

took over from the chartered trading companies and assumed responsibility for the administration of most of Nigeria. In the Fulani lands of the north Sir Frederick Lugard, as High Commissioner, launched his great experiment of "indirect rule". This was the first attempt in Africa to establish a single government in which the European and African officials were complementary to one another. The system worked particularly well in Northern Nigeria where the Fulani emirs continued to exercise and develop their authority. In 1900 Northern Nigeria had become a protectorate and on January 1, 1914, it was combined with the southern protectorate in the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria.

In the southern parts of the country colonial administration was accompanied by the development of representative institutions, following on the small nominated and advisory Council set up in the Colony of Lagos soon after the occupation of 1861. This Council remained in existence until 1922, with a small Executive Council, which was also advisory. Following the amalgamation of 1914, a body known as the Nigerian Council, consisting of 36 members, was set up. This Council covered in its deliberations the Colony and the Protectorate (northern and southern Nigeria). It was entirely advisory and was not very successful because of lack of interest in its work. The year 1922 was important in the constitutional evolution of Nigeria. In that year, a new Legislative Council for the whole country replaced the Colony Council and the Nigerian Council. The new body, although having a nominated official and non-African majority, included elected Africans, four in number, for the first time in any legislature of British tropical Africa. This Council was empowered to legislate for the Colony and southern Nigeria while the Governor continued to legislate by proclamation for the north. The Executive Council continued to consist mainly of officials, but in 1943 five unofficial members (two European and three African) were appointed to it. These organs remained almost unchanged until 1946.

By 1946 it had become apparent that the size of Nigeria, and its diversity of peoples, languages, cultures and religions, called for a regional governmental structure. The Constitution of that year introduced nominated regional councils consisting of a House of Chiefs and House of Assembly in the north, and Houses of Assembly in the other two regions — all purely advisory. In Lagos sat a Legislative Council comprising nominated and elected members from all parts of the country, in which there was a majority of non-official Africans who came to play an increasingly important part in the formulation of government policy. During the period from 1946 to 1954 two factors became clear. The demands of the Nigerian nationalists for independence, conforming as they did to the general international anti-colonialist trend, called for a much more rapid constitutional advance than had been envisaged. The second point was that regionalism was a strong force, which had to be taken into consideration to an even greater degree than in 1946.

The Constitutions of 1951 and 1954 acknowledged these factors in their main features; in 1951 the subjects over which the regional legislatures had financial