



LEGAL HISTORY OF BOUNDARY CREATION IN AFRICA:  
THE CASE OF NIGERIA-CAMEROON BOUNDARY CONCERNING  
BAKASSI PENINSULA (1884-2008)

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ABSTRACT

The paramount goal of this article is to take a look at the treaties that were used to create the Nigerian-Cameroon boundary, especially the treaties concerning the Bakassi Peninsula. The article also intends to assess the impact of the treaties on the territory. It is axiomatic that the 1885 *General Act of Berlin* had authorized the European Powers to carve out African territories and occupy them effectively. To avoid conflict, the European Powers had to create boundaries to demarcate their territories of interest. Following the defeat of Germany in the First World War, its colonies were taken over and shared by the Allied Powers, particularly Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and South Africa. The Victorious Powers that shared the German colonies entered into treaties to create boundaries to demarcate their *mandates*. The Nigerian-Cameroon boundary offers a good example. The article adopts historical descriptive analysis methodology by which relevant primary and secondary sources were interrogated. These treaties and artificial international boundaries were created without the knowledge and consent of the indigenous people who owned the land. These artificial boundaries have been generating conflicts since the colonial times.

*Keywords:* International Law; Treaty; Agreement; Declaration; Exchange of Note; *Uti possidetis*, *Boundary*; *Bakassi*