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"TRIBALISM" AND POLITICS IN NIGERIA
THE OIL BOOM AND POVERTY
THE LOME CONVENTION: EXPLOITATION CONTINUES
IMPERIALISM IN NIGERIA
ZIMBABWE: LANCASTER, THE ELECTIONS AND BEYOND

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EDWIN MADUNAGU

FROM AN AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY

"A distinction must be made between tribes and tribalism The clan is the extended family, and the tribe is the extended clan with the same language within a territory. There were tribes before imperialist penetration, but no "tribalism" in the modern sense. Tribalism arose from colonialism which exploited feudal and tribal survivals to combat the growth of national liberation movements.....

In the era of neo-colonialism, tribalism is exploited by the bourgeois ruling classes as an instrument of power politics, and as a useful outlet for the discontent of the masses. Many of the so-called tribal conflicts in modern Africa are in reality class forces brought into conflict by the transition from colonialism to neo-colonialism. Tribalism is the result, not the cause, of underdevelopment. In the majority of "tribal" conflicts, the source is the exploiting bourgeois or feudal minority in co-operation with imperialists and neo-colonialists seeking to promote the interests of international capitalism. The process assumes the appearance of a tribal confrontation, but in reality is part of the class struggle.

The emergence of tribes in any country is natural, or due to historical development. Tribes, like nationalities, may always remain in a country, but it is tribalism - tribal politics - that should be fought and destroyed."

---- Kwame Nkrumah

(Class Struggles in Africa)

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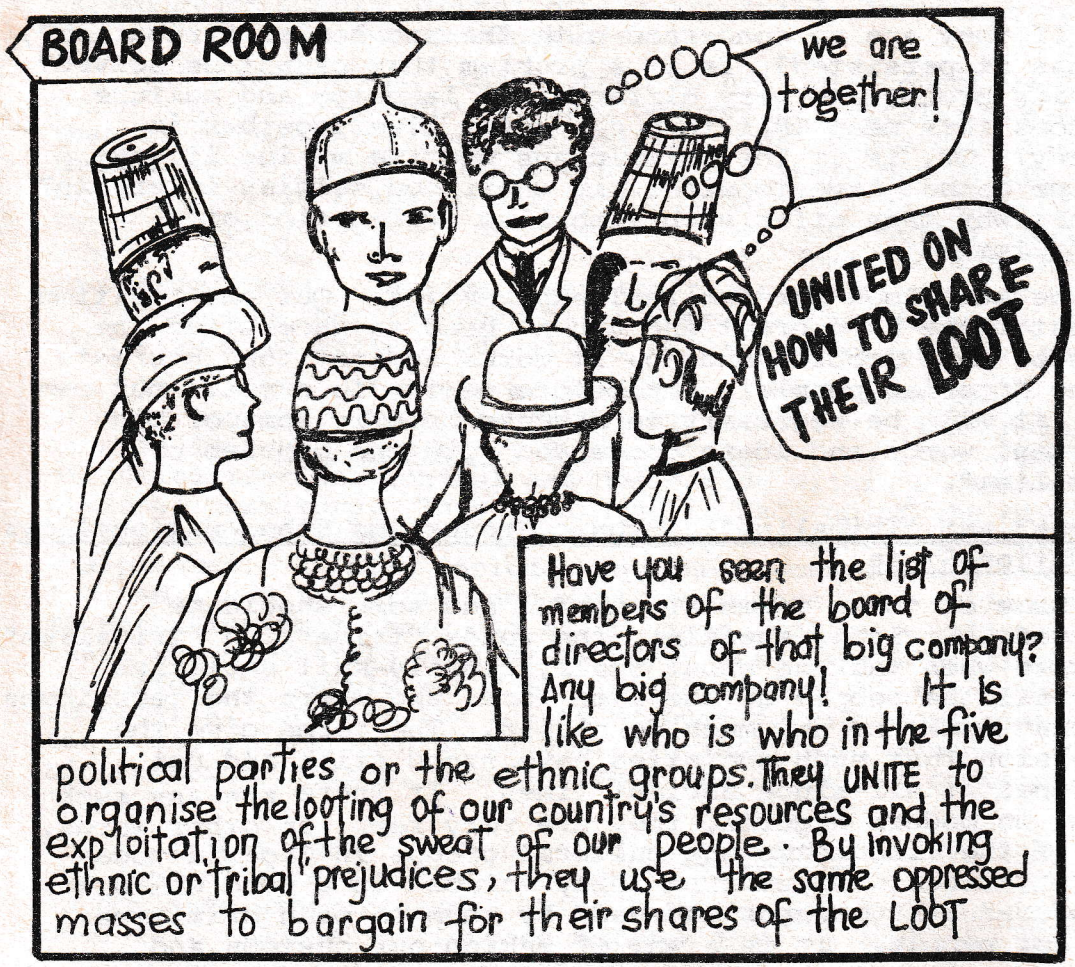
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Have you seen the list of members of the board of directors of that big company? Any big company! It is like who is who in the five political parties or the ethnic groups. They UNITE to organise the looting of our country's resources and the exploitation of the sweat of our people. By invoking ethnic or tribal prejudices, they use the same oppressed masses to bargain for their shares of the LOOT