

Globalization and Africa's Transition to Constitutional Rule

Mohammed Nurudeen Akinwunmi-Othman

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Socio-Political Developments in Nigeria

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and encouragement*

PREFACE

The direct consequences of the socio-political uprising and agitation for democracy, rule of law, and political rights followed the annulment of the presidential election of June 1993 by the military junta and their civilian cohorts. These led to violence, overt human-rights abuses, tensions, and socio-ethnic upheavals in Nigeria in the era preceding the period examined. The efforts later led to the birth of the current democratic republic in 1999.

The decision to democratize governance by the Hausa-Fulani oligarchy was accelerated because of the influences of various internal and external factors acting cohesively. These include socio-political coercion and isolation, the effects of the economic hardship from the various embargoes laid on the regime by the international community, fear, and threats of a repeat of civil war and cessation along ethnic lines within Nigeria.

From 1999 to 2009, Nigeria—a very heterogeneous, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious nation—has continued to sustain democratic rule. This has resulted in the longest period of uninterrupted civil rule since Independence in 1960. In order to explain this exceptional incidence, the book looks at the influences of globalization and transnational law as the primary factors for this stability.

The exponential and sporadic growths in electronic media, unrestrained access to modern equipment and methods of communication, and most importantly the Internet, have made the transfer of

information faster and easier. Thus facilitating instantaneous transfer of cross-boundary reports, unrestricted exchange of socio-political ideas and ideologies, and the free flow of other channels that affect every part of the human existence. While they continue to act interdependently, these factors have largely contributed to the stability of civil rule.

The collective influences of the judiciary on the polity, which is referred to as 'judicial activism', were further improved and strengthened through globalization. This was achieved by the application of transfinite judicial interpretations to comparable constitutional provisions and statutes in Nigeria.

In addition, organized pressure groups, non-governmental organizations, as well as the 'Civil Society Organization', whose influences have been greatly facilitated by the judiciary and the media have played very significant roles as vehicles of socio-political change and transformation. They continue to act as buffers for the sustenance of democratic rule, well beyond the period in question.

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Finally, in the words of Shakespeare, ‘The height attained by great men was not reached by a sudden flight; while their mates were asleep, they were busy toiling through the nights’.

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ABBREVIATIONS

\leq	Less than or equal to
\geq	Greater than or equal to
AAPS	African Association of Political Science
ABN	Association for Better Nigeria
ACDEG	African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance
ACHR	African Charter on Human Rights
ADLN	Association of Democratic Lawyers of Nigeria
AF	Arewa Forum
AG	Action Group
AG	Attorney General
ASAPS	Anti-slavery Aborigines Protection Society
AU	African Union
BLP	British Labour Party
CAC	Codex Alimentarius Commission
CCB	Code of Conduct Bureau
CCP	Codex Contact Point
CD	Campaign for Democracy
CDHR	Committee for the Defence of Human Rights
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CLO	Civil Liberties Organization
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa
CPI	Corrupt Perception Index
CRP	Constitutional Rights Project
DPMF	Development Policy Management Forum

DU	Delta Union
ECOMOG	ECOWAS Monitoring Group
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
FCC	Federal Character Commission
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
FRN	Federal Republic of Nigeria
GNPP	Great Nigeria People's Party
HRA	Human Rights Act
IADC	Inter-American Democratic Charter
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICPC	Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission
IHI	International Human Rights Institution
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
IR	Information Revolution
JSC	Justice of the Supreme Court
LDC	Less Developed Countries
MASSOB	Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra
MEND	Movement for Emancipation of the Niger Delta
MRA	Media Rights Agenda
NADECO	National Democratic Coalition
NANS	National Association of Nigerian Students
NAPE	Nigeria Alliance for Peaceful Elections
NBA	Nigerian Bar Association
NCC	National Codex Committee
NCNC	National Council of Nigerian Citizens
NEC	National Economic Council
NEC	National Electoral Commission
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NEPU	National Elements Progress Union
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
NJC	National Judicial Council
NLC	Nigerian Labour Congress
NMA	Nigerian Medical Association
NPC	Northern People's Congress
NPN	National Party of Nigeria,
NPP	National People's Party
NSE	Nigerian Society of Engineers
NSS	Nigerian State Security
NUT	Nigerian Union of Teachers

NWLR	Nigerian Weekly Law Report
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OIC	Organization of Islamic Cooperation
OPC	Oòdua Peoples' Congress
OSSREA	Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
PDP	People's Democratic Party
PU	People's Union
SAN	Senior Advocate of Nigeria (an equivalent of QC in the United Kingdom)
SAP	Structural Adjustment Programmes
TEC	The Electoral Commission
TI	Transparency International
TMG	Transition Monitoring Group
UDFN	United Democratic Front of Nigeria
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UMBC	United Middle Belt Congress
UN	United Nations
UNUDHR	United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights
UPN	Unity Party of Nigeria
URA	Uruguay Round Agreement
USA	United States of America
USSR	United Soviet Socialist Republic
WIN	Women in Nigeria
WLC	West African Lands Commission
WTO	World Trade Organization
YEAA	Youth Earnestly Ask for Abacha