

Clash of Native Versus Colonial Culture in Chinua Achebe's Things Fall Apart

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Things Fall Apart is one of the most influential novels of its time, both on a local and global scale in order to fully understand the novel and its contents it is important to look into the history of the novel that led to its publication. When Nigeria became a colony of Britain in 1906, the country became exposed to the British political structure and its various institutions. Chinua Achebe was born in 1930 almost a quarter of a century after the British assumed direct control of Nigeria. Although Achebe parents at that time had been converted to Christianity, his grandparents were still firm in their traditional culture. It is under these circumstances that Achebe then came to know of both the British culture as well as Nigerian culture. Since neither of them understood the other's culture and neither of them was willing to abandon their own beliefs to follow the beliefs of the other, it can be assumed that there was a lot of tension. Keeping this view in his mind, Achebe said, "in an interview that the conflict that existed between these two cultures created sparks.