



# Possessed: A History of Law & Justice in the Crown Colony of Lagos, 1861-1906

*Olasupo Shasore*

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...a struggle against colonial power.

Lagos was already POSSESSED by Britain when in 1862 Henry Pelham-Clinton, Duke of Newcastle and Secretary of State for Colonies agonised; he worried that “the original sin of taking possession of Lagos” would lead to meddling by force of arms by the British government. He couldn’t have realised how prophetic his concerns would be. From 1851 up till 1906, the British Imperial Navy and its collaborators would use force and random justice to achieve this possession and more - it would ultimately lead to a forced amalgamation of Lagos Colony, firstly to a Niger coast (Southern) protectorate and then with the Northern protectorate in 1914. Along the way the story of brave individual and collective struggle against imperial control reveals heroism, courage and defiance of the Lagos Africans in order to resist domination at first and then to survive its consequences -The Crown Colony of Lagos.

This is a new and revealing view of hidden accounts, court evidence, testimony and papers of enquiry showing how colonisation employed law and justice to achieve its pernicious objectives - changing the course and African society.

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