

Lesson Plan

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CBA LESSON PLAN Subject: History

Class: Form 2

Duration: 50 minutes

Module: THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Lesson of the Day: THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN CAMEROON

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, learners should be able to: - Identify the political consequences of the Second World War in Cameroon. - Describe the economic consequences of the Second World War in Cameroon. - Explain the social consequences of the Second World War in Cameroon.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE REVIEW

- Students know that the Second World War was a global conflict fought between the Axis and Allied powers from 1939 to 1945.
- Students know that Cameroon was a mandated territory ruled by France and Britain before the war.
- Students have a basic understanding of what colonialism means.

PROBLEM SITUATION

Your friend, Ako, recently visited the war monument in his town with his grandfather. His grandfather, who is very old, told him: “After the big war of the white man, nothing was the same again here in Cameroon.” Ako is very confused because he learned that the war was fought far away in Europe. He does not understand how a war in Europe could change life so much in Cameroon. The principal of your school heard about Ako’s confusion and has asked your History class to help him understand. Your task is to prepare a clear explanation for Ako. You must identify the major changes in politics, describe the effects on the economy (money and trade), and explain how the daily lives of Cameroonians were affected by the Second World War.

LESSON PLAN

Introduction (5 min): The teacher reviews the previous lesson by asking questions: - *Who were the main groups fighting in the Second World War?* - *Which two European countries were ruling Cameroon at that time?* - *Do you think Cameroonians took part in this war? How?*

Activity 1: Discovery (10 min): - The teacher divides the class into small groups and shows them two pictures: - *Picture A: A group of Cameroonian soldiers (tirailleurs) in uniform.* - *Picture B: A poster asking Cameroonians to produce more rubber and palm oil for the “war effort”.* - In their groups, students discuss and answer the following questions on a sheet of paper: - *What do you see in Picture A? Where do you think these men are going?* - *What is Picture B asking the people of Cameroon to do? Why?* - *Based on these pictures, what kind of changes do you think happened in Cameroon because of the war? (Think about government, money, and people’s lives).* - Each group presents its ideas to the class.

Activity 2: Conceptualization and WRITTEN RECORD (20 min): - Written Record:

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN CAMEROON

I. INTRODUCTION The Second World War (1939-1945) was mainly fought in Europe, Asia, and North Africa. However, it had profound and lasting consequences for Cameroon. Cameroon, then under French and British rule, contributed soldiers (known as *tirailleurs*) and raw materials to help the Allies (especially the Free French) win the war. This contribution, known as the “war effort,” led to major political, economic, and social changes in the territory after 1945.

II. POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES The war changed the way Cameroon was governed and how Cameroonians saw their colonial rulers. - **1. End of the Mandate System:** After the war, the League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in 1945. The “mandates” became “trusteeship territories.” This meant that France and Britain had to report to the UN on how they were preparing Cameroon for self-government or independence. This gave Cameroonians a new platform to demand their freedom. - **2. The Brazzaville Conference of 1944:** Before the war ended, the leader of the Free French, General Charles de Gaulle, held a meeting in Brazzaville (Congo). He promised some reforms for the colonies to thank them for their help in the war. These reforms included ending the worst forms of colonial rule, like forced labour, and allowing some Africans to participate in local government. However, the conference did not promise independence. - **3. Rise of Nationalism and Political Parties:** Cameroonian soldiers who fought in Europe came back with new ideas. They had seen that the white man was not “invincible” and they had fought for freedom. They started demanding more rights and freedom for their own people. This led to the creation of the first modern political parties. The most important one was the **Union des Populations du Cameroun (UPC)**, created in 1948, which directly demanded independence. - **4. Creation of Representative Assemblies:** After the war, the French and British created local assemblies, like the *Assemblée Représentative du Cameroun (ARCAM)*. For the first time, some Cameroonians were elected to discuss local issues. This was a small but important first step towards self-government.

III. ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES The war had both negative and positive effects on the economy of Cameroon. - **1. The “War Effort” and Exploitation:** The colonial governments forced Cameroonians to produce large quantities of raw materials needed for the war, such as rubber, palm oil, cotton, and coffee. This was called the “war effort.” Production was increased, but it was often done through forced labour and low pay, which made life very hard for many people. - **2. Economic Hardship:** During the war, it was difficult to import goods from Europe. This led to a shortage of essential items like salt, sugar, soap, and cloth. The prices of these goods increased, causing inflation and suffering for the population. - **3. Development of Infrastructure:** To help transport raw materials and troops, the colonial authorities improved some infrastructure. Roads, bridges, and the port of Douala were developed to support the war effort. These infrastructures remained useful after the war. - **4. Creation of FIDES:** After the war, France created a fund called **FIDES** (*Fonds d’Investissement pour le Développement Économique et Social*). This fund was meant to develop the colonies as a reward for their support. In Cameroon, FIDES money was used to build some schools, hospitals, roads, and invest in agriculture.

IV. SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES The war deeply affected the society and the way people lived in Cameroon. - **1. Abolition of Forced Labour and the Indigénat:** One of the most important social changes was the abolition of forced labour and the hated *Indigénat* code (a set of laws that gave colonial administrators special powers to punish Africans) in 1946. This was a major victory for Cameroonians. - **2. Growth of Towns and Cities:** Many people left their villages to work in cities like Douala and Yaoundé to escape forced labour or to work in new industries supporting the war. This led to the rapid growth of urban centres. - **3. Emergence of a New Elite:** The war helped create a new social class of educated Cameroonians. This group included ex-soldiers (*anciens combattants*), teachers, clerks, and traders. They became the leaders of the new political movements that demanded more rights and independence. - **4. Psychological Change:** The war demystified the white man. Cameroonian soldiers fought alongside Europeans

and saw their weaknesses. This broke the myth of white superiority and gave Cameroonians more confidence in their ability to rule themselves. It strengthened the desire for freedom and dignity.

Activity 3: Application (10 min): - Exercise: Read the list of consequences below. For each one, write if it is a **Political, Economic, or Social** consequence. - 1. The creation of the UPC party to demand independence. - 2. The French government created the FIDES fund to build new roads. - 3. The government officially ended the practice of forced labour in 1946. - 4. Cameroon changed from a “mandated territory” to a “trusteeship territory”. - 5. Farmers were forced to produce more rubber for the war in Europe. - **Correction:** - 1. *Political* - 2. *Economic* - 3. *Social* - 4. *Political* - 5. *Economic*

HOMEWORK

- 1. In your own words, explain two reasons why Cameroonian soldiers who returned from the war began to demand more freedom.
- 2. Describe one negative and one positive economic effect of the Second World War on Cameroon.

JEU BILINGUE

War;Guerre Consequence;Conséquence Freedom;Liberté Economy;Économie Politics;Politique

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL RESOURCES

- **YouTube - The Tirailleurs Sénégalais: The Heroes France Forgot:** *This short documentary (with English subtitles) explains the role of West African soldiers, including many from Cameroon, in the French army during the world wars. The teacher can show a short clip to illustrate the human contribution of Cameroon.*
- **Britannica - Brazzaville Conference:** *A short and simple encyclopedia article that explains the main decisions of the Brazzaville Conference. The teacher can use this to provide more context on the political changes promised by France after the war.*