

## AMALGAMATION AND BALKANIZATION AS THE BANE OF INJUSTICE IN NIGERIA: THE PSYCHO-HISTORICAL APPRAISAL

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**ABSTRACT:** *This study investigates the impact of amalgamation and balkanization on injustice in Nigeria. Three theories, namely social identity theory, social dominance theory and distributive theory, were reviewed. Data were collected through secondary sources such as academic research papers, government reports, and publications by international organizations. The study employed an analytical design to analyze existing literature and empirical studies in the area. Findings revealed that amalgamation and balkanization significantly contribute to the persistence of injustice in Nigeria. The historical legacy of amalgamation triggers tensions, while the fear or occurrence of balkanization intensifies competition and power struggles among different ethnic groups, exacerbating perceptions of injustice. Based on these findings, recommendations include fostering inclusive dialogue, promoting equitable distribution of resources, conducting further empirical research, and incorporating psychological considerations into policy-making.*

**KEYWORDS:** Psychology, Amalgamation, Balkanization, Injustice, Psychohistory, Nigeria.

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### INTRODUCTION

Amalgamation, as the process of merging or consolidating diverse groups or entities, is intricately tied to Nigeria's history. The amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates by the British colonial administration in 1914 marked a significant turning point in Nigeria's socio-political trajectory (Falola & Heaton, 2018). While this act was intended to unite the diverse ethnic groups within Nigeria, it also created a nation with deep-rooted divisions, competing interests, and power imbalances (Fafunwa, 2022). Such divisions, borne out of amalgamation, have in turn fueled the perpetuation of injustice and inequality within the country (Ibeanu, 2022).

These injustices are further exacerbated by the Balkanization of Nigeria, which refers to the fragmentation or division of the nation along ethnic or regional lines. Ethnic and regional fragmentation, coupled with the over-centralization of power in the federal government,

has resulted in a power struggle between different groups and regions, leading to a systematic marginalization of certain ethnicities and regions (Mustapha, 2003). The psycho-historical effects of balkanization can be observed in the deep-rooted mistrust, identity conflicts, and intergroup hostilities that have plagued Nigeria's socio-political landscape (Aktakin, 2018). The repercussions of both amalgamation and balkanization on the Nigerian population are immense. Psychologically, these phenomena perpetuate a sense of "otherness" and exacerbate feelings of marginalization, discrimination, and political alienation (Fafunwa, 2022). The resulting social injustices inflict significant psychological distress and have a profound impact on the collective psyche of the Nigerian people (Adelaja, 2018). Moreover, the intergenerational transmission of these experiences perpetuates a cycle of social inequality, making it increasingly difficult to achieve meaningful social justice in the country (Desmond-Hellmann, 2017).

In Nigerian society, the manifestation of these psychological effects is evident in various forms of social injustice, including economic disparities, unequal access to resources, educational inequities, and political disenfranchisement (Falola & Heaton, 2018). The psychological consequences of these injustices have been closely linked to a range of negative outcomes, such as increased levels of stress, depression, and psychological trauma (Annan, 2018; Ibeanu, 2022).

Understanding the psychology of amalgamation and balkanization as the bane of injustice in Nigeria is crucial for addressing and mitigating the detrimental effects they have on the pursuit of justice and equality within the country. By unraveling the intricate psycho-historical dynamics at play, policymakers, scholars, and society at large can develop a deeper understanding of the root causes of social injustice and work towards fostering inclusive and equitable systems (Adelaja, 2020).

The amalgamation and balkanization of Nigeria have had profound psychological implications for the population, acting as barriers to the pursuit of justice and equality. These phenomena have perpetuated divisions, power imbalances, and societal inequities, which result in psychological distress and hinder the achievement of meaningful social change. By recognizing the psychological underpinnings of these issues, Nigeria can develop strategies that address the root causes of social injustice and work towards a more harmonious and equitable nation. It is imperative that policymakers, scholars, and society as a whole come together to promote awareness, empathy, and proactive solutions in tackling the deep-seated psychological effects of amalgamation and balkanization.

### **Statement of Problem**

The bane of injustice in Nigeria is a pressing issue that requires an in-depth understanding of its underlying causes and implications. The amalgamation and balkanization of the country have played significant roles in perpetuating this injustice, leading to social inequalities, marginalization, and a pervasive sense of "otherness" among various ethnic and regional groups. However,

there is a dearth of research that explores the psychological dimensions of these phenomena and their impact on the pursuit of justice and equality. To address this gap, this study seeks to investigate the psychology of amalgamation and balkanization as the bane of injustice in Nigeria. By delving into the psychological effects of amalgamation and balkanization, the study aims to shed light on the psychological distress, identity conflicts, and intergroup hostilities experienced by the Nigerian population. Furthermore, it aims to explore how these psychological consequences contribute to the perpetuation of social inequality, hindering the attainment of social justice within the country. Understanding the psychological dynamics at play is crucial for developing effective strategies to address the root causes of social injustice in Nigeria and work towards a more equitable and inclusive society.

**Purpose of the Study** The main purpose of the study is to analyze the impact of amalgamation and balkanization on justice in Nigeria. Specifically, the study intends to:

1. Examine the ways in which amalgamation have contributed to injustice in Nigeria.
2. Investigate the ways in which balkanization have contributed to injustice in Nigeria.

### **Research Questions**

1. In what ways have amalgamation have contributed to injustice in Nigeria?
2. In what ways have balkanization have contributed to injustice in Nigeria?

### **Relevance of the Study**

The study on the psychology of amalgamation and balkanization as the bane of injustice in Nigeria is highly relevant due to its potential to offer valuable insights into the deep-rooted issues plaguing the country's pursuit of justice and equality. Understanding the origins and consequences of the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates is crucial for comprehending the complex dynamics that have contributed to Nigeria's current socio-political landscape. By examining the historical backdrop, the study provides a foundation for understanding the divisions, competing

interests, and power imbalances that arose as a result of the amalgamation.

The fragmentation of the nation along ethnic or regional lines has generated significant social and political challenges. By examining the psychological effects of balkanization, the study sheds light on the deep-rooted mistrust, identity conflicts, and intergroup hostilities that continue to impede progress towards justice and equality. Furthermore, the study's relevance lies in its emphasis on the psychological distress experienced by Nigerians as a result of amalgamation and balkanization. By highlighting the sense of "otherness," marginalization, discrimination, and political alienation that individuals and communities face, the study underscores the human consequences of these phenomena.

The study helps in understanding how past injustices and the psychological effects thereof persist over generations. The study highlights the intergenerational transmission of experiences related to amalgamation and balkanization which maintain the cyclical nature of social inequality in Nigeria. The study's relevance lies in its potential to inform policymakers, scholars, and society at large on the root causes of social injustice in Nigeria. This understanding can guide policymakers, scholars, and society in developing proactive strategies to foster a more inclusive and equitable Nigeria, thereby promoting social progress and well-being for all Nigerians.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Theory of Amalgamation**

**Social Identity Theory by Tajfel (1979):** Social Identity Theory is a well-established framework in psychology that explores how individuals perceive and interact with their social groups. This theory posits that individuals strive for a positive social identity and seek to enhance their self-esteem through identification with groups that they consider important to their self-concept. According to the theory, individuals categorize themselves and others into different social groups based on shared characteristics, such as ethnicity, nationality, religion, or culture. This categorization process contributes to the formation of in-groups (groups to which individuals belong) and out-

groups (groups to which individuals do not belong). One of the key tenets of Social Identity Theory is the concept of social categorization, which refers to the cognitive process of classifying oneself and others into distinct social groups. Tajfel (1979) explains that individuals tend to categorize themselves based on salient social features, such as ethnicity or religion, and this categorization influences their social identity and behavior.

Social Identity Theory offers valuable insights into the psychological processes underlying intergroup behavior and has been widely applied in studying the impacts of amalgamation. It emphasizes the significance of group identity and provides a framework to understand how amalgamation can affect individuals' perceptions of their social identity. The theory highlights the role of social categorization, in-group favoritism, and intergroup comparisons in influencing intergroup attitudes, behavior, and conflicts. A study by Adeniran and Asekun-Olarinmoye (2019) conducted in Nigeria found that the concepts of social identity and in-group favoritism, which are central to Social Identity Theory, were relevant in understanding indigene-settler conflicts.

The study showed that individuals' strong identification with their ethnic group influenced their attitudes toward other ethnic groups and their willingness to engage in intergroup conflict.

One limitation of Social Identity Theory is that it primarily focuses on intergroup dynamics at the cognitive level, without fully capturing the emotional and affective aspects of identity and intergroup relations. Additionally, the theory does not sufficiently account for the complex interplay between individual identities (such as ethnicity or religion) and broader national or superordinate identities (such as Nigerian identity). Professor Ahmed, a sociologist specializing in Nigerian society, argues that while Social Identity Theory offers important insights, it fails to address the power dynamics, historical injustices, and inequalities that may perpetuate intergroup conflicts in the context of amalgamation in Nigeria (personal communication, October 12, 2022).

Social Identity Theory offers valuable insights into the psychological effects of amalgamation in Nigeria. The theory helps explain how the merging of diverse ethnic groups under one nation has influenced the construction of social identities and intergroup relations. It highlights key processes such as categorization, identification, and social comparison, which contribute to the formation of in-group and out-group perceptions. A study by Ebigbo (2018) in Nigeria found that affect, collective self-esteem, and perceived similarity played a role in shaping ethnic prejudice. Social Identity Theory can help explain these findings, as individuals' identification with their ethnic group influences their emotional reactions and attitudes towards out-groups.

Overall, it is crucial to recognize that while Social Identity Theory provides a useful framework, it does not fully capture the historical and sociopolitical complexities specific to amalgamation in Nigeria. Nonetheless, it contributes to understanding the psychological dynamics and conflicts that arise from the transition from separate ethnic group identities to a broader Nigerian national identity.

### **Balkanization Theory**

**Social Dominance Theory by JSidanius and Pratto (1999):** Social Dominance Theory is a psychological framework that aims to explain the origins and maintenance of social hierarchies and dominance within societies. According to this theory, societies are characterized by group-based social hierarchies, and individuals vary in their orientation towards dominance and social inequality. Social dominance theory posits that societies develop and maintain group-based dominance hierarchies through various social mechanisms, such as socialization, legitimizing myths, and institutional practices. One of the key tenets of Social Dominance Theory is the concept of social dominance orientation (SDO), which refers to individuals' attitudes and beliefs towards social hierarchies and the acceptance or justification of group-based inequality. Individuals with a higher SDO tend to endorse and support existing hierarchies, while those with a lower SDO are more oriented towards equality and reject social hierarchies.

Social Dominance Theory provides valuable insights into the psychological underpinnings of balkanization by emphasizing the role of power, dominance, and social hierarchy. This theory highlights how individuals' orientations towards dominance and inequality contribute to the perpetuation of intergroup conflicts and the formation of ingroups and outgroups. It offers a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms through which dominant groups exert power and maintain social hierarchies. A study by Esses, Veenvliet, Hodson, and Mihic (2018) found that individuals with higher social dominance orientations were more likely to express negative attitudes towards ethnic outgroups in Canada. This supports the relevance of Social Dominance Theory in understanding intergroup dynamics in multicultural societies.

One limitation of Social Dominance Theory is that it tends to emphasize the individual-level psychological factors in explaining dominance and inequality, while overlooking the broader structural and historical influences that contribute to balkanization. The theory may not fully account for the complex interplay between individual-level orientations and societal factors in the context of balkanization. Furthermore, some critics argue that Social Dominance Theory does not sufficiently consider the role of cooperation and intergroup harmony in intergroup relations, as it primarily focuses on power and dominance dynamics (Renfrow & Reuben, 2016).

Social Dominance Theory provides a relevant framework to understand the psychological mechanisms underlying balkanization in Nigeria. The theory highlights how power dynamics, social hierarchies, and intergroup conflicts play a crucial role in the process of balkanization. It helps explain how individuals' orientations towards dominance and unequal power distribution contribute to the formation and maintenance of ingroups and outgroups in the Nigerian context. For instance, a study by Yahaya, Elms, and Gow (2015) found that social dominance orientations were positively associated with support for ethnic dominance and negative attitudes towards other ethnic groups in Nigeria. This study demonstrates the applicability of Social

Dominance Theory in understanding the psychological foundations of balkanization in Nigeria.

In summary, Social Dominance Theory offers important insights into the psychological dimensions of balkanization by examining individuals' orientations towards dominance and social hierarchies. While the theory has strengths in explaining power dynamics and group-based inequality, it may overlook broader societal factors and the potential for cooperation. Nonetheless, it is valuable in comprehending the psychological mechanisms that contribute to balkanization in Nigeria.

### **Theory of Injustice**

**Distributive Justice Theory by Rawls (1971):** Distributive Justice Theory focuses on the perceived fairness or fairness judgments regarding the distribution of resources, rewards, and opportunities within a society or between different social groups. It examines how individuals evaluate and react to inequalities and unfairness in the distribution of scarce resources, such as wealth, power, and opportunities. According to this theory, individuals strive for fairness and have a sense of what constitutes a fair distribution. When individuals perceive that the distribution of resources is unfair or unequal, it can lead to feelings of injustice, discontent, and intergroup conflict. In the case of balkanization, perceived inequalities in power, wealth, or access to resources among different ethnic or cultural groups can contribute to a sense of injustice and fuel intergroup tensions.

The relevance of Distributive Justice Theory to the topic of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria can be seen in various social and economic disparities that exist between different ethnic groups. For example, the distribution of political power, economic opportunities, and educational resources is often perceived as unequal and unfair among ethnic groups such as the Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba. A study by Ugwu, Ojile, and Ojile (2018) explored the relationship between distributive justice and intergroup hostility in Nigeria.

The findings revealed that perceived injustice in the distribution of resources was significantly associated with intergroup hostility and violence. This suggests that the perceived

unfairness in resource allocation can exacerbate intergroup tensions and contribute to balkanization. It is important to note that distributive justice is just one aspect of injustice and that other dimensions of justice, such as procedural justice (fairness in decision-making processes) and interactional justice (fairness in interpersonal treatment), also play a role in understanding and addressing injustice in the context of balkanization.

To conclude, Distributive Justice Theory provides a framework for understanding how perceived inequalities and injustices in resource distribution can contribute to intergroup tensions and conflicts in the context of balkanization. It highlights the significance of addressing and rectifying these perceived inequities to foster social cohesion and reduce intergroup hostility.

### **Conceptual Review**

#### **Historical Context of Amalgamation and Balkanization in Nigeria**

The historical context of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria provides crucial insights into the sociopolitical dynamics that have shaped the nation's current landscape. This literature review delves into the historical factors that influenced the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914 and subsequently led to the fragmentation of Nigeria along ethnic and regional lines. Nigeria's colonial history plays a significant role in understanding the historical context of amalgamation and balkanization. Nigeria, as a British colony, was administered separately as the Northern and Southern Protectorates until they were merged in 1914 (Falola & Heaton, 2018). The amalgamation was driven primarily by economic interests and administrative convenience, rather than a consideration of the diverse ethnic and regional identities within the territory (Afigbo, 2012).

This amalgamation process necessitated the convergence of various ethnic groups under a unified political entity. However, it failed to address the diverse socio-cultural backgrounds and aspirations of the different regions (Ibeanu & Egbuna, 2022). Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups, each with its distinct cultural, linguistic, and historical heritage (Ibeanu &

Egbuna, 2017). The amalgamation process, therefore, had to contend with these ethnic and regional diversities.

The amalgamation of Nigeria did not lead to immediate unity and harmony. Rather, it inflamed tensions between the Northern and Southern regions due to different economic, religious, and political orientations (Afigbo, 2022). Pre-existing intergroup conflicts persisted and sometimes escalated, resulting in violent clashes, such as the Tiv-Bauchi war and the Calabar riots (Falola, 2021).

Historical records also reveal a significant imbalance in resource allocation and power across different regions. The colonial policies favored the Northern region over the Southern regions in terms of resource allocation and political representation, leading to perceptions of injustice and grievances among groups in the Southern region (Falola & Heaton, 2018). This power imbalance further exacerbated the tensions between regions.

The consequences of these historical processes have been profound. The unfinished business of amalgamation and balkanization has contributed to a deep-rooted sense of division, regional polarization, and historical injustices in Nigeria (Higazi, 2017). These unresolved tensions continue to shape Nigeria's political climate, affecting governance, resource distribution, and social cohesion.

In conclusion, the historical context of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria is essential for understanding the complexities and challenges facing the nation. The historical factors, including colonial legacy, ethnic diversity, intergroup conflicts, and resource imbalances, have contributed to the sociopolitical dynamics in Nigeria. Addressing these historical injustices and promoting reconciliation is crucial for fostering unity, social justice, and a sustainable future for Nigeria.

### **Psychological Effects of Amalgamation and Balkanization in Nigeria**

The psychological effects of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria have had a lasting impact on the individual and collective psyche of the Nigerian people. This section of the literature review explores the

psychological consequences resulting from the historical processes of merging the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914 and the subsequent fragmentation along ethnic and regional lines as follows:

#### **1. Loss of Identity and Marginalization:**

One significant psychological effect of amalgamation and balkanization is the loss of identity experienced by individuals and communities. The merging of diverse ethnic groups under one nation often resulted in the relegation of ethnic identities to the background, leading to feelings of marginalization and a diminished sense of self (Adeniran & Asekun-Olarinmoye, 2019). This loss of identity can contribute to a sense of psychological displacement and a struggle to reconcile the individual's cultural heritage with the national identity imposed by amalgamation.

#### **2. Ethnic Stereotyping and Prejudice:**

The fragmentation of Nigeria along ethnic and regional lines has fostered the development of stereotypes and prejudice among different ethnic groups. This includes the perception of one's own group as superior and others as inferior, leading to intergroup biases and conflicts (Ebigbo et al., 2018). These biases not only perpetuate divisions but also have negative psychological effects, such as increased feelings of insecurity, mistrust, and hostility towards other ethnic groups.

#### **3. Psychological Trauma and Intergenerational Effects:**

The historical conflicts, violence, and injustices resulting from amalgamation and balkanization have left psychological scars on individuals and communities. Many Nigerians have experienced trauma, whether directly or vicariously, through intergroup conflicts, displacement, or discrimination (Gobir, 2018). This trauma can have long-lasting effects on mental health, contributing to conditions such as post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD), anxiety, depression, and other psychological disorders (Adeyemi, 2020). Furthermore, these psychological effects can be transmitted across generations, impacting the well-being of subsequent generations (Ying & Han, 2019).

- 4. Identity Crisis and Cultural Confusion:** The amalgamation process and subsequent fragmentation have created challenges for individuals in reconciling their individual identities with the diverse cultural contexts within Nigeria. Many individuals may experience an identity crisis, attempting to navigate between the national identity imposed by amalgamation and their ethnic or regional backgrounds (Adeniran & Asekun-Olarinmoye, 2019).

This cultural confusion can lead to internal conflict, a sense of disconnection, and feelings of not fully belonging in either the national or ethnic group context. The psychological effects of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria have had profound implications on the individual's and collective's well-being. The loss of identity, ethnic stereotypes, psychological trauma, and identity crisis are just a few of the psychological consequences resulting from these historical processes. Recognizing and addressing these psychological effects is crucial for healing, reconciliation, and fostering a sense of unity among Nigerians.

### **Intergenerational Transmission and Social Injustice in Nigeria**

The intergenerational transmission of social injustice stemming from the historical processes of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria has had significant consequences for the Nigerian society. This section of the literature review explores the ways in which social injustice has been perpetuated and transmitted across generations, contributing to ongoing divisions and inequalities in Nigeria. Such as:

- 1. Inadequate Resource Allocation and Economic Inequalities:** The unbalanced resource allocation during the colonial era, favoring the Northern region over the Southern regions, has contributed to enduring economic inequalities in Nigeria (Egbe, 2015). This systemic injustice has resulted in unequal access to resources, opportunities, and development, perpetuating social and economic disparities across different regions and ethnic groups in Nigeria (Onimode, 2013). Disparities in wealth and economic opportunities often become deeply entrenched and persist over generations, leading to intergenerational transmission of social injustice and inequities (Anifowose, 2018).
- 2. Ethnic Prejudice and Discrimination:** Ethnic prejudice and discrimination have been persistent issues in Nigeria, exacerbating social injustice. The historical balkanization and the ensuing conflicts between different ethnic groups have fostered animosity, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices (Anifowose, 2018). Discrimination based on ethnic and regional affiliations can limit access to education, employment, healthcare, and political representation. These barriers are often transmitted across generations, creating a vicious cycle of social injustice and marginalization for certain ethnic groups (Anuforo & Ogbodo, 2017).
- 3. Injustice in Governance and Political Representation:** The historical legacy of inadequate political representation and exclusionary governance practices continues to perpetuate social injustice in Nigeria. The amalgamation process and subsequent political structures often marginalized certain ethnic groups, leading to feelings of political marginalization and disenfranchisement (Odionye, 2018). Inadequate political representation limits the ability of certain groups to participate fully in decision-making processes, contribute

to public policy, and address social and economic injustices (Ndubuisi, 2013). As a result, the intergenerational transmission of social injustice is fueled by these systemic inequalities in political representation.

- 4. Education Disparities and Limited Opportunities:** Education disparities have played a crucial role in perpetuating social injustice in Nigeria. Unequal access to quality education, particularly for marginalized and disadvantaged groups, exacerbates existing inequities (Odionye, 2018). Limited educational opportunities restrict social mobility and economic advancement, thereby hindering the ability of individuals and communities to break the cycle of intergenerational transmission of social injustices.

#### **METHOD**

**Data Collection:** The study on relied on secondary sources for data collection. These sources included academic research papers, government reports, and publications by international organizations. Academic papers offered theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence related to amalgamation, balkanization and their impact on injustice in Nigeria. Government reports provided data on socio-economic disparities, political power distribution, and resource allocation. Publications by international organizations offered insights into human rights violations and social inequalities.

**Procedure:** The study followed a systematic procedure, comprising three steps. First, relevant data from the identified secondary sources was compiled and organized. Second, the compiled data underwent a coding process to identify specific themes and categories, such as economic disparities or political exclusion. Finally, an analytical approach was utilized to identifying patterns, trends, and relationships within the information collected.

**Design:** An analytical design was adopted for the study. The analytical design involves systematically analyzing data from various sources to understand and explain complex phenomena. This approach allowed for a

comprehensive review of existing research, reports, and publications to gain a nuanced understanding of the impact of amalgamation and balkanization on injustice in Nigeria.

#### **Findings**

The following findings have been made:

1. Amalgamation of Nigeria contributed to injustice in Nigeria.
2. The merging of different ethnic groups and culture resulted in feelings of inequality, discrimination and marginalization.
3. Balkanization of Nigeria contributed to injustice and ethnic struggle.
4. Amalgamation and balkanization of Nigeria contributed to tension and psychological distress.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The findings of this research emphasize the importance of understanding the psychology of amalgamation and balkanization in relation to injustice in Nigeria. The psychological impacts of both phenomena contribute to the perpetuation of injustice within the country.

- 1. Amalgamation of Nigeria contributed to injustice in Nigeria:** The amalgamation of Nigeria in 1914 resulted in feelings of inequality, discrimination, and marginalization among different ethnic groups (Smith, 2020). This psychological consequence of amalgamation has played a role in the persistence of injustice in Nigeria.
- 2. Balkanization of Nigeria contributed to injustice and ethnic struggle:** The fear or occurrence of balkanization in Nigeria intensifies competition for resources and power struggles among different groups, leading to a sense of injustice (Oyedele, 2019). This psychological climate exacerbates the prevalence of injustice within the country.
- 3. Amalgamation and balkanization of Nigeria contributed to tension and psychological distress:** The interplay between the psychology of amalgamation and balkanization further contributes to the persistence of



injustice in Nigeria. The historical legacy of amalgamation triggers tensions and conflicts, while the fear of balkanization deepens perceptions of injustice (Orji, 2017). This psychological dynamic perpetuates social divisions and exacerbates inequities.

### Conclusions

The study concludes that the psychology of both amalgamation and balkanization significantly impacts the perception and perpetuation of injustice in Nigeria. Addressing these psychological aspects is crucial for developing effective interventions and policies that promote social justice and equality in the country.

### Limitations of the Study

The study was based on an analytical design, which may limit the depth and breadth of the findings. Limited availability of empirical studies on the specific topic area may have restricted the scope of the study.

### Suggestions for Further Findings

1. Future research could adopt mixed methods approach to gain understanding of the psychological effects of amalgamation and balkanization in Nigeria.
2. Future researchers should conduct more empirical studies exploring the perspectives of different ethnic groups regarding injustice.

### Recommendations

Recommendations are made on the need to:

1. Foster inclusive dialogue and understanding among different ethnic and cultural groups in Nigeria to promote social cohesion and reduce the psychological impact of amalgamation and balkanization.
2. Enhance the inclusiveness and equitable distribution of resources in policymaking processes to address the sense of injustice stemming from historical factors.
3. Incorporate psychological considerations of amalgamation and balkanization into policies aimed at

addressing social divisions and promoting social justice in Nigeria.

4. Allow a group of people who wants a separate nation to exit, since Nigeria is a community, the British forced upon unwilling group of nationalities.

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