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The Afrocentric Nature of Nigeria Foreign Policy and National Interest (2010-2020)

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ABSTRACT

The study analyses Nigeria's Afrocentric foreign policy and national interest under the administrations of President Goodluck Jonathan from 2010-2015 and President Muhammadu Buhari from the year 2015-2020. It examines the effects of Nigeria's Afrocentric foreign policy on her national interests, challenges, and prospects while suggesting solutions. It reveals there has been consistency in maintaining a balance between the nation's interventionist role in Africa and the domestic aspirations of her citizens towards economic well-being and national development under both administrations being understudied. It argues however that the overhyped Afrocentric foreign policy can no longer be sustained due to compelling domestic exigencies. Using secondary sources of data, the study concludes that a deliberate extension of Nigeria's policy towards countries outside the continent will reflect the realities and challenges in the global world in which we currently live.

Keywords: Afrocentric, Foreign policy, Globalisation and National interests

Introduction

Since the time of Tafawa Balewa through the military regimes and different republics, Nigeria's foreign policy has remained Afrocentric despite the slight hitches in the Shagari and Buhari's military governments. Nigeria was crucial in ending colonialism and racism on the African continent during the early years despite the finite resources matching infinite wants in Nigeria, she remained a potent force in her anti-apartheid and decolonization struggles in Africa, earning her the appellation 'the African Giant' and 'Big brother of Africa'. Often, when countries engage in foreign relations, their domestic interest is the focal point of all deliberations and actions. Yet in Nigeria, we tend to place the 'cart before the horse' by identifying with our African interests, even at the risk of losing several opportunities available to her citizens in a globalized world.

Statement of Problem

The problem of this study emanated from the general concern that though Nigeria has been persistently pursuing an Afrocentric foreign policy since the attainment of self-rule, at a high cost, her benevolent acts are yet to adequately reflect the achievement of her national interest. Indeed, one is often tempted to ask: "In what ways has an Afrocentric foreign policy advanced Nigeria's national interest?" Nigeria was at the front line in the fight against apartheid in South Africa, makes huge financial donations for projects in ECOWAS over and above those made by other countries, and engages in peace operations and resolution of conflicts in other countries yet despite her significant contributions, Nigerians are constantly discriminated by Africans in Xenophobic outrages, struggles to effectively fund vital sectors like education, health among others while the Fulani herdsman crisis, Biafran secessionist threats and Niger Delta agitations among other internal security issues threaten the unity and security of the nation. It is a deviation for a country in a competitive international globalized political system and for a giant of Africa as Nigeria is popularly declared, to consistently suffer numerous social and infrastructural laybacks and without internal peace or stability. Thus, this paper essentially analyses the challenges and prospects of this policy on national interest within the period of 2010 to 2022.

Research Objectives

The objectives of this paper are to:

- Determine if the Afro-centric foreign policy has brought derivable benefits to her national interest.

1. Ascertain if Nigeria's efforts in other African countries have been justifiably reciprocated.
2. Investigate if there have been attempts at striking a balance between Nigeria's Interventionist role in Africa and her role in her domestic environment under the Jonathan and Buhari civilian administrations.

Conceptual Framework

En route to comprehending the issues in this paper, the following themes are evaluated;

Foreign policy

The foreign policy lacks a universally accepted definition because of the existence of countless definitions. According to Waltz (2005), it is known as the strategies and methods utilized by a nation in its relations with other states in the international system. Folarin (2010) sees it as the rational pursuit of national targets. He refers to his use of "pursuit" as comprising the moves, compromises, steps, and roles that define the behavior of a state on the global scene and compares it to a "wedding ring" which solemnizes the domestic issues and demands of a country with the international environment in a wedding. Thus, from the given definitions above, it will not be deviating to say that the two most critical determinants of a country's foreign policy are domestic and external variables. The domestic variables include Nigeria's geographical area, nature of territory, natural resources, political culture, leadership, human assets, and economic condition while the external variables embody the distribution of power at the worldwide stage, the perception of a country through the binoculars of other actors and associated developments in the globalized system. Therefore by the context of this study, foreign policy is viewed as those strategic moves that are decided by a country's national interests and followed as a manual in its circle of relations with other states.

Afrocentrism

Afrocentrism in Nigeria's foreign policy is a premise based on the concept of Africa is the centerpiece of Nigeria's foreign policy and is premised on the basis that Nigeria's engagement in the global environment could be looked at via the 'binoculars of Africa'. Following the declaration of Nigeria's goal to make the African cause its pinnacle priority, made by the Prime Minister, Tafawa Balewa at the UN General Assembly, upon the Nation's independence, the precept has through the years grown to become the cornerstone of Nigeria's foreign policy thrust. The Afro-centric policy of Nigeria is primarily based on three simple pillars: that Nigeria is an African country; it is a part and parcel of the continent of Africa and therefore it is wholly affected by anything that pertains to the continent. Put differently, "We; 're unbiased in everything but not fence-sitters in anything that regards the destiny of Africa." One can therefore say that the peace of Africa is the peace of Nigeria, its tribulation is our tribulation and we cannot be detached from its destiny.

National interest

It is often argued as to whether or not the word "national" in the national interest can be justified because of the dominant individual, group, class structure, or public interests in a country because of the absence of a definitive tool for weighing these kinds of interests and bringing them under a truly national interest. Henderson (2005) regards national interest as "the united aspiration of a state on a global scale". It includes a nation's hopes of advancing the monetary, technical, and other related interests of its citizens overseas. Since nations cannot live in isolation and citizens of these countries undertake industrial and business ventures in overseas land, it's consequently the obligation of government through its officials at home and overseas to ensure that its nationals, corporations, and investments are protected in the host country. An instance is when President Goodluck Jonathan took prompt and responsive actions to protect her citizens from being attacked in South Africa and, Buhari's swift evacuation of Nigerians from Egypt and Libya during the Arab Spring. A broader interest of a state involves the ambition of a country to make its impact felt on the global stage and to reach regional or world power status through the sustenance of peace, technology, security, trade, commerce, health, and sports tournaments. (Egbo:2012)

Globalisation

Tom Palmer (2004) explains this as the removal of state-enforced restrictions on cross-border trades and the expansion of the increasingly unified, sophisticated global industrial system that has resulted from this. Therefore, globalization could be viewed as all the initiatives and plans that help the world become more interconnected to the point of becoming a "global village," giving people and businesses access to a wider range of goods, realizing a common market based on the freedom of exchange of goods and capital, the emergence of global financial markets, making it simpler for borrowers to access external loans, and improving the global economy.

Reciprocity in Nigeria's African Foreign Policy by African States

The principle of reciprocity is a long-standing value of global relations that states that favors, or penalties which are granted by one country to the residents of other entities, ought to be returned in kind. In 2011, Liberia and Sierra Leone, together with Togo and Guinea refused to support Nigeria at some stage in the vote for the presidency of the United Nations Security Council. Nigeria was given 186 votes out of the required 190. The betrayal of these four African countries denied Nigeria the chance of winning the election. (Obayuwana, (2012). That is to mention, if these nations had voted for Nigeria, she would possibly have secured the specified hundred ninety votes. Yet, Nigeria had spent billions of dollars all through the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra Leone in the nineties. In March 2012, South Africa sent away about 125 Nigerians, claiming that they had owned fake yellow fever vaccine cards. Nigerians are often regarded as fraudsters and traffickers by South Africans. Hence, if South Africa is looking for a scapegoat, Nigerians are the quick target. (Omotere, 2016) Subsequently, Nigeria in retaliation, likewise turned away 131 South Africans from the nation. In 2012, Ghanaian authorities closed Nigerian shops because they had been accused of no longer complying with the government policy which required them to have a preliminary capital of three hundred thousand dollars and employ ten Ghanaians before starting up any business in Ghana irrespective of the sort of business or size. It is important to note that notwithstanding the presence of nationals of other West African countries whose businesses operated in the country, Nigerians were the most targeted. In 2018, A synonymous situation took place wherein about four hundred Nigerian shops were closed down leading to the suicide of a Nigerian female in Ghana who had been demoralized by the persistent closure of her shop and the impending financial loan she was supposed to service. During this same period, several Nigerians were deported again. It is critical to note that Nigeria supplies electricity to Ghana and under the Obasanjo civilian rule, Ghana was given over a hundred-million-dollar loan from Nigeria, yet Nigerians in Ghana are regularly considered as criminals and handled with contempt. In early 2015, the Cameroon government deported at least one hundred thousand Nigerian victims of Boko Haram, living in the border regions back to their station of conflict, displacement, and destitution. According to an account by Jane Hahn(2017) in the Washington Post, it is recorded that at least 4,402 people were deported in the first seven and half months of 2017. In the process of these deportations, Cameroonian soldiers regularly used excessive physical violence. Some; including infants, weakened by months or years of hunger and without medical treatment in border regions have died during or immediately after the deportations whereas other children were separated from their parents. This is considered a betrayal and non-reciprocity of Nigeria's kind acts toward Cameroon in the past. Also, since 2015, the army of Cameroon had been screening newly arriving Nigerians on the border and subjecting a few to torture, containing them in underserviced border villages and informal refugee settlements to which even the UNHCR was denied access. Several victims interviewed by Human Rights Watch in 2017, said that in their stay in the border villages, Cameroonian soldiers frequently rounded up dozens or hundreds of asylum seekers, brutally beat them with heavy sticks and metallic poles to force them onto vans, and deported them. Still, after Nigeria and the UNHCR had signed an accord with Cameroon in early March 2017 committing both nations to voluntary refugee returns, facts showed that as of mid-July of that year, Cameroon had persisted in unlawfully deporting masses of asylum seekers. Nigerian government responded by sending military vehicles over the border to help transport its citizens, as a result making her indirectly complicit in the unlawful forced return of its. In 2018, there were accounts of acts of hatred and xenophobia being meted out on judges and other legal personnel of Nigerian origin working in The Gambia. There has been a long-established bilateral cooperation agreement between Nigeria and the Gambia since 1965, in which Nigeria as the donor state is expected to provide befitting qualified personnel to fill core positions in the public service of Gambia which is the receiving government. Consequently, Nigerians have taken advantage of this agreement to apply for and procure contract employment with the Ministry of Justice of Gambia. Since this contract was signed, Nigeria has done her bit to honor her obligations, making exceptional sacrifices for the Gambia by making available her citizens to serve not only in the legal, but health, education, and other sectors of the Gambian polity. According to Kemi Busari (2018) from Premium Times, Nigerian judges and other legal personnel who serve in the Gambian judiciary and Ministry of Justice have been maltreated and shown acts of hatred and xenophobic attacks. Cases of ill-treatment of the Nigerian law personnel involve; refusal to offer working facilities to help them in the successful discharge of their official duties, underpayment of salaries, and in a few cases refusal to pay same as and at when due; refusal to provide accommodation to officials from Nigeria while on the other hand evicting a few with their families from their rented accommodations without providing an alternative lodging; arbitrary termination or dismissal from the place of work without reasonable cause or recourse to neither the bilateral settlement nor The Gambian Judicial Service Commission; among others. A visit by Mrs Dabiri-Erewa; Senior Special Assistant to The President on Foreign Affairs and Diaspora to The Head of Mission of the South African High Commission in Nigeria in 2017 revealed that since 2015, 116 Nigerians had been killed in South Africa, the majority of them mugged by the South African police officers performing extra-judicially. It is vital to remember that Nigeria during the apartheid era, threw its full weight in support of the fight against the system. In 2018, a Nigerian, Clement Nwaogu was burnt alive in South Africa. This, consistent with a report by Dabiri, came only ten days after another Nigerian, ThankGod Okoro a 30-year old was also murdered. She additionally mentioned that fourteen Nigerians who had protested the killing of a fellow citizen in South Africa were arrested and even though their offense was bailable, the judge threatened not to acquit them and the community vowed to manhandle anyone who tried to get the accused Nigerians out. Also, in 2018, the Nigerian Labour Congress was reported to have stormed MTN's workplaces in major towns in the country over the malignment of the Nigerian workforce in terms of monetary compensation in comparison to that of foreigners. In Bauchi, the chairman of the NLC; Comrade Hashimu Gital, who led the protest commented that; "We need to inform them that they must regard the laws of the nation including our labor laws, but most importantly, they should recognize human and trade union rights"(The Tribune)

The NLC alleged that the organization averted Nigerian personnel from belonging to unions. Ayuba Wabba, the then NLC president likewise complained that MTN was employing Nigerians as casuals and barring them from joining labor unions. Mr. Kolade, deputy president of the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE), decried that MTN does not permit its personnel to unionize or have freedom of affiliation which the Nigerian constitution allows but is fond of giving workers three to six months; contract appointments, adding that the company had no incentives and did not pay social

security because it did not want to pay social protection such as pension and other things which were not prevalent in South Africa. According to Mr. Uchenna Obigwe, chairman of NLC in Abia State, the non-engagement of MTN people in unionism crippled Nigerian MTN employees from negotiating for their welfare as there was no job security. The NLC reciprocated by engaging in picketing MTN offices nationwide to pressurize them to heed their ultimatum. Also, in September 2018, MTN was mandated by the NLC to pay a penalty of over \$10 billion as tax arrears and unlawful repatriation (that is; \$2 billion in tax arrears and \$8.13 billion for illegally repatriating funds to South Africa) over which four indigenous banks had been fined in the process. In Ghana, 2018, the president of the National Association of Nigerian Traders (NANTS) Ken Ukuoha presented a petition to President Buhari over the non-stop closure of over 400 Nigerian shops in Kumasi and the Ashanti region of Ghana. He noted that Ghanaian security agents typically expressed helplessness while the hired Ghanaian hoodlums unleashed mayhem on Nigerians, harassing them and looting their assets. Within the period from 2018 to 2019, it was reported that about 723 Nigerians had been deported from Ghana on alleged unlawful residence, cybercrime, and prostitution. However, the reaction from the Foreign Affairs Ministry has been extremely undiplomatic unlike the case of reciprocity with South Africa in 2012 when Nigeria retaliated by deporting South African citizens residing in Nigeria after Nigerians were deported due to allegations of unlawful yellow fever playing cards. Citizens had hoped that Nigeria would have followed the reciprocity principle in this regard to balance the action and evoke respect.

A great nation like Nigeria should no longer play the understrapper in the game of world politics especially in Africa. Nobody toys with nationals of specific states because of anticipated reactions from governments of such nations. However, in Nigeria's case, it is the norm as Nigerian citizens are being humiliated and handled shabbily by invariably the smaller nations that ought to accord her respect. This issue calls for a quick evaluation by the government instead of blaming Nigerians for migrating from the unending problems at home.

Methodology

The descriptive research design was selected for this study. This was adopted to follow up on the spontaneous behaviors of the variables of the study without affecting them in any way. In employing this design in the study, the researcher observes the independent variable (Nigeria's Afrocentric overseas policy) and dependent variable (National interest) at the same time because the impact of the previous on the latter is ongoing during this research. The data accumulated for this study are based majorly on secondary, sources which comprise journals, textbooks, newspapers, unpublished theses, research projects, and the internet. These were widely used to organize the relevant statistics to present a reliable and veritable work. The method of collecting data for this research is the qualitative approach which entails logically breaking down the data gathered to draw inferences about the connection between the variables which are of concern to the researcher. This was done to arrive at a legitimate argument and make salient deductions. In turn, this brought about conclusions that generated suggestions to prevent Nigeria's further descent into underdevelopment.

Data Presentation and Analysis

President Goodluck Jonathan's Policy of Attracting Foreign Investment and Nigeria's Relations with African States (2010-2015) Upon Yar'Adua's untimely demise in 2010, Vice-President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan assumed office and later contested and won the Presidential election in 2011, for that matter, presiding over Nigeria till 2015 (Odubajo, 2017). Upon assumption, he undertook numerous diplomatic visits, reviewing Nigeria's foreign policy, triggered by the need to give recognition to domestic priorities and challenges that reflected the present global realities consisting of the creation of jobs, economic progress, poverty eradication, and security. Hence, under his Transformation Agenda (2011-2015), the foreign policy thrust was to simply use economic diplomacy to foster the development and progress of the nation. According to the African Economic Outlook (2013), the Nigerian government during his tenure continued to invest in key sectors of the economic system like Security (19.9%), Education (8.65%), Health (6%), Power (3.5%), Agriculture and Development (1.7%) and Public Works (3.9%). The UNCTAD World Investment Report (2012) claims that as a result of these developments, Nigeria emerged as Africa's biggest destination for Foreign Direct Investment in 2011, with \$8.92 billion from a previous \$6.10 billion recorded in 2010. Although Jonathan's administration persisted in carrying out its roles in Africa, it was more characterized by determined economic cooperation with global partners outside the continent as her goal was geared towards attracting FDI into the economy that would aid national development. Within the initial six months of 2014, a complete sum of \$9.70 billion flowed into the national economy as FDI, becoming Africa's primary destination for foreign investors. Also, Nigeria rebased its GDP for the first time in over a decade to become Africa's largest economy in Africa, overtaking South Africa and Egypt. This foreign policy termed 'economic diplomacy' is thought to have been an extension of Nigeria's domestic policy to relieve poverty, create jobs and diversify the economic system. Despite realigning her foreign policy objectives Nigeria's relationship with her African counterparts was not neglected as she persisted with her positive engagement with the Republic of Benin and reinforced trade exchanges and security cooperation with Chad, and economic ties with Equatorial Guinea to mention a few. Nigeria also continued to demonstrate its support towards ECOWAS' zero tolerance towards an undemocratic change of government. Its condemnation of the unconstitutional change of government in Mali and Guinea Bissau is evidence of this truth. Nigeria's negotiations helped to resolve the crisis thus preventing the coup leaders in the said countries from executing their detained erstwhile presidents and ministers (Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2013). In 2013, she also committed about 1200 soldiers and N7 billion to intervene in Mali, pledging the development of military clinics for the Malian troops. Its function in the D-8 represented a platform where the government could utilize economic diplomacy to make certain economic dividends at home. Under Nigeria's leadership, member states ratified the D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement on Administrative Assistance in Customs Matters and the simplification of visa techniques for the businessmen of D-8 member nations, all to enhance investment and trade amongst member countries. Under his watch,

Jonathan also led ECOWAS to extinguish the threatened mayhem in Cote d'Ivoire when Laurent Gbagbo refused to hand over power after the 2010 presidential elections in that country. At the apogee of the Ebola Virus Disease in 2014, when the epidemic struck the three most affected West African countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, the African Union sent in foot soldiers and medical staff under the ASEOWA to help combat the sickness and restore hope to the affected nations. With 850 volunteers from Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia, D.R Congo, and Central African Republic, Nigeria sent in the largest extension, deploying a total number of 250 personnel to the area along with pieces training and financial support. (FMOH, 2015). Nigeria remains one of the top five financiers of the AU operating budget. As a leading financier, Nigeria has full AU voting rights as she has been sponsoring her nationals for strategic roles and functions. Other major financiers include Algeria, Egypt, Libya, and South Africa which together with Nigeria contribute 75% of the running budget. The remaining countries in the AU contribute 25%. According to a source posted in 2008, each of the 'Big Five' contributed \$14.4 million towards the operating budget finances. By 2012, those contributions had been positioned at \$ 16.7 million. In 2012 alone, Nigeria contributed as much as \$ 15 million (Ashiru; 2013) There was however a strain in Nigeria-Libya relations when Nigeria had to recall Ambassador Alhaji Isah Mohammed in 2010 the ambassador to Libya over an assertion by Muammar Ghadaffi suggesting that Nigeria split into a Christian South and Muslim North. Eventually, when Muammar Ghadaffi was ousted from power generating an intense civil war, the Nigerian government had to dispatch aircraft to Libya to transport Nigerians dwelling in the area as they were prey to racial militias who had been killing Nigerians with impunity and raping the ladies. This incident is an example of Nigeria placing the citizen's interest at the forefront. Nigeria's South Africa relations additionally witnessed a strain in 2012 when 125 Nigerians were deported for allegedly owning fake yellow fever vaccination stamps. Nigeria consequently, retaliated by deporting 131 South Africans. This rift was intensified by the hegemonic struggle between both nations in the AU and UNSC and the collapse of a portion of the Synagogue Church building in Lagos in 2014, killing 81 South Africans among other issues.

Also, regardless of the security challenge during his administration, his diplomatic shuffles were aimed at assuring the outside world that Nigeria still had a sturdy and dynamic economy to invest in by establishing bi-national commissions with countries like Canada, Germany, Australia, and China among others. The precept of reciprocity was also a strong feature of his foreign policy thrust specifically concerning Nigeria's relations with South Africa. Thus, his administration was able to maintain a shift from the conventional, overhyped Afrocentric overseas policy.

Muhammed Buhari's Administration and Nigeria's African Policy (2015-2020) On assumption of office, President Muhammadu Buhari's first journey overseas was to the Niger Republic on June 3, 2015, for an Anti-Boko Haram summit geared toward discussing a regional offensive against the group. In attendance was the Cameroonian president and Nigérien president, President Mahamadou Issoufou. President Issoufou committed his nation's determination to assist Nigeria address the growing threats of Boko Haram which had persistently continued to threaten the peace and stability of the region. It was additionally agreed that the Multinational Joint Task Force(MNJTFF) headquarters be relocated from Nigeria to N' Djamena in Chad and the appointment of a Nigerian to head the task force. The meeting was followed up by a visit to Chad on 4 4th of June, 2017. His deliberate visits to these West African states were decisive in restricting the forces of Boko Haram who often fled the forces in Nigeria, to hide in the other West African states. Apart from the use of foreign policy to address the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria, Buhari was successful in resolving the Gambia constitutional catastrophe in 2017 when President Yahaya Jammeh had refused to surrender to the democratically elected president, Adama Barrow which would have led to a violent transition a likely civil war and ultimately a great humanitarian disaster for the ECOWAS sub-region. Moreover, in 2017, Nigeria deployed 800 officers and infantrymen on a United Nations peacekeeping assignment to Darfur in South Sudan to govern the crises. In like manner, the Buhari administration in towing the line of its predecessors in the fourth republic, has adopted economic diplomacy as an effective foreign policy tool which informed his diplomatic shuttles not only to African countries but also to major advanced countries of the East and West, hence creating a balance. In his attempt to attract more FDI, Buhari made bilateral and multilateral visits to the USA, China, United Arab Emirates, Germany, France, Saudi Arabia, and other international locations. Hence, in line with the country's economic goals, the Buhari administration can be applauded for attracting invitations to G7 and G20 Summits, receptions in global capitals, and the lack of a great foreign policy mishap. As Adekaiyaoja (2017) has noted, Buhari's team of economists has been actively engaged in promoting the government's economic plan to global investors. An example is the productive Eurobond sales, amidst economic turmoil. Another is the increased bilateral relationship with China and the opening of the Nigerian economy the Chinese Yuan. Barely 365 days after assumption of duties, President Muhammadu Buhari visited China for a week, resulting in the signing of the framework to enhance infrastructural development and industrial activities in Nigeria between both the National Development Reform Commission of China and the Ministry of Industry, Trade, and investment of Nigeria; as well as enhancing technological and scientific cooperation between both nations to create more jobs and empower more youths in the country. As a result of this visit, several loans were granted to Nigeria especially to finance the deficit of the 2016 budget, infrastructure mortgage for trains, among others. Buhari's anti-corruption campaign has also won him a lot of admiration at the domestic and overseas levels. These steps are seen by several observers as a tool that is capable of restoring the respect of Nigeria and facilitating the inflow of huge foreign direct funding. Unlike his predecessor, Muhammadu Buhari enjoyed favorable relations with the USA which started with a top-level diplomatic meeting between Obama and Buhari at the Oval on the 20th of July 2016 as President Obama promised that his government would help Nigeria in tackling the Boko Haram menace and counter extremism. Under Donald Trump's administration, nothing seems to have been damaged in the relations between both countries as the US Department of Justice(DOJ) on July 14th, 2017, filed a civil complaint for the forfeiture of about a hundred and forty-four million dollars derived from the corrupt proceedings by former Nigerian Minister of Petroleum, Diezani Alison-Madueke. The DOJ had accused the previous minister with her accomplices; Olajide Omokore and Kola Aluko of fronting for the minister through oil lifting contracts which were given out to them without due process. The accused were mandated to forfeit these assets to benefit the masses who it is assumed were harmed by this corrupt exercise.

Efforts were made by the Trump administration to aid Buhari in his fight against insurgency as it made available military equipment to Nigeria despite having been blacklisted under Jonathan's administration from receiving any arms, citing the Leah law which prohibited the USA from sales of arms to nations in

which their military have cases of human rights abuses. The efforts have worked to reduce the stronghold of Boko Haram as several of their hideouts have been exposed and destroyed, captors released and several terrorists caught. This is not to say that the war has ended however, determined efforts are being made under the present administration not to neglect the security needs of the nation which include quelling the Biafran uprisings, herdsman crises amidst other security challenges that threaten the security of the state. However, amidst the said challenges exists the uncertainty of the Morocco-ECOWAS admission. In January 2017, Morocco returned to the AU after 33 years of absence after departed King Hassan II made decided to withdraw. Under the new King Mohammed VI, concerted diplomatic efforts are being made to reach out to African polities outside North Africa. Having re-joined the AU, Morocco now seeks membership in ECOWAS. On 4th June 2017 during the 51st Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the ECOWAS, a majority agreed in principle to Morocco's application, much to the surprise, disappointment, and even anger in the minds of many Nigerians. Nigeria's opposition to Morocco's admission is led by diplomats and the academia, but of great importance is that it is miles engrained in the minds of the masses who worry about the implications of this on Nigeria's status being undermined within the ECOWAS, as Morocco's sturdy economic system and sophisticated diplomatic corps represent a strong competition and counterweight to Nigeria.

Conclusion

This study has analyzed the effects of the Afrocentric foreign policy on Nigeria's national interest, particularly from the perspective of over eight years (2010-2020) It also reveals an inextricable connection between Nigeria's foreign policy and its interventionist role in Africa. It, therefore, concludes that Nigeria's Afrocentric foreign policy in a globalized world has not yielded adequate benefits in the realization of her national interest as evidenced in the show of hate and disdain with which Nigerians are being confronted in most of the countries that have benefited from the policy; neglect of her responsibility to her citizens which has resulted to the culture of poor maintenance, inability in providing sufficient basic amenities like electricity, good roads, standard-equipped public health centers, etc. Nigeria's efforts in other African countries have not been justifiably reciprocated and this is evidenced in the maltreatment and xenophobic acts towards Nigerians by other African countries and the lack of their support in global politics. There has however been consistency in shifting from the avowed principles and objectives during the fourth republic to maintain a balance between her interventionist role in Africa and the domestic aspirations of Nigerians towards economic well-being and national development under both administrations as seen in the strategic economic and security policies under Jonathan and Buhari administrations. The present administration of President Buhari is thus, properly positioned to change the fortunes of Nigeria and its relations with the outside world, Particularly at the global level, if only it will continue to diversify its interest and come up with policies that will utilize the opportunities that exist for the country in this ever-changing globalizing world.

Recommendations

Following from the findings stated, the study recommends that:

1. Nigeria should appreciate the enormity of her challenges and look inward towards confronting these challenges instead of her outrageous policy of Afrocentrism that is not being appreciated by even the most benefactors.
2. Nigeria's foreign policy must be premised solely on a clearly defined national interest with an emphasis on national security and welfare.
3. The role of Nigerians in the Diaspora towards nation-building in the new world order should be recognized as it is important in advancing the foreign policy of the country.
4. Since diplomacy is a game of elaborate rules requiring sound professional intelligence, the federal government must ensure that recruitment into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should henceforth be based on merit alone also encouraging special training in international relations at the Masters-degree and Doctorate level

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