Libraries are said to be the life blood of research and academic scholarship; they are an agency to educate people and promote habit of reading. But more than that they are social institutions and are vital for the cultural survival of a society be it a developed one or a developing one. Jean Kay Gates, a renowned authority on library science, discussing about the place of libraries in the society, has observed that "many of the basic needs which are served by libraries today - education, research, information, civic responsibility and recreation - are also served by other agencies and groups. But the library, in a collective sense, is not only agency devoted solely to the purpose of collecting, making available, and securing the widest and most effective use of the record of civilization by the society of which it is a part. Since the library is intertwined
in purpose and function with society's needs, no part of the social structure is outside the scope of the library's
generic concern. The need of any highly industrial and
technical society for knowledge and for dependable and
timely information is almost without limit, and in such a
society the need for the library is also almost without limit.\textsuperscript{1}

The libraries to begin with, were considered as archival collections, dedicated to the preservation of graphic records of society. But today the role of libraries has got extended and they are considered indespensable to the operation of society.

Jean Kay Gates\textsuperscript{2} has underlined the significance and importance of libraries as under:

1. Libraries are essential ingredients of a civilized society;

2. they came into being to meet certain recognized needs, and these needs determine their forms, purposes, programmes, and services;

3. certain conditions - economic, technological, scientific, geographical, cultural or social - encourage their development.

John M. Christ has rightly opined that "whether the role of library is larger or small, important or significant, central or peripheral, essential or

\begin{enumerate}
\item Ibid., p. 7.
\end{enumerate}
ornamental, it is ultimately socially determined."

Library has been characterized as a social institution, created by the society. Indeed 'Society has determined what the library of the past has been, and it is society that will determine what the library of the future shall be: Library exists to maximise the utilisation of graphic records by the individuals for the benefit of society. Though the libraries started as archival collections yet they were essential to cultural survival. In a very real sense the library was not only the intellectual centre of the culture, it served but it was also a form insurance against disintegration and decay.

Robert Redfield defines a society as 'People doing things with to and for each other for the benefit of each and in ways which have been accepted by all.' Role is the generic name for these things which individuals do. The various roles of the individuals are part of the social organisation and each contributes, in one way or another, his particular share to the success of the whole library is a living social institution made by the people and for the service of the people. Pierre Butler has stated that 'Books are the social mechanism for preserving the racial memory and the library is one social apparatus for transferring this to the consciousness of living
individuals.' This library is a part of social and it is a limb which can remain alive only if the whole society body is alive. The library is a nucleus of all the society. No one plan can describe the form, native, purposes and services of the library as a social institutions. They have been determined by the needs of the people who have produced and used 'the book' in its multiple forms - from the clay tablet to the original scientific report and the magnetic tape and disc of today.

Though the library has traditionally been dedicated to the preservation of the graphic records of society yet library has been performing certain social functions during the centuries of its existence. While analysing the role of the library in society. Libraries have been essential to cultural survival and indispensable to the operation of the society. Whenever and wherever literate and cultured people strive to stimulate educational growth and cultural achievement, libraries become both the source and the centre of the practice of providing the material and facilities for serious scholarship.

Modern age is the age of continuing development of education. It is in this context that the position of the library vis-a-vis other social institution is supreme. It has been recognised that merely teaching people to read
would not lead to their overall mental and intellectual development. For this, facilities are made available to exercise their new experience through uninterrupted reading of books in the library.

Library is the only social institution eminently suited to perform the function in furtherance of education to keep continuity in the cultural pursuit of man. To educate the people is an active function of the library for the society in which it exists. It is through the agency of the library that the reading material penetrates the society at all cognisable places. The library promotes an intelligent understanding of all problems in bringing the common citizens up to society's expectations. In a very real sense, the library was the group memory. It was not only the intellectual centre of the culture it served, but it was also a form of insurance against social disintegration and decay.

Society did not create a library as an outlet for its acquisitiveness, it accumulated and preserved the records of its scholarship against the ravages of time. In course of time, the purpose of conservation became blurred and indistinct and the concept of library as a 'storehouse' was transformed into a 'living force'. The role of library as a social agency has been spread of education and self-education and promotion of reading.
In a contemporary culture the motivation of this objective is largely socio-economic. The improved social status depend largely upon knowledge and reading is one of the most important means for the acquisition of knowledge. In view of this the library is to achieve its fullest role in society, is not passively to make books available when needed by a potential reader, but actively to stimulate the use of books.

S.R. Rangathan enunciated the classic statement of this philosophy when he insisted that books are not for preservation or for the chosen few, but for all. In his Five Laws of Library Science he wrote, 'Books are for use, Books are for all and Every books its Reader.' There has been uncritical acceptance of the Baconian doctrine that reading makes 'a fullman'.

In view of man's growing intellectual scientific, technical and cultural activities and in that context the recognition of the importance of libraries, the demand for more libraries, variety of libraries, specialized library services have been on the increase. The realization of the significance of libraries and the role that the libraries can play in nation building is very much noticeable in the developing and underdeveloped countries of The Third World which includes the countries of the continent of Africa.

Library development in Africa is a post-second World
War activity. Earlier there was complete dearth of libraries and librarianship as a profession was virtually unknown. Since 1950's there has a conscious effort to develop the libraries rapidly and there are a number of official, semi-official and private organisations contributing to the cause of development of libraries in different countries of Africa. A UNESCO sponsored seminar on Public Libraries was held in 1953 at Ibadan (Nigeria). The seminar provided an impetus to the formation of West Africa Library Association in 1953 since proper and qualitative education is impossible without rich and effective libraries, there are conscious efforts to develop libraries in African countries.

In the post second World War period, particularly since 50's the growth of libraries could be attributed to two main causes namely, (a) the establishment of university, colleges and the accelerated development of education, (b) the interest of the British Council, which was initially responsible for the growth of the public library movement in West Africa.

Library legislation in most of the countries concern chiefly the public libraries and Africa is no exception. As far as public libraries are concerned, it may be said that where they are organized on a national or a regional basis as in South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and parts of North
Africa, there is library legislation.

The International Association for the Development of Libraries in Africa, founded on September 13, 1957 at St. Louis, Senegal has adopted as its principal aim in sponsorship of the establishment of three types of libraries in each African state: (a) a national depository library to acquire, preserve and make available to present and future generations all the national publications and the main output of world literature; (b) a national network of public libraries and school libraries to spread culture at all levels of community and make an active contribution to education in Africa; (c) reference libraries for universities, institutes, laboratories etc.

In general the development of libraries is a post-war achievement which could be set to be a part of an attempt to educate people for self government.

Education is often taken as synonymous with learning but it is neither merely learning of three 'R's nor the possession of degrees and diplomas. Education is the acquisition of the art of the utilization of knowledge."3 The aim of education is to build character, increase strength of mind and expand intellect. Plato has rightly said that education has to produce perfect man 'sound in

character, active in mind and strong in body and prepare him for some ideal future.

Library occupies an important place in the modern educational system. Its aim is to educate the illiterate, dispel their ignorance and to provide opportunities for continuing education to the educated. Libraries have become an integral part of public education in the economically advanced countries and they are gaining importance in the developed countries. It is an indispensable agency for imparting education to the people and capable of helping the neoliterate to learn more and continue to learn through life. Libraries also help the educated to continue their education by making available to them full and free use of books after they have left their schools and colleges.

EDUCATION EXPLOSION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIBRARIES:

Since the creation of the 12 states of Nigeria on 27th May, 1967, and of the 19 States on 3rd February 1976, there have been several influence that affect library development in Nigeria. By far the most important of these influences is the explosion in education at all levels. Between 1968 and 1976, 8 new Universities, in Benin City, Calabar, Ilorin, Jos, Kano, Maltuguri, Port Narcourt and Sokoto, have been established while the older ones in Ibadan, Ife, Lagos, Nsukka and Zaria have been expanded.
Since 1968 too, 8 Polytechnics, 10 Advanced Teachers Training Colleges, 15 Schools of Basic studies and over 300 Secondary Schools have been setup. All this implies radical changes not only in teaching, governing authorities and research, but also in library provision. A cursory glance at the Third National Development Plan (1975-80), shows that a recognition of some sort has been given to the importance of libraries in education. During this third plan period, the National Library has been allocated N 15.8 million and the State Libraries, N 19.73 million.

**ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY SERVICES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Estimated Expenditure (in N million)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>15.800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benue-Plateau</td>
<td>0.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East-Central</td>
<td>3.060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kano</td>
<td>1.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kwara</td>
<td>3.850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lagos</td>
<td>0.500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Western</td>
<td>2.100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Central</td>
<td>1.050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Eastern</td>
<td>3.640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North-Western</td>
<td>0.640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers</td>
<td>1.500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-Eastern</td>
<td>1.300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>0.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>35.536</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But in the Chapter 16 of the Third National Development Plan, only two paragraphs 48 and 52 were devoted to libraries but there were no mention of University libraries at all. However, one can safely assume that the allocation to university libraries is included in the 251.856 million earmarked for higher education.

.... Scholarship and culture represent a precious source of national wealth. This is why in every development plan as well as in all educational planning; to keep the individual well informed in an important means of encouraging economic and social development. In order to be educated and cultured one needs among other things, an efficient system of education and an effective system of education is hardly conceivable without a cultivated and systematic habit of reading. Reading presupposes the availability of books and consequently a library is needed. Without libraries there can be no good primary schools, no efficient secondary schools and no productive universities. In the absence of libraries, it is not possible either to encourage and maintain a permanent education of adults....

The above statement by a former UNESCO Librarian Carlos Victor Penna, clearly illustrates the three main roles played by libraries i.e. educational, cultural and

information. Libraries are principal centres for the dissemination of knowledge and culture and play a significant role in life-long education. Cardinal features of the British programmes of education for self government have been the University college and the colleges of Technology in 1948 stimulated by outside encouragement and by outside grants, they have become foremost general research libraries for their territories, and in some cases the only libraries of major importance.

So keeping the importance of libraries in view it would be an interesting study to trace briefly their history from remote antiquity to the present day while lay stresses on the period from 1960-1981. Since it would have been too unwieldy to study the growth and development of libraries in whole of Africa the present study is being restricted to East and West Africa.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the present study are (1) to let scholars and librarians know about the history of libraries in African Continent; (2) to investigate the growth and development of academic libraries in East and West Africa; (3) to note the development of public libraries in the above mentioned area as they are the instruments to educate people at all levels; (4) to see the growth of special
libraries in the countries under study; (5) to study the national library development in the countries of East and West Africa; and (6) to see the development of book industry in the countries under study.

METHODOLOGY

A questionnaire was prepared and was sent to all kinds of libraries i.e. public, academic and special to find out their holdings (books only) and chief librarians/librarians/incharges were requested to send the information as earliest. The response was very poor. Since it was not possible for the investigator to go to the various libraries in African States, the regarding information was collected from the secondary sources. A set pattern was adopted to note the information about a particular library (Appendix) and then graphic representation was brought out to show the trend of growing volumes in a particular library of a particular country.

As far African students at Chandigarh are concerned, they were interviewed to know about the position of libraries in their respective countries. It was more with the examine the attitude of the students towards the libraries and also to access if there is sufficient awareness among them about the use of libraries.

Before the study is embarked in its details it may be pertinent to have a geographical, political, social and
economic picture of the countries under study.

Next to the military application of nuclear energy, the most significant phenomena of the period following World War II has been the wind of change that has altered the political map of the Third World including Africa out of all the recognition. The transformation in Africa, in political terms has been dramatic. Instead of only four independent countries, as before the World War II, there are now forty one countries on the continent and its adjoining islands with different political set up.

The continent of Africa is inhabited by diverse people, is about 5000 miles (8050 kilometers) long from north to south and is over 4600 miles (7400 kilometers) wide from east to west. Vast areas of Africa are uninhabited, mainly because of poor soil, that is unsuitable for cultivation or because of the pests that bring disease to men and cattle.

Although Africa is the second largest continent, with one fifth of the World's land surface, its population of about 468 million in 1980 represents only one tenth of the World's population. Africa as a whole is not densely populated, the average density being only 40 per square mile. Vast areas such as the Sahara, Kalahari, and Namid deserts and even parts of the dense equatorial forest of

Zaire are almost uninhabited. On the other hand, the Nile Valley and delta in Egypt is among the World's most densely populated areas.

Most of the countries on the African continent are agriculture based and efforts are being made to modernize farming and cattle raring.

Many African countries have rich natural resources, but do not have enough financial resources to develop them thoroughly. African mines produce almost all the world's supply of diamonds, and much of its cobalt, copper, gold, manganese and uranium. There are also important deposits of coal, iron and petroleum.

A further factor that encouraged the diffusion of African communities was the introduction of staple foods from other continents. Only millet and sorghum are native to Africa. It was the importation of rice yams, and bananas from Asia, probably by the traders to the east coast, that allowed the forest areas to be settled. Some of the early great African states were established in West Africa—Ghana, Mali, Soughai and Kanem-Borno.

As a result of widespread movements of people and communities, Africa today has hundreds of ethnic groups and nearly 1000 different languages, Arabic in the north, Swahili in the east, and Hausa in the west, are the African languages used by the largest number of people. The
complexity of ethnic varieties and language pose problems of its own nature on the continent.

Africa is a vast continent and has about forty one countries. It falls beyond the purview of the present study to take in to account all the countries but it may not be out of place to give a brief introduction of the states of the two regions of the continent understudy i.e. Eastern Africa and Western Africa.

11. EASTERN REGION

This region includes Ethiopia, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. It is an area of narrow coast line, rising to high-plateaus, broken by numerous lakes and lofty mountains. Most of the people come from Bantu speaking stock especially in the southern areas. But in the north, there is a large block of Cushitic speaking people particularly the Galls. Cushitic and Nilotic speaking people are also interspersed among the dominant Bantu farther north.

Under British rule the East African High Commission was created to co-ordinate such services as mail, railways, and civil aviation between Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania. Its work has been continued and to some extent expanded since independence by the East African Economic Community and Common Market. In the three ex-British territories a federal university, called the University of East Africa
was created with the campus in each country. This arrangement continued till 1970. At that time each country established its own national library.

11A. BURUNDI

The Republic of Burundi lies on Tanganyika in the heart of Africa, a little below the Equator. Rwanda is to the north, Tanzania to the south and east and Zaire to the west. Its area is 10,747 square miles. The capital of Burundi is Bujumbura.

Before independence Burundi formed part of the Belgian-administrative UN Trust Territory of Rwanda-Urundi, which was itself formerly part of German East Africa. Internal self government was granted in January 1962 following elections to a New Assembly in September 1961 and full independence in July 1962, when the two parts of the Trust Territory became separate states. Burundi continued to be linked to Rwanda in a customs and monetary union, until the agreements were terminated in January 1964. In November 1966, the King was deposed by his Prime Minister Michel Micombero, who declared Burundi a republic. In 1973 the cabinet resigned and Micombero established a seven man Presidential Bureau, led by himself as Prime Minister, thus

becoming both the Head of State and Government. After the long awaited adoption of Burundi's republican constitution in July 1984, elections were held which confirmed further a seven years term for Micobero. 9

The economy of Burundi is agrarian based. People of Burundi migrate to Uganda and the Republic of Zaire to find work. There are no railways in the country. Education is free. French is the language of instruction in the secondary schools and Kivuandi in primary schools.

11B. ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia extends inland from the Red Sea Coast of Africa. It has a long frontier with Somalia. The Sudan lies to the west and Kenya to the south. The area is 471,780 square miles. The capital of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa.

Ethiopia was dominated for over 50 years by Haile Sillaissie who became Regent in 1916 and King in 1928 and Emperor in 1930. He ruled the country till 1974 (except the period of Italian occupation 1936-41), when he was disposed by the armed forces in the wake of regional famine, inflation and unemployment and growing demands for


democratic reform. He was leading exponent of Pan-Africanism and was a founding member of the OAU, which has its headquarters in Addis Ababa. He died a captive of the military regime in August 1975.

In December 1974, Ethiopia was declared a socialist state and a national programme called Ethiopia Tikdem (Ethiopia First) was outlined and carried out the following year. A national work campaign (Zemetcha) was launched whereby over 60,000 students were obliged to spread literacy and social reform in the province till September 1976.

A treaty of friendship and co-operation between Ethiopia and the U.S.S.R. was signed in 1978. In response to U.S. military interests in Somalia, Oman and Egypt, in August 1981, a treaty of friendship and co-operation was also signed between Ethiopia, Libya and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

The economy of Ethiopia is mainly agricultural and pastoral with agricultural products constituting almost all the country's exports. The social, political and economic progress has been slow.\(^\text{11}\)

A major literacy campaign was launched in 1979. By 1982 over 10 million people had been enrolled for tuition

programmes, and the illiteracy rate reduced from 93 to 55 per cent. Ethiopia was awarded the 1980 UNESCO international literacy prize. In 1980-81 there were 6790 schools, with 48883 teachers and 2,573,360 pupils. There were 15047 students at the universities of Addis Ababa and Asmara. 12

11C. KENYA

Kenya lies astride the equator on the east coast of Africa, with Somalia to the north east, Ethiopia to the north, Uganda to the west and Tanzania to the south. The area is 224,960 square miles. The capital of Kenya is Nairobi.

Kenya became independent within the Commonwealth in December 1963 and a republic one year later President Jomo Kenyatta has led the nation since independence and as Head of Kenya African Nation Union (KANU), which alone contested the 1969 and 1974 National Assembly elections had established stability in Kenya and won great personal prestige both at home and abroad.

Following the death of President Kenyatta in August 1978, Daniel arap Moi was sworn in as acting President,

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proclaimed President in October.

A series of political detentions and increasing press censorship were followed by an attempted coup in August 1982, which was suppressed by National Assembly which declared officially Kenya a one party state.\textsuperscript{14}

Nairobi is the headquarter of some services of the East African Community (EAC), established by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda following the ratification of the Treaty for East African Cooperation in 1967.

Kenya's prosperity rests largely on the production and processing of agricultural and pastoral products. Over two-thirds of Kenya's population is dependent on agriculture.

A number of primary school pupils increased from 900,000 in 1963 to about 4.2 million in 1982. In January 1980 remaining fees were abolished. In 1978 about 66 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 years attended primary schools but secondary enrolment was only 18 per cent. In 1982 adult literacy averaged 61 per cent for males and 38 per cent for females. The University of Nairobi, which has about 9,000 students has frequently been closed because of student unrest. It was dissolved following the

August 1982 coup attempt and then re-formed.15

11D. RWANDA

Rwanda is a small land locked state in Central Africa just south of the equator bounded by Zaire to the west, Uganda to the north, Tanzania to the east and Burundi to the south. The area is 10,169\textsuperscript{16} square miles. The capital of Rwanda is Kigali.

Rwanda was formerly part of the Belgian-administered Trust Territory of Ruanda-Urundi and after became Republic. The state has suffered from tribal dissensions and disturbances which led to bloodless coup by Minister of Defence, Major-General Habyalimana in 1973, who later proclaimed himself as the President of state, announced the second Republic and set up a military administration known as the Committee for National Peace and Unity.17

Elections to Rwanda's first National Development Council in December 1981 were followed by a minor Cabinet reshuffle in February 1982. In October in the same year, Rwanda closed its border with Uganda after an influx of refugees.18

The economy is agrarian based. A high population density and its land locked situation hamper economic development.

Schools are run by the state and by Missions but provided education for only 64 per cent of primary-level children in 1981-82. The National University, with campuses at Butare and Rubengari, enrolled 1,213 students in 1981-82. In 1982, 23.8 per cent of the state budget was allocated to education.  

11E. SOMALIA

The Somali Democratic Republic lies on the east coast of Africa, with Ethiopia to the north west and Kenya to the west. The total area of the country is 246,200 square miles. The capital of Somalia is Mogadishu.

The former British Somali land and Italian Somali land united to form the independent Republic of Somalia in July 1960. The 1960 Constitution of the Republic was suspended in the wake of army and police seizing power in 1969 when the President, Abidi Hashid Ali Shermarke was assassinated. Somalia was declared a socialist state by October, 1970 on the occasion of the first anniversary of


the revolution and a revolutionary programme of national unification, social and economic forms were launched. 21

Since then, Somalia has been closer to the communist countries. And there is also a Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Somalia and the U.S.S.R.

A new Constitution was introduced in September 1979 and elections were held in December. The new 127 member People's Assembly met in January 1980. In October the President declared a state of emergency and reinstated the Supreme Revolutionary Council (SRC) with extensive powers. 22

The economy of this state is based mainly on the raising of livestock by nomads and subsistence agriculture, which together provide a living for about 90 per cent of the population.

All private schools were nationalized in 1972, and education is now free. The illiteracy rate, which was 90 per cent before the introduction of the Somali script in 1972, fell below 40 per cent following the 1974-75 literacy campaign and in 1978 it was estimated at about 25 per cent. UNESCO is assisting in the development of a countrywide library service. 23

23. Ibid.
11F. TANZANIA

The United Republic of Tanzania consists of Tanganyika and the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba. Tanganyika lies on the east coast of Africa with Uganda and Kenya to the north, Zaire to the west and Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique to the south. The area of the state is 364,900 square miles. The capital of the country is Dar-es-Salaam.

Formerly a United Nations Trusteeship Territory under British administration, Tanganyika became independent in December 1961 and a year later that in 1962, Tanganyika became a Republic and Dr. Julius Nyerere became its first President and the office which he continues to hold till this day.

Zanzibar, a British Protectionate since 1890, became an independent sultanate in December 1963. Following an armed uprising by the African Afro-Shirazi Party in January 1964, the sultan was deposed and a Republic proclaimed. The new government signed an Act of Union with Tanganyika in April 1964, thus creating the United Republic which was named Tanzania in October 1964 and became a one party state in July 1965.

Relations with Uganda and Kenya were uneasy throughout the 1970s, particularly after the dissolution of the East African Community (EAC), in 1977. In December 1980 Dr. Million Obote, who had been in exile in Tanzania since his ousting by Idi Amin in 1971, was returned to power as President.25

Economy is mainly agricultural and much of the farming is at subsistence level.

In 1980 it was estimated that over 95 per cent of school age children would receive at least seven years of education. Adult literacy rose from 33 per cent in 1967 to 73 per cent in 1978.26

UGANDA

The Republic of Uganda is an equatorial country in East Africa, bordered by Sudan to the north, Zaire to the west, Kenya to the east and Rwanda, Tanzania and Lake Victoria to the south. The area is 91,134 square miles. The capital of the country is Kampala.

Formerly a British Protectorate, Uganda became independent in 1962. In October 1963 Uganda became a

Republic, with the Kabaka (King) of Baganda as its first President and Dr. Milton Obote, leader of the Uganda Peoples' Congress (UPC) as Prime Minister. Later the two leaders fell apart and Obote succeeded in overthrowing the President. He declared himself as the executive President and introduced the provisional Constitution. He was also overthrown in 1971 by the army led by Idi Amin who declared himself Head of State, took over legislative powers.

Concerted anti-government guerrilla activity began in February 1981 with a series of attacks on police and army installations. Since January 1982 the Uganda Popular Front (UPF), headed by former Presidents Binaisa and Lule and based in London, has coordinated the activities of all but one of the main exile groupings aiming to overthrow the Obote Government.28

Agriculture, the most important factor in Uganda's economy, provides a livelihood for about 85 per cent of the population. Whole of the eastern region is agrarian based.

Education is sponsored by the Government and by Missions. There is severe shortage of teachers. The rate of illiteracy is very high. In 1982 there were 1,400,000 pupils enrolled in 5300 primary schools. This has affected the growth of libraries in the region.29

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29. Ibid., p. 1642.
12. **WESTERN REGION**

The Western Region of Africa is made up of Upper Volta, Niger, the Ivory Coast, Guinea, Senegal, Benin formerly Dahomey, Togo, Cameroon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria. All these countries have been under colonial rule of either the British or the French.

12A. **BENIN**

Dahomey renamed as the People's Republic of Benin in December 1975, is a narrow stretch of territory in west Africa, flanked by Nigeria and Togo. The area is 43,484 square miles. The capital of Benin is Porto Novo.

Formerly one of the provinces of French West Africa, Dahomey became a self-governing Republic with in the French community in December 1958 and an independent state in August 1960. In 1960s there was frequent intervention of the army in the state and in 1972 the army finally took over and established a military government. The army regime was closed to the communist countries and in 1975, Lt. Col. Mathier Kerekon who was responsible for the army take over announced the creation of a Marxist ruling party and replacement of the country's colonial name, Dahomey, by the name, the People's Republic of Benin.

About 30 per cent of Benin's people work on the land.
Education is provided both by Government and the Christian missions. The University of Benin was founded in 1970.

12B. CAMEROON

The United Republic of Cameroon lies on the west coast of Africa with Nigeria to the west, Chad and the Central African Republic to the east and the Congo People's Republic, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon to the south. The area of the country is 183,569 square miles. The capital of Cameroon is Yaounde.

The State of Cameroon became the United Republic in 1972. Federal Republic of Cameroon which was created in 1961 as a result of integration of East Cameroon (once a league of Nations mandate and later United Nations Trusteeship Territory under the French administration and which became independent in 1960) and West Cameroon (which was earlier part of British administered territory of southern Cameroon). A fully centralised political and administrative system was quickly introduced and in May 1973, a new National Assembly was elected. After the re-election of Ahidjo as President in April 1975, the Constitution was revised and a Prime Minister appointed. President Ahidjo announced his resignation in November 1982, and named Paul Béja his Prime Minister, as the new President.30

The basis of this country's economy is still essentially agricultural.

In 1978 a programme of standardization of curricula was undertaken. In 1981, 79 per cent of school age children attended school, but only 32 per cent attended in the northern region. The State University at Yaounde, founded in 1962, has been decentralized and consists of five regional campuses. The budget for 1982-83 gave top priority to education, with an allocation of 40,400 million francs CFA, almost 10 per cent of the total.31

12C. THE GAMBIA

The Republic of the Gambia is a narrow territory around the River Gambia in West Africa, surrounded on three sides by Senegal. The area is 4,361 square miles. The capital of The Gambia is Banjul.

The Gambia was a British colony till 1960 when it became an independent country within the Commonwealth. It became a Republic in 1970 with Sir Dawda K. Jawara as its President.

The political and economic progress in the state has been steady since independence. In October 1980 the Government was obliged to ask Senegal for troops to help maintain internal security under the terms of a mutual

Progress towards political, economic and military integration was made in 1982. The first Confederal Council of Ministers, headed by President Abdou Diouf of Senegal (with President Jawara as his deputy), was announced in November.

The economy is based on peasant cultivation of groundnuts.

In 1979/80 there were 132 primary schools with 34,468 pupils and 23 secondary schools with 8328 pupils, mostly in Banjul area. Education is being extended in rural areas. According to UNESCO estimates, adult illiteracy in 1980 averaged 79.9 per cent.

12D. GHANA

The Republic of Ghana lies on the west coast of Africa between the Ivory Coast to the West and Togo to the East. It is bordered by Upper Volta to the north. The area is 92,100 square miles. The capital of Ghana is Accra.

Since 1966 when Dr. Kwame Nkrumah was overthrown in a coup d'état, Ghana has witnessed the military intervention and coups a number of times. It is only in


1979 the civilian government was installed and Dr. Hilla Liman was elected as President of the Republic.

Dissatisfaction with the Government came to a head in December 1981, when Flight-Lt. Rawlings once again took power in a military coup and established a Provisional National Defence Council (PNDC), with himself as Chairman. City and distinct councils were dissolved in March 1982 and replaced by People's Defence Committees (PDC's), designed to give the people a voice in the government of Ghana. The PDCs aimed to expose and deal with corruption, maintain discipline and "protest the aims of the revolution."³⁴

Ghana is primarily an agricultural country.

12E. GUINEA

The Popular and Revolutionary Republic of Guinea lies on the west coast of Africa with Surra Leone and Liberia to the south, Senegal to the north and Mali and the Ivory Coast to the east. The area is 94,926 square miles. The capital of Guinea is Conakry.

Guinea was formerly French Guinea, part of French West Africa. It became the independent Republic of Guinea on October 2, 1958 after 95 per cent of the voters had rejected the Constitution of the Fifth Republic of France under which the French colonies became self governing within

the French Community. Mr. Ahmed Sekon Toure, the leader of the Parti démographique de Guinée (PDG) was elected President.\textsuperscript{35}

The Government was reshuffled in June 1979 and again in May 1981. In legislative elections held in January 1980, the voters approved the list of 210 candidates to the National Assembly. Presidential elections were held in May 1982 and Sekon Toure was reelected for a fourth seven-year term of office.

In this state also more than 80 per cent of the population is engaged in farming.

However, estimated enrolment at primary schools in 1980 was equivalent to only 33 per cent of this age group. Educational establishments are known as 'Centres d'Éducation Révolutionnaire (CER) and are divided into four cycles. Education is closely linked with society and the state, and, in addition to basic knowledge, pupils receive political and professional training. University education is divided into two stages of two and three years, often interrupted for periods of practical experience in the chosen field.\textsuperscript{36}


12F. IVORY COAST

The Ivory Coast lies on the west coast of Africa between Ghana and Liberia, with Guinea, Mali and Upper Volta to the north. The area is 124,504 square miles. The capital of Ivory Coast is Abidjan.

The Ivory Coast became an independent Republic in August 1960. Formerly a province of French West Africa, it was declared to be self-governing member of the French Community in 1958. In 1959 it joined with Benin, Niger and Upper Volta to form the Conseil de l'Entente, a regional politico-economic association.

The Ivory Coast was little developed before independence but economic growth since 1960 has been maintained at a high rate, due to a consistent development policy based on the variety of natural resources and the establishment of light industry.

In October 1980 Houphouet-Boigny was re-elected unopposed for a fifth five-year term of office.

In March 1982 the University was temporarily closed following student demonstrations, and the University Teachers' Union was dissolved.

The University of Abidjan was founded in 1964 and in 1973/74 had 5,486 students. In 1980, it had over 17,000 students.
126. LIBERIA

The Republic of Liberia lies on the west coast of Africa with Sierra Leone and Guinea to the north and the Ivory Coast to the east. The area of the country is 43,000 square miles. The capital of Liberia is Monrovia.

President Tubman, in office since 1944, died in July 1971 and was succeeded by his Vice-President, William R. Tolbert, who was reelected in October 1975. While continuing to pursue the "open door" economic and foreign policies of his predecessor, which have led to close relations between Liberia and other west African States, and strengthening relations both with U.S.A. and with national development along the lines of "Liberianization" and self-sufficiency. In April 1979, President Tolbert blamed the opposite party Progressive Alliance of Liberia (PAL) for the bloodshed and riots. In January 1980 the People's Progressive Party (PPP) was formed by the member of PAL. In the same year in March, the leader of PPP, Gabriel Bacchus Matthews was arrested and in April President Tolbert was assassinated in a military coup whose leader, Sergeant Samuel Doe, took over power as Chairman of a People's Redemption Council.37

The economy is pre-dominantly agricultural with about

90 per cent of the population living on land.

In 1981 there were 303,168 pupils enrolled in 1635 schools. There is a University in Mourovia, which had 3,789 students in 1980. Other higher education institutes are the Cuttungton University College, enrolled by the Episcopal Church, and a College of Science and Technology, opened in 1978. A 12-year National Educational Plan was launched in 1978 and a literacy campaign was announced in 1981. In spite of the increased part played by education in national development, 69.5 per cent of the population remained illiterate in 1980.38

12H. MALI

The Republic of Mali is a land-locked state in West Africa, with Algeria to the north, Mauritanic and Senegal to the West, Guinea and the Ivory Coast to the South and Upper Volta and Niger to the East. The area is 479,000 square miles. The capital of Mali is Bamako.

Mali was formerly French Sudan, a part of French West Africa. In April 1959, it merged with Senegal to form the Federation of Mali, which became independent in June 1960. Senegal seceded two months later and the remnant of the Federation was proclaimed the Republic of Mali in September 1960. The first President Modibo Keita, adopted authoritarian socialist policies and broke away from the

French political and financial bloc. Keita was overthrown in 1968 by Military Committee of National Liberation (CMIN). Lt. Moussa Traore emerged as the dominant figure in the new regime with the hosts of Head of State and President of CMIN. Mass support for President Traore's plan for a return to civilian rule by June 1974 was demonstrated in a referendum in June 1974. The formation of a new ruling party, the Union Democratique du Peuple Malien (UDPM), was announced in September 1976. This new party was officially constituted in March 1979. In the presidential and legislative elections on June 19th, President Traore was unanimously re-elected for a five-year term. Mali is now under "constitutional" rule, with the role of the military remaining significant in the administrative elite.

Agriculture, livestock raising, and fishing form the basis of Mali's economy.

Education is free and in theory, compulsory for all children between the ages of 6 and 15. There is a nine-year basic and three-year secondary education. In 1978 enrolment at primary schools was equivalent to 27 per cent of children aged 6 to 11 years. Secondary enrolment was only 9 per cent of those aged 12 to 17. A national literacy programme is being carried out. In 1978, there were 30,000 students at 1321 literacy centres.

121. NIGER

The Republic of the Niger is a land locked state in West Africa, with Algeria and Libya to the north and Nigeria and Benin to the south. Mali and Upper Volta lie to the west and Chad to the east. The area is 489,200 square miles
The capital of Niger is Nianey.

Formerly a part of French West Africa, Niger was granted independence in 1960. The economy is agricultural and 90 per cent of the people are dependent on cultivation and raising of livestock. Education is free. A university was opened at Nianey in 1973.

12J. NIGERIA

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a west African coastal state within the Gulf of Guinea, with Niger to the north and flanked by Benin and Cameroon. The area is 356,669 square miles. The capital is Lagos; there are plans to move the capital to Abuja.

The British dependencies of Northern and Southern Nigeria were merged in 1914. In 1949 the United Kingdom introduced a new Nigerian constitution, establishing a federal system of government based on three regions: Northern, Eastern and Western. The Federation of Nigeria became independent, within the Commonwealth, on October 1, 1960. Legislation was approved in August 1963 created a fourth region by dividing the Western Region. In October 1963 Nigeria became a republic.

After much deterioration and devastation in the region since 1966, in 1975 the Federal Military Government purged the civil service and armed forces, in an attempt to reduce corruption. It took over the country's radio and announced a partial demobilization of the army. A programme to restore democracy and civilian rule by October 1979 was announced. In March 1976, the 12 existing states were
replaced by 19 and the decision taken to build a new capital near Abuja in Higher State.

In September 1978, the Constitution was issued and the state of emergency in force since 1966, was ended. At the same time the 12 year ban on political activity was lifted up. Elections were held in July and August 1979 and Alhaji Shehu Shagari, was elected President.\textsuperscript{39}

The new Government adopted no dramatic changes of policy, and the first few months of President Shagari's rule were occupied with gaining a working majority in the House of Representatives. Thus Nigeria has taken a leading role in African affairs.

Only 34 per cent of the adult population is literate. In 1979 there were 12,556,881 pupils in primary schools, 1,826,629 in secondary schools, and 70,395 at the country's 13 universities in 1981. A new education system was introduced in 1982, involving six years of secondary, dividing into two three-year phases, and four of higher education. Education is given high priority in budgets and development projects and in 1981 seven new technological universities were planned, with a mass literacy campaign.\textsuperscript{40}

12K. SENEGAL

It faces the Atlantic Ocean at the western part of the continent and extends 350 miles inland. Berdering

Senegal are Mauritania, Mali, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and The Gambia. The area of Senegal is 75,750 square miles. The capital of Senegal is Dakar.

After 300 years as a French Colony, Senegal became a self governing member state of the French Community in November 1958. In April 1959 it joined with the French Sudan to form the Mali Federation, which became independent in June 1960 but was dissolved two months later. The independent Republic of Senegal was proclaimed and Leopold Sedar Senghor was elected its President. In March 1963 a new constitution was adopted. 41

Senghor extended his power-base and forestalled criticism by re-creating the office of Prime Minister in 1970 and appointing to it a young man, Abdou Diouf.

Elections were held in 1978. Again Senghor was elected President.

Following an attempted coup against the Gambian government in July 1981, Senegalese troops again intervened in The Gambia, and protracted talks between President Diouf and President Jawara resulted in an announcement that the Senegal and the Gambia planned to merge. The confederation of Senegambia thus became into being on

February 1, 1982.\textsuperscript{42}

About 70 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture and stock rearing and the economy is dominated by the production and processing of groundnuts.

121. SIERRA LEONE

Sierra Leone lies on the west coast of Africa with Guinea to the north and east and Liberia to the south. The area is 27,699 square miles. The capital of Sierra Leone is Freetown.

Formerly under British rule, Sierra Leone became independent in April 1961. Elections were held in 1962 and won by the Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP) led by Sir Milton Margai. In April 1971 a Republican Constitution was introduced and Dr. Siaka Stevens became executive President after a successful army revolt, leader of the All People's Congress (APC).\textsuperscript{43}

In 1976 President Stevens was unanimously re-elected for a second five-year term of office. A state of emergency was declared in February 1977, following student riots.

A new constitution, providing for a one-party system was promulgated in May 1978, approved in a national vote.


referendum and adopted by the House of Representatives in June. The APC became the only legal party. President Stevens was sworn in for a seven-year term.

Legislative elections took place in May 1982 amid outbreaks of heavy violence. 44

The economy of this state is also based on agriculture and mining. Education is both private and government owned. Illiteracy is estimated at 80 per cent.

12M. TOGO

The Togolese Republic, lies on the coast of west Africa, forming a narrow strip stricking north to Upper Volta with Ghana to the west and Dahomey to the east. The area is 21,600 square miles. The capital of Togo is Lome.

Formerly a United Nations Trust Territory administered by France, Togo became an autonomous republic within the French Union in 1956 and achieved independence on April 27, 1960.

The leading political figure and first President of Togo, Sylvanus Olympio, was assassinated by military insurgents early in 1963 and Nicolas Grunitzky returned from exile to become President. He was overthrown in 1967 by an army coup d'état. A new ruling party, the

Rassemblement du Peuple Togolais (RPT) was founded in 1969 with Gen. Eyadema as President. At the RPT congress in November 1976 it was established that the Political Bureau was superior to the Government and a substantial government reshuffle in January 1977 left Gen. Eyadema as sole representative of the military in the Cabinet.

In Togo's first elections for 16 years, held on December 1979, Gen. Eyadema was elected Head of State; a proposed new Constitution was also endorsed.45

In October 1981 Togo was elected to one of five non-permanent seats in the U.N. Security Council. Political and economic relations with France were consolidated by the visit of President Mitterrand in January 1983.46

Agriculture is the leading sector of economy.

Education has reached 70 per cent to the population. The education budget for the period 1981-85 is 21,500 million francs CFA, reflecting Togo's literacy campaign.47

12N. UPPER VOLTA

Upper Volta is a land locked State in west Africa surrounded by Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and the Ivory Coast. The area is 105,869 square miles. The capital is

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47. Ibid., p. 1591.
Quagadougou.

Formerly a province of French West Africa, Upper Volta became independent in 1960. In January 1966 Lt. Col. (later Gen.) Sangoule Lamizana deposed President Maurice Tameogo and dissolved the National Assembly and then suspended the Constitution and assumed the position of the Head of the State. In January 1976 Gen. Lamizana made concessions on pay and conditions and promised to introduce a new Constitution.

Elections to the National Assembly were held in April 1978. In the Presidential elections held in May 1978, again Gen. Lamizana defeated his opponent Macaire Ouedraogo, leader of the Union Nationale Pour la de fense de la denocratie (UNDD).48

Largely as a result of the deteriorating economic situation, the country suffered a series of strikes during 1979 and 1980 and in November 1980, the Government of Gen. Lamizana was overthrown in a bloodless coup led by Col. Saye Zerbo, a former Foreign Minister during the previous period of military rule. In November 1982, Col. Zerbo was ousted in a coup led by non-commissioned army officer Maj. Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo, emerged as

leader of the new military regime. 49

Economy is purely agricultural. Education is free but not compulsory. It was estimated that in 1980 about 17 per cent of children aged 6 to 11 years attended schools (primary) while only 2 per cent of those aged 12-17 were enrolled at secondary schools.

The scenario of Africa as described in the proceeding pages clearly shows that political instability has been a common features in most of the African States. These Third World countries have enormous developmental problems for which effective governments are a pre-requisite. There is also a shortage of educated administrators in these countries. Illiteracy percentage is very high as only about 10 per cent of adult Africans can read and write. Most Africans live in villages and make their living by farming and herding as discussed before. About 70 out of every 10050 Africans are Negroes who live south of Sahara.
