# CONTEMPORARY NIGERIA POLITY AND ITS IMPACTS ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY

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**ABSTRACT:** The paper explained the contemporary Nigeria polity and its impacts on industrial development in the country. The background to the study and problem statement were stated. The study variables were conceptualised on the basis of definitions, types, methods and challenges. Theoretically, Stages of Growth theory served as theoretical framework for the study. The theory stated that for countries to experience industrial development or industrialisation, they must experience transition through five stages of growth. These stages of growth are: The traditional society, the preconditions for take-off, the take-off, the drive to maturity, and the age of high mass consumption. Nigeria as country is yet to wind up the first stage, indicating that the country (Nigeria) has not entered the second stage. Thus, the paper showed that contemporary Nigeria polity is yet to embrace the key for industrial development of any serious-minded nation. This is the reason why it is obvious that no advanced nations reached the developed stage without good polity and policies. Hence, this paper recommends that there is need for government to create a good environment and policies that could be inviting to investors. This if done properly, would foster industrial development.

# **KEYWORDS:** Nigerian Polity, Industrial Development, Nigeria

# INTRODUCTION

Nigeria has so much human, material, agricultural, untapped mineral resources and entrepreneurship capabilities (Ikonne & Nwogwugwu, 2020). However, the country has not fully utilized its resources and opportunities in the industrial sector to its advantage, as its realization has been hindered by a myriad of challenges such as incessant power outages, lack of finance/capital, multiple government taxations, and insecurity and limitations that faced the abortive and unsuccessful attempts at industrialization process (Arize, 2023).

According to Obioma, Anyanwu and Kalu (2015) industrial development therefore is the application of modern technology, equipments and machineries for the production of goods and services, alleviating human suffering and to ensure continuous improvement in their welfare. Isiksal and Odoh (2016) citing Blomstrom et al., (1994) suggest that industrial development through foreign investors can have a positive influence on economic growth level.

More so, the level of industrial development of a country facilitates its productive ability to make the essential goods and services available, reduce poverty, enable self-reliance, improve living standard, balance of payment stability, saves time and labor, stimulate other sectors of the economy, development of skilled manpower, minimize social tension by creating more employment opportunities, increase the earning power of the populace, and sustain economic growth and development (Arize, 2023; Ikonne & Nwogwugwu, 2020; Ogbuabor, et al., 2018).

According to Adegoke et al, (2020) this makes government seeks to use industrial development as an instrument or a weapon of economic growth that will assist them to achieve macroeconomics purposes its including. increasing its national output, minimizing unevenness in development outcomes, generating minimizing dependency income. on the developed countries and minimizing fluctuations in foreign exchange earnings. However, in Nigeria, agriculture was the mainstay of the economy at independence in 1960, providing food and employment for the populace, raw materials for the emergent industrial sector which according to Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN cited in Ogbuabor, 2018), includes manufacturing, construction, electricity, mining, water and gas industries, and also generating the bulk of government revenue and foreign exchange earnings (Chete et al., 2014). As a result, industrial development in the case of a developing economy like Nigeria can thus, be seen as the departure from a subsistence economy that is largely agriculturally towards a more mechanized system of production that entails more efficient and highly technical exploitation of natural resources in a highly formal and commercialized economic setting and contemporary polity (Samita cited in Barigbon & Idoniboye-Obu, 2022).

According to Größler (2010) "polity" allows to understand that institutional structures determine (the effectiveness of) policies to a great degree; in addition to this, it clarifies that policy changes often have to go in line with institutional changes. In a polity there is government created and entrusted with the legal recognition and power to rule over the terrain and populace under its control. In its operation there exist hierarchy and administrative control that leads to policies making (Größler, 2010; Oweii, 2016; Paul, 2014). That is why David and David (2015) opined that contemporary polity aid for specific guidelines, methods, procedures, rules, forms and administrative practices established to support and encourage work toward stated goals". This shows that polity defines strategy implementation and set boundaries, constraints and limits on the kinds of administrative actions that can be taken to reward and sanction behaviour; they clarify what can and cannot be done in pursuit of government objectives (David & David, 2015).

#### **Statement of the Problem**

Recently, Nigeria is seriously handicapped by the dearth of skilled labour, lack of data, good transportation facilities, confused land laws that have complicated the securing of land for factory construction. Likewise, the major challenges of industrial development in Nigeria is the prevalent predisposition to still believe that any approach or method originating in the developed world must be 'better' than anything designed to or produced locally. This however, jeopardized industrial development that ought to be the bedrock of Nigerian economy but has continued on a downward journey in the 21st century (Paul & Ofuebe, 2021).

Perhaps due to poor industrialization process in Nigeria, including poor policy conceptualization and implementation; weak raw material base; lack of technological capability insecurity; inadequate infrastructure such as transportation, water supply, electricity supply, and telecommunications; insufficient working capital; a weak raw material base; inadequate technical manpower; lack of entrepreneurship skills; lack of access to bank loans; and corruption in the private and public sectors (Barigbon & Idoniboye-Obu, 2022). These enumerated problems identified above, hinders potential industrial development in Nigeria and constrain Nigerians with entrepreneur orientation from venturing into production. Therefore, it becomes important to check how contemporary Nigeria polity impacts industrial development.

# LITERATURE REVIEW Conceptual Review

# **Contemporary Nigeria Polity**

A polity is a group of people with a collective identity, who are organized by some form of political institutionalized social relations, and have a capacity to mobilize resources (Ferguson & Mansbach, 1996). More so, a contemporary polity can be any group of people organized for governance, such as the board of a

corporation, the government of a country, or the government of a country subdivision.

A polity may be a republic administered by an elected representative or the realm of a hereditary monarch. In geopolitics, a polity can manifest in different forms such as a state, an empire, an international organization, a political organization or another identifiable, resourcemanipulating organizational structure. A contemporary polity may encapsulate a multitude of organizations; many of these may form or are involved to the apparatus of contemporary states such as their subordinate civil and local government authorities.

#### **Elements of Polity**

Letsas (2019) identified three elements of polity and they are follows: Community, political organization and belongings.

Community: The first is the idea of a community, understood as a group of people who have special ties of some kind with one another. What those special ties are can be left open for now. They might possess either an internal or an external dimension, or both. The former refers to a set of positive attitudes and dispositions that members of a group have toward one another, of the kind typically exhibited among compatriots or family members. External ties by contrast refer to events or conditions (such as moving to a new neighborhood) that affect the interests of a number of people and make for a lasting interaction between them. Historically the internal dimension of a political community has been closely linked with nationality.

**Political organization (Governance):** The second element of a polity that seems to me crucial relates to the concept of a political organization, understood as a set of institutional practices through which members of a community govern their common affairs. The presence of a governance structure is necessary in order to distinguish polities from informal communities, such as an extended family or a neighborhood. A governance structure typically encompasses rules setting up executive or

legislative bodies and procedures, and allocating decision-making powers between them.

**Belongings**: Moreover, political institutions must, in the appropriate sense, belong to the people whose lives it governs. There must be some degree of identification and control on the part of the governed. Prisons, for instance, have governance structures, but they are not political organizations. Call this the element of belonging. It suggests that polities have by nature a democratic orientation in that they are incompatible with its members having no say over how political institutions exercise their power.

# **Industrial Development**

Industrial development is the process by which an economy is transformed from primarily agricultural to one based on the manufacturing of goods. Individual manual labor is often replaced by mechanized mass production and craftsmen are replaced by assembly lines. According to Clunies-Ross (2010) industrial development, or basically industrialization, has two different meanings. It can be perceived as a change in a country's form of production and work force towards producing or minor industries. On this basis nations can be grouped into different income levels (high-income, higher upper income, lower upper income, higher middle income, lowers middle income and the lowincome countries) (Fujio & Tanaka, 2012).

# **Strategies of Industrial Development**

Many strategies have been adopted by the government aimed at achieving industrial development in Nigeria.

**Import-substitution strategy:** The importsubstitution strategy involves deliberate attempt by government aimed at encouraging the growth of industries within the country which produce goods and services which would otherwise have been import.

**Export promotion strategy:** Export promotion strategy is also a deliberate government policy aimed at encouraging the production of commodities for export. Government can do this

through the granting of tax concessions, reducing export duty, finding a realistic exchange rate, providing assistance on export costing and pricing, organization of trade fairs to expose home-made goods to other countries etc.

**Small scale and large-scale development strategy:** Government can also encourage the development of small- and large-scale industries with the aim of developing the industrial sector of the economy. The small-scale industries under the —small scale industrial schemel encourage the establishment of such industries in rural areas in order to provide employment to the rural people and prevent rural-urban migration.

#### **Types of Industries**

Industry can be classified into different categories or levels for a better understanding of the different types and for making it easier to study.

Infrastructure-oriented Industry: The term "Infrastructure-oriented industry" can be defined as the type of industry that shows a strong tendency to be located in the region with a particular infrastructure such as a large port, a vast industrial area, an abundant supply of industrial water and a high-speed traffic network. Typical examples are iron and steel industry (blast furnace steel making, electric furnace steel making, etc.), petroleum refining, petrochemical, paper and pulp, aluminum smelting, copper smelting, lead smelting, zinc smelting, shipbuilding, car manufacturing, etc.

**Consumer-market-oriented Industry:** The term "Consumer-market-oriented industry" can be defined as the type of industry that shows a strong tendency to be located in the region close to the product market or having a large consumption. Typical industries requiring urban functions are car manufacturing, computer, publishing and printing, ceramics, construction materials, steel processing, medical machines, etc. Most products requiring population are those related with food, clothing and shelter. Other products under this group are textile goods, furniture, fitting, wooden goods, etc. Those requiring agricultural agglomeration are livestock

feed, fertilizer, carton boxes for packaging, various agricultural materials, etc.

Labour-oriented Industry: The term "Labororiented industry" can be defined as the type of industry that shows a strong tendency to be located in the region where labor is available at low wage rate or labor is available. Industries requiring a large number of labors are shipbuilding, car manufacturing, steelmaking, electric machinery, precision machinery, etc. Most factories belonging to industries such as food, garment, textile goods, electric machinery parts and electronic parts require labor at low wage rate.

**Resource-oriented Industry:** The term "Resource-oriented industry" can be defined as the type of industry that shows a strong tendency to be located in the region that yields mineral resources, agricultural products, marine products, and forest products. Typical industries categorized into this type are cement, agroprocessing, livestock processing, marine product processing, woodworking, etc. There are several location tendencies of industry, as mentioned above. It is important to clarify what regional conditions meet with which type of industry, and then the industries to be introduced to the region should be chosen.

# Challenges of Industrial Development in Nigeria

According to Aniche and Nwosuji (2018) the problems militating against rapid industrial development are discussed as follows:

Lack of Capital/Finance: The major source of financing industries the world over is the owners' capital. In Nigeria as in many developing countries, this problem is accentuated the unwillingness of sole proprietors to allow the participation of outsiders in what is usually a personal/a family venture. Owualah (1992) observed that financial problems of industries arise from multifarious sources which broadly can be classified as endogenous and exogenous. The endogenous problems include those due to under capitalization poor accounting and record keeping management incompetence and financial indiscipline. The origin of exogenous financial problem is partly due to the behavior of institutional leaders and the capital and partly, to past policy biases against them.

Lack of Technical Know How: The technological knowhow and shortage of managerial man power is another problem facing the Nigeria industries. According to Babinton (2015) it is rare for the entrepreneur to have strong managerial and technical expert. Many industrial entrepreneurs engage in industries where they do not have appreciable technological background or experience. He went further to say that the size of such industrial units, technical advice and advisory department are normally non-existent hence there is lack of technical advice on operational problems in the workshop, development work on issues relating to efficient utilization of labour, equipment and also proper use of raw materials, improved product design, technical training for staffs and know-how to resolve problems of high production cost and poor quality of products.

Weak Raw Material Based: This is another problem of Nigerian industries. Due to poor state of its industrial sector, there has been lower weak production of raw materials these resulted to excessive reliance on the external sector or capital equipment and raw material. That is Nigerian industries have been dependent on imported raw materials and capital goods. Most of the beverage industries cosmetics, cement rubber, (plastic producers), and some other food industries depends on imported raw materials for their production.

**Inadequate Basic Infrastructural Facilities:** Infrastructural facilities like road network, railway, river transportation, railways, water facilities, irrigation machinery and equipment hampered industrial development in Nigeria. It has resulted to closing of the existing industries while new ones are not coming. Also, inconsistent/epileptic power supply had contributed to diesel engines to run their industries which will result to high cost of production.

**Institutional and Administrative Bottleneck:** These include various polices government put in place like excessive tax and these really decreased or reduced the coming of foreign industries in the country and folded the existing ones.

**Militancy**: This is one of the major problems against industries development of Nigerian Delta/region, these militants has vandalized pipe line given or supplying gas to these industries, kidnapping of their workers thereby requesting a lot of money from these industries in that region.

**Ways Contemporary Nigeria Government can Encourage Industrial Development in Nigeria** Babayem (2016) stated that federal government has adopted the following ways or methods of encouraging industrialization in Nigeria.

- 1. Tax concessions to pioneer industries: The federal government gives tax concession to pioneer industries for a specified number of years during which the industry will not pay tax.
- 2. Protection of infant industries: The government protects infant industries through high import duties, outright ban or placement of quotas on imported commodities which compete with those of home industries.
- 3. Development of infrastructural facilities: Government has also embarked on the construction of better road networks especially the express roads, efficient telecommunications, electricity and water supply system.
- 4. Establishment of industrial estates: The government should also establish industrial estates and thus reduce the problem of locating industries in urban areas.
- 5. Establishment of Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Decree: The Nigerian Enterprise Promotion Decree of 1972 was set up by the Federal Military in an

attempt to transfer part of the profits generated in Nigeria to the local people.

- 6. Establishment of financial institution: The government has established financial institutions to aid private enterprises e.g Nigerian Bank for Commerce and Industry and Nigerian Industrial Bank.
- 7. Establishment of higher institutions: The government has also established universities and colleges of technology with the aim of developing human resources.
- 8. Relaxation of industrial laws: Government should also contribute towards industrialization by relaxing some industrial laws such as the indigenization policy.
- 9. Formulation of development plans: Nigeria also undertakes development plans aimed at controlling resource allocation.
- 10. Relaxation of import materials: There is also the relaxation of import control by the government e.g the importation of machinery and raw materials.
- 11. Increased industrial loans: An increase in industrial loan will enable more business men to obtain loans and establish more industries.
- 12. Initiation of industrial policies: Government can equally initiate certain industry policies such as privatization and commercialization to boost industrial development.
- 13. Improvement in agriculture: Government has also ensured that there is improvement in agriculture to increase the supply of food and raw materials for industries.

# **Theoretical Framework**

Stages of Growth theory served as theoretical framework and the theory is associated with the works of Rostow (1960). It is also popularly known as modernization theory. It simply states that for countries to experience industrial development or industrialization, they simply must transition through five stages of growth. These stages of growth are: The traditional society, the preconditions for take-off, the takeoff, the drive to maturity, and the age of high mass consumption.

Traditional stage: At this stage, Rostow (1960) says that all societies are agricultural. Meaning agriculture is the sole means of occupation, and only those who own land or agricultural land have political power. The family is critical at this stage as it plays a vital role. However, agricultural productive capacity is limited owing to the kind of technology used in production. Very often, to some extent. productivity could possibly improve owing to improvement in irrigation works. Yet, output per head could not go above a ceiling due to no scientific improvement agricultural in implements.

Precondition for take-off: In this stage, the precondition to transition begins to fall in places. However, here, the characteristics of the traditional society begin to wither. Rostow (1960) says England or Britain was the first to take off. because she was kind of favoured by her geography, natural resources, trading possibilities, social and political structure. Education begins to grow as economic cum ideological orientation also transforms. This stage also marks the emergence of risk-taking individuals; they take risk in capital investment which in turn yields significant growth in commercial activities. According to Sanderson (1988), changes begin to take place in the political space especially in building an effective central government. Rostow (1960) says, political changes particularly the emergence of an effective central nation state was crucial for this stage.

The take-off stage: The take-off is the interval when the old blocks and resistances to steady growth are finally overcome. The forces making for economic progress, expand and come to dominate the society. Here, growth becomes a fundamental feature of the society. During the take-off new industries expand rapidly, with increased profits of a marginal proportion which are reinvested to develop new plants, and new industries.

Drive to maturity: In this stage the technological base of the society has improved drastically. The economic space has straightened up with new industries meeting demands of increased population. As new industries accelerate, older industries wither. The economy booms locally and takes a place at the international space. Goods formerly imported are now produced in-country. Investment increases to a new level, 10 to 20% of a country's national income is reinvested, infrastructures etc. are in top gear as commitment to research and development takes a new leap. Rostow (1960) stated that, it would take a country 60years to eventually achieve this stage (Girigir, 1999).

Stages of high mass consumption: This is the final and highest stage of Rostow's (1960) stages of growth theory. Societies reach this stage when all economic sectors move towards production of consumer goods. Here, per capita income increases even above the level of individual needs for shelter, food and clothing. At this stage, societies chose to allocate improved resources to social welfare and security. The emergence of the welfare state is one manifestation of a society's moving beyond technical maturity. The understanding here according to Rostow is that once a country has passed through these five stages, such a society has become industrialized (Simandan, 2020). Hence, his suggestions are that other countries that want to transition must emulate the western society's ways to attract industrial development.

Irrespective of the relevance of the theory it has been criticized by scholars and the criticisms were as follows: The stages of growth theory have been criticized for being merely a description (Sanderson, 1988). It follows that Rostow was barely describing how to move from one stage to the other without logical analytical consideration. He did not pay attention to what causes development of one country as opposed to the other. Similarly, the theory has also been criticized for been a show of traditions and superiority. He failed to comprehend cultural relativity. Lastly, the admonition that the drive to maturity would take 60 years is unthinkable and a mirage that Rostow only imagined.

### **Implications of the Study**

- 1. The implication of the paper lies on the fact that it revealed the extent to which contemporary Nigeria polity has contributed to the industrial development in Nigeria. It also detailed some obstacles hindering Nigeria from becoming advance industrial development.
- 2. Through this paper psychologists, economics, and government would know how to start an industrial development plan and policies relevant in establishing industries that will uplift the nation economic development; since, industrial sector tends to be engine for economic growth and development.

#### Conclusion

This research has showed that polity is the key for industrial development of any serious-minded nation; this is the reason why it is obvious that no advanced nations reached the developed stage without good polity and policies. This depict that contemporary Nigeria polity is seen as a reasonable channel of attaining the lofty desirable conception and goals of improved quality of life and industrial development. Since, developing nations like Nigeria lack the basic infrastructural needed to launch facilities them into industrialization as a result of improper and unimplemented policies, thereby make their industrial development slow (Adejumo & Olaoye, 2012; Iwuagwu, 2011).

#### Recommendations

- 1. The contemporary government should empower the industrialists to enable the industrial sector contribute their quota to the country's gross domestic product.
- 2. There is need for government to create a good environment and policies that could be inviting to investors. This if done properly, would foster industrial development that would facilitate economic growth and development.
- 3. Infrastructural facilities such as good roads, goods constant power supply, adequate water and good management scheme should be made available in order to ensure easy industrial development.
- Workshop and seminars should be organized on industrial development in various states of the country. This will help encourage the citizens to venture into industrial sectors and start contributing to domestic produced goods and services.
- 5. Government should subsidize raw materials and give financial support to small scale industries to reduce the price of industrial produce.

# **Limitation of the Paper**

The study does not allow the researcher to elicit empirical and practical information from the targeted populations (citizens of Nigeria) through the use of interview and questionnaire method.

# **Suggestions for Further Studies**

Future research should focus on quantitative method to gain practical knowledge and information.

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