

Retrospective implications of boundary delineation of the East Central State, Nigeria

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SUMMARY

This study investigates the historical evolution of the South-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria through the analysis of historical maps and archival literature, with particular focus on boundary adjustments between 1954 and 1996. The findings reveal that the region had some administrative changes driven by political, economic, and religious factors. Beginning with the creation of the Eastern Region in 1954, subsequent reconfigurations occurred in 1967, 1976, 1991, and 1996, resulting in the establishment of the present-day South-East zone, which comprises Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, and Imo States. These territorial changes altered state boundaries, capital locations, and community affiliations, often giving rise to boundary disputes and localized conflicts. By systematically mapping both historical and contemporary boundaries, the study identifies the extent of boundary alterations and the specific communities affected. The results contribute to a clearer understanding of regional identity, administrative delineation, and the socio-political dynamics of the South-East geopolitical zone.

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