

ELECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY IN AFRICA: THE NIGERIAN EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

International countries and organizations play significant roles during election processes in new and emerging democracies (and in countries hoping to be seen as democratic). The roles and impact they may have become, particularly interesting during situations, where the electoral process develops into "an electoral crisis". Many such crises have occurred over recent years. The modern history has provided many eloquent examples of use of practice of double standards in all international policy. First, it concerns ambiguity of approaches of influential western powers and the leading international organizations as to the estimation of election campaigns, and other democratic processes taking place in many African states including Nigeria. Elections in countries where the ruling political regime is pro-western, the international observers recognize that elections meet the European and international standards. On the contrary if a ruling regime or the winner of election has no pro-western orientation, observers, as a rule, find numerous infringements at election. This paper demonstrates how international countries and organizations were involved during and after the electoral processes in Africa countries and Nigeria in particular.

Key words: Electoral crisis, International organization, Conspiracy, Civil war, Civil Government.

INTRODUCTION:

Since cold war winds down, East-West political differences has been overshadowed by North-South economic differences. U.S and other Western countries foreign policy problems has focus less on places Moscow and more on places like Lagos and Abuja. The western countries press is filled with accounts of the emerging democracy in the Soviet Union and other Eastern bloc countries, but does not report much on the transition to democracy which is currently occurring in Africa; only of recent. Nigeria is Africa most populous nation, with about 150 million people, 20% of Africa's population (Gordon, 2011). Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960, and since then has endured six military coups and the Biafra civil war. Civil government has ruled for five periods: one period of five years immediately following independence, and a four period of sixteen years following the 1970's oil boom (Gordon, 1992).

The slow and orderly transition from military dictatorship to democracy is intended to strengthen civilian rule in a part of the world where coups are more common than elections. The new democratic government are often faced with an enormous foreign debt, widespread poverty, ethnic and religious divisiveness, and endemic bureaucratic corruption. But if civilian rule survives to increase political stability, Nigeria has the potential to convert from an agrarian to an industrial economy; it would be the world's third largest democracy (after India and the U.S.), and could lead black Africa in democratization.

Nigeria as a post-colonial nation has experienced many of the problems common to other new nations. It began its independent existence in the enviable position of having proven reserves of oil (it currently produces between \$US18 and \$US30 billion of oil a year) (Geddes, 2010), a relatively developed infrastructure associated with strong primary industrial development, and a fully functioning administrative bureaucracy. Yet, its subsequent history is one of economic difficulty, political violence, and growing poverty amongst its people. There are over 400 different language and dialects spoken and about 250 different ethnic groupings in the country. The major groupings are Hausa, Fulani, Ibo, Yoruba, Edo, Urhobo, Efik, Ijaw, Tiv and Kanuri, with many smaller, but distinct ethnic communities living contiguously with these groups.

About 65 percent of the population is made up of the Hausa-Fulani of the north, the Yoruba of the west and the Ibo of the east. Over the past 100 years there has been a great deal of movement of these groups between regions so that at the time of independence, there were enclaves of Yoruba in the east and north of Ibos in the west and east. The country is also divided between the Muslim north majority (some 51-57 percent of the population) and the Christian south and is currently administratively divided into thirty-six states and one territory. In the eyes of many Nigerians, politics had become irredeemably corrupt and there seemed no way out of the political morass into which the country had drifted over the preceding years. The 2011 elections present Nigeria with an opportunity to turn the page on the legacy of electoral fraud, political violence and stalled democratic development that has marred the past decade of the civilian rule in the country. With its vibrant civil society and increasingly independent legislative and judicial branches of government, Nigeria has the essential ingredients for democracy to take root.

However, since the end of military rule in 1999, successive civilian governments have done little to translate the country's immense natural wealth into tangible gains for the majority of Nigerian citizens; more than half of whom subsist on less than a dollar a day. Instability in the oil rich Niger Delta region, failing infrastructure, the lack of political will to address governance challenges and politics, threaten the development of the country's democratic institutions (Corso, 2010).

The appointment of a wide-respected new chair of the Independent National Election Commission (INEC) and president Goodluck Jonathan's public assurances that his government will ensure a transparent and credible electoral process have rekindled hope among Nigerians eager to see the end to the poor governance and entrenched corruption at the national, state and local levels in Nigeria. Along with important opportunities, the 2011 electoral process also carries considerable risks. The initial slow pace of implementation of the new constitutional amendments and the electoral reforms; concerns over INEC's ability to conduct credible voter registration process; divisive debates over the selection of party candidates; and growing fears that too little time is available to effectively plan, prepare and conduct credible elections in April 2011 have contributed to growing concerns in Nigeria and internationally that another flawed electoral process would lead to further disillusionment with elected government by Nigeria's citizenry and could stoke political violence and endanger prospects for continuing civilian governance. Election matters in every democratic country in choosing their leaders but countries in Africa no matter how stable the country is, are all falling victims to an international conspiracy with collaboration with selfish African leaders to perpetuate the long term aim of slavery and colonialism to divide and conquer Africans by tribe, creed, ethnicity and we versus them mentality.

In any African election there is hardly a loser ever. Everybody wins especially when the opponents open their ears and eyes to the so called international election observers and monitors; whom always plays double face game in African election issues for their masters; they stay in five star hostels in African capitals and give opinion and recite numbers on election preparations and results in rural areas of Africa and incite people against each other (Ukandu, 2008).

CONCEPTUALIZING CONSPIRACY THEORY

Conspiracy theorizing has flourished as a virtual art form in all nations and across all political persuasions. The American radical right has to be considered a strong contender for the title of modern conspiracy champion. A vast body of academic literature exists on the conspiracy theory, in exploring this history Zaitchik (2010), quoted Richard Hofstadter's (1964) essay, "The Paranoid style in American politics" is the most famous. History has chronicled the rise (and fall) of an unceasing march of desperate conspiracy-based movements that, at different points in American history, have trembled before and warned against imaginary threats posed by Catholics, Mormons, Jews, American communists, Free masons, Bankers, and U.S. government officials and agencies.

Scholars continue to debate the psychological and sociological origins of conspiracy theories, but there is no arguing that these theories have seen a revival on the extreme right in recent years. Over the last two decades, a far-right conspiracy culture of self-proclaimed "patriots" has emerged in which the mortal threat to everything from constitutional democracy to the survival of the human race (Zaitchik, 2010). This conspiracy revival—which has been accompanied by the explosive growth of patriot groups over the last year and half—kicked into overdrive with the 2008 election of president Barak Obama, who is seen by patriots as a foreign-born Manchurian candidate sent by forces of the so-called "New world order" to destroy American sovereignty and institute one-world socialist government.

Since Obama's election, the constituent theories within the overarching narrative of the new world order have increasingly made inroads into the main stream national discourse. Even though the international cadre of actors in this human experimentation on several occasions had debunked this conspiracy games, it is a fact (Oshodi, 2011). Oshodi went further to explain in his overall experience called the conspiracy theory "Polyarchy".

Polyarchy is a system in which a small group actually rules and mass participation is confined to choosing leaders in elections managed by competing elites. Those who win in elections become largely insulated from the public so that they can 'effectively govern'. Between elections, those who control the state are largely free from serious accountability to the public.

Polyarchy has been described as a form of 'consensual domination' where (competing) elites control the state while popular forces and civil society groups are subject to the hegemony of the elite. In contrast to polyarchy stands 'popular democracy', where public participation is much greater and civil society groups are able to use the state to promote their interests. Here, mobilization within civil society would be the principal way in which political power is exercised".

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A look at different cases of international conspiracy in countries elections for example Kenya, the electoral commission of Kenya (ECK) accepted whole heartedly the help and money from the European Union and other international entities and countries and they were on the table, meetings and data sharing with Kenyans according to electoral commission of Kenya and European officials and as such Kenyans were left at the mercy of the European Union and their two face game officials (Elklit, 2011). Right away they discredited the Kenyan election before, during and after the election and the result is that Kenyan government, election authorities and their law and order was discredited and made useless in the face of the hungry, angry and already suffering people of Kenya. It was indeed the fire the mischievous political leaders needed to turn the people of Kenya against their government and against one ethnic group against the other. This resulting in property destruction, Kenya on the verge of a civil war and more than 700 people killed by mob and more than three hundred thousand people displaced and turn to refugees and the two face European Union is back to help settle the problem they help fueled- this happen every time-year in year out (Ukandu, 2008).

To further buttress this notion on international conspiracy in Kenya elections Reuters (2008) wrote concerning the European Union (EU) law makers wanting to freeze aid to Kenya due to the election outcome. Reuter (2008), opine that European Union should freeze all aid to the Kenyan government until the crisis over PresidentMwaiKibaki's disputed re-election is solved. The lawmakers, who criticized the EU executive for disbursing 40.6 million Euros (\$NZ78.28 million) of aid a day after the election, said the result was not credible and called for a fresh vote if a fair recount was not possible. The European parliament "ask for the freezing of all further budgetary support to the government of Kenya until a political resolution to the present crisis has been found", European parliament said in a draft resolution that the disputed election has dented Kenya's democratic credentials and rattled donors.

Post-election turmoil, in which hundreds of people were killed, has hit Kenya's economy as well as supplies to East and Central African neighbours (Dagne, 2011). Although its aid is limited compared with what it gives poorer African countries, the EU is one of Kenya's top donors, providing 290 million Euros between 2002 and 2007.

A look at the case of Ivory Coast, the reason for the 'French conspiracy' being extremely persuasive to the Ivorians, resides in three decades of dictatorship that Ivory Coast had undergone until the early 1990's, especially with regard to its role in the 'France-Afrique' diplomacy paradigm. Before France pursued her shift in policies toward its former colonies declaring an end to 'Chirac-style personal diplomacy' in Africa in 2007, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, a dictator of Ivory Coast who died in 1993, enjoyed decades of support from France beginning in the 1960's. He rose to be a prime partner of France in the region whose works had been a major driving force of founding the notion of 'France-Afrique' diplomacy. And together with other leaders in the region, he gained a private fortune through the special relationship.

Gbagbo had been popular as a high-profile opposition party leader who had launched FDI (Ivorian Popular Front) in the early 1980s. However, he had been a controversial figure since the 2005 crisis in Ivory Coast caused by unrest over the presidential election. He has been blamed for aggravating discrimination against the Northern part, where a large majority of the population had entered Ivory Coast as a cheap labour force, exploited by the Houphouet-Boigny government in the economic boom that hit Ivory Coast during 1960-1970s. After the November 2010 presidential election, Gbagbo refused to step down after invalidating a massive amount of votes from the Northern region, where his political rival Alassane Ouattara is the final winner as a 'fraud' and mostly, a conspiracy led by France (Douoguih, 2011). Besides the renowned French conspiracy, the idea is presented by Douoguih (2011) that president Gbagbo plans to achieve 'total emancipation from France' in terms of Ivory Coast economy; 'freedom to deal with all commerce', and that France does not accept that. He went further by saying that the real reason why there was tragedy in Ivory Coast is that president Gbagbo was a democrat; that he does not have a bank account outside Ivory Coast and no property of his own anywhere and that his vision is that he wants true emancipation of Ivory Coast and France is afraid of that because all the former colonies would follow his example, and France would be a big loser.

According to Oshodi (2011), what is happening in Ivory Coast is a case where one man is claiming victory and he's backed by the international community, while the other is backed by Pan-Africanism. The sum total of all this, is that their fellow beings are killing one another in the name of loyalties. This is liken to the game of chess, a situation in which some imperialist international community have made Africa and African's their laboratory and specimen in their advance level science conspiracy game.

ELECTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL CONSPIRACY IN NIGERIA

Nigeria has just held her presidential election in the month of April 2011. The international observers came and watched; indeed we all knew the double standard perpetuated by the global offices of deception, with Britain and US as grand patrons. It will surprise Africans and Nigerians in particular that Nigeria was a centre where all sort of experiments were conducted, where all sort of theories were tested. The national debate was another experiment to ensure their compliance with the so called international modus operandi of democracy of spotting leaders with agenda and clear cut perspectives as against their puppets, having two distinct thoughts in their mind; if they will offload their support from their puppets or continue to feed them with poisonous milk until they die slowly.

Whilst they do otherwise, the leaders without their support hardly succeed as they are in charge of all tools of an organized society, cell-phones, cable networks, banks business, commercial activities, etc; they exploit every avenue to frustrate those in their death-books, or checkers list. While the Nigerian presidential debate was supposed to be a litmus test for the western, Asian and middle Eastern abracadabra; more than 150 million Nigerians were blind to the realities of this clandestine operations being conducted in Nigeria's soil. The bomb blasts, religious crisis, political fraud sacred-cows, the blue-bloods,etc are not mere coincidence. One thing is clear by the day, that there were consciously planned and heavily funded suppression of the people's will in the Nigerian election process, this actions, called in its less dignified name is rigging (Awoshakin, 2003). Awoshakin(2003) was of the opinion that the international Federation of Election System (IFES), based in Washington D.C designed a Programme Basic Election Administration Training (BEAT) for the training of INEC officials; the National Institute of Democracy and International Affairs, also based in Washington D.C, in collaboration with the Carter Center in Atlanta has been involved in pre-election assessment missions.

IDEA International another international organization based in Stockholm, Sweden has also been doing pre-election assessment. On the governmental level, the United State government and countries in Western Europe have all shown interest. The United Nations and European Union are also closely watching the transition process as they support it financially.

The European Union gave Nigeria some money to help conduct the election and also they wanted to attend and be part of the Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (INEC) meetings, they wanted copy and information on biometric data and information on all Nigerian registered voters which includes our presidents, vice-president, state governors, the members of our national assembly, Nigeria military, judiciary and our security personnel (Ukandu, 2008). Nigeria and INEC refused their money and their requests according to the then INEC chairman professor Maurice Iwu and INEC officials saying that Nigeria can fund its own election without outside help with its implications based on their demands. Right away before the election the European Union started discrediting the Nigerian election preparation effort before the election, discrediting INEC leadership and Nigerian government preparations for the election in 2007, because Nigeria denied them access which they should not have in the first place. There after they started discrediting the election and sowing discord among the citizens of Nigeria, the political parties and the people of Nigeria before during and after the election (Ukandu, 2008). Nigeria was in a heated and charge situation during and after the election period, because there was pocket of crisis in the Northern part of the country.

CONCLUSION

Will Nigeria ever be free from foreign interference in all her politics and economy in the name of 'International comity agreement or pact?' These are some of the underlying questions we need to ask the United Nation and their five 'Marauders' who continue to feed the global audience with half truth, conspiracies and fabrications. Nigerians must wake up from their slumber while it is not yet dawn; only in such moment will the enemy strike. There is a war on the reclaim of Africa and Nigerians must not allow themselves, their nation and continent to remain lab-rats in this international controlled experiments championed by the UN. The rules of the game continue, the country is dealing with highly evolved international criminals.

These are not mere criminals, as in personified in nature; this is a criminality of the deadliest nature perpetuated by countries and nation-states of the west (Europe and America) and some vampire butchers from Asian in conjunction with their sister conglomerates Middle East in their worldwide network of advanced slavery.

While the election campaign promises has been very deceptive, Nigerian should also be aware that majority of these candidates has been sponsored; their sponsors are the chess-masters who can twist their joker at any point in time and at will. The west and east are the chess-masters, and least Nigerian knows, none of these chess players has the interest of the nation or continent's unity at heart. Only if the people can practice what the people were once known for, peace, unity and development, then will the country be close to the doors of solutions. The people must use the old laws to offset the present agenda; the old laws doesn't mean the people should become analogue overnight, but that they should conjure the incarnations of what made the old new, and remain a new at all times. Closer evaluation of the Nigerian electoral laws and increased support for the election process are needed in most elections from the local community. Borrowing a leaf from the This day newspaper initiative of setting up an election process Monitoring Group (EPMG) it would be useful if more civil society organizations in Nigeria become involved in the network of the Transition Monitoring Group (TMG).

Election process in Nigeria has always suffered a setback and not a total collapse and since what is worth doing is worth doing well, the various parties and the Nigerian public should be watchful but retain their confidence in the process. It is the credibility of the major political actors not the process that ought to be called into question (Omokri, 2011). It is time to curb these activities, especially when these monitors do not know the local political or electoral dynamics and logistics on ground. International organization, other countries and mediums are welcomed to partner in election in Africa when they collaborate positively in conducting election in Africa, but the case were they arrogate to themselves as a different entity to complete on rules and regulations should not be tolerated. They should also come down to Africa and be trained on the lives and dynamics of the people whom they come to monitors. You cannot monitor what you don't know much about but use only unverified news reports and unverified and unvetted data (Ukandu, 2008).

The European Union, United States of America, the United Nation and all international organization to set up a development plan like a marshall plan for the whole of Africa just as was done for Europe (European Marshall plan for the whole of Europe at a time) after world war II for European development spear head and funded solely by the United State government. Furthermore, in west Africa, you cannot have a stable countries such as Ghana or Senegal or Cameroon when you have countries surrounding them in west Africa engaged in wars and conflict like in Ivory Coast and civil and internal unrest for many years for countries like Nigeria, Chad (Darfur region), which have 20 times the population of the so called stable small countries; It will not work.

Stability and development cannot be an isolated case for each country in Africa. Development and stability and should be across the board for the whole of Africa, particularly it should be on a regional basis for sustained stability and development for Africa like the European Marshall plan. The role of powerful international medium like British Broadcasting Co-operation (BBC) Voice of America (VOA) etc and international election monitors like the European Union Monitors, United Nation observers and other international organizations should critically watched and their influenced curbed, because of all the election conducted in Africa, these organizations like the European Union arrogate to themselves the final judges of election in Africa, thereby undermining the constitution and authorities in Africa that conducts election (Nkwocha, 2011)

Finally, when these international organizations discredit the election authorities and the authorities in the face of a heated election; it is humanly impossible for the natives or ordinary people to respect the law and order in place. The more role BBC,VOA and other powerful international organization in drowning the voices of authority in these countries the harder for free and fair election to take place. Before elections even starts in Africa the electorate bodies and authorities in Africa have already been discredited and painted black in the face of the world and the population is instigated with clouded negative information delivered to the suffering, ignorant and hungry majority in Africa and this a recipe for violence and break down of law and order before, during and after election in Africa.

No election is perfect (Jega, 2011), the European learned from their mistakes and so should they encourage Africans to learn from our own mistake. Going to town and announcing or condemning election before, during and after the election in Africa should stop by turning the people against their government just because you are powerful and have the means is not right.

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