

(TS) African religion had been the main focal point of European colonization, and this forced abandonment of African polytheism would cause major turmoil within Umuofia and Okonkwo's tribe. What concerned the Europeans the most regarding the African culture was their religious practices. (CD) They viewed their worship of multiple gods as absurd and "they denied Africans of having a culture, history and a belief in a Supreme God. R. F. Burton, for example cast aspersion on the religion of the Negroes he met in the course of his consular work in 1863. He denied them of any belief in God and any sense of morality" (Gbenda). (COM 1) This close minded view urged white Christians to build churches in order to convert the African tribes to what they viewed as the "only true way to worship". (COM 2 & 3) Belittling the African polytheistic beliefs and forcing them to worship a whole new "true" God reveals how lowly the Europeans thought of the Africans. This was a change that would forever impact the continent of Africa. Even though Africans had religion before Christianity, Europeans did not recognize what was in Africa before whites came. They did not respect the polytheistic religions of Africans because it was not the monotheistic Christian faith that Europeans practiced. (PT) This change brought about by the skewed views of the Christian colonization proved to be detrimental to the stability of Okonkwo's family. (CD) However, "...there was a young lad who had been captivated. His name was Nwoye, Okonkwo's first son (...) He did not understand it. It was the poetry of the new religion, something felt in the marrow" (Achebe 147). (COM 1) A group of people that accepted the new religion quickly were those that felt out of place in the clan to begin with. In Achebe's novel, Okonkwo, a man dedicated to tradition, resented the new religion from the start. Nwoye had always been out of place in his family due to his lack of masculinity. He had never been very connected with his father, Okonkwo, and this only became more prevalent after Okonkwo killed Ikemefuna. (COM 2 & 3) Many Umuofians moved away

from their religious belief system because it was a system that ostracized people who did not “fit” the idea of what it means to be successful in their culture. In fact, the indigenous belief system in Okonkwo’s village called for twins to be thrown away in the Evil Forest because they were an abomination against the Earth Goddess. Once Christians came to Umuofia this all changed. The Christians welcomed all Umuofians into their congregation. They rescued twins from being thrown into the forest and murdered. This change was a positive change as people who once felt like outcasts could now feel a part of something. **(TRANS)** Another change that colonization brought to Africa would impact how the people of Africa were governed.