

Faith as a destabilizing Factor in Colonial and Post-Colonial Nigeria: A Comparative Study of Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*

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Abstract

*Faith is sometimes equated with commerce owing to its give and take policy. The evolution and propagations of various faiths around the world are materialized through a variety of procedures. The nature of these procedures varies from violence to peace. Several aspects can be associated with this. It could be either political, economic, or sociological. Faith was one of the major imports of the colonial era. Huge-scale proselytization was conducted in the colonies via missionary efforts. This caused a cultural transformation as well as cultural detachment in the colonized populations. Africa was no exception to this. This paper proposes to discuss the role of faith as a substantial factor in the narratives of colonial and post-colonial Nigerian tribal society. It analyses Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Chimamanda Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus* as the reference narrations. The commencement of proselytization became a common cause for cultural detachment in both chronologies. The cultural detachment can be personified through a character analysis of Nwonye and Eugene Achike. Discarding the native culture and beliefs is common in both periods. The paper also sheds light on the cultural transformation of the native tribal population and its consequences. The changes and challenges of both periods are being discussed. The paper concludes that while analyzing the similarities and contrasting elements of both narrations with reference to faith as a substantial factor provides a lot of perceptions. Faith is becoming a destabilizing factor, both in familial relations as well as cultural relations*

Keywords: *Faith, Destabilising factor, Colonial and Post-colonial Nigeria, Purple Hibiscus, Things Falls Apart*

Introduction

The Second World War had marked the end of the existing socio-cultural and political structures of the world. Several significant changes are witnessed along with the Post-Second world war era. Decolonization was followed soon after the end of the Great War. There was a change in world power dynamics. The war had devastated Europe. The focus point of world economics was shifted to the US and Soviet Union. Colonial powers like Britain, France, and Belgium have nearly witnessed the total destruction of their political hegemony and economics. Most of them had to relinquish their power over the colonies. Several colonies in Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania had gained independence following this. Countries in Africa were the last to gain their independence due to several reasons. Britain and France had colonized most of the continent with Portugal and Belgium focusing on minor landmasses. The British had the largest number of colonies in Africa. Their possessions spanned from Egypt in the North to South Africa in the South, from Kenya in the east to the Gambia in the west. Nigeria is situated in Western Africa. It was one of the most prized possessions of the British crown in Africa just as it is India in Asia. Nigeria is a diverse country with a huge population. Currently, it is the tenth-largest populated country on earth. The majority of the population belongs to any of the three largest ethnic groups. Igbo, Yoruba, and Hausa are the largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. Yoruba is located in the green southwest region of the country. The Igbo are living in a Southeast part of the country, which was traditionally known as the Igbo land. The Hausa are living in the north of the country.