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NIGERIA'S SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION
FROM THE POST-COLONIAL ERA TO DATE

Abstract

This paper Studies the Nigerian system of administration after decades of colonial rule by the British empire. The primary administration laid in Nigeria is a combination of civil and military rule, and the early development and creation of new institution and a young democracy. Nigeria is one of the solid democracies in Africa as well as one of the countries to earn independence by the mid of the 20th century. With facts seen, its proved Nigerian system of government in the post-colonial era is something that resembles institutionalization and strive for a new system of government and rule of law. Looking at the first republic system, to introduction of democracy, establishment of parliament, election, law and the enacting of new constitution with new orders and legitimacy. Nevertheless, Nigeria's system of Government after the British colonialism is a spectrum that deserves a look back to understand what takes a turn and at what point.

Keywords: Nigeria, post-colonial, government, administration, democracy

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НИГЕРИЯНЫҢ ҮКІМЕТ ПЕН БАСҚАРУ ЖҮЙЕСІ
ПОСТКОЛОНИЯЛЫҚ ДӘУІРДЕН БҮГІНГІ КҮНГЕ ДЕЙІН

Аңдатпа

Бұл құжат Британ империясының ондаған жылдар бойы отаршылдық басқаруынан кейінгі Нигерияның басқару жүйесін зерттейді. Нигериядағы негізгі әкімшілік азаматтық және әскери басқарудың үйлесімі және жаңа институт пен жас демократияның ерте дамуы мен құрылуы болып табылады. Нигерия - Африкадағы берік демократиялық мемлекеттердің бірі, сонымен қатар 20 ғасырдың ортасында тәуелсіздік алған елдердің бірі. Көрінген фактілерге сүйенсек, оның отарлаудан кейінгі дәуірдегі дәлелденген нигериялық басқару жүйесі институционализацияға ұқсайтын және жаңа басқару жүйесі мен заң үстемдігіне ұмтылатын нәрсе. Алғашқы республикалық жүйеге көз жүгіртсек, демократияны енгізу, парламентті құру, сайлау, заң шығару және жаңа тәртіп пен заңдылықпен жаңа конституцияны қабылдау. Соған қарамастан, британдық отаршылдықтан кейінгі Нигерияның үкімет жүйесі ненің өзгеретінін және қай сәтте болатынын түсіну үшін қайта қарауға лайық спектр.

Түйін сөздер: Нигерия, постколония, үкімет, басқару, демократия

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СИСТЕМА ПРАВИТЕЛЬСТВА И АДМИНИСТРИРОВАНИЯ НИГЕРИИ С ПОСТКОЛОНИАЛЬНОЙ ЭПОХИ ПО НАСТОЯЩЕГО ВРЕМЕНИ

Аннотация

В данной статье исследуется нигерийская система управления после десятилетий колониального правления Британской империи. Первичная администрация, установленная в Нигерии, представляет собой сочетание гражданского и военного правления, а также раннего развития и создания новых институтов и молодой демократии. Нигерия — одна из прочных демократий в Африке, а также одна из стран, получивших независимость к середине 20-го века. С учетом фактов, доказанная нигерийская система правления в постколониальную эпоху напоминает институционализацию и стремление к новой системе правления и верховенству закона. Глядя на первую республиканскую систему, на введение демократии, создание парламента, выборы, законы и принятие новой конституции с новыми порядками и легитимностью. Тем не менее, система правления Нигерии после британского колониализма представляет собой спектр, который заслуживает оглянуться назад, чтобы понять, что происходит и в какой момент.

Ключевые слова: Нигерия, постколониальный период, правительство, администрирования, демократия.

MAIN PART

The topic of the article concerns the analysis of the system of government and administration in Nigeria in the context of the post-colonial era. The main goal of the study is to investigate the political aspects of promoting legal culture and its role in shaping public consciousness. To achieve this goal, the following tasks have been set: determining the forms and content of legal culture propaganda, identifying the features and effectiveness of this propaganda.

Particular attention is paid to the importance of a deep understanding of legal culture for managing the process of legal education and its influence on the legal behavior of citizens. The normative aspects of legal culture are analyzed, as well as its reflection in real societal life.

In conclusion, the importance of widespread use of the concept of legal culture in the ideological and legal work of the state and the need for further study of this issue in sociopolitical literature are emphasized. To enhance the effectiveness of legal culture promotion, a scientific approach to this problem is crucial. The system of government in Nigeria is explored, which is a federal republic with a national government and individual governments of 36 states. Power in the country is distributed among the federal, state, and local levels, each associated with specific duties and responsibilities. The Federal Government, also known as the Federal Republic of Nigeria, governs through the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. State governments have sovereignty under the Nigerian constitution but are subordinate to the federal government. Local governments, in turn, are governing bodies at the local level, providing residents of local communities with various services and addressing their issues. The content of the article summarizes historical events and general observations of the system of government and administration in Nigeria from its independence to the present time. The study is based on a qualitative method and is conceptual in nature, integrating various studies and literature sources on the topic.

INTRODUCTION

Analyzation of Nigeria's political transition is a wide area of knowledge that has been studied by assorted scholars and students of knowledge. Noticing how the country climbed and sloped through many systems of government and administration under mixtures of different political

system after its independence, ranging from infant democracy to military regimes (a civil war just after independence) and back to democracy. Although Nigeria was among the list of first African states to tasted democratic political system as studied by (Huntington 1991) [1] to date some argue if it's indeed democratic even with a record of 20 years of stable democracy after the return of civilian rule in the country. Although, the separation of power between the executive, legislature and judiciary is a constitutional provision in Nigeria, the political executives have extensive power leverage over other branches of government (Olusola 2022). Nonetheless, Nigeria runs election periodically but, the failure proving a standard institutionalization, democratic crises, separationist chaos and rising insecurity could be said to be a challenge for Nigeria even at this level of its democratic attainment after independence. The parliamentary election that took place a year before the independence, and the new turn to the first republic were marked as the beginning of post-colonial system of political system of ruling [2]. But then the breakthrough of the military rule, the civil war few years after the independence and the political transitions experience marked a note to Nigeria's path to a consolidated democracy. A constituent assembly was elected in 1977 to draft a new constitution, this marked the beginning of the second republic, but then On December 31, 1983, the military overthrew the Second Republic. Major General Muhammadu Buhari emerged as the leader of the Supreme Military Council, the country's new ruling body (Larry 1985) [3]. Concurrently, the hustle for a developed nation continue, as Nigeria stepped into its journey for a republic in a third attempt, although it was abortive too; the election that was ran on 12 June 1993 was nullified by the then military head of state Gen. Ibrahim Babangida. With the country sliding into chaos defense Minister Sani Abacha assumed power and forced Shonekan's (the interim head of state) resignation on 17 November 1993 [4]. Abacha ruled Nigeria under a military system of government until his death on 8 June 1998 and was replaced by General Abdulsalami Abubakar. In August 1998 Abubakar appointed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and prepare Nigeria for its fourth trial for a republic. The resurrection of democracy in Nigeria in May 1999 ended the 16 years of consecutive military rule and set Nigeria for its journey to establishment of consolidate democracy [5]. Although from that time to date Nigeria answer the name of Federal Republic, and conduct election every four-year term, there were changes in leadership and political parties. May 29 1999 formed a historic day for Nigeria as it's celebrated as Democracy day, until June 2018 when President Muhammadu Buhari changed the date to June 8. From 1999 to 2023 Nigeria has witnessed four different leaders under 2 major political parties.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study traced the story of Nigerian system of government and administration from the time it achieved independence to current date (2023). As an old British colony with huge historical background prior and after its establishment as an independent state it has profile in the British, American and world historical archives (Brittanica, US library congress). This paper has been developed as a qualitative study. The primary aim of the paper is to gather previous events and generally narrate in brief what happened through the Nigeria's system of government and administration. The study is conceptual which dives to merge various studies as academically Nigeria is a wide topic of study that has extended publications, written journals and books under different topics of Nigeria's political system, administration and social studies to which this study was opportune to gather the relevant literature and formed a single manuscript that studies this topic from Nigeria's independence to date in a compiled nature.

The research conducted in this paper represents a comprehensive analysis of the Nigerian government system, starting from the period of colonial rule under the British Empire in 1914 and extending to the contemporary era. The research methodology included an analysis of the establishment of the governance system, the history of political parties, and their role in the struggle for independence.

A focus on the 1959 elections and the roles of leaders such as Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe and Abubakar Tafawa Balewa helped identify the peculiarities of government formation post-

independence. Special attention was given to administrative decisions, such as the UN-supervised referendum on the borders of the Trust Territory of Cameroon, and their influence on the formation of the Federal Republic of Cameroon.

The analysis of the era of the first republic revealed the dynamics of ethnic and religious tensions, driven by educational and economic inequalities, as well as leadership problems that led to military intervention in 1966. The research covered the causes of crises, the impact of the federal constitution, and regional aspects of the multi-party system.

The period between the first and second republics included military regimes, parallel coups, and the 1960-70 civil war. The research addressed the issues faced by the country and events influencing the formation of democracy. Examination of the fourth republic highlighted problems both domestically and on the global stage.

A review of various theories and concepts allowed for a better understanding of the historical and political processes in Nigeria, identifying the causes of political crises, and evaluating the resilience of democratic institutions. Overall, this research provides a deep analysis of the history of the Nigerian government, its formation, and evolution amidst diverse challenges and issues.

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

In a brief overview let's analyze Nigeria's system of government and the journey to establishment of federal government; Nigeria was ruled as a colony under the British empire from the 1914 (after the amalgamation of Northern and southern protectorate) to 1960 (the year Nigeria gained independence). The political parties that were formed by the nationalists near to the independence of Nigeria lead the fight to freedom and so a new constitution helped in establishing a federal system then an elected prime minister and a head of state. The political party ruled by Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, formed a coalition with Abubakar Tafawa Balewa's party hence none of their party won a majority in the 1959 elections (prior to Independence). And so Balewa continued to take control as the prime minister, as he was since 1957, then Azikiwe took the largely acclaimed position of president of the Senate. This brought the new system of rule in a new independent state, as other system of administration formed by the British leaders stayed the same before being adjusted as the time comes. Next administrative decision taken after the independence of Nigeria was the United Nation supervised referendum, which slotted the northern part of the Trust Territory of the Cameroons to the Northern region of Nigeria in June 1961, and in October of the same year the Southern Cameroons united with Cameroun to form the Federal Republic of Cameroon as a country. The New established government was liable to a Parliament that composed of the popularly elected 312 members House of Representatives with the 44 members of the Senate, chosen by each regional legislatures. October 1, 1963 marked the date Nigeria entered its first republic as a nation until January 15, 1966, when the first military coup d'état took place, from independence Nigeria had all the trappings of a democratic state and was indeed regarded as a beacon of hope for democracy [7] but then there was a turn to the negative adjacent in the hope of democracy in Nigeria which according to Britannica encyclopedia was caused by ethnic competitiveness, educational inequality, and economic imbalance, again came in time the controversial census of 1962–63. The country had a federal constitution that guaranteed a large measure of autonomy to three and (later four) regions, it generated a parliamentary democracy imitated along British lines that emphasized majority rule, while the constitution included an elaborate bill of rights, unlike other African states that implied one party systems immediately after independence, the country had a functional, albeit regionally based, multiparty system. From the initial step of a new state under the first republic, Nigeria's ethnic and religious tensions were magnified by the mere hustles of economic and educational development between the south and the north plus struggle of power divide between the south and the northern region. Leadership crisis stalled the progress of the first republic at which brought an intervention of the military rule system to Nigeria. The federal military government that assumed power under General Johnson Aguiyi Ironsi was unable to quiet ethnic tensions as well, contrary to the issue or other social issues.

Furthermore, the Ironsi government was unable to produce a constitution acceptable to the various regions of the country. Fatefully for the Ironsi government was the decision to issue Decree No. 34 which sought to unify the nation. This decision unfortunately, brought the opposite of its initial purpose as the country became more divided and hotter regionally. Between the first and second republic, Nigeria went through military regimes and parallel coups in addition to the 1960-70 civil war. The fourth republic prove the dominance of democracy in Nigeria, with the 1999 election the country took a new dimension to modern political sphere to standardize democracy. Nevertheless, all through the journey of attaining consolidated democracy, Nigeria encountered assorted issues and problems domestically and foreign and in political faculty of knowledge we revise and trace theories to understand what happened and when.

RESULTS

The Federal, State and Local Government

Nigeria's system of government is federal republic which portrays both a national government and individual governments 36 states in the line of the form of government in which the people hold power, but deemed responsible to elect representatives who would exercise and utilize that power while the executive power is laid on the hand of the president. The three –tier structure of government is developed to make governance in the country effective and responsible. Nonetheless, the three bodies relate with each other in terms of duties and responsibilities, the federal and state government are the sole bodies for setting and collection of state taxes, the local government is basically responsible for collecting license fees. Payments collected usually are gathered and later distributed to each of the three governments for projects. Furthermore, the federal government referred also as Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) is the central government which is mothering the 36 individual states, also the federal body has other state bodies namely; the Legislature, Executive and the Judiciary. These three state bodies overlook the Judicial system of the state which comprises of creation and protection of laws and order, whereby legislature stands as the nation's parliament system followed by the executive body of the presidential sphere. Consecutively, the state governments are sovereign on their own, but sovereign under the act of the federal government as prescribed by the Nigeria's constitution. The are 36 sovereign states under the federal government of Nigeria in addition to the Nation's capital. The states have their capitals too and a governor who governs the state matters. In comparison to the federal government, the states have the 3 arms of (Executive, Legislature and Judiciary) as well. Basically, the state governments duties consist of; provision of basic amenities to the citizens, generation of state revenue, creation of health and educational institutions and also protection of lives and properties. The last juncture of government in the federal system is the local government, which is the local body that caters to residents in their local communities. This last level of government has endorsed councils who represent the state. Each state has subjective amount of local governments under it, and delegate members that make minor laws and manage primary needs of the locality they are assigned to. The local government functions are to; provide welfare to the needy citizens in the local community, propose recommendations and fundamental projects needed to the state government, responsible for citizen's registrations, provision of public utilities to the masses in the locality, construction and renovation of the local community's infrastructures.

The 3 arms of government

The 3 arms of Nigeria's government are; the Executive, Judiciary and the Legislature, they have evolved so as to simplify the goal and aims of a functioning and representative government. The executive is the first arm of government, the president serves as both the chief of state and head of government, that heads the Federal Executive Council, or cabinet as it may be. Nigerian constitution hands the president power to be the chief executive and commander in chief of the armed forces of the federation. Likewise, all the executive power of the federation is in the person of the president which can be exercised directly by him or by his vice president or members of his cabinet as enacted by the constitution. The executive branch is further divided into Federal

Ministries, that are headed by a minister who the president appointed, Federal Ministries are those civil service departments which were made responsible for delivering various types of government service and each ministry is headed by a Permanent Secretary who reports to a Minister in the Federal Cabinet [8]. Other major responsibilities of the executive are; to implement governmental policies and develop programs or enforce public laws, gives governmental and political leadership, sends and receives foreign diplomatic representatives or negotiations and coordinate with the legislature to decide state matters. Further comes the Legislature, who is the law making body of the government, also approve money and budget submitted by the executive. The legislators stand as the parliament members or the representatives of the citizens elected to police the state matters. Nigerian legislature is politically bicameral, which denotes two houses of the parliament known as the upper (The Senate) and the lower (House of representatives). Some purposes of the legislature are; law creation and scrutiny a bill thoroughly before it passes into approved law, the legislature supervises the executive, ratifies judicial appointments made by the executive and manage public expenditures. The last branch of the 3 arms of government is the Judiciary, this body is responsible for the interpreting laws made and approved by the legislature to the general public members of the state as well as punishment of offenders of the laws. They serve as the guardians of the state's constitution and protect the rights and liberties of citizens, and handle disputes that may arise between individuals or organizations. This branch of government is the only one of the three branches of government at which its members are not elected but are rather appointed, and it's headed by the apex position of "Chief Justice". From the executive, legislature and judiciary the determination in the creation of these 3 branches of government is for the aim of achieving separation of power or check and balances in government.



**Figure 1. Fig of Nigeria's Executive, Judiciary and Legislature.
Derived from infoguidenigeria.com [9]**

The Civil Service

The Nigeria's federal and state civil services were formed around government departments, or ministries, then extra-ministerial departments headed by ministers in federal and commissioners in the states, those appointed by the president and governors, accordingly. These political heads were responsible for the nation's policy matters, while the administrative heads of the ministries were the director generals, formerly referred to permanent secretaries. Not Until the 1988 where there were changes and new reforms, the civil service was developed strictly based on the British traditions, it was apolitical and civil servants were organized to serve every government in a nonpartisan system, and the norms of impersonality and hierarchical authority were well attributed. As the needs of the society became more secondary and the public sector expanded much, there was a corresponding need to reform the civil service alternatively too. The Nigerian Civil Service system consists of general employees of the government agencies aside of the military and police. Most of employees are career civil servants that serve in the Nigerian ministries and departments of government

agencies, progressing according to qualifications and seniority. The Nigerian civil service system also consists of other public institutions like the hospitals, schools and universities. Each of these public institutions has a relative expenditure on a different scale of budget that is sent annually or periodically to its financial department or Federal ministry. The Federal Ministries have been constantly evolving, new ones created, some merged with others or abolished. Nevertheless, the 1988 reforms might have solved some of the problems of the Nigeria's civil service. Likewise, the move of the capital from Lagos to Abuja during the early 1990s provide new opportunities for restructuring the public administration system.

The Economy and the institutions

Nigeria is one of the countries with the largest economy in Africa. From the late 1960s petroleum has been the primary backbone of the economy. The courses of world oil price increases from 1973 contributed to the rapid economic growth in transportation, manufacturing, construction, and governmental services. The flow of rural people into the larger urban centers, agricultural produce stagnated to an extent that cash crops like palm oil, peanuts and cotton were no longer significant export commodities in the country. As in the 1970s, the agricultural sector has been in continuing failure due to the fluctuating world oil market and the Nigeria's rapid population growth. Although, much of the population were engaged in farming, still too little food was produced, which implied increasing costly imports. Simultaneously, in the late 1990s the Nigerian government began to privatize most of the state-run enterprises, especially those related to communication, power, and transportation, for the purpose of enhancing the quality of service and likewise to reduce dependence on the government. Many enterprises were successfully privatized by the beginning of the 21st century, while a few remained in government control. Nigeria ranks sixth worldwide and first in Africa in farm output [10], and the agricultural sector accounts for about 18% of the national GDP and almost one-third of employment. Factually, Nigeria is no longer a major exporter of agricultural produce, due to rise in local consumption, but it is still a major producer of many agricultural products. Such products comprise of palm oil and rubber. Some other aspects that widely contribute Nigeria's economy are; telecommunication, entertainment, finance and overseas remittances. The Finance Industry is one of the booming in the country, Nigeria is the largest financial market in Africa, as of November 2018, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) licensed 21 commercial banks, then the telecommunications sector which shares 12.45 per cent of Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Noticeably, the country fell into recession in 2016 which it managed to progress positively after some few years [11], and to talk more of the corruption endemic in Nigeria. Corruption is visible in every level of Nigerian government. From notably contract fraud at the top level of government, to even petty bribery, money laundering schemes, embezzlement of funds and seizure of salaries from non-existing workers, it is estimated that corruption within the state apparatus costs Nigeria billions of dollars every year.

DISCUSSION

First Republic

In October 1963 Nigeria acclaimed the name of Federal Republic of Nigeria and Nnamdi Azikwe became the first President of the newly nation. At this moment, Nigeria was in need of unity against the wide divided states and ethnic groups, as well as a growing economy to succeed. Although before the arrival of the colonial masters most of Nigeria's ethnic societies had a traditional ruling system talking about the major tribes (Hausa, Yoruba and the Igbo). The new democratic system of politics was still basic during that time and so such traditional rulers still lead some local institutions and make local laws in their respective habitats. These prove that the civilians are in between and had to respect the two system of government in the state (traditional and Federal).

As democratic politics was just a crawl step in Nigeria, new several political movements formed by minority groups to campaign their demands for separate states. Such minority parties also grew to form opposition parties in the regions and aligned themselves with the party in power from other region that supported their demands for a separate state. During the 1964 general

elections, (the first election conducted by Nigeria after independence) the country had taken a polarized system of politics that means competition between two opposing alliances. The 15 January 1966 coup thwarted the project towards a democratic Nigeria and ended the first republic. From 1966 through 1979 the country was under military regime, additionally the first civil war (1967-1970) experienced by Nigeria was also within this time.

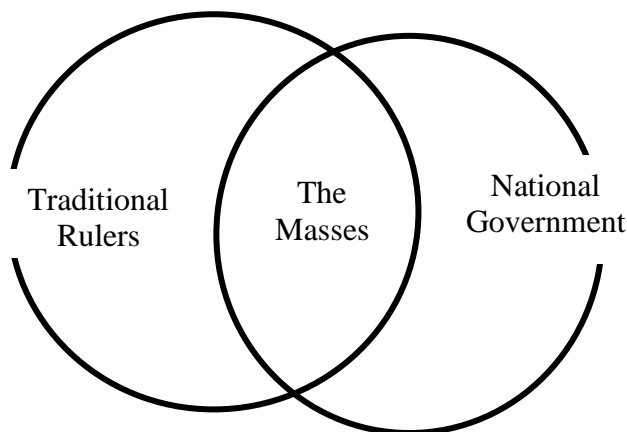


Figure 2. A figure showing the Nigerian National and traditional ruling system in a local communitySecond Republic

A new constitution was published on 21 September 1978, and in 1979 election was conducted to mark Nigeria's return to the merry path of democracy. In the second republic, Nigeria was fortunated economically with the rising oil prices in the world then, and so this made Nigeria the sixth largest producer of oil in the world with revenues from oil at \$24 billion per year. In 1982 the ruling party National Party of Nigeria (NPN), a conservative alliance led by Shehu Shagari, developed hope to retain power through the patronage and control over the Federal Election Commission. The following year, August 1983 Shagari and the NPN returned to power in a sharp-victory with a majority of seats in the National Assembly and control of 12 state governments. But then the elections were marred by violence and allegations of widespread voter fraud which included missing returns, polling places failure to open and obvious rigging of the election results. These claims and queries proved the republic denial, and on December 31, 1983, the military overthrew the Second Republic. Major General Muhammadu Buhari emerged as the leader of the Supreme Military Council (SMC), the new ruling body formed. Suddenly not long enough, the Buhari government was peacefully overthrown by the SMC's third-ranking member (General Ibrahim Babangida) in August 1985. Babangida claimed the misuse of power, violations of human rights by key officers of the SMC, and the government's failure to address the country's worsen economic crisis as justifications for the coup. These two military interchange of power crippled down the second republic as it failed to be sustained.

Third Republic

Babangida as the head of state vowed to return the country to civilian rule by 1990 which later extended until January 1993. The regime permitted political activities in 1989 which also led to the formation of new political parties. In December 1991 the state legislative elections were held, although cancelled citing claims of electoral fraud, then the presidential election was finally held on 12 June 1993. The election was successful and termed "The fairest of Nigeria's election" by most observers. Furthermore, on 23 June, Babangida, annulled the election again raising several pending lawsuits as a pretense, which the decision threw Nigeria into red state leading to riots and uprising with the death of over 100 people, and on 27 August 1993 Babangida was forced to hand over power to Ernest Shonekan by the military committee. Despite the fact that Shonekan was schedule to rule Nigeria until another election in February 1994, national tensions and economic issues forced the General Sani Abacha to overthrew the government in November 1993. Abacha dissolved

all the national democratic institutions and made reforms to the system of government. Like his predecessors, he promised a swap to civilian rule in 3 years, but his government was marked with human right abuse and tyranny leadership. His death on 8 June, 1998 throttled Nigerian regime to another dimension. The military Provisional Ruling Council (PRC) assigned General Abdulsalami Abubakar as a transition head of state to lead the country's system of government to civilian rule. In the same year electoral body was formed to oversee the election activities, and new political parties were formed to contest in the next year's general election.

Fourth Republic

The hope for democracy in Nigeria was rekindled in the May 1999 general Election. Olusegun Obasanjo a former army General emerged winner of the Nigerian presidential election, and he had to strive with the economic failures and rebuilding the country's democratic institutions. He took over a country that faced huge problems, including a dysfunctional bureaucracy and failed infrastructure among other noted issues. From his first tenure to the second, Obasanjo rule Nigeria as a democratic president until 2007. The civil society leaders and Nigerians witnessed and marked positive growth in human rights and freedom of the press under Obasanjo's regime. But then, Obasanjo also encountered continues problems counted as inter-ethnic and religious clashes between communities, corruption and state and federal draws. As Nigeria portrays representational democracy, conflicts arises between the Executive and Legislative branches over appropriations and other proposed legislations in the country. In the 2007 general election, Umaru Yar'Adua of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), was elected president of Nigeria. Even though, the election was marred by electoral fraud, and gained negative reviews by other candidates and international observers. In May 2010, Yar'Adua's was announced dead after a long battle with existing health problems and an undisclosed illness. His second in power Goodluck Jonathan ruled throw the months remained to election time, and respectively he called for new elections and contested for re-election in April 2011, which he successfully won. Through Goodluck's regime, the prominent terrorist organization "Boko-Haram" raged Nigeria, and put Nigeria into a core state of insecurity. Regards to that, his inability to quell the rising insecurity in the country led to his failure in the 2015 general election, and former military leader General Muhammdu Buhari won the election. This made the All Progressive Party (APC) to be the first opposition party to rule since the reverse of democracy in Nigeria. Once more, Buhari emerged the winner of the 2019 election, giving him the chance to rule for the country's system two-term limit (Tabl. 1.) However, hope for better economic and security challenges shaded in Nigeria, as Boko Haram's attacks were lessening in Nigeria, a new crisis of Bandits and Fulani herdsmen rose that crumbled societies, with addition to the dark economic crises.

Table 1. List of Nigeria's Presidents from 1999-2023

Name	Political Party	Duration	Number of Tenure
Olusegun Obasanjo	PDP	1999-2007	2
Umaru Musa Yaradua	PDP	2007-2010	1
Goodluck Ebele Jonathan	PDP	2010-2015	1
Muhammadu Buhari	APC	2015-2023	2

List of Nigeria's Presidents from 1999-2023

Recommendation

Within the 23 years of stable democracy in Nigeria, political scientists could bet to state an answer to the question; *is democracy consolidated or shaky*, or Nigeria is just answering a name of democratic nation. The reasons to such question are the failure to developed the features of a real democracy, the required level of institutions and outstanding economy. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, at present Nigeria's population is estimated at about 206 million [12]. With Africa's largest economy, it is also one of the world's biggest oil producers. But with all such top positions Nigeria is battling economic crisis and the government has been pursuing economic

reforms, it has not yet succeeded in using the country's vast raw materials to impute economic and social development [13]. Thus, presently the country is facing social, ethnic, religious and political conflicts, per say; *the Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen, bandits* (in the north), and *the separatist who agitate for an independent state of Biafra* (in the south). The key aspects on the agenda of the current government have continuously been security, economic diversification, and the fight against endemic corruption. Additionally, apart from poverty, major issues of concern include governance deficits, corruption, the economic crisis, the tense security situation and rising terrorist attacks. Suffering from all such spoiler issues, Nigeria has just concluded a general election (2023) that elected a new president, state governors and law makers, it will not be a shock if things turn around positively, as there's a hope in politics and hope for democracy in Nigeria. The new president came into power with the mission of rekindling hope to wide Nigerians. Nigeria can create and claim the giant of Africa as it's called only when the assorted and different tribes and ethnic groups come together and make a form of strong unity. With unity Nigeria can establish a system of public administration which could compete with the one of the west. Although Nigeria inherits a system of public administration from its colonial masters (post-independence), there is also need for transformation of the system, which many political actors have been calling for. A kind of transformation that will make all the institutions accountable and give the masses more freedom and opportunities. To summarize, Nigeria should consider reducing or merging some institutions and ministries with others, while this study gives highlight on some major institutions and administrations, practically Nigeria's system of administration has hundreds of institutions that consume millions of the nation's budgets. Reducing or merging some tiny institutions or commissions that serve almost the same purpose with others could help Nigeria to save and focus more on bringing the new developed Nigeria that every citizen hopes for.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the analysis presented in this paper comprehensively reveals the bureaucratic nature of the Nigerian system of administration and government from the moment of gaining independence to the early 21st century. The foundations laid by colonial administration significantly influenced Nigeria's system of administration and government, and over time, Nigeria has grown into a giant nation with a rich ethnic history.

Nigeria struggled to establish itself as a nation, scrutinizing unsuccessful governments and republics throughout its history. From the post-independence government and administration to periods of military regimes and the return of democracy in 1999, it can be asserted that Nigeria has embarked on a path towards a stable democracy and is considered the strongest democracy in Africa. Historical records attest that Nigeria holds impressive positions in African rankings, whether in the economy, population, or even in specific social aspects. However, despite the achievements, Nigeria is still on the path to achieving full democratic development, and its future is challenging to predict.

Ultimately, the analysis of the governance and administration system in Nigeria in this study has revealed several key findings. Firstly, colonial legacy has had a profound impact on the structure and functioning of the Nigerian government, creating features that are still felt in contemporary conditions. Secondly, the country has overcome complex ethnic and religious tensions and experienced several political crises but continues to strive for the consolidation of democracy.

A third important conclusion is that Nigeria has demonstrated resilience by restoring democratic institutions after periods of military regimes. The return to democracy in 1999 was a significant milestone, and the country has since made substantial strides in the development of democracy, emerging as a leader in the African region.

Despite the achievements, challenges remain in consolidating democratic principles in the country. This includes the need to combat corruption, ensure equality, and promote social and economic stability. Nevertheless, Nigeria retains its uncertainty about the future, and the country's further development will depend on its ability to address challenges and find sustainable solutions to ensure the prosperity of all societal layers.

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