

# **Identity and Decolonization in Selected modern African Literary Works**

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## **Abstract**

This thesis examines colonialism's impact on African nations and evolving identities in modern African literary works written after World Wars I and II. The thesis comprises the following short stories: Chinua Achebe's "Civil Peace"(1971), and "Dead Men's Path"(1953), Alifa Rifaat's "Another Evening at the Club" (1983), Ama Atta Aidoo's "In the Cutting of Drink" (1970), and Najeeb Mahfouz's novel *Midaq Alley* (1947). This thesis shows how the authors use different methods to criticize colonialism's effects on African society—socially, economically, culturally, and historically. In the post-colonial period, these works also investigate the process of decolonization and the formation of new societies, identities, and cultures. Chinua Achebe, Alifa Rifaat, Najeeb Mahfouz, and Ama Ata Aidoo, among others, present varied viewpoints on decolonization and the postcolonial experience. Yet, specific common motifs appear in their descriptions of the new society. The researcher examines these short stories using the postcolonial theory. In addition, the researcher aims to emphasize the purpose of African authors in explaining the stereotypical picture of African peoples and illustrating the colonialists' intention to pervert

this stereotyped image. Also, the thesis explores the process of decolonization and how the authors of the selected literary works dismantle the colonial discourse by exposing all the negative effects of colonization on colonized people.

**Keywords:** Africa, Colonialism, Decolonization, Identity, Postcolonialism