African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

Underdevelopment and Dependency in Third World Countries: A Focus on Nigeria

[1]Otu Eugene Chukwu, [2]Mba Nnamdi Bartholomew, [3]Chigbu Oliver Onyedikachi,[4]Charles Chukwuma Nwoba, [5]Iokaan Samuel, [6]Ngene Innocent Aja, [7]Ugwuala Ugwunna Donald, [8]Ukangwu Jane Uchechi&[9]Umahi Regina Chika

[1, 2, 3,4 &5] Department of Political Science, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria.
[6]Department of Political Science, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria.
[7]Department of Political Science, Clifford University, Owerrinta, Abia State, Nigeria
[8]Department of Economics, Clifford University, Owerrinta, Abia State, Nigeria
[9]Department of Business Management, Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki, Nigeria.

***Corresponding Author's E-mail*: eugene.otu@ebsu.edu.ng**

Abstract
This study interrogates Dependency and Underdevelopment in Africa: The Nigeria Experience. The specific objectives of this study were to establish the link between economic/financial dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria; to ascertain if political decency is liked to underdevelopment in Nigeria and to determine the relationship between military dependency and underdevelopment in Nigeria. This work adopted Dependency theory as postulated by Raul Presbisch (1950s). The study adopted quantitative methodology. The researcher made the following findings: Nigeria like other African nations engage in economic or financial dependency through foreign aids to sustain their own economy, Nigeria depend on foreign nation for political aids which is the major cause of neo-colonialism, Nigeria depends on foreign nations for military assistance. The researcher also made the following recommendations: Nigeria should revamp their economy by building refineries and stop exporting crude ad importing refined products, that will bust her economy and reduce economic dependency, Nigeria should also manage their political system, eliminate corrupt leaders and train qualified leaders lead the country, Nigeria organize her military base and strategies to enable them fight insecurity without depending on foreign nations.

Keywords: Dependency, Grants, Foreign Aids, Underdevelopment

Citation of article: **Out, E.C.,** *et al*. (2022).Underdevelopment and Dependency in Third World Countries: A Focus On Nigeria. *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)*, 15(2):114-134.

Dated Submitted: 22/10/2022 **Date Accepted**: 29/11/2022 **Date Published**: December, 2022

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

Introduction

The crises of underdevelopment in African countries like Nigeria have been a subject of discourse amongst social scientists, national governments and international development organization for several decades. The Nigerian economy is in reality a dependent one. This is because the technological basis of the economy is largely foreign. Available statistics show that 80-90 percent of the technologies used in local manufacturing which are also critical to the real sector in the country are imported. Largely countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are wallowing in mass poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment. According to Abraham (2010), third world countries are economically poor and technologically backward and largely characterized by under-developed structures, high maternal mortality, high child mortality, lower mass literacy, large rural population and so on.

The situation in Nigeria is no different; with a population of over 170 million people, the United Nations Development Programme most recent Human Development Index Report ranked Nigeria 152 out of 187 countries with a HDI value of 0.514 (UNDP 2015). This shows that the country is struggling with low human development with a huge disparity between economic growth and social welfare. The report in its list of low human development countries also ranked Nigeria at number 9 among 42 countries with Nepal, Pakistan and Kenya coming as the first three and Central African Republic, Congo, and Niger as the last three. The prevailing underdevelopment in the third world generally and Nigeria specifically, have been historically linked to inherent colonially imposed dependent economic structure within the third world states.

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

This entails the historical fusion of the third world economy to the global capitalist economy and the subsequent dependence on the Western economies (Stokes & Anderson, 1990; Ake, 2002). The researcher achieved the following objectives, the causes of dependency of Nigeria on foreign countries and the remedy of dependency.

Causes of Nigeria Dependency on Foreign Countries

There are so many reasons why Nigeria as an independent nation depend on foreign countries for survival. They include:

1. **Corruption:** Corruption has taken Nigeria backwards in terms of Development. Most of the people leading the country are corrupt and because of their corrupt practices Nigeria from 1960 is still referred to has developing country or underdeveloped country. High levels of corruption damages long term growth & development: corruption Deters foreign investment by increasing the cost and risk of doing business in Nigeria.
2. **Enthroning Mediocrity at the expense of meritocracy:** In Nigeria, during election of leaders, mediocrity is been enthroned at the expense of meritocracy. Qualified people's election are rigged to bring in incompetent hands that will ruin the economy and prefer running from pillar to post in the name of foreign aid which is an agent of dependency.

Foreign Aid and Africa's Underdevelopment

Foreign aid as defined by Lambo (2007) is the transfers of real resources from developed countries to less developed countries. It has to do with a developed country developing an underdeveloped country to help curb poverty and backwardness. Meanwhile, aid has been defined by Ajayi (2000) as "a form of assistance by a government or financial institutions to other needy countries, which could be in cash or kind". However, concept of foreign assistance is

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

a voluntary action which is dependent on the recipient country from a donating country, governments, private organizations, individuals, which are for providing support to the recipients' economic growth (Claude, 2008). According to Oshobugie (2011) Foreign aid means economic, technical, or military aid given by one nation to another for purposes of relief and rehabilitation, economic stabilization, healthcare or for mutual defense. Some experts charges that aid has enlarged government bureaucracies, perpetuated bad government, enriched the elite in poor countries, or just been wasted. Other argues that although aid has sometimes failed as alleged, but at the same time has supported poverty reduction and growth in some countries and prevented worse performance in other (Oshobugie, 2011).

Sometimes foreign aid makes a nation aid dependent rather than making economically independent. Food aid injected in Somalia bring food deficit to the country. Somalia had become alarmingly dependent on imported food (Mathew, 2009). Since most foreign aid is government to government, it is ruler's discretion how they allocate foreign aid resources- whether in productive or unproductive sectors. More recently some authors such as Djankov, Montalvo and Querol (2006) have argued that the effectiveness of foreign aid may depend on the way in which aid is disbursed. If foreign aid contributes to any productive consumption, such as enhancing education, building rural and urban infrastructure, protecting private property, and reducing trade risks, it results in a net benefit to economic performance, and countries that receive more aid should expect increase in their well-being. But ruler does not want to invest the aid resources in the above sectors, because they would be failed to return the loan money and become the victim of the loan trap. Ultimately it cannot bring the proper economic growth of the country

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

Charity they say begins at home which is a popular cliché argues that good leadership and development must be self-implemented first from home before going abroad. The reason for Africa's abject poverty and underdevelopment is not farfetched, given the sad fact that the record of Western aid to Africa between 1960 and 2015 has escalated to more than $5000 billion. Ironically the external stock of capital held by Africans overseas has been envisaged to be as much as $7000 billion to $8000 billion excluding the missing billions in export earnings from oil, gas, diamonds, and other minerals that are not openly accounted for (Mistry, 2015). This in my opinion is anchored on corruption in government of African leaders and politicians which has eventually stagnated development in the continent. It was almost unbelievable until the Paris daily wrote, Le Monde in March 1990, "Every franc we give impoverished Africa comes back to France or is smuggled into Switzerland and even Japan". Further confirmation was gotten from the World Bank review stating that almost 40% of Africa's total wealth is stored in foreign bank accounts (Aderinokun, 2003 and Macmillan, 2005). Therefore, until African leaders, politician and business tycoons decide to bring these funds and reinvest it back home, Africa will still be synonymous with underdevelopment

Actually foreign aid has generally benefited the ruling elite and top management of the NGOs. So the ultimate goal of foreign aid cannot be obtained. One study reveals that rather than create wealth, prosperity and economic development, most Africans have over the past few decades realized a net decline in their standards of living. On the contrary, the ruling elite became richer. According to Mathew, 2009, on the Daily Gambia Echo, "…. over the period that foreign aid was being pumped into Africa, the per capita GDP declined by an average of 0.59 percent annually between 1975 and 2000. Foreign aid has been found to do more harm to Africa leading

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

to a situation where Africans have failed to set their own pace and direction of development free of external interference.

We all know that Africa falls under the category of third world nations which implies their backwardness in all ramifications of life. The Africans economy is saddled with many setbacks and faults but we shall look into the most pressing of all which has to do with the financial aspect since its funds that determines any economy or economic activity. The foreign aid, as defined by Lambo (2007) is the transfers of real resources from developed countries to less developed countries. It has to do with a developed country developing an underdeveloped country to help curb poverty and backwardness. Chinweizu (2019) was of the view that the concept and by the developed nations to the developing nations is fist on institutional mechanism used by these donor countries to expand and re-enforce their wanton exploitation of these countries in the name of aid and they send doves of spies and experts to advice our petite bourgeoisie into pro-imperialist policies. This means that these developed countries used the word "aid" in quote as a technical weapon to monitor the economic, political etc Affairs of their prey (country to be developed) country.

This foreign aid comes mostly in monetary forms and technological assistance which they use in spicing and invading the countries privacy, we shall discuss more of this exhaustively as we look into its origin and we will pay attention on Nigeria as our case study. Origin of Foreign Aid in Africa at the era of the post war of the Second World War the first change was the emergence of less developed countries as increasingly activates actors in international relations. In the twenty years following the Second World War, the 19th century expires disintegrated and much of Africa achieved political independence following a compromise between the United States and

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

the Soviet Union in 1955, new states were regularly admitted to the United Nations. By the end of the second post war decade the United Nations had 122 members of which only 87 were developing nations, within the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) the less developed countries began to form groups and make coordinated demands. The major aids focus of the less developed countries was the special limited nations fund for economic development (SUNFED), although has opposed by the north especially the United States but was accepted by the southern group. Dissatisfied with the World Bank and with bilateral aid programmers, they continued to press and maneuver for the adoption of the adoption of their proposed organizations. SUNFED never came into being, the persistent efforts of the south helped to induce some changes. They led, first to the establishment in 1959 of the United Nations special funds (UNSF) to finance through grants in various pre-investment projects. The presence of SUNFED also influenced the World Bank system especially in the establishment of the international finance corporation (IFC) and the IDA. While the southern group laid their interest in the United Nations, series of international conferences were being held by the developing countries first of which is held in April 1955 at Bandung about twenty-nine (29) African and Asian countries met to discuss their common problems and issues, of which contained the recommendation for the establishment of a new financial aid institution and for the allocation by the world bank of a greater part of its resources to Africa and Asia. In 1956, and 1957 US policy makes turned their attention for the first time to a serious consideration of foreign assistance or aid to the developing countries. The result was the determination that economic assistance to the south could be a powerful tool in the cold war. This conclusion was based on several calculations. By companion, economic aid seemed a relatively painless solution; according to the

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

economic analysis growth of the less developed countries was constrained primarily by insufficient savings and foreign exchange and external financial assistance since it was argued that it would fill this resource gap and thus make growth possible. Capital assistance together with technical assistance to improve the use of both domestic and eternal capital would enable the creation of conditions for self-sustenance and economic growth. The principal result of the new link between aid and northern foreign policy was the expansion of bilateral foreign aid programmers. In the United States the Development Loan Fund (DLF) was established in 1958 with an appropriation of $300 million (three hundred million U.S Dollars). By 1961 the DLF was allocated $600, million (six hundred million US Dollars), the United States was also active in presuming the other developed market economies to increase financial flows to the development countries. They supported the creation of a development assistance committed within the OECD (organization for economic cooperation and development) to concern itself with aid policies.

Economic/Financial Dependency and Underdevelopment in Nigeria

The Nigerian economy has over the decades been characterized by galloping inflation, unequal foreign exchange rate exasperated by devalued currency and persistent dependence on importation, widespread unemployment, and dilapidated infrastructures among others (Eme, 2013). These features clearly portray the development challenges Nigeria faces which historically is hinged on dependence on foreign capitalist economies of North America and Europe and further worsened by leadership crises as evidenced in corrupt and inept leadership (Nnadozie 2010). The reasons for this gory situation of the nation's economy and overall socio-economic underdevelopment are not far-fetched. According to Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) a comprehensive analysis of Nigeria's economic crisis reveals a relationship between the periods

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

of slavery, colonialism, and neo colonialism and the backwardness or distortion of the Nigerian economy. Likewise, Babawale (2007) argues that the history of economic crisis in Nigeria can be traced to the period of British colonialism which led to the disruptions and dislocation of the country's pre-colonial mode and relations of production. For him, colonialism brought about distortions into the economy and deepened the country's dependence on the metropolis. Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012), further stressed that colonialism saw the incorporation of Nigerian peasant producers into the world market, removing millions of Nigerian from the comfort and stability of subsistent and semi-subsistent production and placing them in the web of an uncertain, volatile, and exploitative world market, which ensures a systematic subjugation of raw material producers to the forces and vagaries of the world market.

Ake (2002) supported the above when he averred that: …the contradictions of capitalism not only transform it; they also transplant it. The transplanting of capitalism arises from those contradictions which reduce the rate of profit and arrest the capitalization of surplus value. Confronted with these effects, it was inevitable that the capitalist, forever bent on profit maximization, would look for a new environment in which the process of accumulation could proceed apace. Capitalist turned to foreign hands attacked and subjugated them and integrated their economies to those of Western Europe. To date, the experience of Western imperialism, particularly colonization, remains the most decisive event in the history of Africa. In the colonial period, the British dominated and controlled the Nigerian economy as it favoured production of cash crops and other raw materials as tin, columbine, gold, for British industries and importation of manufactured goods (Adeyeri and Adejuwon, 2012). Colonial protectionist policy ensured that Nigerian exports are restricted to the Britain only and through the aid of colonial merchants'

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

companies such as the United African Company (UAC), the United Trading Company (UTC), African Timber and Plywood Company (ATP) the colonial export – import policy was implemented. These companies monopolized trade and commerce at the expense of the local merchants. In his analysis of British colonialism and its overall impact on Nigeria's underdeveloped Nnoli (1981) asserts thus: ...the policy of the integration of pre-colonial Nigeria into the global capitalist economic system, as a peripheral member by the colonialists, caused the destruction of the society's rich and varied political systems, and social structure, and the creation of new productive economic activities based on the need of foreign capitalist countries. It diverted attention away from local creative potential and resources by focusing on the production of primary resources needed by Europeans.

In colonial times, the Nigerian economy according to Ahazuema and Falola (1987) depended on three major export crops - cocoa, palm produce and groundnuts accounting for about 70% of Nigeria's total export. According to Falola (2007) the value of the export commodities were very high, the palm produce evacuated from Nigeria was about 66,000 tons in 1901; which later rose to 272,000 tons in 1921 and 497,000 tons in 1951. He further stressed that, Palm oil alone fetched £981,330 for 110,243 tons in 1938. In the same year, 180,136 tons of groundnuts valued at £1,305,828 and 97,100 tons of cocoa valued at £1,305,828 were evaluated. The greater percentage of this revenue according to Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) was either sent to the Imperial Treasury or overseas banks as reserves or used in serving the colonial administration in terms of salaries, provisions of infrastructures and so on. The implication of this situation on the economic system of production is that the colonial economic structure made it impossible for the Nigerian economy to be self-sufficient. The economy rather become absorbed into the world

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

capitalist system in which it serves as mere agent of Europeans economic institutions (AdeyeriandAdejuwon 2012). The direct outcome of this is that the country is now dependent on externally oriented export–import foreign trade, characterized by foreign domination of the local economy, and the appropriation of surplus value by foreign firms (Falola, 2007; Aghahowa and Ukpebor, 1999). At independence, Nigeria according to Babawale (2007) was bequeathed an economy that was not only distorted but also responsive to the vagaries in the international capitalist system into which it had been incorporated and it is characterized by a low productive base, with poorer technology, dependence on a narrow range of cash crops and later crude oil. The postindependence period as rightly observed by Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) has witnessed the Nigerian economy to be perpetually dependent on foreign markets, foreign aid and foreign technology.

As the most populous African nation, Nigeria views itself as a leader in the search for national economic growth and independence (Mabbs-Zenno, 2006). However, the struggle among rival ethnic groups seeking economic dominance, mismanagement and corruption in the public and private sector have led the country to near economic decay. The road to economic crisis was essentially ideological. The policies of colonialism, capitalism and imperialism foisted on the country resulting into fragrant disarticulation of the national economy, had severally been used by scholars to justify the present state of the economy. By means of division of labour, the nation was reduced to supplier of export crops such as cocoa, cotton, groundnut, palm produce and at the same time receive manufactured and consumable goods from Europe and America (Ajala, 2009). The Nigerian economy experienced unprecedented boom in the 1960s and the 1970s, but in the 1980s, the country experienced economic problems. The travails of the Nigerian economy

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

stem largely from two main factors. First, the oil boom of the 1960s and the early 1980s brought about major windfall for the country which consequently led to less priority, being accorded to Agricultural sector, which once was a vital sector of the national economy. Another reason for the structural deficiency of the Nigerian economy could be attributed to the twin problems of mismanagement and corruption by the political elites in Nigeria under various military and civilian regimes, (Ajala, 2009). In this regard, Tom Forests posits that state managers and the military government totally failed to manage public expenditure or impose any sense of direction or priority upon it. Consequently, the dynamism of these political and structural factors has led to the decline of the economy (Forests, 2007). In the light of the foregoing, the question IS how does the present administration intend to achieve economic integration? Thus, President Obasanjo addressed a joint session of the National Assembly in January of the year 2000, and spelled out his fiscal policy as such:

1. Enhance capacity utilization in agriculture, manufacturing and mining industries.

2. Provide appropriate protection of domestic industries against unfair protection from import and dumping;

3. Encourage diversification of foreign exchange earnings through increased export activities;

4. Reduce operating costs and inflationary pressures; and

5. Provide appropriate incentives for investment in manufacturing agriculture and mining with a view of making the economy private sector led. Given the foregoing fiscal policy, it appears that the administration has opted for an economic policy that is private sector-led and export oriented.

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

This is consistent with the policy direction of multilateral agencies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for developing countries since the early 1980s (World Bank Report, 1984), (Mills, 2004). However, the country is struggling with the process of the privatization of public parastatal and those that are privatized are not managed effectively.

Furthermore, Nigeria's manufacturing sector has continued to decline in the 1990s culminating in an average negative annual growth of 1.6 percent between 1990 and 1996. At the same time,' the local value of foreign holdings in Nigeria based enterprises has risen over the past two decades; fresh foreign investments have only trickled into Nigeria (Mills, 2004). However, a significant part of Nigeria's economic problem is related to the dependency on crude oil and the lack of economic diversity. Thus, one can argue that in order for Nigeria to have integrated and competitive economy, an economic policy that does not rely heavily on the oil sector will have to be pursued by the current civilian regime.

Political Dependency and Underdevelopment

Nigeria is a wholesale product of British colonialism. The nation was formed in 1914, for administrative and economic convenience, as Britain lumped its three colonies in the area together into one country in an event historians call, "the Amalgamation" (Ojewole, 2009). Some believe that Nigeria is too large and unwieldy to comprise one country. This was in essence done by the British for the convenient administration of the country owing to their low financial and personnel capacity. The country houses three of the largest and most competitive ethnic group in Africa; seven percent of the world's languages spoken in Nigeria, the highest number of languages in any single country. The Amalgamation brought together, without consultation, a multiplicity of groups which before 1914 had a history of little contact and interaction with one

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

another. Attempts since independence to forge these groups into one nation have yielded little fruit. Nigeria remained under British rule for forty-six years until October 1, 1960, when she became independent from London, (Ojewole, 2009). From the above, it could be seen that the various tribes of Nigeria were forcefully brought together under the control of the British. And however, these tribes had different cultures and ideological backgrounds, and this resulted in the current political instability through ethnic rivalry (Fayomi, 2008), in his explanation of colonial legacy, pointed out one of the elements of colonial legacy in West Africa as "Political Structure" created by the European powers which includes the compact set of constitution, political party system, organizations or institutions of government and the type of government. At independence, West African leaders were made to dogmatically believe that the colonial political structures were the best and critical to the development of the underdeveloped states. Hence, as the colonizers were violent and notorious in the use of force and manipulation to subdue people, so also the West African leaders (Nigeria inclusive) today are popular in the use of state apparatuses to suppress, incarcerate or even eliminate any perceived political opponents. From the above, it could be seen that the political structure by the British has replaced the characteristic feature of African political system, "democratic organization based largely on a peasant proprietorship with strong egalitarian element in the access to, and use of land, and in resulting in distribution of income by factor share which indicates non-class relation" as given by (Aboyade and Ogundiran, 2013). In essence, this was done by the capitalist powers for the perpetual exploitation of third world countries and underdevelopment. According to (Hagher, 2004), our thesis is that there is an inherent pathology in the Nigerian historical, cultural and political make up, that undergirds inefficiency, corruption, chaos and social injustice; the greater

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

the confusion and institutional collapse, the greater the benefits to the leadership, hence, confusion, political deceptions, thuggery, crime, religious and ethnic wars, private armies, violence, assassination and looting of treasures. He proceeded further that whenever we uncritically adopt any foreign institution or concepts to our shores, our cultural content, and our historical development rejects or domesticates them to a point that they hardly resemble the originals. Democracy itself, as manifested in parliamentary or presidential systems, are foreign concepts that were adapted uncritically, and what we have on the ground is an imperfect and grotesque parody of the original, which was developed for the people of Europe or America and evolved from their cultural and historical experience.

Military Dependency and Underdevelopment

Tensions between third world country's militaries and the United States arise occasionally, as happened during the war over the Falkland/Malvinas Islands in 1982 when the Regan administration sided with the British against Argentina, causing sharp criticism of the United States by officers in several countries. But despite the Latin American's greater interdependence, there remains an alliance of sorts between the United State military and the Latin American officers who share her fundamental conservatism on hemispheric political matters. Each has been educated in the school of anti-communism, and they are reluctant to abandon each other completely (Smith, 2005). From the above, it could be seen that the Western Military has a notable influence on the Third World military. Most African military organizations are influenced by the world powers such as Britain, France, Germany and United States of America, thereby creating military dependency and underdevelopment of Third world countries. According to Alabi (2011), military refers to the "armed forces". The armed forces is primarily

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

made up of the' army, navy and the air force. The armies are land based soldiers, the air force fight in the air while the navy fights battle on waterways and seas. In the modern times, most countries of the world have their respective military organizations which may vary in size and efficiency. For example, the world largest military organizations are those of the peoples, Republic of China (2.3 million), India (1.7 million), USA (1.5 million) and Russia (1 million). The military is fashioned on command, control and rigid hierarchical structure to defend a state from internal and external aggressions.

The world powers always maintain military bases in foreign lands. Hence, it is not uncommon for countries like the U.S.A, Britain, Russia, Germany and France to have troops and military hardware stationed in several countries across the globe. Added to this, several countries especially third world countries receive military assistance from the world powers (Alabi, 2011). The

Theoretical Framework

This study considers dependency theory most appropriate as the frame work of analysis. Dependency theory was propounded by Raul Prebisch in the year (1950s).Dependency theory is a body of social science theories, both from developed and developing nations that creates a world view which suggests that poor underdeveloped states of the periphery are exploited by wealthy developed nations of the center in order to sustain economic growth and remain wealthy. For example, these European stats of the world, issued out loans to most African states for development exercise, and these African states, have been made to service these debts from time to time irrespective of the fact that most African stated are unable to pay up these debts. Now it is seen that even the amount paid on debt servicing for a number of years, has even exceeded the

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

debt owned by these African states. This is an example of what these European, or rather what the theory of dependency explains by suggesting that the poor underdeveloped nations of the periphery are exploited by the wealthy developed nations of the center in order to sustain economic growth and remain wealthy. Dependency theory developed in the late 1950's under the guidance of the Director of the United Nations Economic commission for Latin America Raul Presbisch. Presbisch and his colleagues were troubled by the fact that the economic growth in advanced industrialized countries did not necessarily lead to the growth of the poorer countries. Indeed, their studies suggested that economic activity in the rural countries often led to serous economic problem in the poorer countries. Such as possibility was not predicted by neo classified theory, which lead assumed that economic growth was beneficial to all even if the benefits were not equally shared.

Presbisch's initial explanation for the phenomenon was very straight forward, poor countries exported primary commodities to the right countries that then manufactured products out of those commodities and sold them back to the poor countries. The value added by manufacturing a usable product always cost more than their primary products used to create those products. For instance, in the oil and gas sector in Nigeria, it is observed that we export our oil to these westerns, for refinery and after it is being refined, we also take out variable time and money to import back this oil, and at the end of the day, the cost of exportation and importation of these products, becomes so high but no profit is realized after the transaction. This now boils down to the increment of fuel price in Nigeria, workers go on strike etc. Therefore, poorer countries would never be earning enough from their export earnings to pay for their exports. Presbisch's solution was similarly straight forward poorer countries should embark on program of import

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

substitution so that they need not purchase the manufactured product from the richer countries. The poorer countries would still sell their primary product on the world market but their foreign exchange reserves world not be used to purchase their manufacturers from abroad. Three issues made this policy difficult to flow. The first is that the internal markets of the poorer countries were not large enough to support the economies of scale used by the richer countries to keep their prices low. The second issue concerned the political will of the poorer countries as to whether a transformation from being primary product producers was possible or desirable. The final issue revolved around the extent to which the poorer countries actually had control of their primary products, particularly in the area of selling those products aboard. These obstacles to the import substitute policy led others to think a little more creatively and his toxically at the relationship between rich and poor countries. At this point, dependency theory was viewed as a possible way of explaining the persistent poverty of the poorer countries.

The relevance of this theory to this research is that Africans and Nigeria in particular will be aware that self-reliant is key to breaking through from dependency and underdevelopment; that their raw materials can be enhanced within which will attract heavy foreign exchange thereby enhancing the socio-economic development of her citizenry.

Findings

The researcher made the following findings:

1. Nigeria like other African nations engage in economic or financial dependency through foreign aids to sustain their own economy.
2. Nigeria depend on foreign nation for political aids which is the major cause of neo-colonialism.

African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies (AJPAS)
15(2) (December, 2022):114-134
Available online at https://www.ajpasebsu.org.ng/

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

3. Nigeria depends on foreign nations for military assistance.

Conclusion

Nigeria is a wholesale product of British colonialism. The nation was formed in 1914, for administrative and economic convenience, as Britain lumped its three colonies in the area together into one country in an event historians call, "the Amalgamation" (Ojewole, p, 229). Some believe that Nigeria is too large and unwieldy to comprise one country. This was in essence done by the British for the convenient administration of the country owing to their low financial and personnel capacity. The country houses three of the largest and most competitive ethnic group in Africa; seven percent of the world's languages spoken in Nigeria, the highest number of languages in any single country. The Amalgamation brought together, without consultation, a multiplicity of groups which before 1914 had a history of little contact and interaction with one another. Attempts since independence to forge these groups into one nation have yielded little fruit. Nigeria remained under British rule for forty-six years until October 1, 1960, when she became independent from London, (Ojewole, p, 229). From the above, it could be seen that the various tribes of Nigeria were forcefully brought together under the control of the British. And however, these tribes had different cultures and ideological backgrounds, and this resulted in the current political instability through ethnic rivalry.

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

Recommendations

The researcher made the following recommendations:

1. Nigeria should revamp their economy by building refineries and stop exporting crude ad importing refined products, that will bust her economy and reduce economic dependency.
2. Nigeria should also manage their political system, eliminate corrupt leaders and train qualified leaders lead the country
3. Nigeria should organize her military base and strategies to enable them fight insecurity without depending on foreign nations.

References

Aborisade, D. and Mundtz, G. (1999). *Classical Economy, the Empire of Free Trade and Imperialism.* Standish: Mornington Lord Press.

Abraham, N. T, (2010). *The praxis of development and underdevelopment.* Benin City, Nigeria: Ethiope Publishing Corporation.

Adeyeri, O. and Adejuwon, K. D. (2012). The implications of British colonial policies on Nigeria's development. *International Journal of Advanced Research in Management and Social Sciences, 13(81)*

Adsuyi, O. O. and Odeloye, O. D. (2013). Foreign trade and economic growth in Nigeria (1980-2010). *Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development, 34(98)*

Adeniran, T. (1983). "*Introduction to International Relations*". Ilupeju, Lagos. Macmillan Nigeria Publishers Limited.

Ahazuem, J.O. and Falola, T. (1987). Production for the Metropolis: Agriculture and Forest Products. In Falola, T. (ed.), Britain and Nigeria. Exploitation or development? London: Zed Books.

Ajala, P.A. (2009). "*State and Economy*". Ada, Osun. BHL Publication Company.

Ake, C. (2002). A political economy of Africa. Lagos: Longman.

Alabi, O.S. (2011). *"Readings on the Military and Politics"*. Ilesa, Osun: 0' Jacob Prints.

p-ISSN: 2787-0367;e-ISSN: 2787-0359

Amin, S. (1976). U*nequal development: An essay on the social formations of peripheral capitalism.* New York: Monthly Review Press.

Amin, S. (1974). *Accumulation on a world scale*. New York: Monthly Review Pres

Asika, N. (1991). *Research Methodology in the Behavioral Sciences*. Ibadan: Longman Publisher.

Falola, T. (2005). The Dark Webs: Perspectives on colonialism in Africa, Carolina USA: Academic Press.

Falola, T. (2007). *History of Nigeria 3: Nigeria in the twentieth century*. Lagos: Longman.

Fayomi, O.S. (2008). *"Readings on Constitutional Development in West African States*". Ile-Ife, Osun. Adetex Prints.

Forest, G. A. (2007). *Crisis in the third world*. New York: Heinemann Press.

Hagher, O. (2004).*Review, Undoing Border Imperialism, Oakland.* CA: Edinburgh, Washington C.

Lemchard, V.I. (1995). "*Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism".* Moscow: Progress Publishers.

Mgbada, F. (2012). *Research Methods in the Social Science*. Lagos: Academic Publications and Development Resources Limited.

Nkrumah, K. (1974). *African Must Unite*. London: Panat Books Limited.

Nyerere, J. (1970). The ArushaDeclaratin and Tanu's Policy of Socialism and Selfreliance. African Politics and Society (Ed). Living Markovitz, New York. The Three Press.