# **Review of Project Pacific**

A qualitative interpretation by Dr. Axel Klein

#### Is Nigeria a Country ?

- Geographically determined culture zones: forest, savannah, desert
- 250 + distinct ethnic groups with separate language
- External influences Christianity and Atlantic world from the south – Islam and Arab civilisation from the north

# History

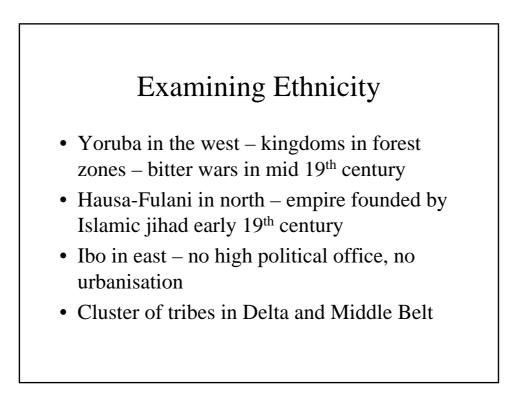
- 1861 First British colony established in Lagos
- 1914 amalgamation of different possessions into Crown Colony of Nigeria
- 1960 Independence



- Domination of civil service by southern Christians, esp. Ibo
- Secession of Biafra and Civil war
- Oil boom of 70s and Structural Adjustment of 80s
- Military rule until 1999

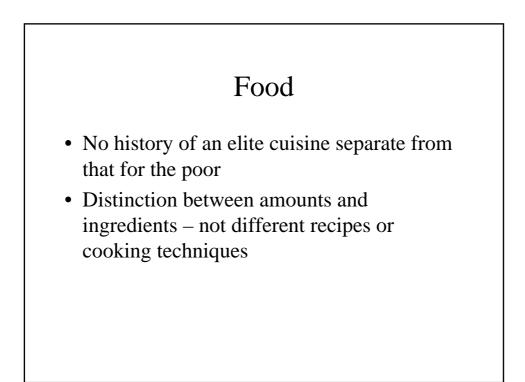
#### State as Lame Leviathan

- State dominates but is ineffective, inefficient and fails to deliver
- Personal connections essential to obtain goods and services
- Networks on basis of ethnicity, religion, school
- Continuous investment in social ties and contacts



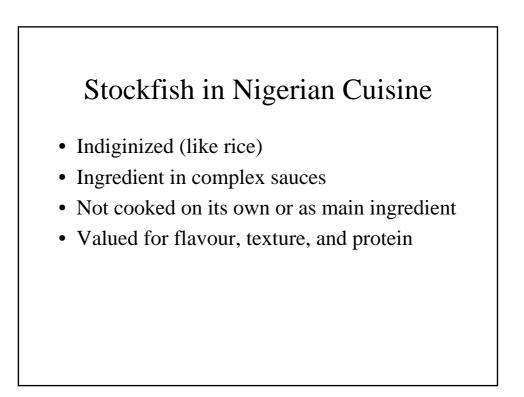
# Elite and People

- Patrimonial systems patron / client relationships
- Enormous discrepancy between rich and poor weak middle class
- No politicisation of poor, no class consciousness – protest is formulated in terms of ethnicity and social difference



### The Nigerian Meal

- 1. A bowl of starch yam, cassava, rice
- 2. A stew with spices, vegetables, fish and meat
- 3. Choice cuts will be reserved for seniors in restaurants paid for seperately
- 4. Meat usually left until end



#### **Residential Arrangements**

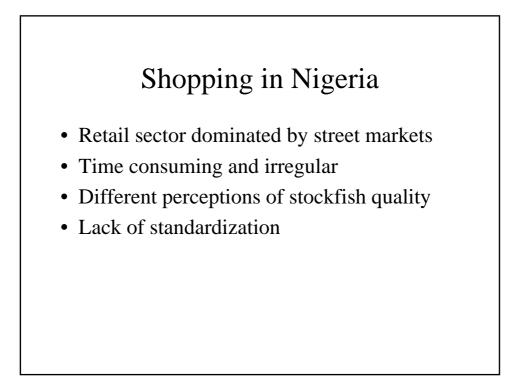
- Rural compound living quarters of extended family cooking shared and individual wives/mothers
- Urban compound living quarters of 'big man/woman' cooking in units
- Urban flat shared accommodation, cooking on individual basis

# Challenges to Cooking with Stockfish

- High fuel prices price of gas, fire wood and charcoal
- working women spend less time at home
- in urban areas fire needs to be supervised no outdoor fireplaces

## Diaspora

- Large Nigerian population in UK and US, London is the first stop
- Two way traffick between diaspora and the old country
- Loyalty to Nigerian cooking among Nigerians abroad
- Link between food and identity



## My Part

- In-depth interviews with key informants on cooking, eating, shopping behaviour
- Observation in Nigerian kitchens
- Interviews in stockfish retail outlets
- Report by mid June