

## Conceptualizing the "Nigerian Environment" As a Hindrance to National Development, 1960-2023

**Innocent-Franklyn Ezeonwuka**

Department of History and International Studies

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka

if.ezeonwuka@unizik.edu.ng

+2348033096134

### **Abstract**

*Irked by the enormous perplexities surrounding and buttressing Nigeria's moribund national growth and under-development since independence in 1960, more so in its seeming stereotyped peculiarities, this study is posed to not only unravel but understand and explain these issues and challenges. The paper further goes on to shed more light on a litany of environmentally-habitual and peculiar factors domiciled within the Nigerian country, apparently adoptive and infective, with cumulative effects on not only the government and citizenry but influencing foreign interests. Overall, this work is an attempt at providing concise concepts of what coalesces to portend the "Nigerian Environment": human behavioural indices and adaptational acquisition. One may not successfully conceptualize the "Nigerian Environment" without engaging the "Nigerian Factor". Not only identifying these anomalies, but providing succinct explanations on how these vagaries cumulatively hinder Nigeria's attempt at development, lies at the very root of this study. Both Adaptational and Behavioural Theories present stable and variable conduits towards ensuring that information gathered and garnered secondarily are quantitatively used. The paper asserts that the "Nigerian Environment", somewhat reversely ordered, is challenging and highly antithetical to international standards as the case may be, hence this research work boldly advocates for a wholistic rethink, rebirth and re-organization in national body politic, in order to spur patriotic development.*

**Keywords:** Nigerian Environment, Nigerian Factor, Stereotype, Behaviour, Corruption, Ethnicity.

### **Introduction**

For long, sitting on the precipice of existential issues, Nigeria has continued to bask in an institutionalized monumental conceptual crisis. Apparently dazed by the deliberate British colonial-infused and manipulative political obsession of operating an independent entity, Nigeria's case has constantly moved from stagnation through political determination and predictable disintegration to somehow remain afloat. Greatly defying the high degree of human suffering, negative vibes, unbelievable widespread insecurity, poverty, unemployment and state impunity, Nigeria's national population is not only progressively on the fast lane but lots of its citizens here and there, continue to remain trail blazers. Often misdiagnosed, misunderstood, misrepresented and misguided, the citizens and the leadership remain largely far apart. Nigeria, a state?, a country? or a nation, not to talk of a federating democracy, remains a pertinent question which can only be succinctly tackled through a conceptual discourse, hence the Nigerian national question unfolding within the Nigerian environment as a concept.

The political and economic fragility of Nigeria, Africa's biggest economy and most populous country on the continent have remained an unfortunate endemic catharsis dating back to 1960, when it became independent. Even with the comparative advantage of an imposing enormous human and material resources, it is still highly dependent on developed economies for most of its needs, including, and bad enough, ideas. Brandishing an unbelievable altruistic Afrocentric foreign policy, considering its enormous indices of poor governance, retrogressive poverty and underdevelopment to the African environment, Nigeria appears cursed, if its rich mineral resources, oil, gas, biodiversity and cheap man power base are put under viable consideration. An economic Pandora's box full of many paradoxes, a terror haven brewed and sustained by domestic and foreign interests, Nigeria has remained an investor - attractive but combustible destination, that deter serious minds. With or without due reference to the near latest unhealthy released economic data from Bloomberg and its cohorts, it is common knowledge

to realize that an import - dependent economy, with a population of more than 200 million, a realistically rapidly increasing population bereft of viable leadership, home - grown patriotism and infrastructure, has a poor prognosis.

Just as the national socio-economic prospect of tomorrow is filled with uncertainties and fears, it is painful to observe that sometimes, the annual national budget which should act as the economic compass of the country is voided, even before the legislature can complete deliberations on it. The principle of government continuity of programmed and developmental plans in phases is non-existent in Nigeria. Overtime, reflecting Nigeria's economy in a realistic statistical data that maybe fluke-proof appears daunting. In the last decades and up till the present, successive governments have cumulatively made Nigeria a bad brand in the international forum. Though blessed with an attractive literate population, poor service delivery and impunity have co-joined with a pathetic penal and legal apparatus to apparently debase further the Nigerian environment to a hopeless and helpless dungeon<sup>2</sup>. Nigeria's underdevelopment pathway is no longer a new story on the international arena. Brazen crime and criminality, kidnapping, banditry and terrorism, emboldened by state mayhem on the citizenry evidenced by not only a low life expectancy, drug and substance abuse morality, the "japa" and "get rich quick syndrome" in the midst of collapsed and dysfunctional state institutions.<sup>3</sup>

This Nigerian phenomenon is not only stubbornly branded, but enigmatic, in that the politicians appear to have successfully set the poor innocent masses against one another, hence sustaining an unbodied pyramidal exploitation.

The multiplicity and veracity of these problems coupled with its reactionary effects on the citizenry have continued to steer and stir a great number of domestic mentally-imbalanced, manifest in one form of queer attitudinal challenges or the other. Judging from all ramifications *vis a vis* international human capital development, Nigerian has remained deeply pervasive on its uncommon valiant population that portrays the propensity of subsisting somehow comfortably under tremendous suffering, hardship and difficulties. When hopelessness and helplessness give way to disinterestedness, disengagement and impunity, the resort is simply depression sometimes manifest through anger, bitterness and frustration.<sup>3</sup> These existing peculiar vagaries of the Nigerian environment remain potently at work like a conveyor belt, challenges, retards and negatively affect the mental psyche of a good number of the citizens. This overbearing reality has led to the continuous outpouring of the mentally distressed and disordered bunch freely into the environment with frightening implications. When orderliness is relegated to the background, absurdities assume the centre stage.

Just as poverty breeds ill health, with dangerous mood and thought-sequencing, unfolding actions and inactions remain driven by rationality. The bench mark of poverty is unavailability, inaccessibility, denial of needs and abject lack of opportunity to obtain or achieve a much-needed thing. When one lacks, it implies that those under his care are equally denied, triggering and promoting a chain line of poverty, hopelessness and suffering. Unequivocally,

*Nigeria presents an amazing scenario of a consumer edifice with a resilient, vibrant ingenious bunch, ill-protected, demotivated and uncared for, deeply and wholesomely exploited by endogenous interests. In the same way sourcing and making use of the different services of the state apparatus like the legal/penal system and the police remains a mirage, that of the basic primary health care services, education and shelter remain a far cry.<sup>4</sup>*

Constantly agitative and irritated abnormally as one would helplessly observe, the psyche of an average Nigerian appears to be on a survival mode of mental overdrive, oscillating on a psycho-social economic platform. Dreams, visions, lofty ideas and aspirations remain healthy emissions of progressive societies, most especially the youths, because on such crucibles the road to progressive national growth and development rests. Abnormal conditions breed abnormal people, and, when such situations persist for long, the tendency may result in the gradual erosion of previously cherished values and the adoption of the abnormal, according to the dictates of life and environment. In the same way the stubborn fear of

survival stares the average Nigerian daily on the face, a good number resort to dehumanizing unthinkable engagements and errands, most times under the influence of drugs and controlled substances. An anarchious order appear to subsist in Nigeria, portraying an existing camouflage of state control and social welfare apparatuses on top, with a turgid air of insecurity as the reality. Unfortunately, the fabric of the Nigerian society appears to have been tailored on a faulty public perception and misunderstanding where a graduated rise, steered by compassionate skill and passion has been eroded by a fast lane syndrome, sustained by a paradoxical bemused societal applause. Here lies the foundational fabric of the 'Nigerian factor', the Nigerian identity, fired by the stubborn Nigerian philosophy phantomed into and sustaining the Nigerian environment.

The popularity of the Nigerian identity on the global realm is constantly inundated with negative accolades and innuendos. Prolonged economic brutality, inequality in wealth distribution, political emasculation, over-policed but under secured, excessive human rights violations among others as executed by profligate and inept leadership, have spread poverty and pain, creating a soft landing and hatchery for insecurity. Undoubtedly, Nigeria is an economic power house whose strength lies in its diverse people and national endowments. The lack of coordination and the enthronement of globally accepted principles and best practices in both the domestic and external transactions have continued to marginalize the country's development.

Many Nigerians embattled and impoverished, with a marginalized lifespan<sup>5</sup>, especially the youths in their hopelessness, desperation, anguish and pain, flee the country at the slightest opportunity. Primarily driven by poor governance, political malefice and unfettered corruption; other challenges include inefficient tax system, dwindling international trade revenue, extremely weak and manipulative democratic institutions, ever growing unemployment not helped by investor's-unattractive environment, an impressive and ever growing regimen of capital flight and medical tourism, the crisis of, and seemingly unreformable power sector, including macro-economic and fiscal fiasco, the crisis-list appear unending. In the midst of abundant over pouring and proven innate entrepreneurial potentials for improvement to the commanding heights of national growth and transformation, the many unemployed zealous hands are held back by the intricate melodrama of financial institutions in the area of granting of loans, collateral and interest rates. Nigeria's rapid population growth and unemployment statistics have for long remained in red, hence cannot fundamentally allow GDP rebasing to alter economic facts. The typical Nigerian woman gives birth to 5 or 6 children which is higher than the average fatality rate and more than three times than in the developed world.<sup>6</sup>

Supposedly oscillating on a federalistic structural base, Nigeria has largely missed it politically, not even with its tactical move from a Unitary to a Presidential system of governance. Ethnically, polarised, stereotyped Nigeria is factually wallowing in the challenges of ethnicity, religious inclination and primordialism, hence lacking in clear-cut political identity, since the interactive currencies are fear, prejudice and discrimination.<sup>7</sup> Persistence of these negative and retardative challenges have, over the years, not only 'baked and packaged' Nigeria, fairly but has like, through a conveyor belt, veritably exposed to detailed Western manipulation, exploitation and depredations, all in the guise of nurturing democracy.

### **Concepts Analysis**

The Nigerian environment: Genetically ordered and unleashed, though teleguided by imperialistic Britain since independence in 1960, the Nigerian environment has evolved overtime as a multifaceted human development inhibitory genre, easily classified as the Nigerian factor. Fundamentally and psychologically ill-motivational, the condiments and attributes which coalesce to create and continues to sustain the Nigerian environment, wholistically combine to tag it with this identity consort that is uniquely and identifiably manifest in people that inhabit the peculiar land space designated as Nigeria. The Nigerian factor is simply a norm fed by the Nigerian philosophy, a largely evolved pattern which influences both thought, behaviour and systematically feed and sustain the Nigerian environment. Ethically divergent with the recognized globally acceptable best human and societal practices, the

Nigerian factor is not only robustly and societally demeaning and retrogressive, but blatantly supportive of mediocrity, hence allowing indolent loafers to make it with effortless ease.

Deeply stereotyped, the Nigerian factor, though a lethal game changer, wreaks havoc within the Nigerian environment, hence armed with 'picture in the head', propelled by religious, ethnic and nepotist sentiments and leverages, emotions and bizarre feelings are allowed to becloud proper reasoning, choices and actions. Human development, societal transformation and meritocracy remain jettisoned, once religion and ethnicity continue to unleash identity politics within the Nigerian environment. Ethnocentrism, assuming the form of wariness and distrust of outside groups and a belief in the unquestionable superiority of one's own people, hibernate hatch and sprinkle prejudice and discrimination as a decelerative fuel and retardation most especially in an environment inhabited by disparate groups and nationalities. While profanely highlighting primordialism, the dangerous irreconcilable embers of 'us' and 'them' are triggered as cultural constructivism.

Believed in some quarters to be the defeatist attitude of most Nigerians, in the face of Nigeria's perverted value system, the Nigerian factor thrives. What is 'universally' viewed as reprehensible is paradoxically accepted on the Nigerian context as working, efficacious, exemplary and recommendable. Undoubtedly, one must be imbued with, or get accustomed with the Nigerian factor in order to ply the Nigerian environment successfully. Explaining the wholesome details in every sphere of the Nigerian environment that add-up to its pervasive identity construct, would simply be herculean. Nevertheless, the primary scenario lies in the predominant air of lawlessness, disorderliness, and cohesive impunity, sustained by prolonged years of faceless political leadership that have successfully created and implanted two nagging problems to this environment; manifest reality of collapsed institutions of societal governance, rather adoring and adorning strong personalities; and a highly beleaguered heavy bunch of disparate informed population, showcasing a wonderful adaptation to, and accommodation of extreme difficulties and circumstances, hence have overtime successfully acquired a wonderful 'shock absorber'. Seemingly calm on the surface, though intrinsically anarchious and grossly antithetical by global standards. the reality is that the Nigerian philosophy driving the Nigerian environment appears detested and abhorred by many, both within and outside, though paradoxically for and by variegated intents and purposes, sustained actively by them.

Unfortunately, the Nigerian factor and background appears largely premade, acting as the flame feeding the Nigerian environment, which portends and instantly elicits reputational queries beyond the country's borders. When and where designated caliberative and standard measures of training, formation, education and promotion are consciously eroded as a short cut to knowledgeable meritocracy, a bazaar of indolent loafers are not only unleashed into the system constantly, but a demotivational overdrive remains triggered domestically that disorients, discourages and disquimates. The Nigerian environment is reputed to be a bizarre reservoir with growth limitations, encouraging vices rather than virtues. One may not be wrong to conclude that within the Nigerian environment, certain borders of impossibilities appear not only challenged but a greater number of the successful and stable echelon, not only were in one way or the other were compromised either foundationally, or sustainably complicit in illegality and societal ethical construct.

### **Stereotype**

When Walter Lippmann first applied the word 'stereotype' as a journalist while referring to a 'picture in the head' with regards to a particular group of people,<sup>9</sup> it came with a designated deep meaning and reference, more so subsequently when this word was further applied globally within multifaceted environment and circumstances. The ascription of a particular behavioural norm or characteristics to a particular group, adorns any member of such group with a specific identity, hence a stereotype could be classed as a set of characteristics that departs from 'reality' through restructuring, curtailing and deforming.<sup>10</sup> According to Preiswerk, the user of the stereotype often believes he is giving a straight forward description, in fact, he places a mould over a reality which that mould cannot contain<sup>11</sup>. There are both negative and positive stereotypes. It helps people predict the behaviour of the person, group or



community they are observing. The importance of predicting or informing someone's behaviour could be one of the reasons why a stereotype maybe maintained, despite evidence of inaccuracy. Whether positive or negative, stereotypes are considered to be harmful, because it takes away one's ability to treat each member of a group as a distinct individual<sup>12</sup>. Whereas historians are of the opinion that stereotypes spring from past events, from the political point of view, it could be a means by which groups in power come to rationalize war, religious intolerance and economic oppression<sup>13</sup>.

### **National Development**

When a large body of people, united by common descent, history, culture, or language, inhabiting a particular country or territory<sup>14</sup>, evolve through maturity, understanding, cooperation, advancement and prolonged period of growth, one could refer to such process as a good example of national development. Since change is a continuous process, and the parameter of recognizing development accepts an accelerative procession rather than retrogression, suffice it to say that whether physical or immaterial, certain conditions and manifestations must prove and certify the actualization of development as exemplarily positive, with accompanying goodies. National development cannot be said to occur within a political contraption which does not by any parameter measure up to the status of a nation. National development remains an economic, social and political project, which involves a transformational paradigm overtime, within a geographical space, involving and affecting a given population, positively impacting through graduated growth to the acclaimed well-being of the sovereignty. For national development to run as a necessary human process, a definite and firm political process must be dictated by a particular constitutional order, assisted by designated rule of law and balance of powerful institutions of governance, that must at all times, put in check, the overriding powers of autocracy and impunity. National development showcases a proactive vibrant economy (a nation's pride), qualitative improvement in people's feelings and attitude (which spur patriotism), a fair-minded electoral, judicial and penal system and a motivated social and educational dimension appropriately spun with welfarism. A whole gamut of change in the social system, political focus on the basic needs of the populace, the reduction of inequality, the provision of security, transportation and health care services, realistically brings one nearer the sphere of national development.

It may be observed that a geographical entity may be witnessing either a progression or retrogression in diverse perspectives. However, since development remains a positive ideal, establishing, justifying and acclaiming positive transformational change must remain proven with both quantitative and qualitative indices. Any development within a particular entity or space which may appear nepotic, ethnocentric or discriminative, hence falling short of a national spread, may realistically fall short of contributing to national development. Subsequently, this study may pose the question and suggestion of ascertaining the political status of Nigeria first, *vis a vis* nationhood, before understudying her in the realm of development.

### **Theoretical Support**

Studies of this conceptual magnitude that influence, imply and evoke human psyche and by implication, attitudinal responses and behaviour, may not easily flow without borrowing certain clues from relevant theories. When Aristotle first introduced the Causality Theory as a way of understanding the human experience of physical nature; though there may be multiple causes, but there is one cause, the final cause, the fundamental source of becoming, which is teleology<sup>15</sup>, many researchers found it easier to find a footing most especially in certain challenging realms. This was because the bench mark of cause and effect, stood out pointedly, such that it sounded easier to quickly identify numerous human maladies as an end factor of definite causations. Going forward from conceptualizing towards identifying the many hinderances to Nigeria's national development, and enumerating the many disturbing challenges within the Nigerian environment unquestionably appear to fall in place.

Be that as it may, gliding from a wider panorama would envisage drawing from the theories of Environmental Psychology and Person In Environment (PIE) Theory. Dotted with alluring tags and inundated with informative ideas, the Arousal theory, Environmental Load theory, Behavioural

Constraint theory and Ecological theory all coalesce to present the knowledgeable beauty that theories of Environmental Psychology emit<sup>16</sup>. As if to provide summation to the great details embedded in them, the Person In Environment (PIE) Theory is emphatic in pointing at the end factor in human behaviour and reaction as a direct product of his particular environment, which he is reacting to<sup>17</sup>. Since trigger and response portrays action and reaction, it is not an anomaly to witness the high level of encumbrance, challenges and inhibitions burdening and hindering Nigeria's national development, if the geographical space referred to is anything to be confirmed as such.

Patriotism is a political feeling which is grown and nurtured from inwardly to outwardly, hence it is neither impacted nor forced on citizens. Conviction, time and mindset in-flame and nurture patriotism, hence an identity recluse. However, when the Nigerian environment impoverishes and outrightly bequeaths hardship on those within its space, when this environment appears over protected but under secured; when its political and economic brigandage appears beyond textbook analysis, life expectancy drops, such that in an atmosphere of lawlessness and excesses, national cohesion and accruing development remains a mirage.

### **The Nigerian Quagmire**

The Nigerian environment undoubtedly remains a dangerous hinderance to its national development. It is realistically sorrowful and heart-rending to observe that Nigeria remains an ugly referral on almost every human vice, just as its ingenious capabilities in adaptation and behavioural reverse-engineering has regrettably placed her as a world class consultant in underdevelopment in the midst of abundant human and material resources. Challenging and highly toxic as it has turned out to be paradoxically, it has kept on producing and churning out global professionals and goal getters. How could one be convinced to accept that Nigerians occupy 2% of 2023 globally listed best scientist?<sup>18</sup> Would one be right to say that sequel to the persistent harsh reality of this habitat which the citizens are forcibly made to be born and groomed in, physiological and psychological adaptation has aided acclimatisation and the acquisition of exceptional tendencies, to not ordinarily survive, but to even excel.

The problem and challenges of post-independence Nigeria and its plural identities is that of politics of inclusion, exclusion and participation. Bereft of equitable leadership, the political platform is serviced by ethnic cleavages and chauvinism, discrimination, disunity and disorganization. Political polarization, ethnocentrism, institutional emasculation has broadened citizen apathy and hopelessness in the national project. The political psyche of Nigerians appears all the more weakened by the years, since an interplay of several complexities appear to stabilize and embolden the few that are holding the country by its jugular.

Not only a bad brand in homogenous plurality, Nigeria has remained an item of display in ethnic rivalries. Possessing one of the highest numbers of political parties in the world, Nigeria's developmental economy is repulsively retrogressive, even with over two hundred million people. Historically acclaimed to have flirted with the Unitary system of governance, romanticized with the Parliamentary and solemnizing with the Presidential system in its strides as a portent federation, the melodrama has been that of deceit and delay through the application of half measures at its best. Even before 1960, Nigeria's faulty physiognomy did create and stir worrying questions from many elites in the country's North and South, but the British amoral and vaulting machinations and interests cocooned it. The minority culture group's voices were drummed out, including separatist demands and yearnings. Reclined, readjusted and fixated by the powers that be in the form of state creations, many separatist musings and rantings were quelled: it may be recalled that at the beginning of 1952, the following groups became vehemently occupied with this quest: Benin-Delta Peoples Party (BDPP), Calabar-Ogoja-Rivers movement (COR); by March 1956, one Mallam Ibrahim Imam tabled a motion, requesting that the issue of the creation of Middle Belt state be officially considered on the floor of the Northern House of Assembly<sup>19</sup>. In August 1956, some Anioma communities in the present-day Delta and Edo states were carved out of the core Igbo heartland, despite protests from the Anioma traditional rulers then to the British colonial authorities, while a large chunk of Ezza community in the present

Ebonyi state was allotted to the present-day Benue State. The Willink Commission and consequent Boundary Adjustment though strategic towards quelling the frenzy and incipient apprehension stirred, didn't go far enough, just as post World War II tantrums in empowering diverse nationalities to self-determination, re-energized separatism as a perennial accoutrement of the country's political architecture<sup>20</sup>.

Just as the ghost of self-determination and separation were held down through the chessboard of state creation and the massive realignment of paternal affinities, even post Nzeogwu's coup of 1966, the Quota system, Federal character principle, Resource derivation policy among others, became handy tools for the so-called domestic equity. While oscillating on a faulty federalism, today having gone through several coups and counter coups, the Nigerian-Biafran war among others, separatist and secessionist agitators have largely evolved, grown and solidified into portent destabilizing vanguards-terrorists, extremist groups, including passive/coercive pressure groups. The conceptual Quagmire in the Nigerian Environment continues.

Achieving nationhood, not to talk of development in all ramifications, elicits evolved ordered harmonious understanding from the disparate indigenous populations inhabiting the Nigerian geographical space, driven by a passionate vision and mission. Nigeria has unfortunately continued to dangerously present a blatant scenario of naked eclipse of fraternal confidence amongst the major three ethnic groups – the Hausa/Fulani who sees and clings to political power as its birth right, and a handy tool for external manipulation; the Igbo who, in seeing everything as a source of wealth, resorts to the adapting to any environment in its primitive accumulation of wealth; and the Yoruba who are educationally balanced and dynamically tribalistic.

### **Conclusion**

The ideal and mental picture created by concepts not only challenges and evaluates, but wholistically redirects positively where choice and interest tally. Understudying Nigeria as an international legal political entity, within the scope of this research, poses a litany of challenging questions which borders primarily on the twin issues of identity and nationhood. Pregnant with prebendal and primordial stereotype, ethnic and religious cleavages, the Nigerian environment not only house, but appear to beg for consultant experts in underdevelopment. The national fragility has continued in red for long on all sectors, worsened by classical insecurity. The preponderance of intra and inter-ethnic squabbles, inter-religious conflicts, continues to diminish any iota of sanctity traceable to the Nigerian state. Largely autonomous and succumbing to the weight of these centripetal and centrifugal forces, its legitimacy remains aloof, while the citizens disenchanting, cynical and seemingly alienated, descends into chaotic and anarchious variables. When and where fear, anxiety, suspicion and curiosity remain widespread, target news meets target audience, and mayhem is let loose, hyped by sentiments.

Unequivocally, the Nigerian constitution, a high-sounding nothing so to say, has proved to be an appropriate trajectory for a beleaguered political entity right from 1960. Issues concerning national development can never be a cut and paste affair. Discordant tunes on Nigeria's body politic must continue as long as the national rentier system is fashioned in such a way that leaders are not people with best ideas and talents<sup>21</sup>, hence the national question. The Nigerian factor, a mental thing, profiling and propelling the Nigerian environment remains a hedge to any national development, since the mind guides actions.

### **Recommendations**

In today's world order, ran through the dictates of strategic importance and developmental dialectics of economy and security, designate human and societal transformation demands more than mere tantrums of orientation and psycho-social grease. A peoples Constitution is advocated which would address among other thing, the much-needed political identity, including the separation of religion from the state, and the recalcitrant issue of true federalism. This becomes an attractive decimal when federating units exercise the opportunity to compete through sensitization, innovation and ingenuity, thereby

stimulating entrepreneurship which is incendiary to national development. Moving at the same speed for all the states within Nigeria, deters competitive development.

It is not by closing the physical distance that real closeness emerges, and a sense of unity established for socio-cultural exchange and interaction; but the closing of psychological distance signified by shared modes of conceptualizing issues, events, peoples, including nationhood<sup>22</sup>. Undoubtedly, the Nigerian identity remains highly elusive, so long as the people prefer to operate and engage from their individual psych-cultural habitat and stereotype. Though no particular ethnic group realistically opted for the 1914 amalgamation, prepared the independence and 1999 Constitutions, it could rather be taken as a *Felix culpa* - a happy fault, which in encouraging peaceful competition and cooperation, stimulate socialization and integration. Once the small seeds of patriotism start germinating at the peripheral, it is hoped that the formidable regional glaciers must be guided by proactive human consciousness to checkmate the ambivalence of human interest, coupled with the perception of 'the other' in the present Nigerian quagmire. In the words of Dukor, since integration entails building a somewhat new society, hence a new social order based on justice and fair play, the democratic framework sharing of power even with minorities remains advocated.<sup>23</sup>

Hinging on citizenship rights based on residency as obtained in other plural societies, understanding, accommodating and tolerating the different histories of the federating units as a logical sequence to the cohabitation in the dialectics of human interaction, interdependence and relations through mutual aid, would smoothen sharp edges.

Suffering from the ambivalence of human interest, the Nigerian society is inundated with the upsurge and celebration of vices-embezzlement, mismanagement of public funds, election rigging, impunity among others. Involved in one way or the other in the corruption craze so to say, and allowing the law of self-preservation to play out, a great number of the populace entangled in the sharing of these loots ignorantly remain implicated in encouraging and celebrating the underdevelopment of Nigeria.

All in all, the West and its double standards gangsterism in Nigeria should not be abhorred, but checkmated. Undoubtedly, a litany of ills remains malignantly metastatic within the Nigerian entity. It remains more painful and paradoxical when the so-called bestiarities and harbingers of democracy and human rights brazenly support, nurture and habituate officially proven international criminals and drug lords to oversee and steer a 'democratic Nigeria' through the turbulent waters of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world. From Chatham House dislodging to the mesmerizing dictates of WEF Globalists, it may be concluded that London and Washington, through their numerous non-governmental organizations have never meant well for Nigeria.<sup>24</sup>

It remains totally incontestable that all that is politically negative are currently being relayed within the Nigerian landscape, not only excessively creating extreme morbidity and mortality, but sustaining the hyper – 'japa' resort. One may simply comment that 'sometimes the chains that inhibit ones freedom could be more mental than physical'.

However, mutually agreed disintegration and self-determination still remains viable options in a situation when the very numerous antagonistic forces within and external continue to appear complicatedly intractable. Approaching from one angle, Nigeria's case may continue to defy solution, primarily because the basic endogenous magnum which metastasises to solidify nationhood is not even a visitor within the Nigerian contraption, hence national development would helplessly remain a mirage. Resource-laden and blessed with enormous consumer population, Nigeria has remained the cynosure of external heartless vultures who, relying on the divisive peculiarities inherent within this space, have continued to plunder and decimate, having enthroned, supported and sustained bellicose puppet administrations in the name of democracy.



### Endnotes

1. Innocent F. Ezeonwuka, "Transforming Nigeria's Economy on the Path of Sustainable Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and Reflections" *Mgbakoigba Journal of African Studies, African Arts Documentation Project*, Awka, Vol.3, 2014, p. 67-79.
2. Innocent F. Ezeonwuka, "Transforming Nigeria's Economy on the Path of Sustainable Development in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Challenges and Reflections", *Mgbakoigba Journal of African Studies, African Arts Documentation Project*, Awka, Vol.3, 2014, p. 67-79.
3. Innocent F. Ezeonwuka & Princewill I. Uzoho, "When Mental Health Issues Turns to a Case of National Emergency: Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", *International Journal of Asian and African Studies (IJAAS)*, 2023, p. 10-20.
4. Innocent F. Ezeonwuka & Princewill I. Uzoho, "When Mental Health Turns to a Case of National Emergency: Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", *Interdisciplinary Journal of African and Asian Studies (IJAAS)*, Nnamdi Azikiwe University Awka, Academic Journals Online. [www.nigeriajournalsonline.com](http://www.nigeriajournalsonline.com), Vol. 9, No. 1, p. 11.
5. Extract of Information Credited to the Country Representative of World Health Organization in Nigeria, during the Malaria Awareness Workshop held in University of Lagos Teaching Hospital, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
6. Chukwuma Soludo, "*Learning the Wrong Lessons of Development*". This Day Newspaper, July 8, 2013 p. 48.
7. I. F. Ezeonwuka. *Stereotyped Nigeria: Religion and Ethnicity as Identity Politics*. Awka, Arise and Shine Printers, 2019. p. 12.
8. <http://www.IGIGlobal.com>
9. Walter Lippmann, *Public Opinion*, Disraeli Printers, New York, 1922 p. 10.
10. R. Preiswerk & D. Penot, *Ethnocentrism and History*, New York, Non-publishers, 1978 p. 20
11. R. Preiswerk *et al.* p.21
12. A. Inweregbu, "Stereotypes and Inter-Ethnic Interactions in Nigeria: A Psychological Perspective", in Akinwmi et al. (eds) *Intergroup Relations in Nigeria During the 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries*. Malewdi, Aboki Publishers.
13. S. B. Sharon *et al*, *Social Psychology*, USA, Houghton Muffin, 1979 p.10
14. <https://education.nationalgeographic.org> (Accessed 4/10/23)
15. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/causality> (Accessed 4/10/23)
16. <http://www.communitychange.com.au> (Accessed 4/10/23)
17. Mary Richmond, *Social Diagnosis*, 1917. [person-in-environment-study.com](http://person-in-environment-study.com) (Accessed 4/10/23)
18. [Elsevierdigitalcommonsdata.com](http://elsevierdigitalcommonsdata.com). Citation Metrics October 2023 Data Update for Science Wide Author Databases, 05/10/2023, 7:34a.m.
19. O. V. Evanade, "Nigerian Leaders, Proliferation of States and Federal Finances in Nigeria: 1955-1996" in Babatunde Sofola et al (eds) *Nigeria at 50, Politics, Society and Development*. Ibadan, John Archers limited. p. 158
20. I. F. Ezeonwuka, *Stereotyped Nigeria, Religion and Ethnicity as Identity Politics*, Awka, Arise and Shine Publishers, 2019, p. 29
21. C. C. Soludo, "The Political Economy of Restructuring the Nigerian Federation", Unpublished paper delivered at the maiden lecture organized by Ndigbo Lagos Foundation on 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018 at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Victoria Island, Lagos.
22. I. E. Eyo, "Thinking Nigeria: Psychological Reorientation; Nigeria towards Nationhood" in Okafor, F. U. *New Strategies for Curbing Ethnic and Religious Conflicts in Nigeria*. Enugu: Fourth Dimensions Publishers. 1997, p. 10.
23. M. F. Dukor, *Effective Leadership and the Ambivalence of Human Interest*, Calabar University of Calabar Press, 2003. p. 20.
24. I. F. Ezeonwuka, "Championing Western Democracy? WEF Globalists and the United States in Double Standards and Exceptionalism", *Awka Journal of International Relations (AJIREL)*. A publication of Awka School of History and International Relations, Vol. 1, No. 1, 2023 (Maiden Issue), p.