



**IMSIS**  
International Master  
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& Strategic Studies



**Erasmus  
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**Decolonisation and its Impact on Current Crises  
and Conflicts in Cameroon:  
A Human Perspective  
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Glasgow Student Number: 2682542R

Dublin City University Student Number: 21109214

Charles Student Number: 81422559

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**UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO**



**CHARLES  
UNIVERSITY**

## **Abstract**

*Cameroon is currently facing various crises and conflicts that are impacting different regions of the country. The main security challenges in Cameroon are: the Boko Haram insurgency, the Anglophone crisis and the inter-ethnic tensions and conflicts. This dissertation explores the link between the decolonisation in Cameroon and those ongoing crises and conflicts, with a particular focus on the human perspective. It examines how the social and psychological impacts of decolonisation on individuals contributed to the emergence of those security issues. The study first analyses the consequences of decolonisation on Cameroonians, uncovering profound identity struggles, mistrust towards government, fear for the future, and a ruptured social contract. The dissertation demonstrates how such sentiments can lead to conflicts, fuelling anger and frustration, strengthening group identities, and undermining state legitimacy. Drawing on postcolonial theory, collective memory, and concepts of historical trauma, I argue that these sentiments were transmitted across generations to explain how the Anglophone crisis was provoked, how poor governance and inequality following decolonisation enabled the rise of the Boko Haram insurgency and how competition over resources drove inter-ethnic tensions. Overall, the study shows that decolonisation persisting psychosocial and social legacy shaped contemporary crises in Cameroon. Furthermore, I advocate for centering individual narratives to fully understand conflicts' historical roots and urge researchers to capture personal memories before they are lost in the hope that by revealing the human impacts of decolonisation, more inclusive solutions may be found for building peace.*

**Keywords:** decolonisation, Cameroon, post-colonialism, conflicts, psychology, neo-colonialism