


Historical development of newspapers in Nigeria: a reflection on the present day newspaper industry

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In this presentation:

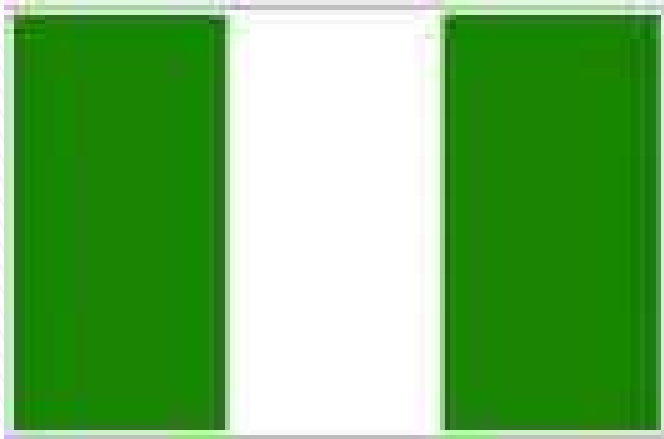
- ▶ Introduction
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- ▶ Newspaper today: format, number, spread and characteristics
- ▶ Newspapers today: a reflection of the past
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Introduction: My motivation

- ▶ To intimate conference participants with the development of newspapers in Nigeria as this may be a different experience to how journalism developed in New Zealand
 - ▶ Newspaper development in Nigeria marked the development of journalism in the country.
 - ▶ It is likely to give a different dimension into journalism scholarship beyond the framework of New Zealand.
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Nigeria at a glance

2015: 183,523,432: 7th in the world



- ▶ The most populous nation in Africa
- ▶ The most populous black nation in the world
- ▶ 2.5% of the world population
- ▶ 20% of the African population
- ▶ Colonised by the Britain
- ▶ Became independent in 1960
- ▶ Operates democratic system
- ▶ Operates capitalism economy
- ▶ Largest economy in Africa

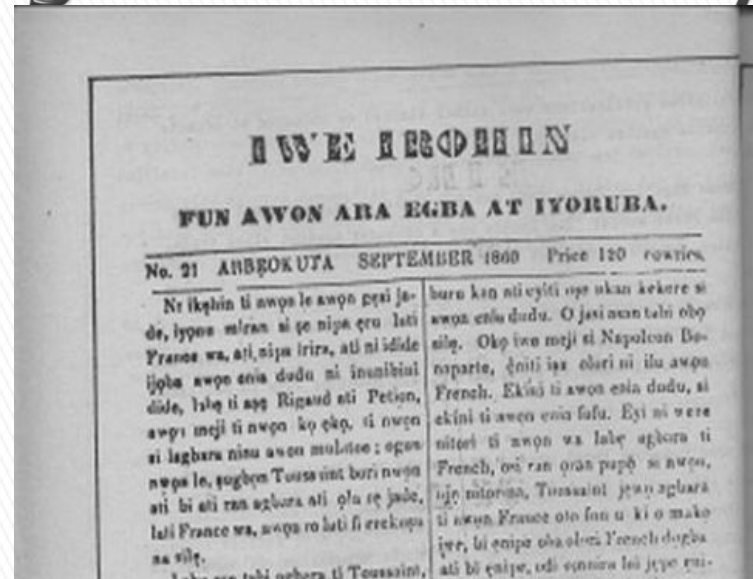
The map and flag of
Nigeria

Facts about Nigeria

Newspapers in Nigeria: The story



Rev. Henry Townsend
(1815–1886)



The first newspaper in Nigeria and
Olumo Rock Abeokuta Nigeria

The phases of newspaper development

Phases of development	Years	Newspapers
<p>The missionary phase: (By foreign Christians)</p> <p>The blank period →</p>	<p>1859–1900</p> <p>1867–1880</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Iwe Iroyin</i> ▪ <i>Uwana Efik</i> ▪ <i>Obupong Efik</i> ▪ <i>Anglon African</i> ▪ <i>The Lagos Times</i>
<p>Nationalist phase: (By Nigerian elites to advance) the course of national independence</p>	<p>1900–1960</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Nigerian Chronicle</i> ▪ <i>The Nigerian Pioneer</i> ▪ <i>The West African Pilot</i> ▪ <i>Nigerian Daily Times</i> ▪ <i>The Nigerian Tribune</i>
<p>Post-Independent phase: (By Nigerian politicians and business class)</p>	<p>1960 till date</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>The Morning Post</i> ▪ <i>Daily Sketch</i> ▪ <i>Nigerian Outlook</i> ▪ <i>New Nigeria</i> ▪ <i>The Nigerian Tribune</i> ▪ <i>The Punch Newspaper</i>

Prominent figures in newspaper development in Nigeria

- ▶ Chief Obafemi Awolowo



A journalist, publisher, lawyer and politician. He became the Premier of the old western region in 1952

- ▶ Sir Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe



A journalist, publisher and politician. He became the first President of Nigeria in 1963

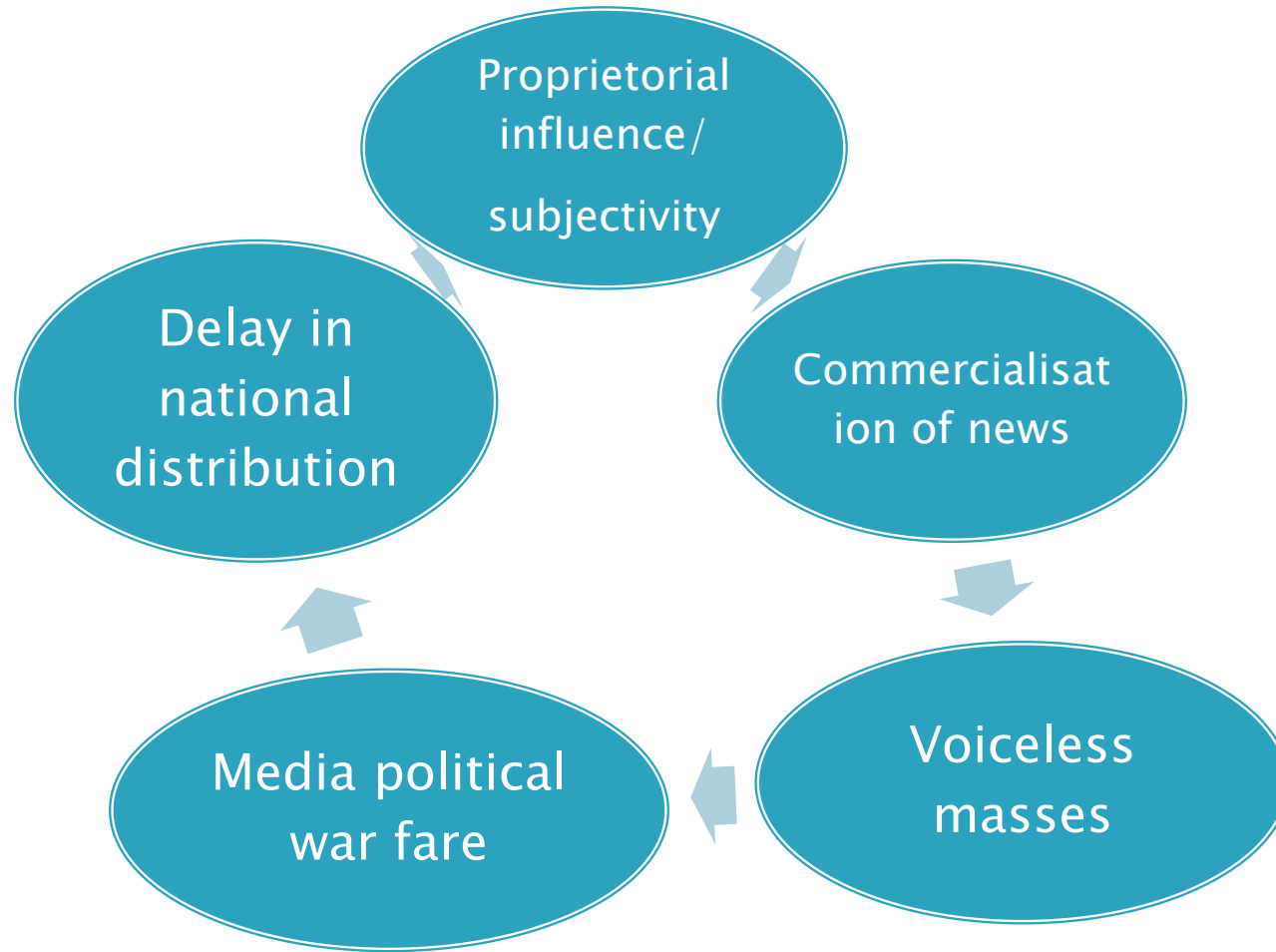
Newspapers in the past

- ▶ An instrument of evangelism
- ▶ A means of literacy promotion
- ▶ A strong nationalist weapon and political apparatus
- ▶ A business enterprise
- ▶ Dominated by private individuals
- ▶ Most newspapers were concentrated in Lagos south-western Nigeria
- ▶ Unification of the roles of an editor and a publisher

Newspapers today in Nigeria

- ▶ Newspapers in Nigeria are published in tabloid format
- ▶ About 95 percent of Nigerian newspapers are published in Lagos, south-western Nigeria
- ▶ There are over 150 newspapers in Nigeria, most of which are regional and local. But there are over 20 national dailies in Nigeria
- ▶ Nigerian newspapers are dominated by private ownership
- ▶ They are very commercial in orientation and practice (business enterprise)
- ▶ Most newspapers are vibrant political mouthpiece

Newspapers landscape and some implications



Thank you for your attention!

