



Impact of Colonialism in China Achebe's Things Fall Apart

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Introduction

This research paper analyzes *Things Fall Apart* using an insightful methodology that provides insight into colonialism in Africa, which has gone through several stages in different African countries. It aims to explore the multiple impacts of colonialism on Igbo society as depicted in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*.

It investigates the impact of colonialism on Igbo society as depicted in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*. It is structured into four main sections: an introduction defining colonialism and introducing the novel, a detailed exploration of pre-colonial Igbo society including culture and the role of Okonkwo, an analysis of the arrival of colonial forces and community responses, and an examination of the aftermath of colonialism on Igbo society.

"The white man is very clever. He came quietly with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart."

Things Fall Apart
Chinua Achebe

Methodology

The research employs the qualitative descriptive method to achieve its objectives, focusing on exploring the impact of colonialism in Chinua Achebe's novel *Things Fall Apart*. This method is deemed suitable as it allows for presenting results in a descriptive manner. The study is specifically confined to Achebe's work. The initial steps involve establishing a theoretical framework by referencing relevant sources, synthesizing previous studies, and providing a background description of the novel.



Discussion

The impact of colonialism on Igbo society, as depicted in *Things Fall Apart* is multifaceted and profound. Colonial intrusion led to the erosion of traditional norms, the disruption of social structures, and the introduction of Western ideologies and institutions. These changes contributed to societal fragmentation and internal conflicts within the community, as seen through the struggles of characters like Okonkwo and the broader Igbo population.

Resistance and adaptation were central themes in Igbo responses to colonial intrusion. While characters like Okonkwo initially resisted colonial authority, others, such as Nwoye, gradually adapted to the changes, including the acceptance of Christianity. These responses reflect the complex motivations and dilemmas faced by individuals and communities grappling with the pressures of colonialism, highlighting the tensions between cultural identity and social change.

The tragic consequences of colonialism are vividly portrayed through the character of Okonkwo, whose unwavering commitment to traditional values ultimately leads to his downfall in the face of colonial forces. Okonkwo's fate serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of resisting or clinging to the past in the midst of profound social and cultural transformations. Moreover, Okonkwo's story symbolizes the broader impact of colonialism on indigenous societies in Africa, underscoring the complexities of power dynamics, cultural clash, and identity formation in the colonial context.

Reflecting on the legacy of colonialism, Achebe's portrayal of colonial intrusion in "Things Fall Apart" continues to resonate with contemporary debates on cultural identity, decolonization, and nation-building in Africa. The novel offers valuable insights into the enduring challenges and opportunities faced by post-colonial societies, shedding light on the complexities of navigating the legacy of colonialism while striving for social justice, cultural preservation, and national unity in the modern era. Achebe's work serves as a powerful testament to the resilience of indigenous cultures in the face of external pressures and the ongoing quest for self-determination and empowerment in Africa and beyond.

Conclusion

In *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, The effects of colonialism on Igbo society are clearly depicted through Okonkwo and his community of Umuofia. The arrival of white missionaries brings Christianity and Western ideas, drastically altering the cultural scene. Traditional Igbo customs are contested and often supplanted by foreign practices, causing significant upheaval in the community's social structure.

As European colonization gains momentum, the previously united Igbo society starts to splinter due to external pressures. Okonkwo, representing traditional beliefs and defiance against change, becomes more solitary as his fellow community members embrace Christianity and Western lifestyles. The enforcement of colonial administrative systems intensifies conflicts within the community, resulting in the erosion of traditional leadership and social unity. Ultimately, *Things Fall Apart* acts as a poignant commentary on the lasting effects of colonialism in Africa.

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