*Things Fall Apart* Section III

Answer these questions using details from the novel. Submit these questions when you are finished.

Then work on “Letter from Birmingham Jail” questions and writing assignment. The “Letter” assignment is due on Monday, March 16.

1. Why does Achebe choose to bring in the European colonial presence only in the last third of the novel?
2. Okonkwo says that they should fight the white men and "‘drive them from the land.’" Obierika responds sadly, "‘It is already too late’" (ch. 20)--why? How has the white man been "‘very clever,’" according to Obierika? In what ways might Obierika be considered a transitional figure between the old and the new Igbo societies?
3. When the egwugwu destroy Mr. Smith’s church, "for the moment the spirit of the clan was pacified" (Ch. 22). Consider the **ironic** implications of this statement later when we learn the title of the book that the District Commissioner intends to write: The Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger.
4. The District Commissioner decides that "The story of this man who had killed a messenger and hanged himself would make interesting reading," if not for a whole chapter, at least for "a reasonable paragraph". How do you think the District Commissioner would write Okonkwo’s story in this paragraph?  In contrast, Achebe has made Okonkwo’s story the subject of a whole novel: why?