• Meant identifying, cultivating (and in some cases creating) local rulers to work as intermediaries on behalf of colonial state => local, political and social structures largely left in place

• Example: Britain, Northern Nigeria; Germans in Northern Cameroon

**Africans in colonial systems**

Africans needed as:

• Clerks
• Translators
• Teachers indigenous schools
• Low level administrators
• Domestic servants
• Members of the clergy
• Help map out local terrain

Without African participation (voluntary or coerced) there would have been no European Empires in Africa