funds reduced the UN to the command of grate powers like the US, Britain and France. The UN reacted only when these powers want. All these has rendered the future of the UN and world peace bleak.

⁴⁰ United States 116th Congress, 2nd Session, Text:- S.Res.684-11th Congress (2019-2020), retrieved from www.congress.gov, on 29/08/2024, at 11:29pm.

⁴¹ O’Dell Hope, (2023), How the US has used its power in the UN to support Israel for decades, accessed from <https://globalaffairs.org>, on 19/09/2024, at 7:02.

IV. CONCLUSION

India and Pakistan, Israel and Palestine in the Middle East and Cameroon are on flames. Sources attributed the cause of this fire to the nature of British prescribed independence supervised by the UN. The British partition and subsequent unification of Cameroon, the partition of India into India and Pakistan and the creation of the State of Israel in the Arab world according to (Tayyab, 2010), procreated the problem of minorities, ethnicities, ethno nationalism, separatism and sub-state nationalism in these countries⁴³. Backed by super powers (US, Britain, France, Russia, China...), this has turned these territories into veritable battle grounds with all sorts of atrocities and human right abuses. Despite UN calls and resolutions for ceased fire, the situation remains unchanged. Therefore, beside human and material lost, these crises have exposed the weaknesses of the UN, putting its authority and autonomy into question. Meanwhile, these unresolved territorial disputes, cross-border terrorism, and competing national narratives have contributed to persistent tensions between and within these nations. It is crucial to recognise the human suffering caused by these conflicts and the urgent need for dialogue, diplomacy and humanitarian efforts. Regional stability, global peace and well-being of the civilian population depend on the successful resolution of these conflicts.

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⁴² Norman Lowe, (1997), Mastering modern world history, Macmillan, third edition, p. 178.

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