

Southern Cameroons: An Illustrated Guide to the Historical Record

Study companion · 5 October 2026

A visual entry point to the White Paper and its sources. Follow the record, distinguish a document from an interpretation, and answer the assessment in your own words. This educational companion does not replace the original White Paper or determine a legal dispute.



Supplied image identified as the July 1961 Foumban conference. Presentation border and arrow are later annotations. The complete original photographer and archive reference have not been established here.

How to use this guide

Read the short explanation. Inspect the image. Open the linked source. Consider the question. Then return to the original White Paper and complete the assessment in your own words.

[Open assessment.scclarity.org](https://assessment.scclarity.org)

THE PEOPLE / DIFFERENT ROLES, DIFFERENT PERIODS

Meet three figures in the record.



John Ngu Foncha

Premier of Southern Cameroons at the 1961 transition

An elected Southern Cameroons leader central to the plebiscite and federal discussions. He subsequently served as Prime Minister of West Cameroon and federal Vice-President. His later recollections should be examined alongside the contemporary records.

Harry Pot / Anefo, Dutch National Archives, 19 May 1964. CC BY-SA 3.0 Netherlands. Commons portrait crop; resized for display.



Ahmadou Ahidjo

President of the Republic of Cameroun in 1961

The head of the neighboring republic during the negotiations and the transition to the Federal Republic of Cameroon. Studying the relationship requires examining the constitutional measures and agreements associated with his administration.

Reagan White House Photographic Collection, US National Archives, NAID 75856925, 26 July 1982. US federal-government public-domain photograph. Later portrait, not the 1961 conference. Commons crop; resized for display.



Salomon Tandeng Muna

Later Prime Minister of West Cameroon, 1968-1972

A Southern Cameroons politician who later served as federal Vice-President and President of the National Assembly. His later offices belong to the implementation and institutional history; he was not the Southern Cameroons Premier at the 1961 plebiscite.

Isabelle Ebanda, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0. A later portrait, not a photograph of the 1961 negotiations. Resized for display.

01 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Begin with the territory



Supplied annotated regional map. Use it for orientation; the markings and area figure are not an authoritative legal boundary determination. The complete original map credit was not supplied.

Southern Cameroons is a historical territory whose institutions and international status must be examined in their own chronology. German colonial rule was followed by the League of Nations mandate system, then UN trusteeship under British administration. Administrative connections to Nigeria should not erase the separate trusteeship record.

Question for study

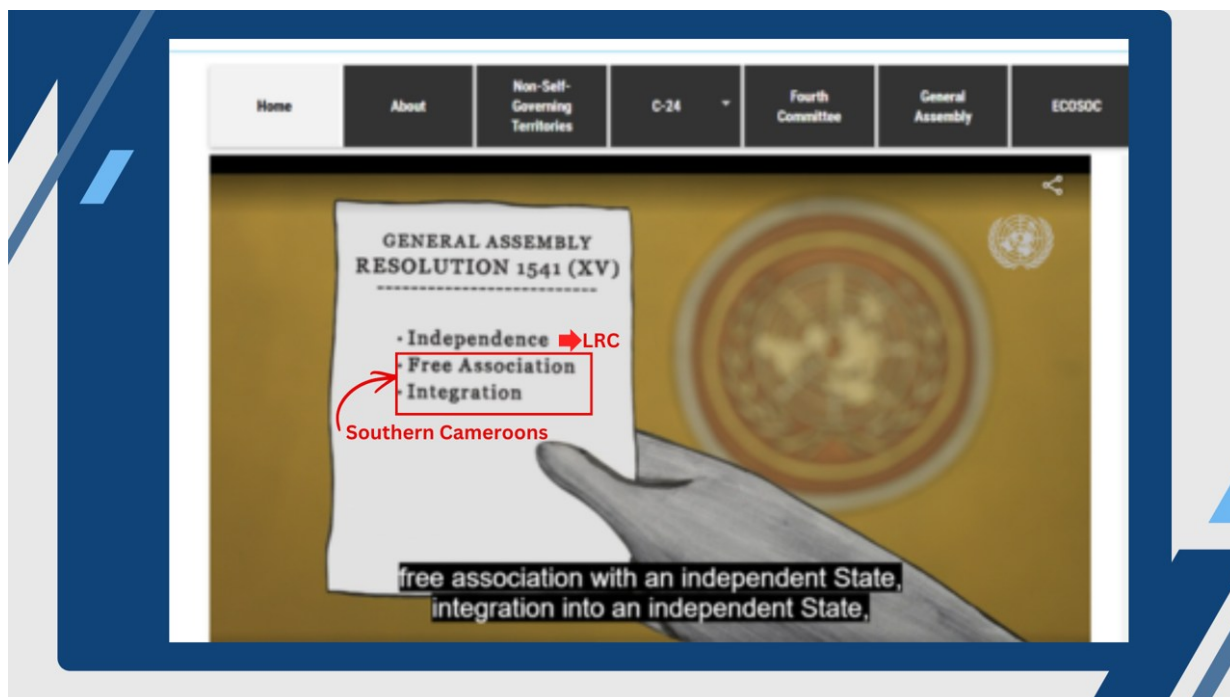
Which territory, period and legal status are we discussing?

Open the source or related record

UN decolonization background

02 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Understand the UN framework



Annotated teaching slide supplied by Roland Fru. It is an interpretation of the UN framework, not an original UN document or a photograph of a 1961 meeting.

Resolution 1541 (XV), adopted on 15 December 1960, described independence, free association and integration as ways a Non-Self-Governing Territory could attain a full measure of self-government. It provides important context. Its categories alone do not establish which legal instruments implemented the specific Southern Cameroons transition.

Question for study

How does a general framework relate to the specific decisions and documents for this territory?

[Open the source or related record](#)

[UN Resolution 1541 record](#)

[UN explanation of self-government](#)

03 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Read the choice people were offered



Supplied reproduction of a plebiscite notice for 11 February 1961. The added presentation border is modern; the original archive reference was not supplied.

The 11 February 1961 plebiscite offered independence by joining Nigeria or by joining the Republic of Cameroun. The Republic of Cameroun option received the majority in Southern Cameroons. The public choice and the subsequent arrangements are connected stages: examine what the ballot authorized, then trace how the selected option was implemented.

Question for study

What did the plebiscite decide, and what arrangements still needed to be finalized?

[Open the source or related record](#)

[Resolution 1608 and the plebiscite outcome](#)

04 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Identify the resolution and its vote

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY		
994 th Plenary Meeting Friday, 21 April 1961, at 3 p.m. New York		
UN 15th Session General Assembly President - Mr. Frederick H. BOLAND (Ireland).		
UN 15th Session General Assembly Vice President - Mr. Tsiang (China)		
Rapporteur of the Fourth Committee Report - Mr. Boeg (Denmark),		
SOUTHERN CAMEROONS INDEPENDENCE VOTE		
INDEPENDENCE TO TAKE EFFECT ON 1 OCTOBER 1961		
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTION
64	23	10
64 Nations voted in Favour are: Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran., Iraq, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Laos, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of South Africa, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Arab Republic, <u>United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</u>, <u>United States of America</u>, Venezuela, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Burma, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Canada, Ceylon, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Finland, Ghana, Guinea. 23 Nations voted Against are: Israel, Ivory Coast, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Niger, Paraguay, Senegal, Upper Volta, Uruguay, Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Cambodia, <u>Cameroon</u>, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Congo (Brazza-ville), Congo (Leopoldville), Dahomey, France, Gabon, Greece.		

Annotated teaching graphic. Its heading uses "Independence Vote"; the precise record is the vote on Resolution 1608 (XV), which addressed the plebiscites and trusteeship termination.

On 21 April 1961, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 1608 (XV) at its 994th plenary meeting. The UN voting record gives 64 in favor, 23 against, 10 abstentions and 2 non-voting members. A resolution's vote count must be read alongside its operative text, rather than treated as a substitute for that text.

Question for study

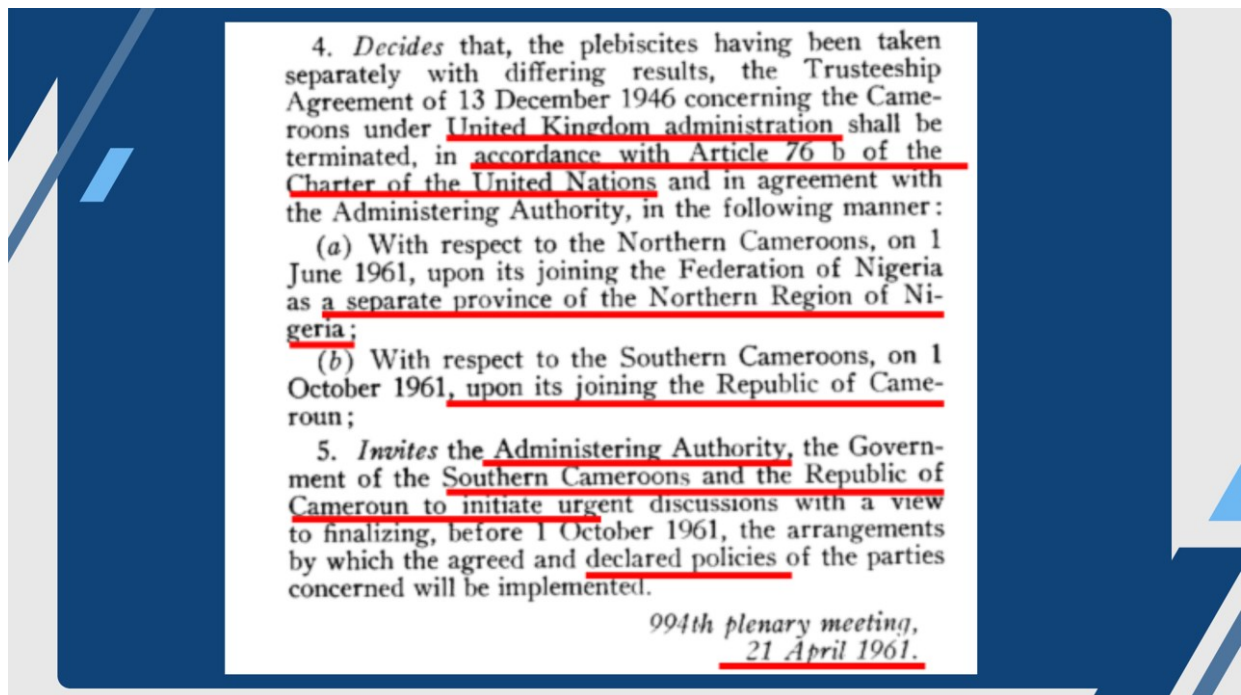
What exactly did Resolution 1608 decide and invite the parties to do?

Open the source or related record

Official UN voting record

05 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Read paragraphs 4 and 5 together



Primary-document excerpt with added red underlining. Read the full resolution as well as the highlighted passage.

Paragraph 4 sets 1 October 1961 as the termination date for trusteeship over Southern Cameroons upon joining the Republic of Cameroun. Paragraph 5 invites the administering authority, Southern Cameroons government and Republic of Cameroun to initiate urgent discussions to finalize the arrangements before that date. It does not expressly prescribe a document called a union treaty or the Eritrean ratification sequence.

Question for study

What was finalized before 1 October, where was it recorded, and who approved it?

[Open the source or related record](#)

[Full Resolution 1608 PDF](#)

[Fourth Committee meeting, 19 April 1961](#)

06 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Put Foumban in the documentary chain



Supplied image identified as the July 1961 Foumban conference. Presentation border and arrow are later annotations. The complete original photographer and archive reference have not been established here.

The Foumban discussions in July 1961 form part of the constitutional negotiations. The photograph helps introduce the setting; it does not establish the terms, legal effect or approval of an agreement. Read proposals, draft constitutions, agreed minutes, subsequent legislation and any exchanges between the parties. Distinguish discussion of a draft from adoption and implementation.

Question for study

Which documents record the discussions, and which instruments gave the resulting arrangements effect?

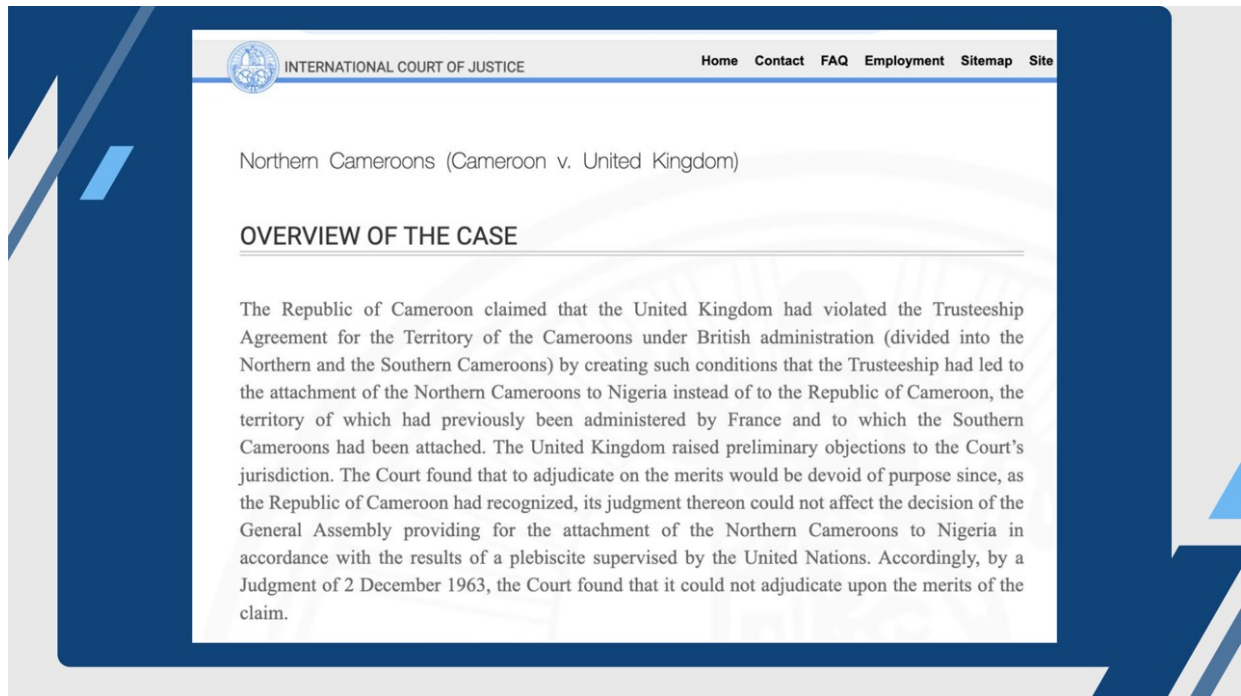
Open the source or related record

Contemporary Hansard debate, 1 August 1961

Foncha excerpt and documentary context

07 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Keep related court cases distinct



Supplied screenshot of the ICJ case overview. Northern Cameroons (Cameroon v. United Kingdom) is a related but distinct proceeding.

The International Court of Justice delivered its judgment in Northern Cameroons on 2 December 1963. The case concerned the former British-administered Northern Cameroons and the United Kingdom's trusteeship administration. The Court declined to adjudicate the merits in the circumstances. This judgment must not be presented as a ruling that established or invalidated the Southern Cameroons relationship with the Republic of Cameroun.

Question for study

What was the court actually asked to decide, and what did its judgment decide?

[Open the source or related record](#)

[ICJ judgments: Northern Cameroons](#)

[ICJ case summaries](#)

08 / THE HISTORICAL SEQUENCE

Connect present grievances to the historical inquiry



Supplied news photograph of protesting lawyers. Teachers also participated in the wider protests; this image does not show a separately identified teachers' demonstration. The original photographer credit was not supplied.

Lawyers' and teachers' protests in 2016 brought concerns about courts, education and language into public view. These grievances deserve attention in their own right. They also invite a deeper inquiry into institutions and constitutional arrangements. A historical legal question, a policy grievance and an immediate humanitarian need require related but distinct evidence and responses.

Question for study

What subject would a proposed dialogue address, and how would its agenda answer that problem?

Open the source or related record

[Human Rights Watch's documented account](#)

[Proposed dialogue questions](#)

DOCUMENTS / APPROVAL / IMPLEMENTATION

Follow the chain.

For each instrument offered as the basis of the relationship, record its title, date, parties, text, approval process and claimed legal effect. Locate originals or reliable archival copies.

Consider federal constitutional measures, legislation, exchanges of notes, agreed minutes and treaties; do not decide the answer merely from a document label.

Eritrea and Ethiopia: a useful comparison

UN General Assembly Resolution 390 A (V), 2 December 1950, set out a federation framework. The Eritrean Assembly adopted the Constitution on 10 July 1952; the UN Commissioner approved it on 6 August; the Emperor ratified it on 11 August. The Federal Act was ratified and federation formally established on 11 September; Britain transferred administration on 15 September 1952. Read the named instruments in the Commissioner's final report, A/2188. This sequence illustrates documentation, not identical legal requirements for every territory.

UN Commissioner in Eritrea: final report A/2188

What the comparison can and cannot prove

Formation, compliance and durability are separate matters. Eritrea's federation ended in 1962 despite an identifiable documentary chain. A missing search result is not proof that an instrument never existed. Article 102 of the UN Charter addresses registration and invocation before UN organs; lack of registration does not automatically invalidate an agreement.

Before dialogue

Define the subject. Identify the evidence. Establish participants' mandates. Specify the intended outcome. Explain approval and accountability. Humanitarian protection and peaceful efforts to stop violence need not wait for every historical question to be resolved.

[SOURCES](#) / [CREDITS](#) / [NEXT STEPS](#)

Return to the original record.

This companion uses supplied teaching images and separately sourced portraits. Annotations, captions and interpretations are distinguished from primary documents. Source limitations are stated beneath the relevant image. A modern UN Assembly composite and unidentified small portraits were not used.

Portrait records and reuse

John Ngu Foncha: Harry Pot / Anefo, Dutch National Archives, 19 May 1964. CC BY-SA 3.0 Netherlands. Commons portrait crop; resized for display.

[Portrait source](#) · [License or public-domain record](#)

Ahmadou Ahidjo: Reagan White House Photographic Collection, US National Archives, NAID 75856925, 26 July 1982. US federal-government public-domain photograph. Later portrait, not the 1961 conference. Commons crop; resized for display.

[Portrait source](#) · [License or public-domain record](#)

Salomon Tandeng Muna: Isabelle Ebanda, via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 4.0. A later portrait, not a photograph of the 1961 negotiations. Resized for display.

[Portrait source](#) · [License or public-domain record](#)

Study resources

[Original White Paper, simple English, Pidgin, audio and video](#)

[Historical understanding questions and voluntary public-opinion survey](#)

The assessment is not an election, referendum, census, plebiscite or legally binding authorization. Your responses record personal views only. They do not authorize an individual or organization to speak, negotiate, govern or make political commitments on your behalf.

Corrections and archive references: research@rolandfru.com