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THE NIGERIA/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN THE 21ST CENTURY (A CRITICAL REVIEW).

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Abstract

This study examines the economic relations between the United States and Nigeria. The study tries to find out whether the economic relations between Nigeria and United States have spurred a higher level of investment in Agricultural sector, enhanced the export of Agricultural products from Nigeria to United States and reduced the poverty level in Nigeria utilizing the Marxist political, economy approach which is traced back to classical and neo-classical work of Adams' Smith, David Richardo and Jonn miller. Also the Dependency , theory which focusing on socio-economic dynamics of Metropolitan and peripheral countries, argues that the trade relations skewed in favour of the farmer because developing countries are still dependent on their former imperial Western Capitalist countries in a more subtle manner than was the case during the era of outright domination. The study contends that the trade relations between United States and Nigeria can neither impact positively in the production and export of Agricultural products nor culminate in the reduction of poverty in Nigeria. Relying on secondary sources and content analysis for purposes of data collection and analysis, the study therefore transcends the pedestrian interpretations to unveil that trade relations , have not significantly impacted on the production and export of Agricultural products to United States market nor reduced the poverty level in Nigeria because the United States engage in bilateral trade relation to enhance her national interest and this cannot be realized by investment in or importation of Agricultural products from Nigeria.

The United States socio-political relations with Nigeria only aims at protecting their economic interest in Nigeria based on oil and so on. The study, therefore, recommends qualitative transformation of the economy giving way to qualitative changes and ultimately to the establishment of a new socio — economic order which alone is capable of ushering in a new and autonomous developmental patterns with the potentialities of an independent international relations. The United States is known for political stability, peaceful turnover of leaders, and peaceful change of government, religious tolerance, high scientific and technological know-how and so no. How have these attributes impacted on Nigeria positively vis-a-vis United States/Nigeria agricultural relations in the 21st century.

KEYWORDS: **Foreign Policy, United States of America, Nigeria, Neo-Socio Economic Order, Globalization.**

INTRODUCTION

The agricultural trade relationship between Nigeria and the United States of America dates back to the era of European interest in African slaves. During that time, millions of Nigerians were sold as slaves to the United States through the Atlantic slaves' trade on account to secure cheap labour. It was those slaves that developed American - Nigerian personalities and the trade link between the United States and Nigeria. Eke (2009).The year I960 to the present day characterizes multi-lateral dependence by Nigeria on the institutions of the American Marshal plan. The Marshal plan became a major American policy to achieve the containment of the Soviet Union and the creation of the International regime for trade, money and investment in the overall objective to the American economic recovery through inter-locking network system of World Bank and IMF. Since the 1960s, the U.S ranks among the largest source of foreign direct investment FDIs in Nigeria Ate (1986).

The U.S remains Nigeria's biggest and most reliable customer in the oil industry. U.S. government ensures security of Nigeria oil due to its strategic nexus in the American national interest. Nigeria and U.S are linked by history, culture, language and blood. Many Americans are said to have traced their heritage to Nigeria. Nigeria and U.S have been drawn closer by the interchange of people over decades and by deeply held values, which they have long shared. Prominent among these is a belief in freedom, justice and human dignity. Nigeria and U.S also shared a belief in free economics as a means to improve the lives of people. The extensive commercial and economic ties between Nigeria and U.S have promoted an exchange of ideas, resources; and technologies, which is said to be in their mutual interests. The two governments have also encouraged and supported .the establishment of private sector organization to stimulate trade and investments.

The interaction between Nigeria and U.S. increased even in the second
World War, which informs the quick recognition of Nigeria's Independence in 1960 as rioted, by the President of U.S.A DWIGHT EISENHOWER in 1st October 1960.

> "I am confident that in the years to-come our two countries will stand as one in safeguarding the greatest of all the bonds between us, our common belief in a free and democratic way of life"

The leadership of John F. Kennedy increased Nigeria -U.S. relations greatly especially in the field of economic agriculture and Educational Assistance. The U.S. looks up to Nigeria Military Training and also respected Nigeria's no alignment policy and commitment to peace in Africa. With the U.S relations to Nigeria, it is observed that American Mission to Nigeria in particular and the rest of the world in general are to sell the American supremacy, as to establish and promote America's interest around the world (Abati: *The Guardian Newspaper* 25 August, 1998). Today it is believed that America is the only country with both moral and. material capacity and capability of transforming the world. Abati asserts that:

> "Every waking day, every human being on the surface of this planet encounters the long hands of America. We live in the age of Americas. In a world that attests to the triumph of American Spirit and ideology (Abati: *The Guardian Newspaper* August, 25th 1998).

U.S. policy towards Nigeria is consistently dominated by three Core elements: bilateral economic affairs (trade, investment, and energy) regional security (curbing corruption, promotion of democratic value and human rights and-strengthening democratic institutions). U.S. relations with Nigeria were relatively normal up to mid-1993.Relations deteriorated steadily following the nullification of the June 12th1993 national election (that would have brought Moshood Abiola into the Presidency), the ascendance to power General Abacha and consequent sweeping state repression and wholesale plundering of state coffers by the Abacha regime. The United States responded with visa sanctions that denied high government officials and their families the opportunity to travel to the united State of America and sustained high-level backing - while navigating the setbacks and frustrations that arc part of the Nigerian condition.

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS NIGERIA

U.S. foreign policy towards Nigeria has been motivated by economic /trade interest. In the 1950's and 1960's her foreign policy towards Africa was to protect Africa from joining the communist Eastern ideology. This aim was achieved by providing economic aid to Africa and this persisted even as they gained 'their political dependence from the Western powers.

In 1970's, United States who has not been Nigeria's significant trading partners-became the major consumer of the country's oil. Following the CBN annual-report, and state of account (1974) the U.S. consumed about 14 percent in" 19-70 and moved steadily up to 46.7 percent in 1982. The U.S. has pursued this policy effectively through globalization hence they carry out its economic interest in Nigeria under the multinational corporations.

As a demonstration of the United State economic future in Nigeria, Nigeria was one of the six countries that received sixty-four of the total U.S. development assistance in 1960 with India, Pakistan, Chile, Turkey and Colombia (Obiozor, 1992).

The past history of Nigeria's failed effort to develop as a nation since 1960;the geo-strategic significance of Nigeria in-Africa and the central importance of the United States in the global economy, politics and security since the end of the cold war. The U.S. Nigeria relationship is strategic for Nigeria (more than for the United States) Nigeria must design its relationship with the United States systematically as a vehicle for accomplishing its economic and democratic Development in the 215t century. The Nigeria-U.S. partnership must be constructed and managed in strategic terms on the blood model of South Korea, Taiwan and Japan after word war 11, for national transformation and modernization largely because the United States invested in their .security and created opportunity for them to acquire Western capital investment and skills. This is the vision and the frame work that must inform all aspects of Nigeria's bilateral engagement with the United States: trade in petroleum and other commodities; acquisition of cyberspace technology; private investment; technology acquisition in oil and gas through negotiations with chevron; mobile Texaco; and so on, assistance for democratic advancement; drug trafficking, advance fee fraud; military assistance, regional security; and conflict management,

Finally, we must coordinate our partnership with the United States, keeping in clear perspective our strategic objective (selected readings on Nigeria's foreign policy and international relations) edited by Akindele, Bassey and Edehvol 1(2000).

Onuoha (2001) asserted that:

> Nigeria - U.S relations since 1960 have been hoisted on a tripod, •namely trade, foreign investment, and democracy. Nigeria ranks-second only to Saudi Arabia as the most important supplier of petroleum to the United States, which buys over one million barrels of highly describable light low sulphur sweet crude daily.
>
> Annual trade amounts to more than $ 6 billion, and U.S. companies have about $7 billion investment in the country. According to U.S information agency report (1985) as cited by Onuoha. Nigeria and U.S have enjoyed increasingly active trade since Nigerian independence. Two-way trade rose from about $76 million in 1960 to about $12 billion in 1980; making the united states, Nigeria's biggest customer. In fact the united- States has remained Nigeria's major investor in oil with mobile Exxon, Texaco, Chevron etc as key players. Total U.S. investment in Nigeria as at year 2000 is estimated at U.S. $18billion.Most of which represent investment in the oil industry. (The state visit by President Bill Clinton to Nigeria 26th August, 2000).

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

That Nigeria is dependent on the west is a fact of history (Zartman, 1983: 217-218), and that Nigerian economic and political behaviour on both external and internal issues of importance is determined by her economic underdevelopment is recognizable (Gana, 1979:16, Ake, 1981:29). This has led to pervasive external influence in many matters such as conflict situations and contentious issue (Akpan, 989:102).

The influence derived its power from the potency and indivisible factors of the economic structure (Spero, 1980:4-5). Since the attainment of Nigeria's independence in 1960, the United States is one of the largest foreign investors .in the Nigerian economy accounting for over $18million in foreign investment, most of which is concentrated in the oil sector. Example is in the Niger Delta where the U.S is helping in the policing of the oil wells hence protecting the interest of their relations with Nigeria. The U.S. also serves as-the largest market for Nigeria oil and gas accounting for close to 50 percent of total crude pit export. (The State visit of President Clinton August 26-28, 2000).

Before one attempts a solution to a problem, it is only natural that one must first identify the problem. The fact remains that U.S. is the lone super power with the capacity and determination to ensure the survival of liberty and democracy in Nigeria. It is poised to liberate the world including Africa in Order to make it safe. Democracy, trade and investment, remain cardinal Objective of the United States.

America has moved from her Pre-World War I and II policies of neutrality and isolationism to the Cold War Policy of containment of Communism, which their major aim was to prevent Soviet Union's Expansionist policy. Since the end of the Cold War, U.S. pursued the policy of Globalization. The World has become a global village such that what affect one nation or continent directly or indirectly affects all. U.S being the center of the world power- is now more sensitive to events in African, which Nigeria is included.

The African problems of underdevelopment require the U.S. assistance in terms of aid, trade, democracy, Agricultural assistance and conflict resolution. This will lead us to what the former U.S. President J.F. Kennedy said:

• *"Whether African wishes America us /me or ill, America is Determined to assure the survival of liberty" (Kennedy 1961:3)*

But from our own observation; they tried to enforce liberalism into our economy, but one may ask if all these are to our own good or to our Detriment. However, one can say that Nigeria - U.S. relations has been unhealthy in the sense that it has been a relationship of domination and subordination.

The implication of this being that the kind of autonomous and self-reliant Development, which Nigeria requires, given the historical antecede[1]colonialfem, therefore has been lost. Consequently, the leadership country including its foreign policy objectives has tended to reinforce underdevelopment.

The overall implication of this was that the entire national economy suffers. As a guide to this inquiry, we raise the following questions.

1. What is the determinant of Nigeria - U.S. relations?
2. What has been the impact of Nigeria - U.S.? Economic relations on Nigeria Economic development particularly in the areas of foreign aid?
3. To what extent has the United States influenced the political process in Nigeria?
4. What practical steps should Nigeria take to benefit maximally from Nigeria –US relations in the 21st century'?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Over three' years, Nigeria and the United States have been in intimate relationship, each country has interest on why it relates with one another and the benefit of these relations helps in the upholding of the relationship. A critical view on the Nigeria - U.S Economic relations'" reveals that as the U.S expands their -economics, Nigeria comprador bourgeoisies collaborated with the U.S. to perpetuate exploitation on the Nigeria economy.

Synthesizing facts from the theoretical and practical importance of thisresearch, its relevance finds expression in the following.

i. This study shall lead to the understanding and explanation of notonly the formulation and implementation of Nigeria's foreign policybut also the mutual causalities and direct correlation between economic underdevelopment and foreign policy,
ii. The "study possesses the potentials of shifting the focus of researchin general from the traditional over emphasis on issues of war and peace to the pivotal branch of economic underdevelopment and it's bearing in politics. In this way, the study introduces the linkages 'and interactions between historical, economic and political variable in the international system,
iii. The study shall sensitize policy makers on the need for a self-sustaining robust economy and concomitant robust foreign policy. Behavior to withstand the power tussles in the global environment.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

This research has the following goals:

i. To find out the determinants of the Nigeria - U.S. relations,

ii. To determine the impact of Nigeria - U.S. Economic relations on Nigeria economic development particularly in the areas of foreign aid.

iii. To determine the extent to which the United States influenced. The political process in Nigeria.

Ⅳ To find out practical steps Nigeria should take to benefit maximally from Nigeria - U. S. relations in the 21st century.

SCOPE OF STUDY

The period -under review is the U.S./Nigeria Economic relationship in the 21st century. Within this period, a lot of economic and socio-political relationships have been going on between the two countries.

This research is strictly restricted to U.S/Nigeria trade relations in the 21st century. A research of this nature is always prone to the Limitations ranging from lack of financial muscle, time and access to resource centers. However following the broadness of the study, the work suffers data deprivations.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Considering the thrust of this research it will be necessary to review some literatures .which include those concerned with U.S. policy on Nigeria and those that concerns Nigeria's Economic diplomacy. We shall also review works on underdevelopment and its links with foreign policy and other relations.

After Nigeria's Independence from the British in 1960, U.S emerged, rather dramatically as the most dynamic component in the determination of Post-Colonial Nigerian foreign economic and political policies. Ate (1987) asserts that from the Nigeria perspectives, the evolving relationship between Nigeria and U.S. has been determined above all by the combined -requirements of domestic, political, security, economic advancement;, and a perceived leadership obligation in the regional. Decolonization movement (ATE, 1987:1). He even went further to claim that U.S. mediated for Africa; they played a great role, which was augmented by the complementary resources of the former British colonial power. This interest grew in the face of the Soviet Union challenge to Western domination in African'. Ate juxtaposes the bilateral and political level of Nigeria - U.S. ties in order to offer a structurally coherent explanation of the purpose and result of the Nigeria - U.S. trade relations.

In his 1986 publication, we noted before 1967, U.S. emerged the second' most important metropolitan Centre in Nigeria's external economic relations. The issue of aid assistance by U.S. government intensified Nigeria's Pre-Independence economic linkage to the Western political economy-generally.

According to Ate:

> "This long term aid assistance brought about international Dependency for itsforeign developed economic ties and received

> External political orientation from the Anglo - American Bloc"
> (Ate. 1986:234; Kennedy, 1961:3).

Because of this economic and political dependency adopted by the Nigerian government on the Anglo - American force, Nigeria's ruling strata was compelled to identify and comply with the western policy position, thereby jeopardizing Nigeria's' national interest as well as African interest. A dominant position held that this inherent link between these two countries made it impossible for the National governments to pursue our country's true National interest and it's declared policy of non-alignment. Hence, Obiozor noted that:

The Americans have found it impossible to commit themselves to any lasting projects in Nigeria, as they have done in their other friendly countries of Latin America and South-East Asia and even in the Middle East. This is not because Nigeria has not been asking for such projects (Obiozor, 1992:11).

Largely .private organs initiated the United States' early interest in the affairs of former British colony. For instance in 1920, the Phelps - Strokes commission an Africa was inspired by the product of humanitarian efforts by private individuals who came into Nigeria to study the problems of education in the country and recommended ways of solving them. (Ojiaku, 1968:27).

Before U.S. developed her negligible ties with Nigeria during the Pre-World War II, U.S. noted by Knopt to have said:
Isolationism, Neutrality could not stand the test of time and this lead to a new American Policy which today had to be flexible and ' understanding (Knopt, 1962:809).

During the Nigerian civil war of 1966, the U.S. humanitarian impulse dictated-economic assistance for Biafra, but the political implication of a measure that could seem to support Biafra's secession made Washington very cautious in its involvement in the Nigerian crisis. To avoid being accused by both of the warring factions, the United States officially proclaimed inspired adjustment programmes, thereby reinvigorating the type of market which made Europe prosperous. It is also expedient to note that free market trade they implement is only free movement of capital without free movement of labour.

Thus when considering the fact against this background of the economic crises and adjustment programmes we have had in the mid 1970'sand how it has shot inflation into the sky closed down business, increased in unemployment and underdevelopment, magnified crimes, prostitution, beggary, malnutrition and poverty, that one can now say that the United states are prompting democracy precisely for their own interest and not for Nigeria or Africa in Diaspora.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF ANALYSIS

Our theoretical framework for the analysis of the politics of Nigeria U.S. trade relations in the 21st century will be anchored on the Marxist Political Economy approach. The root of this approach is traced back to classical and neo-classical work of ADAM SMITH, DAVID RICHARDO and JOHN MILLER. Adams Smith was perhaps the first political economist of industrial capitalism and his book - THE WEALTH OF NATIONS focused on the study of

industrial capitalism. Smith's legacy to political economy approach is numerous and the tendency to treat facts concretely rather than abstractly is most important.

Karl Marx built on the achievement of Adam Smith and David Richardo and applied the political economy approach as a method for scientific understanding of capitalism and society in general. From the Mercantilism to that of Marxism (Robbins 1963-1967) and later capitalism, scholars have been so much concerned with the dynamic relationship between politics and economy. A synthesis of this relationship in the internal scene results to the development of a political economy of foreign relations (Knorr, 1973, Kindleberger, 1970). This approach focuses attention on the structure of global economic relationship and their manifestation in the structure of power at the nation-state level. The basic assumption here is that foreign policy is a reflection of the local structure of political and economic power. (Otubanjo, 1981:3, Spero, 1977:4).

Accordingly international relations is a system of material transactions on a world scale with the older industrial societies being the center of present day materials life, sustaining the transnational corporations and the multi-national companies as the unit through which the political economics flow (Leys, 1975, Shiriji, 1976:34-84). This unit when integrated into the economics of the LDCS became agent of exploitation and underdevelopment. Thus, as Nigeria is dependent on the advanced countries, her foreign policies and relations cannot help being one of compliance, appeasement and dependence on the center.

The consequence is that when Nigeria seeks to assert it's so called non-alignment policies with- its economic allies, it merely uses diplomatic allies in the United Nations to do it. Thus Nigeria cannot resist the wishes and interests of the center nations, the beneficiaries of the present world order. An attempt at independent foreign policy and sovereign foreign relations could engender sever economic handicaps.

Furthermore, class analysis is the core of Marxist Political economy, The concept of class is anchored on the ownership of the means of production, accordingly social classes are based on the division of social groups with respect to the ownership of the means of production where ownership includes both control and appropriation of Surplus values of one social group by another. This emphasizes that not merely judicial property relation, but social relations of production between persons that are critical.

The utility of this approach in our analysis of the politics of Nigeria -U.S. relations in the 21st century are not in doubt. It will enable us to identify and analyze the determinants of the Nigeria - U.S. relations, the approach will also aid us to find out the nature of the collaboration between the Nigeria National bourgeoisie and international finance capitals and determine the magnitude of damage that has been done to Nigeria economy as a result of this unequal, collaboration.

The role of classes in influencing political process of Nigeria will be analyzed. The approach will also help us to analyze critically the impact of Nigeria - U.S relations on Nigeria economic and political development.
Finally, we are of the view that no other theoretical perspectives will be as useful as the political economy approach as far as the issue at stake is concerned.

HYPOTHESES

In the light of the research questions raised and the review of related literature, we raise the following hypotheses to guide our research,

The politics of Nigeria - U.S. relations is highly intertwined with Nigeria's dependence on U.S. financial aid and the level of U.S. exploitation of Nigeria's resources and. position in Africa for her national interest,

Nigerian - U.S. Economic relations has greatly undermined Nigeria's national development and strengthened her dependency structures,

The United States has greatly influenced Nigerian trade Economic Process.

METHODOLOGY

According to Siuger (1961; 329); the most important specific methodological contributions of the behavioural sciences to those of us whose work deals primarily with documents, memoirs and histories is content analysis. The study is constrained by the unavailability of raw data, coupled with the inaccessibility of the actual participants with the period of study.

Consequently, we are compelled to adopt the secondary method of data collection i.e. Library research and use of contents analysis as method of analysis.

The data obtained and employed for this research were obtained from various sources such as periodicals, government reports and publications, articles, journals, conference papers and books. This limited our methodology to documentary reviews. In all, we employed analytical, descriptive and historical approaches to arriving at our conclusions.

foreign policy in 19S9-1963 on such issues as attracting and guaranteeing foreign investments, non-nationalization of foreign investment, effective regulation of foreign trade with a view to encouraging the common wealth, and identification of Nigeria with Western center democracies (Ofoegbu, 1979:12).Subsequently, Nigerian leaders and foreign policy elites were cast in the same mould and therefore toed the same lines all these past 50 years of independence.

U.S. INTEREST IN NIGERIA

Nigeria Matters To Unite States' Interests For Seven Important Reasons:

1. Nigeria is a regional anchor state in Africa; its 180 million plus citizens comprise- Africa's largest nation. Its economy dominates the surrounding regions and it is essential to security in Sierra Leone, Liberia, guinea, and elsewhere.
2. Nigeria- has over 25 billion barrels of proven oil reserves. It provides abundant; and even-large volumes of sweet, light (environmentally attractive) Crude oil to refineries on the United States eastern seaboard. Nigeria accounts for eight percent of U.S. national oil imports and in the course of Obama's administration, that figure will exceed 10 percent. U.S. direct foreign investment in Nigeria presently stands at $7 billion. By 2004, it could easily have doubled.

Nigeria is the largest-fledgling democracy in sub-Sharan Africa. A failure of Nigeria democracy could plunge the western African sub-region into a new round of political instability, economic uncertainly, and security problem, as was evident during the previous decade. A strengthened and more stable Nigeria democracy could have a stabilizing effect in

West Africa and important demonstrative effects throughout the continent. This would also allow a closer partnership with the United States.

Given the trajectory and magnitude of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, the United States has little choice but to make Nigeria a high global priority in shaping effective strategies to reduce infection rate and deliver care and treatment to those persons living with HIV.

Between half a million and a million Nigeria's live in the United States of whom 200, 000 are American citizens, their talent, wealth and influence are now a part of Americans political, cultural and commercial life. And they remain tied in similarly diverse ways to Nigeria.
Nigerians figure prominently in transnational crime; especially Narcotics, money laundering and advanced free fraud between 35 and40 (percent of the heroin that enters the United States arrives through Nigeria syndicates and network.

7. Nigeria is an "active Middle Power committed to leading develops in nation's coalition that presses for greater debt relief. More favorable trade terms and macro-economic conditional ties, enlargement of the U.N. security council, affordable access to HIV/AIDS and other medications, and more generous external support' in building elementary health infrastructure.

The core challenge Nigeria's roller-coaster inheritance presents the Bush administration is to help reinvigorate and advance Nigeria's fragile democratic transition, ensure that Nigeria does not experience another perceptions breakdown and strengthen collaborations in regional security, crisis diplomacy, HIV/AIDS, debt relief, governance reform, and democratic conflict "resolution. It requires a lot of handwork - broad, consistent engagement across several policy areas - that is essential to advance U.S. interests in Africa but which will yield no quick breakthrough results.

Fortunately for the Bush administration, it inherits a relatively sound bilateral relationship built upon much reciprocal good will. U.S. engagement in Nigeria for past two years has been sustained and high-level, backed by a dynamic mule sectorial assistance program of more than $100 million per year. The trick for the United States will be maintaining a disciplined focus upon its selected priorities - with conviction, continued adequate resources,
The economic crisis of development.

Political pressure and the effort to reconcile them for purposes of stability. However, the focus of the work was West Africa and Africa in general.

Thus Philips (1994) perceived Nigeria external relations as a response to stimuli that are generated internally and externally. He isolated the external factors as the political class, Pro-Western social value, and economic and political structures.

In summary, common to all literature is a conspicuous lack of explanation of how the external environment combines and integrates with the domestic environment to make certain variable change and others persist in Nigeria's foreign policy or relations. Thus all the works by omission elected not to explore the correlation between Nigeria's economic underdevelopment and foreign policy. Even in the few instances where such was attempted,

enough information and facts were not provided to discern whether the correlation connotes the mutual causalities that exist between underdevelopment and foreign policy.
United State adopted the policy of globalization, democratization, free market and liberalism, however one may say that the reasons behind U.S. pressures for democracy in Africa is to create "FREE" atmosphere for the implementation of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

SUMMARY

This study was set to investigate the nature and character of Nigeria economy, its impact on the structure of her political frame of association with other independent nations particularly, her dominant ally-AMERICA.

Its interest centers on the extent the economy structured the relationship between the two countries particularly in the 2Ist century, all with a view to determine its impact on the nation's economic and political development.

After our review of related literature, we raised the following questions.
What are the determinants of Nigeria-U.S. relations? ,
What has been the impact of Nigeria-U.S. relations on Nigeria
Economic development particularly in the areas of foreign aid?
To what extent has the United States influenced the political
process in Nigeria?
What practical steps should Nigeria take to benefit, maximally from Nigeria-U.S. relations in the 2Ist century?
Consequently, we adopted the political economy framework of analysis for the study. It is a framework, which focuses on the structure of global economic relations .and their manifestation in the structure of power at the- nation-state level. The basic assumption is that foreign policy is a reflection of the local structure of political and economic power. The insight drawn from both the theory and framework of analysis chosen and literature reviewed led to the posing of the following hypotheses.

The politics of Nigeria-U.S. relations is highly intertwined with Nigeria's dependence on U.S. financial aid and the level of U.S. exploitation of Nigeria's resources and position in Africa for her national interest.

Nigeria-U.S. relation has greatly undermined Nigeria's national development and strengthened her dependency structures,

The United States has greatly influenced Nigerian political process
The study proceeded to review the principle of Nigerian foreign policy and the Nigeria-U.S. relations since 1960 in chapter two and observed that U.S. Foreign policy towards Nigeria was motivated by trade economic interest. As a demonstration of the United States economic future in Nigeria, Nigeria was one of the six countries that received sixty-four percent of the total U.S development assistance in1960 with India, Pakistan, Chile, Turkey and Colombia, Obiozor (1.992).

As a colony, it was externally directed and managed, thus rendering it dependent. The emergence of a ruling class at independence with a weak financial base strengthened this dependency as they embarked on rent seeking and appropriation of national surplus. The pattern of economic development pursued was modeled to ensure the subservience character of the monoculture economy. Thus, international economic shocks and Crisis readily and destructively affect the Nigeria economy, terms of trade and national budget. Consequently, Nigeria got tied to an endless chain of debt that has crippled her sovereignty and perpetuated her dependency. This has rendered Nigeria weak and de-nationalized in her pursuit of its foreign policy. Before the committee of nations, Nigeria has no independent opinion or interest of her own.

To concretize this view, the study proceeded to look into Nigeria-U.S. relations particularly in the 21st century. It was discovered that the relation which started in the early 1920's gradually developed using trade economic relations as its major instrument. "These relations started with service aids and Christian activities, to construction, industry services, and trade exchange, to financial and other aid. In this process, the need to balance deficit arising from global economic crises led to borrowing or leaning system.
Basically, America is the dominant donor and has through interests, and rescheduling of debt continued to appropriate Nigeria's national surplus. Therefore, economy is the defining instrument of relations between Nigeria and the U.S.

CONCLUSION

Our conclusion therefore is that America has and is successfully pursuing her policy in Africa while at the same time defending and protecting her national interest by internationalizing the idea of capitalism. Her national interest has an upper hand over Nigeria's development. As we noted; Nigeria is still backward even with the loans granted to her by the international institution controlled mainly by the United States. When some of these loans are offered and intended for a period of time with only' five (5) years grace period for the repayment of these loans, the international Bank for Reconstruction and Development(IBRD) change an interest payment of up to 9.6 percent of all the disbursed loans and an additional charge is also levied as commitment fees
on un disbursed loan and again other charges are placed on administration assistance.

Our study has been able to prove that what United States wants from Nigeria are oil and trade, which ever pattern the trade assumes is a different thing altogether but. has been constructed to the disadvantage of Nigeria. But (hey believe that for any trade to prosper, there must be democracy, and for democracy to prosper there must be "liberty" whether we call it capitalism or imperialism, the truth remains that the globalization process has made liberalism and democracy a global concern: and the U.S. has been prosecuting these vigorously as part of the global design of America foreign policy.
Finally, we have to note critically here that no one should be under the illusion that these measures adopted by the U.S. in her relations with Nigeria is capable of advancing the country to the road of genuine national development. Even if the ideal of the contemporary U.S. foreign policy via globalization and democratization were possible in Nigeria, it is our contention that they do not present-a lasting solution to the possibilities of restructuring the recurrent underdevelopment problems. On the contrary, a permanent and long-term solution

of the present crisis is possible only by means of a qualitative transformation of the economy, and this is possible with the present existing capitalist setting, giving way to qualitative changes and ultimately to the establishment of a new socio-economic order which alone is capable of ushering in a new and autonomous developmental patterns with the potentialities of an independent international relations. Such socio-economic formation will naturally correspond to socialism.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the years, Nigeria and U.S. have been in good relations notwithstanding the interest of U.S. towards Nigeria which in the real sense of it cannot help Nigeria to develop following America Ideology and gospel of "GROWTH and OPPORTUNITY" for Nigeria. In this case "GROWTH" may imply economic growth without development and "OPPORTUNITY' from our analysis is to embrace Western Democracy and partake in (the globalization process and this informs American interest in the promotion of trade and investment in Nigeria.

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