

The World of Conflicts through Characters in T. M. Aluko's Chief the Honourable Minister

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Abstract

The object of this article is to analyze the conflicting features through characters in T.M. Aluko's *Chief the Honourable Minister*. As a historian of his time, Aluko presents the image of conflicts within a particular historical background of Nigeria, "Afromacoland" in his fictitious world. To this effect, the problem of this article is based on the way Aluko succeeds to create the world of conflict in combining fiction and the historical background in his novel. In this regard, the psychological approach on the one hand, and the sociological approach on the second hand are of great help to achieve the present analysis. It results that, the opposition between certain characters makes *Chief the Honourable Minister* to be considered as a conflicting novel. This novel reveals a dramatic world of conflicts opposing Alade Moses versus Dauda Abdul, Alade Moses versus Franco-John and conflicts on posts. It also presents the world of conflicts through the political revolution, arrestations, destructions, assassination and death as the result of the government and political leaders' failure.

Key-words: conflicting features, image, historical background, Nigeria, fictitious world.

Résumé

L'objectif de cet article est d'analyser les aspects de conflit à travers les personnages dans *Chief the Honourable Minister* de T.M. Aluko. Historien de son temps, Aluko présente l'image des conflits dans un passé historique particulier du Nigeria, « Afromacoland » dans son monde fictif. A cet effet, le problème de cet article se base sur la manière qu'Aluko réussit de créer le monde des conflits en combinant la fiction et le passé historique du Nigeria dans son roman. A cet égard, l'approche psychologique d'un côté, et l'approche sociologique de l'autre côté sont d'une grande aide pour accomplir la présente analyse. Il résulte que, l'opposition entre certains personnages fait de *Chief the Honourable Minister* comme un roman des conflits. Ce roman révèle un monde dramatique des conflits opposant Alade Moses à Dauda Abdul, Alade Moses à Franco-John, et les conflits aux postes. Il présente aussi le monde des conflits à travers la révolution politique, arrestations, destructions, assassinats, et mort comme résultat de l'échec de gouvernement et des leaders politiques.

Mots-clés: aspects conflictuels, image, passé historique, Nigeria, monde fictif.

Introduction

Writers have for their writings certain historical, social, cultural and political circumstances as sources of inspiration. They manage and tend to reflect them in their fiction as it is required in literature which is seen as

the mirror of the society. In fact, the term literature is perceived differently by authors. In this regard, Richard Tailor quoted by Epounda Mexan Serge (2017:5) believes that: “*Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life experiences. Literature is written to present the happenings in the contemporary society*”. In this respect, Ngugi (1976:6) asserts that:

Literature is more than just a mechanistic reflection of the social reality... it does shape our attitude to life, the daily struggles within a community, and the daily struggles within our individual souls and selves. Literature is a reflection of life which records or imagines actualities in or for the society.

Aluko, born in June 1918, in Nigeria, after his studies in Lagos and London, he held numerous administrative positions in Nigeria. Later on, thanks to his historical background, Aluko decides to depict life within a particular historical background in a fictional African country named Afromacoland, a newly independent State which is actually Nigeria. He is also among English-speaking African novelists who have been successful in creating a realistic representation of an African environment under the reign of African political leaders.

In fact, by conflict, previously, Anaso, George N. (on line) worked on *Conflict in the Novels of T. M. Aluko and Implications for Nation-Building*. He examines the major concern of the three novels: *Chief the Honourable Minister, His Worshipful Majesty* and *Wrong Ones in the Dock*. Mordaunt Owen G. (1989), for him described how the Nigerian author Chinua Achebe deals with the problem of personal conflict in his novel *Arrow of God*.

This article studies conflicts through characters in T M Aluko’s *Chief the Honourable Minister*, abbreviated: “*C.H.M*”, in this study. It also casts light on aspects through characters which make Aluko’s novel a conflicting one. According to the *Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary*, the term conflict refers to “*a fight, quarrel or any context or a sharp disagreement or opposition as of interests or ideas*”. In the case I am concerned with, by conflict, I mean emotional disturbance resulting from a clash of opposing impulses or from an inability to reconcile impulses with realistic or moral consideration. It is in this acceptance that I am going to deal with my subject matter.

To this effect, the problem of this article is based on the way Aluko succeeds to create the world of conflict in combining fiction and the historical background in his *Chief the Honourable Minister*. Then, what is the nature of conflicts through characters in *Chief the Honourable Minister*?

It sounds that, through the opposition between a certain number of characters, *Chief the Honourable Minister* would be a conflicting novel. The answer of this question will also be given through the studies of: Alade Moses versus Dauda Abdul, conflicts on political posts, Alade Moses versus Franco-John, political revolution, arrestations and destructions, and assassinations and death. As for the methodology, I am going to resort to Wilbur Scott including (1962) the psychological approach on the one hand, and the sociological approach on the second hand.

1-Alade Moses Versus Dauda Abdul

The departure point of the conflict between Alade Moses and Dauda Abdul lies on Alade’s victory in the Newtown North constituency and appointment as a minister of state. This double success could not satisfy Dauda and his gang. They believe that the way Alade has been elected is very improper. They decide to fight against Alade because they were absolutely sure they would win the seat. It is revealed that, Dauda even dares to take a five hundred sterling bet on the issue. Unfortunately he lost the so-called seat. In addition to that, after Alade’s victory in the Newtown North constituency, the prime minister of the newly independent state of Afromacoland offers in person his congratulations to the winner Alade:

I am glad, I am now able to offer to you in person my congratulations on your victory in the Newtown North constituency,’the Prime Minister continued still holding Moses’hand ‘And on your appointment as a Minister of State’.Thank you Sir. (...) Your victory is the more gratifying judging by the activities of Dauda and his gang.I understand that they were

absolutely sure they would win the seat. Indeed, I understand that Dauda took a £500 bet on the issue. (C.H.M, P.1)

The official declaration of battle is easily noticed in the *Afromacoland Sentinel*, a newspaper. In fact, in this 'Sentinel', Alade's victory is qualified as a monstrous crime against the electorate of the nation. Alade and his group are the perpetrators of that crime. And the wrath of God of Africa is called to descend upon them. Simply because they have made a complete mockery of the sacred institutions of the ballot box:

'The wrath of the God of Africa will descend upon them, the perpetrators of this monstrous crime against the electorate of the Nation. And Nemesis will come to all the organs and institutions of society that have aided and abetted the crime. All of them that have made a complete mockery of the sacred institution of the ballot box, all of them that stood in the way of the people's exercising their inalienable right to choose who shall speak for them in the nation's assembly-All of them will pay the penalty at the appointed time. (C.H.M, P.32)

Dauda and his gang are convinced and have a great admiration for Alade Moses' academic achievements. They know he is a perfect gentleman and knows more than all of them. But, what matters is that Alade has not been elected properly in accordance with the electoral regulations. As he is a perfect gentleman, Dauda and his gang wish to leave him a time and send to the Prime Minister his letter of resignation as a Minister of State and as a member of an honourable body:

We have the greatest admiration for the academic achievements of Alade Moses, the gentlemen who was declared returned unopposed in the Newtown North constituency. We know that he knows, more than any of us, that he has not been elected into the nation's legislature in accordance with the electoral regulations (...). And like a gentleman, a perfect gentleman, let him this day, this hour, send to the Prime Minister his letter of resignation as a Minister of State, and to the Clerk of the House of Representatives this letter of resignation as a member of honourable body to which he has not been properly elected. And if he refuses to take an honourable way out in this matter then he should be prepared for battle, real battle. We shall fight him, together with the imperialists and that fascist organization (...) We shall fight them in the highest court of law in the land. We shall fight them till we finish them. We shall never surrender'. (C.H.M, PP.32-33)

The repeated use of "we shall fight", combined with "him, together with the imperialists and that fascist organization, them, them in Newtown then in Victoria, in the highest court of law in land, them till we finish them", helps readers understand and measure the deep degree of the real declaration of the real battle against Alade and his group. The most remarkable fact is that, the battle will be everywhere and against each one belonging to Alade's group. Unless, Alade Moses resigns in taking a honorable way out related to the matter. Now, the question is that: what are Alade's companions' reactions after being informed about the official declaration of the battle through the newspaper article? In this respect, the different reactions below tell:

It's that wretch Dauda again, (...). Then he signed. 'P.M. himself has seen this article,' Franco-John said. 'He has?' 'Yes, he has', Franco-John continued. 'And the party lawyers are already busy studying it. I'm sure this is a clear case of libel.' Moses nodded his head absent-mindedly. He stared through his companion who continued: 'This is not an attack on an individual. It is an attack on the whole party. That's what Dauda didn't understand. An attack on one member is an attack on all. And we are going to give him more trouble than he can take personally. (C.H.M, PP. 33-34)

As a member of government and Minister of State with his companions, they think that this article is the offending one. Concerning Dauda's attack again, they believe that Dauda ignores one thing. The one who attacks one member of the government, he attacks all members of that government. They conclude that Dauda's attack against Alade is a clear case of libel. In this regard, the party lawyers have to be instructed to study the case. Thus, the private proceedings for libel against Dauda can be noticed in:

If he goes to gaol, apart from his being rendered ineffective politically for some nine months, he will become a liability on the State .If he is fined what he pays goes into State revenue.This is no advantage to us. Private proceedings for libel against Dauda.That's what we must arrange."Alade Moses sues Abdul Dauda for libel."No, better still :''Alade Moses sues for libel :Abdul Dauda in court for £100,000 damages claim."Yes, .£100,000." (C.H.M, P.34)

This section reveals that Dauda Abdul is engaged into the battle against Alade Moses and his political party, after election in the New Town North Constituency. According to Dauda Abdul, the victory of Alade in the New Town North Constituency is not proper. He could not win the seat in the NewTown. Dauda and his gang are convinced in Alade's education, but not in his victory. Thus, the so-called Alade Moses' victory in NewTown North Constituency gives the place to the tension on political posts.

2-Conflicts on Political Posts

The portrayal of the conflicting image on posts appears and starts through Alade Moses' attitude.It means, when Alade begins to wonder if leaving his job as principal of Newtown grammar school so as to become minister of state is a perfect choice:

Alade Moses began to wonder if he had not made a mistake in leaving his job as principal of Newtown grammar school to become a Minister of State (...). Four months before he had not the slightest ideas that he would be anywhere other than in the modestly furnished office at the Grammar School.Now he was a Minister of State, meeting and sharing dirty jokes with colleagues most of whom he was meeting for the first time, some of Whom he did not like.He was not sure where To place Franco-John. (C.H.M, P. 53)

This betrays more Alade's attitude towards his colleagues. The attitude above mentioned also influences his decisions concerning some important posts that could be appropriate to some of his colleagues. It is the case with Franco-John in which he is not sure and objective. Apart from that case of Franco-John, there is the one on Dauda:

The one immediate advantage he thought he had seen in leaving the school was freedom from the domination of the members of the Newtown Improvement Union, who really ruled the school. But they had followed him to his Ministry to tell him which portfolio he should keep and which he should not. His Cabinet post was clearly a gift to his constituency, a reward for keeping Dauda out, in spite of what the prime Minister had told him about his qualifying to be a Minister of State irrespective of what constituency he Came from. (C.H.M, P.54)

First, it is easy to notice that there is a problem related to posts between the former Principal of grammar school, now minister of state with the members of the Newtown Improvement Union. Alade thinks to become free as Minister of State from the Union's domination. Unfortunately, the same members of the influent party follow him as a Minister of State to dictate him which posts he should keep and which he should not. Second, it is also easy to notice that there is a conflict on political posts between Moses and Dauda. In fact, a close investigation of this analysis reveals a conflict caused by a libel case; Alade versus Dauda. In other terms, for Dauda, Alade has not been elected properly into the nation's legislature in accordance with the electoral regulations. Now, Alade is installed, another advantage is Alade's cabinet post which is an opportunity for him to keep Dauda out. In addition, a similar situation related to the conflicts on posts can be observed through the case of Abyssinia as illustrated in this excerpt:

As Moses climbed out of the car through the door which the drive held open for him he recollected the meeting which he had had with the delegation from the Newtown Improvement Union.They wanted Geo Abyssinia to be principal and left Moses to sort out whatever difficulties there were in the way. (C.H.M, P.60)

The Newtown grammar school has a problem. It is related to the school certificate examination. As for the delegation from Newtown Improvement Union, Abyssinia deserves to become the Principal of the Newtown

grammar school. It is going without saying that, people are fed up of Alade Moses and are determined to face difficulties in sorting him out. Facing such a delegation's decision, Alade decides to go ahead in developing some devil strategies against Abyssinia:

Geo Abyssinia would have been officially installed as principal. But would he? Moses had still to see how he could persuade his colleague, the Minister of Education, to set aside the relevant portion of the Education code which disqualified Abyssinia from being a principal. (C.H.M, P.54)

Alade Moses manages with his colleague- ministers to prevent Abyssinia from being Principal of grammar school as claimed by the delegation. Alade manipulates his colleagues to set aside the relevant portion of the education code which can disqualify to become Principal. Alade multiplies efforts and contacts to maintain his posts as a minister of state and as a member of party or Principal. He is upset for the election petition case. The delegation's concern about Abyssinia, pushes Alade to be in contradiction with the English man Dereck Mc Donald because of the post of Principal of the grammar school:

Now.Do you hear, Mr McDonald?'I hear, Sir, but Minister-I shall not stand any more insolence from any civil servant, white or black, you hear? The Minister rose panting with fury.'very well, Sir,'the Englishman said, retreating anxiously from the room'.And Minister,'Hon Anjorin addressed his colleague, tearing up the letter, this matter is closed.And you,' he addressed his private secretary, who had rushed in the moment the Minister's voice had risen to anger pitch.'Go and burn this.We shall know whether I am Minister of Education or whether that foolish, useless Englishman is. (C.H.M, P. 66)

As it appears, the post of the principal is of great importance for Alade Moses. He organizes a private and special meeting with the English man Mr. Dereck Mc. Donald, Director of Education, Honourable Anjorin, Minister of Education, Geoffrey Shepherd, Principal of the government and his private Secretary. The main goal of the meeting is to convince Donald to withdraw the letter having two attachments: a copy of the relevant portion of the Education Code, and a Ministry of Education circular which made a slight amendment to the original regulation:

It was signed by some official for the Director of Education.It revoked the approval given twenty-six months before the top from Newtown Grammar school to sit the School Certificate examination till the school was in a position to satisfy the requirements of section 137 of the Education code.There were two attachments: a copy of the original Regulation. (C.H.M, P. 60)

In this section, Aluko portrays the real image of the African political leaders of different African countries in power. The remarkable fact is that, African political leaders in general do not like sharing the power with others. Aluko tries to illustrate it through Alade Moses' attitude towards others such as: Franco-Johnand and Dauda Abdul. Additionally, Aluko succeeds to create conflicts through characters in the next section.

3-Alade Moses versus Franco-John

Alade Moses and Franco-John are both members of the government. But, there is a drastic disagreement between the two Ministers concerning the policy of leading the country. What matters is that, Alade is fed up of listening to colleagues'problems and to their complaints. It seems that all the hours of the day, and days of the week excepting Sundays, Alade receives telephone calls from different colleagues. In the same conditions, he also receives telephone calls from very influential and high personalities of the powerful Newtown Improvement Union. They all call him timelessly for their own and particular interests:

Alade Moses allowed telephone to ring on. Six-thirty in the morning. No doubt another constituency man, wanting to be made a contractor in the Ministry of Works.Or another party man from another constituency, wanting an appointment.(...) All the hours of the day,all the days of the week –Sundays not excepted –in his office,at home,he interviewed them.He listened to their problems,and to their complaints.And at night he dreamt of them.He had now

had nearly eleven months of this terrible life. Now he was getting fed up. Let the caller go to hell this time. (C.H.M, P.86)

It seems clear that some colleagues need some favours. For example having greater credit facilities, being contractors in the Ministry of Works, or having notes for the constructions of the most complex work of civil engineering. Now, the decision taken by Alade to refuse listening to their problems and complaints is the main source of the quarrel, disagreement, and the misunderstanding in the party and in the government among Ministers and members of the party. This is particularly the case of Alade Moses versus Franco-John:

A few minutes later, Moses read the screaming headline in the sentinel: serious crack in government party Front: Franco-John versus Alade Moses. He read on: All is not well in the Government party. The gulf that has opened between the Attorney General and the Minister of works over the state college Building contract widened further in the last forty-eight hours and matter have now reached a point where one or the other of the two Ministers must go. (C.H.M, P.87)

The terrible fact is that, Alade Moses refuses to receive telephone calls, and he decided to let his callers go to hell this time. He also decides to act in this way simply, to avoid listening to complaints or to his colleagues' needs. Unfortunately, the "Sentinel", newspaper article points everything out. First, it presents the two ministers in trouble or conflict and the party they belong to. By writing: 'serious crack in the government party front: Franco-John versus Alade Moses'. Furthermore, and second, the "Sentinel" points the two other members of the party out: the Attorney General and minister of works. The "Sentinel" also precises the problem which is over the state college building contract. The act of refusing to listen to colleagues' problems and complaints is not a solution but the cause of disagreement and trouble in the party among different members. Alade's behavior has made of himself more critical of government's policies and activities:

It is believed that Mr. Alade Moses has become more and more critical of government's policy and activities and that he has by his action embarrassed his Ministerial colleagues several times. Well-informed sources say that the young, honest ex-schoolmaster has been unable to reconcile both the policies of the cabinet and the activities of his colleagues with the promises the party made to the election. (C.H.M, P.88)

It results that, Alade Moses after being elected improperly in the NewTown North Constituency by the help of his colleagues, is now fed up of all of them. His new attitude towards his colleagues brings about a drastic disagreement within the government and in the political party. Alade Moses becomes incapable to master his colleagues and the population. The next section deals with the consequences of the betrayal by the government towards the population.

4-The Political Revolution

Political revolution means in this analysis the fight related to the collapse of the political power by force. This fight implies the population composed of political parties including their different supporters, policemen, militaries, and villagers. People face and undergo several problems creating their revolt. They are tired of undergoing bad governance by the party in power which reigns by corruption, deceptions, violations of human rights, and especially the arrestation of the leader of the opposition political party:

Actually the rigging of the by-election was just immediate cause of trouble, Theo George cut in. The people were fed up with the corruption and deceit of the Government. They were merely waiting for an opportunity to kick them out. And the rigging of the by-election in Newtown just happened to be the last straw. (...) Ministers on the Run, the first headline screamed. Georgeous Gregory Roasted by Angry Villagers, another announced. Arrest of Opposition Leader declared contravention of human Rights, a third declared. (C.H.M, P.211)

This easily helps readers note that the immediate cause of the present political trouble is the by-election. The populations of towns and of villages are convinced ministers have betrayed the sacred trust related to

electorate. They also use their positions of trust to build mansions for themselves and for their girlfriends. Fed up of that situation, people including the opposition political party, rise up and lead the fight against the members of the political party in power and their government's ministers:

All three of them read the news eagerly: Nemesis has caught up with them, these plunderers of the wealth of the nation. They are now on the run, fleeing from the just anger of the electorate whose sacred trust they have betrayed. They are now scurrying like rats, Ministers of State who used their positions of trust to build mansions for themselves and for their girlfriends. (C.H.M, P. 211)

The embezzlement of national funds for their own pockets, and to afford mansions can be seen in the above mentioned extract. Also, for the understanding of the causes of this political trouble, Dauda's attack is of great help:

Nine days before the by-election Dauda attacked him and Government in a front page article in the sentinel. The article alleged that not only was the government financing the by-election expenses in Newtown. But there was incontrovertible evidence to show that it had financed the expenses of the chieftaincy installation ceremony at Newtown. (C.H.M, P.179)

Readers can clearly grasp through the preceded passages the importance of the different reasons why the political revolution has taken place in the different towns of the country. In addition to that, Aluko also portrays the departure point of the manifestations of the fight in this way:

Five days after the by-election Alade Moses lay sleepless and restless in bed in the Moyamba Rest house. (...) Then the telephone rang. He fumbled for the receiver on the cabinet near that bed. It was Gloria. Listen, she said, her voice quavering with anxiety. You must leave at once. They are coming. Why, who, glor? he asked, frightened. Don't go back to Newtown. Don't go by the main road. Glor, glor, glor, Alade Moses cried. (C.H.M, P.203)

Aluko reveals the starting time of the revolution by using Gloria and her warnings. Alade Moses is in the moment of his retreat after the by-election in Moyamba. This rest house is a private one. Only Gloria, chief Odole, and his faithful steward Patrick know that Alade is in this house for rest. Thanks to Gloria he no longer goes back to Newtown where the trouble is starting to fight against them: "And now he must leave why, he did not know? Newtown; and not Victoria- intuition told him that. The trouble against which Gloria warned him started in Newtown just before noon that day" (C.H.M, P.204-205). The fight against the members belonging to the party in power can be seen through the treatment given to Abyssinia by Dauda and his gang. They drag Abyssinia out his car and beat him up, his exalted position as Principal of the grammar school notwithstanding. He is also forced into their Landrover and drive him away, amidst the yelling of the crowd that has formed at the scene. Empty beer bottles are used for the fight. Abyssinia, in a senseless form is carried for treatment in the party building by two boys:

It started with empty beer bottles being hurled at 65W17 from all directions even before it had come to a full stop. The driver staggered out of the vehicle and at once become the meeting point of several bottles, one of which landed on his head and knocked him down, senseless. Two of the thugs who jumped out of the van suffered the same fate. At a whistle signal from Dauda's first floor office in the party building the throwing of bottles stopped. Some ten or so men came out and invaded 65W17 and proceeded to teach the four men of the enemy still remaining inside the same lesson that they had taught Abyssinia. Two of the boys carried away Abyssinia's senseless form for treatment in the party building. (C.H.M, PP.205-206)

Dauda and his party members' attack create a terrible situation in the side of the party in the power. Different and many members or comrades are kidnapped most likely under torture at the enemy headquarters building. They have no recourse from the police super-intendent, or from Alade Moses. Now, they are invaded by Dauda's gang in their own headquarters:

Flushed with victory, Dauda's men packed themselves into 'Trust in God' and drove towards the head quarters of Freedom for All Party .The boys at that headquarters had not yet recovered from the surprise of the way in which dauda's men had reacted to the incident at the roundabout and had declared what looked like total war .They were worried about the fate of their comrades at the kidnapping team now themselves kinapping and most likely under torture at the enemy's headquarters bulding. (C.H.M, P.206)

During the battle, the defenders use first empty bottles. The invaders answer back bottle for bottle. Later on, the weapons used for the battle change the form. Now, matchets are served to fight each other. This can be considered as the starting of the real battle of the political revolution. Then, Aluko (1970:206-207) writes: *They jumped out of Trust in God 'and in spite of the rain of bottle advanced holding matchets which they wielded most frighteningly.*

The battle has caused casualities on the two political parties. It has left confusion in the immediate vicinityof the battleground with a fear atmosphere in Newtown in general. During the battle in Alade's headquarters, the police men have come to Dauda's headquarters ransacking the party headquarters building. The police men also have arrested five of the eleven party men found in the place, along with the injured captives of the invading army and brought them to the police station. After the fight from the enemy's headquarters, Dauda and his men are back to their own headquarters. They are shocked by the police act and unfriendly visit in their absence. In this regard, Dauda and his supporters decide in their turn to visit the police station too. In their action in the police station, they cause terrible trouble by fleeing prisoners still under investigation and their own comrades:

Back at their own headquarters Dauda's men were shocked to discover that the police had paid them a visit in their absence, ransacked the building removed a number of documents and arrested a number of men who had come in since, they left for the Freedom For all Party headquarters operation. This unfriendly act on the part of police infuriated Dauda's men. (...). Dauda's men ransacked the ploice station freed their own men and some other people who were in custody for offences that the police were still investigating .They then drove back in their faithful 'Trust in God'. (C.H.M, P. 207)

There is a remarkable fact when Aluko depicts the image of conflict. The fact is that, he lays more emphasis on Dauda and his gang's actions. This means that the law or the power is no longer under the control of Alade Moses and his party including the government. After all, a close investigation of this analysis reveals that, Dauda has been arrested as evidenced by Aluko (1970:210): *Norman bruce agreed I hear Dauda has been arrested, Geoff Shepherd observed 'but as you say the whole thing looks more than the handwork of his boy.*

The evidence of Dauda's arrestation above mentioned, can help readers notice the end of the fight for the political revolution in Newtown, Moyamba, and in Victoria and in different villages of the country namely "Afromacoland". In addition to that Alade Moses and his political party including the government have lost the power now in the hands of the army as declared in this announcement:

After a few moments a strange, husky voice said: 'My fellow countrymen and women, this is Lieut.-Col. Abel Jonas, Commander of the Second Battalion of the Afromacoland Army. I speak to you tonight at a very sad moment in the history of our nation. You have been witness to thetragic events of the last twenty-four hours in which many properties have been destroyed, many people injured,and a number of lives lost.(...) to prevent a further deterioration in this bad situation the National Army has decided to take over the administration of the country till such time as it considers the situation justifies a return to civilian government.when that time comes such a government will be elected by people freely exercising their vote without the gross abuse...' (C.H.M, P.213)

To sum it up, this section reveals the consequences of the betrayal by the government towards the population of Afromacoland. It seems that, the immediate cause of the political trouble is the by-election. The populations

of towns and of villages are convinced ministers have betrayed the sacred trust related to electorate. They also use their positions of trust to build mansions for themselves and for their girlfriends. Fed up of that situation, people including the opposition political party, rise up and lead the fight against the members of the political party in power and their government's ministers. The fight leads to different arrestations and destructions throughout Afromacoland.

5-Arrestations and Destructions

The intense fights between political parties for the political revolution lead to different arrestations and destructions. In fact, the growing riots lead to a flight of some high dignitaries, because the situation becomes unfavorable for them. And, buildings of some dignitaries including those of some members of the party in power destroyed. First, how and why are they arrested? A close investigation of this analysis reveals that Mr. Rowland Anjorin is arrested:

Reported missing, believed hiding in some village in the Moyamba district, chief the Honourable Titus Badejo, Minister of local government .Chief the Honourable Alade Moses former Minister of works, and government party candidate in recent by-election in the Newtown North constituency,(...) 'Arrested at the sogo-afromaco border for attempting to enter sogoland without proper travel documents: Mr Rowland Anjorin Minister of Education...BBC news ,you chaps ,'Shepherd announced (C.H.M, P. 212)

This betrays that, Mr. Rowland Anjorin is minister of Education. He is arrested for an attempting to enter Sogo-Afromaco border not in a proper way. He lacks proper travel documents. Anjorin is in an irregular situation, simply because riots are an uprising of a crowd or violent demonstration of force. Anjorin knows that in these circumstances the riots tend first to capture high dignitaries like him. So, he has no time to get everything as travel documents ready. The first thing he should have done is to save his life and not to think of such documents. Apart from Mr. Rowland Anjorin, minister of Education reported arrested, there is also Dauda's arrestation (C.H.M, P. 210) precededly mentioned. Dauda is the leader of the political party of the opposition. It is revealed that, Dauda's arrestation leaves his party and members sad and very affected by it. In addition to Dauda's political party sadness, the police men also come to ransack their headquarters building and arrest five of the eleven party men met there:

By the time the come the invading thugs had left in their truck,leaving behind three of their number captives of the defending army .The police ransacked the party headquarters building and arrested five of the eleven party men they found there who along with the injured captives of the invading army they bundled into their jeep and drove to the police station. (C.H.M, P. 207)

Arrestations also bear destructions enriching attackers' actions against some high dignitaries and other members of the party in power. Now, what does destruction mean? The *Concise Oxford English Dictionary 5th Edition* defines destruction as "the act of destroying". In connection with that, what do the attackers destroy? To answer this question, the passage below is illustrative:

It was difficult to tell the identity of the leader of the invading team in the dark but it appeared that there had been a change in command (...) the attackers, finding little resistance, proceeded to smash up doors and windows, chairs, tables and desks. They finally set the building on fire. The new building of Alade Moses in Newtown was attacked in the early hours of the following morning.(C.H.M, P.208)

As it can be observed, in their actions attackers disconnect the telephone, assault the building with axes, matchets and sticks no longer with bottles. They destroy furnitures and pictures hanging on the wall from room to room. In addition to that, three more houses of freedom for all party supporters including Chief Odole's house have been attacked. Odole tries to resist on attackers but in vain. He is badly beaten by the attackers, the house partly destroyed:

Three more houses of Freedom For All Party supporters including chief Odole's were attacked that night. In each of them the attackers had given sufficient warning for the inmates to flee. Two of them were mud building of little strength and value. These did not take long to demolish. But both chief Odole and his house offered some resistance. In spite of the tearful entreaties of his household, the old man refused to leave. He was badly beaten up by the attackers, and the house partly destroyed. (*C.H.M*, P. 209)

In conclusion, the growing riots lead to arrestations and a flight of some high dignitaries, because the situation becomes unfavorable for them. And, buildings of some dignitaries including those of some members of the party in power destroyed. In their actions attackers disconnect the telephone, assault the building with axes, matchets and sticks no longer with bottles. They destroy furnitures and pictures hanging on the wall from room to room. This fight leads to assassination and killing of people throughout the different towns of Afromacoland.

6-Assassination and Death

This section purports to investigate the aspects of assassination and death in Aluko's Chief the Honourable Minister. A deep regard in Aluko's novel reveals that, the fight between Dauda and his gang against Alade Moses and his group has brought about assassination and death. The attackers formed by Dauda and his gang decide to finish with any existence whatever the form belonging to the members of the political party in power and of the government. During the fight, attackers decide to perpetrate all types of crimes and atrocities in main towns of Afromacoland:

The following morning the papers carried reports of widespread acts of lawlessness and arson in the main towns of Afromacoland. Houses and cars of known supporters of the government party were reported attacked and set on fire. Many people were reported beaten up a good number injured and admitted to hospital. The opposition paper claimed that seven men had been killed, including chief the Honourable Franco-John, Minister of Agriculture. (*C.H.M*, P. 209)

Readers can easily notice the image of assassination and death through the killing of that seven men including Mr. Franco-John, called Chief Honourable Franco-John, Minister of Minister of agriculture. In addition to that, it appears that cars and buildings of known supporters of Alade's party and government are attacked and set to fire. Also, well known supporters are beaten, injured and admitted to hospital. Again, the case of death appears with Rogue as said (*C.H.M*, P. 210): 'I hear that Rogue is dead-that one that goes by the name of one of the sixteenth century Pope...'. Beyond Rogue's fate, the assassination can be notice in:

Government and private properties have been destroyed and many lives lost. The Minister killed this morning by villagers in the Moyamba District has been identified as Allah-Day Moses, who was Minister of Works in the government of Christopher Bandelay O'Gunn. (...) BBC in London- (*C.H.M*, P. 212)

There is a remarkable fact in Aluko's use of the sentence: 'government and private properties have been destroyed and many lives lost'. Aluko only shows how many buildings and cars of members of the government have been destroyed with many lives lost. Aluko puts emphasis on the fact that many members of the have assassinated. In connection with that, the extract below announces:

Theo George noticed that Geoff Shepherd had walked away from the radio at the announcement of the death of Alade Norman Bruce had poured himself another glass of stout. George turned the set to the 'Voice of Afromacoland' wavelength. (*C.H.M*, P.213)

The announcement of Alade's death in the above mentioned news confirms the preceded assertion about lives lost of members of the government. In fact, Alade is one of the members of government. He is Minister of State. He has been hidden in the Moyamba district as reported in (*C.H.M*, P.212): "reported missing, believed hiding in some villages in the Moyamba District, Chief the Honourable Titus Badejo, Minister of local government chief the Honourable Alade Moses, former Minister of Works". And Alade Moses is the

government party candidate in the recent by election in the Newtown North constituency, the result of which sparked off the disturbances.

Conclusion

To conclude, I can say that the exploration of T.M.Aluko's novel *Chief the Honourable Minister* has helped understand how Aluko manages to represent the historical background of the political leaders of Nigeria in power in his fiction. It sounds that, Aluko succeeds to represent Nigeria by the newly independent State called Afromacoland in his work. The newly independent State is really as a cell of political conflicts and fundamental tensions. And I have also realized that Alade Moses, the former Principal and one of the members of the government is at the centre of all the various conflicts.

It also results that, some of Alade and his colleague- Ministers' actions might look well like betrayal from the people's point of view. That is to say, Alade and the government fail to put themselves into the position of the people who elected them as representatives of the people through the different institutions of Afromacoland State. This failure has in fact, generated a great and negative impact on the people of the newly independent State. Finally, the government failure generates riots, arrestations, destructions, assassination and death in the different towns of the State.

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