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Liberia, the oldest independent Negro state in West Africa, has been struggling for survival ever since its foundation in 1822. Progress has been hampered by constant hostility between the American Negroes whose families returned there in the early 19th century, and the West Africans whose ancestors never left the continent. Though the two groups are of the same race, they are divided by language and outlook and regard each other with deep suspicion creating a conflict which was not foreseen by Liberia's founders. In addition, neighboring states, tribal, disease, and poverty have made life dangerous and difficult. The government has tried desperately, through loans and a trickle of trade, to make ends meet. Anxiety about financial matters lessened somewhat when, in 1910, the United States accepted responsibility for Liberia's survival. However, not until Harvey Firestone, the American rubber king, decided that the United States must produce its own rubber----with Liberia as the site of the rubber plantations----did Liberia have much hope of paying its debts and balancing its budget. The rubber industry, founded in the 1920s, and the activity that followed it brought both progress and profit to Liberia. Before that time Liberia had no roads, no mechanical transport and no good port. Its people had little education and few tools. Liberians feel that the country is being ruled by rubber. For this reason, the recent discovery of iron ore is

important. Liberian leaders are trying to moderate the power of the rubber industry and to establish the country's political and economic independence. 1. Liberia has been in difficulty since its independence mainly because _____. a. the American Negroes do not want to help the country. b. there have been constant hostility and suspicion between different tribes in the country. c. there have been constant hostility and suspicion between two groups of the same tribe. d. the government has adopted a wrong policy. 2. "The government has tried desperately, through loans and a trickle of trade, to make ends meet." "to make ends meet" means _____. a. the government has to borrow money from others. b. the government has to lend money to others. c. the government doesn't have to borrow or lend money. d. the government has either to borrow or to lend money. 3. The country's finance began to improve a bit in _____. a. 1822. b. 1910. c. 1920. d. 1920s. 4. The Liberians' attitude on to improve a bit in _____. a. a total agreement. b. a total disagreement. c. a hostility. d. not a total agreement. 5. The best title for this passage is _____. a. American Negroes in West Africa. b. Liberia----- a poor country. c. Liberia and its development. d. Liberia ----a country with rich rubber and iron.

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