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QUESTION: WRITE AN ESSAY ON VIOLENT CONFLICT THE GEOPOLITICAL ZONE YOU ARE FROM.

POLITICAL CONFLICT IN THE WESTERN NIGERIA

I am from the south western geopolitical zone of Nigeria which used to be formerly known as the western region of Nigeria. The south western geopolitical zone are known for political conflicts. This political conflicts are conflicts relating to electoral process including conflicts among political parties, politicians and voters. I guess the reason why political conflict was predominant in the south western Nigeria is due to relatively higher educational and political enlightenment of the westerners in the early days of Nigeria. Some of the states that make up the south western geopolitical zone are Ekiti, Ogun, oyo, ondo and lagos.

The political crisis in western Nigeria started in December 1961 at the conference of the Action Group at Jos , which made it clear that differences had arisen among the leading members of the Action Group, the party in power in western Nigeria and in opposition in the federal, Northern and Eastern legislatures. The basic difference was between the actions and purpose of chief Obafemi Awolowo, former head of western Nigeria government who later became the leader of the federal opposition and the western Nigeria premier, Chief S.L. Akintola and his supporters. However the party conference resulted in the ousting of Chief Akintola's supporters from the federal Executive notably Chief Ayo Rosiji from the secretaryship. Later in early may 1962 it did not appear that time had healed the differences with the Action Group and Chief Akintola charged his party leader with interfering in his as leader of the Government and of not being permit him any initiative. Chief Awolowo countered the Chief Akintola had ignored party instructions regarding government policy particularly in raising local contributions to secondary grammar school and thus the fees and in reducing the price payable to local producers of cocoa. The rift had widened to unprecedented proportions and the party elders led by Chief Rotimi WilliamsQc the Action Group legal adviser and former western Nigeria Attorney-General and minister of justice, endeavoured to bring peace but failed. Then Chief Akintola was asked to resign by the party which he did, DS Adegbnero who was minister of local government was nominated as the leader of government by the party and appointed premier by the Governor.

The house of Assembly met at Ibadan to ratify the New government, a fight broke out within the legislative chamber and many members were injured including a minister was broken. A second meeting also ended in uproar. The prime minister then summoned the federal parliament to an emergency meeting on 29th of may 1962 to determine what action could be taken in the exceptional circumstance prevailing in western Nigeria. By mid day 29th may 1962 a state of emergency was declared and the prime minister appointed senator M.A.Majekodunmi, the federal minister of health and the country’s leading gynecologist, Administrator of western Nigeria. The regional Government was suspended. The first act of Administrator was to order restriction of most of the leading personalities in the region including: Chief Awolowo, Chief Akintola , Chief Adegbenro ,Chief Rosiji, Chief Williams, Chief Enaharo and Mr R.A Ranikayode the regional opposition leader. Meanwhile the Administrator had considered the charges and the counter charges during the crisis and recommended that a commission of inquiry should investigate the workings of the western Government corporation and associated companies , particularly in regard to the investment of public funds in private companies .

In conclusion conflict are not good at all cause at the long run it does not result in any good it just destroys lives, properties and renders people help less. We should try as much as possible to avoid wars in order not to ruin everything we have or have worked for.

**References: Empowering Nigerians for a culture of peace by**

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