



Journal Website:
<https://theusajournals.com/index.php/ijlc>

Copyright: Original content from this work may be used under the terms of the creative commons attributes 4.0 licence.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA RESEMBLANCE, SELF-GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN STRATEGY, 1999-2007

Submission Date: March 02, 2023, **Accepted Date:** March 07, 2023,

Published Date: March 11, 2023

Crossref doi: <https://doi.org/10.37547/ijlc/Volume03Issue03-01>

Anthony Engobes

Rivers State House Of Assembly, Assembly Complex, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt, Nigeria

ABSTRACT

Federal Republic of Nigeria picture was once poor prior the return of self-government in 1999. The fundamental purpose of this used to be the lengthy length of army rule which no longer solely dismantled democratic institutions, however made Nigeria a pariah State as a end result of corruption and draconian policies. The protracted army rule led to plethora of sanctions which led to complication on the populace. The return to democratic governance reinvented the State and ushered in diplomatic shuffles which culminated to the disposing of of the sanctions which finally readmitted the united states into world reckoning. This find out about opinions Federal Republic of Nigeria resemblance, self-government and overseas strategy, 1999–2007, adopting content material evaluation in the scrutiny of our facts and political economic system views as a paradigm for our analysis. It recommends superb Executive – Legislative Collaboration as a panacea for reaching positive and secure overseas strategy.

KEYWORDS

Corruption, self-government, resemblance, overseas strategy, Nigeria.

INTRODUCTION

‘Foreign strategy’, as a concept, is nebulous and defies a generally-acceptable definition (Aluko, 1981). Though one-of-a-kind students have described it from

extraordinary factors of view, every of these definitions ought to be stated to have stemmed from, and influenced by, abnormal ideological strands. The

thought of overseas coverage is of utmost hobby and significance to each and every nation, since, in accordance Dunmoye, Njoku & Alubo, eds. (2007:12), 'it connotes formal decisions/positions of sovereign states closer to their counterparts, described in phrases of political, economic, cultural/social and strategic geographical regions of inter-sovereign relationships, bilaterally and or multi-literally.' Foreign coverage in truth offers with the family members between sovereign actors in worldwide system. Foreign coverage goal consequently can be understood as a vary of supposed movements as properly as set techniques adopted by using some sovereign actors with the motive of influencing the behaviour of different sovereign actors inside the global system. Accordingly, Ogwu (2006:6) argues that the closing goals of any overseas coverage are to reap short-range or long-range dreams that make certain the superiority of one sovereign countrywide actor over another. That is, overseas coverage should be perceived as the pursuit of country wide interests. The milieu inside which overseas coverage is contrived and finished may want to be dichotomized into three primary realms; the psychological, the home and the external. The psychological realm denotes the intellectual manner of the selection maker(s) and all the elements that form the thought of the strategy. The home realm on the different hand is past the choice maker(s), however inside the territorial bounds of the state. The exterior realm offers with the global device into which the coverage is directed and this may want to be substantially unpredictable. The interface of the trio consequently is integral in the formula of overseas strategy.

Conscious of the truth that Nigeria exists inside the body work of law, the pursuit of these goals beforehand highlighted have been (and nevertheless

are) to be guided by using concepts such as "non-alignment, prison equality of states, non-interference in the home affairs of different states, multilateralism and Africa as the cornerstone or nerve centre of Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas strategy. Based on the foregoing therefore, specifically as the most populous black state in the world, Nigeria wittingly or unwittingly, has shouldered the management position of the black world; this has predicated her accountability some distance past her territorial borders.

In alignment with this view, Garba in Saliu (2006:197) observes that 'Nigerians abroad, I imply anyone now has his head low. In the olden days, you have been proud to be a Nigerian', the exterior picture of Nigeria hence put an aggravating price on Nigerians due to the fact the way a country is perceived to some extent determines the leverage it enjoys, hence, lending credence to the city sociologist who preserve that the whole city lifestyles revolves round affect management. Nigeria thus, incurred unsavoury value due to her bad resemblance, which led to world isolation and dwindling danger to her management function in Africa.

General Abubakar's transition programme opened the gate of heaven for the triumph of Nigeria into political reckoning. A system of restoration ancient wounds with Federal Republic of Nigeria buddies and allies commenced and warning signs of what to count on got here all through the inauguration of President Obasanjo on May 29, 1999. The tournament attracted over forty Heads of States and Governments, thus, signalling the country's resumption of prominence in Africa and World affairs. The inauguration stays the greatest gathering over 4 many years of Federal Republic of Nigeria existence as a State. The transition of Nigeria from army to civil self-government in 1999

flog-jumped her overseas coverage posture from State of alienation to State of acceptance. Ogwu and Agbu (2006:249) examine that 'All hitherto closed doorways are being opened inside a quick length of 5 years, Nigeria as a us of a seems to have been welcomed again to the comity of nations.

Unlike the navy leaders, president Obasanjo installed the management function of a depressed nation with spectacular and intimidating credentials. He used to be no longer solely cerebral however additionally vastly skilled for the job; having as soon as been a Head of State below one of the army juntas between 1966 to 1999; thus, he should be adjourned to have good sized expertise of the intricacies of power, politicking and diplomacy having served in many global bodies, attended endless conferences and delivered papers as properly as written books on extensive array of issues. He had equally sat at world discussion board with world leaders. Therefore, the challenges of the new job may also now not be too problematic.

Foreign coverage making shape have to take consciousness of the reality that, in a Presidential device of authorities the place a popularly elected President is the Chief Executive, as it is in Nigeria, the behavior of overseas strategy, as of any different public strategy, must, in the remaining analysis, additionally be examined in the wider context of the large institutional interplay between the govt and the legislature. It is substantial to kingdom that the government has usually been a dominant participant in Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas strategy. The position of the legislature had most frequently been invisible. Consequent upon this therefore, this find out about try to current a rounded appreciation of the relationship between the legislature and govt in the formation and implementation of Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas coverage between 1999 to 2007; that

is the Obasanjo's years as President of the Federal Republic. We hope that at the end, we would make suggestions that would engender increased effectivity that would in addition boast Federal Republic of Nigeria exterior resemblance.

Theoretical Framework In this research, we adopted the political economic system standpoint as our conceptual body work. The beginning of the time period "Political Economy" dates again to the duration when it was once used to find out about the way manufacturing used to be carried out in international locations born out of the new capitalist system. More specifically, it was once the relation between the manufacturing machine and law, customs and the government. Theories of political financial system have been used to find out about the production, distribution and consumption of items and offerings and their fine administration in a united states of america or a authorities system.

Understanding politics as a technique of bargaining amongst rational choice makers making an attempt to achieve and hold political power, political economic system is now not a constant concern or self-discipline however a recurrent mode of conceptualizing social life. Its scope or discipline of imaginative and prescient has broadened and narrowed at unique instances as financial trust structures have alternately displaced or rekindled pastime in necessary troubles such as human equality and growth. Contributing to the fore-going. The cutting-edge utilization of political financial system viewpoint used to be a introduction of 1/3 world students as a response to the poverty of ample clarification to atypical troubles that confront periphery social formations. It used to be championed with the aid of the works of revolutionary pupils like Andre Gunder Frank, G. Arrigli, Wellersterin I. Samir Amin, Claude Ake, Okwudiba Nnoli to identify however

a few. The method now not solely focuses interest on the administration of the society's cloth wealth and distribution amongst the a range of classes, it additionally evaluations conflicts which occur from these processes.

The political economic system mannequin presents a right paradigm for this analysis, due to the fact it directs discourse on how items and offerings are allotted at each the home and exterior fronts. It is additionally precious in inspecting useful resource allocation and provider transport in the relationship between organs and establishments of the State. Furthermore, it evaluations troubles of governance, inequality, democratization, financial and social members of the family which form the inner and exterior members of the family of State. This paradigm consequently gives us with course for the evaluation of Federal Republic of Nigeria resemblance, self-government and overseas strategy.

The former Chairman Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, Aminu Jubril conceptualizes overseas strategy as a contraction of home insurance policies which, to all intents and purposes, allows any nation's relevance and participation in the worldwide device (PAC, 2005:23). That is, it is the choices a country takes in admire of its members of the family with some other state or the combination of a country's insurance policies in its interplay with different member of the worldwide neighborhood and taking issues of positive variables of home and exterior environment. Aminu similarly states that, no state can pursue a meaningful, truly successful, overseas coverage eliminated from its genuine status, politically, economically and socially.

In the method of coverage making and implementation, group remember a incredible deal (Olusanya and Akindele, 1999:532). These

establishments legitimize each the coverage procedure and outcomes. Thus, in the method and implementation of Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas strategy, the apparently anarchical however absolutely pluralistic institutional shape that emerged when you consider that 1960 confront pupils with the tantalizing project of offering an knowledgeable evaluation and evaluative examination of the organizational paradigm via which particular choices are processed, made and carried out via the applicable actors. There is no doubt therefore, that the institutionalization of buildings and procedure beautify possibilities for administrative modernization, hence, help in consolidating development.

What is obvious, therefore, is that no single character or group makes the states overseas strategy. While the President is the primary overseas coverage actor, he as a count number of routine, depends on the recommendation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs who in flip depends on the recommendation from Professional Foreign Service Officers in the Ministry; different actors whose opinion construct into the overseas coverage procedure consist of the legislative arm of government, the excessive echelon of the Military, the press, lecturers and college students of greater institution, change unions and many expert and financial associations. All these contributors have at one time or the different influenced the path of Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas strategy.

Before the duration underneath review, Nigeria had eleven one-of-a-kind Heads of governments as follows; Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Major General Aguiyi-Ironsi, General Yakubu Gowon, General Murtala Muhammed, General Olusegun Obasanjo, Alhaji Shehu Shagari, General Muhamadu Buhari, General Ibrahim Babangida, Chief Ernest Shonekon, General Sani Abacha and General Abdulsalami Abubakar. Three out

of the eleven have been civilians, the relaxation being army dictators. Even the three leaders mentioned, one – Chief Ernest Shonekon used to be now not democratically elected, but, was once an imposition of the dictatorship of the army led by way of General Babangida. Shonekon remains the shortest serving Head of State, having been eliminated via a cold palace coup with the aid of Babangida's compatriot, General Sani Abacha. The different two heads of authorities that went via democratic method had been no longer allowed to conclude their tenures in office. While Alhaji Tafawa Balewa used to be brutally murdered in 1966 by means of Major Chukuma Nzeogu and his cohorts in a bloodful coupe, Shehu Shagari used to be ousted from workplace through General Muhamadu Buhari at the early days, to be particular three months into his assumption of workplace for a 2nd time period of 4 years as the democratically elected President of Nigeria. Under every of the governments, the behavior of Federal Republic of Nigeria exterior family members has been publicly declared to be guided by means of the identical well-established ideas as highlighted in the introductory section of this paper. Thus, from Sir Abubakar via General Abdulsalami, Nigeria has made it clear in her overseas coverage pronouncements and moves that in spite of her comparative gain in size, populace and sources over different African countries, she would neither be seeking for to dominate nor be searching for to lift out aggressive navy motion in opposition to them. Undisputedly, Nigeria is a massive and primus inter pares in Black Africa. Successive Nigerian leaders have been very cautious to draw a difference between 'domination' and 'leadership'; she has desired to play a management however now not an imperial role.

In his willpower to re-brand Nigeria and revert the extremely 'isolationist' posture assumed by using the Buhari's regime toward the global community, General

Badamosi Babangida seized strength via a palace coupe on twenty seventh August, 1985. The Babangida's coup was, in extra customary terms, a coup for peripheral capitalism. A regime used to be wished to as soon as once more carry nearer and re-hegemonize the two factions of capital whose co-operation made peripheral accumulation possible: overseas capital and nearby compradors (Asobie and Ibeanu, 1988:9-10). Thus, the administration commenced a restructuring of the overseas coverage potentials of Nigeria. At the home front, Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) used to be introduced. SAP met the admiration of the Western Capitalist countries and they grew to be the most vocal reward singers of the programme; whilst at the overseas front, Babangida adopted financial diplomacy as the thrust of its overseas strategy. During this period, it should be stated rightly too that Nigeria contributed to the starting of the quit of colonialism and apartheid in the continent. Namibia used to be liberated and Nelson Mandela was once released. Also, ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), a Regional intervention mediation pressure to stop the protracted civil conflict in Liberia and Sierra Leone was once formed. Nigeria in addition set up ties with Israel damaged due to the fact 1963 and instituted the Technical Aid Corps Scheme (TACS). The Shonekon Interim National Government (ING) (September, 1993-November, 1993) did now not make any landmark fulfillment of observe due to the fact the authorities used to be nevertheless understudying the gadget earlier than it was once ousted by way of General Abacha.

The non-involvement of the parliament in overseas coverage things was once seen in 1960-1966 as a movement calling on the Balewa authorities to set up a Parliamentary Committee on the flooring of the House failed. This committee was once to study matters related with Foreign Affairs. According to

Olusanya and Akindele (1986:26), Jaja Wachuku's argument in Parliament used to be certainly a peculiar and curious one that the introduction of the committee would end result in the manipulate of the behavior of overseas members of the family being taken away with the aid of the cabinet. Parliament and Cabinet at this length had been interestingly considered to be engaged in a zero-sum recreation in which the positive factors of one have been equal to the loss of the other. A excellent notion might also be assassinated with the aid of the weight of Parliamentary votes. The army interregnum of 1966-1979 had no legislature to work with but depended closely on thoughts from a variety of suppose tank companies in the Nigerian society on overseas coverage matters. It can also be stated that Mohammed – Obasanjo regime triumphed in overseas coverage problems and in addition set Nigeria in suitable historic landmark in the comity of nations.

To keep an positive profile in exterior relations, Special Committees on overseas family members had been created in each chambers of the National Assembly. The House of Representatives installed a twenty-five member Foreign Affairs Committee below the Chairmanship of Alhaji Abubakar Sani, whilst the Senate additionally constituted a committee on Foreign Relations consisting of 9 Senators with Alhaji Jallo Waziri as its Chairman (Akindele, 1982:496). The Committees at each Houses had been free to observe things and referrals to them on overseas affairs. This used to be a departure from the Nigerian Parliament 1960 – 1966. (Akindele, 1983) superior that it is controversial whether or not the committee made an affect on the behavior and manipulate of the country's overseas strategy. Besides the problems raised above, some of the challenges confronted via the Foreign Affairs Committees at each Chambers have been that they have been no longer supported safely with research staff, they met as a substitute occasionally

and took too a great deal time to record to their respective father or mother our bodies (Olusanya and Akindele, 1986:27). The army juntas that accompanied thereafter lacked legitimacy and mandate of the people, hence, may want to no longer establish the resemblance of self-government – the legislature which would have mounted committees on Foreign Affairs. As usual, the legislature was once sacked.

The home and overseas policies of the Abuja authorities 1999-2007 re-launched Nigeria to international reckoning; the as soon as battered photo used to be cleared and there was once a rejuvenation of hope and have faith in Nigeria and Nigerians. Many of the home insurance policies especially, the institution of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) geared in the direction of the revitalization of Nigeria from corruption to glory set the country in advance in its warfare towards corruption. The Commissions below the Law have electricity to look into instances of corruption, monetary crime referred to or uncovered by way of it. The EFCC made indelible marks in the battle in opposition to corruption. Casualties such as the former Inspector General of Police, Tafa Balogun, Senate President, Senator Adolphus Wabara, Cabinet Ministers of Education Professor Fabian Osuji, and the Ministry of Health Prof. Greenge as properly as the Permanent Secretary of that Ministry and Senator Iyabo Obasanjo. Others are rankings of ex - Governors and many others have been detained and prosecuted. The Transparency International itself has accorded awareness to the efforts of the buildings and the political will of the President in conflict corruption, a essential pillar on which Federal Republic of Nigeria bad photo is primarily based (Saliu, 2006:256). However, critics of the authorities see the combat as selective and focused solely in opposition to perceived

enemies of the Obasanjo Government. Furthermore, his sensitivity to the desires of Nigerians thru the retirement of political army officers from Armed forces in order to make certain the everlasting subordination of the navy to authorities authority attracted the admiration of the worldwide community. The consolidation coverage in banking and insurance plan which used to be aimed at setting apart the wheat from the chaff as nicely as the combat on counterfeit and pretend capsules with the aid of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration have been insurance policies put in area to put Nigeria in the the front burner and make the united states greater admirable and relied on by way of our overseas friends.

CONCLUSION

A dialogue of the Federal Republic of Nigeria overseas strategy, 1999 -2007 is an annotation of the eight years of Obasanjo's overseas strategy, given that he superintended over the state in the duration below overview as the Chief diplomat, he extra or much less dominated Federal Republic of Nigeria political scene so frighteningly that it is pointless checklist his casualties now not solely amongst his opponents however additionally inside his pals of the day before today demonized into the toxic enemies of today. It is essential to kingdom that earlier than the length underneath review, Nigeria had been a pariah State, however via the efforts of the legislature and executive, Nigeria was once launched lower back into international reckoning. The hitherto closed doorways grew to be opened. The National Assembly, the Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its corporations and different establishments of the State facilitated the process. The Obasanjo led Federal Government was once capable to obtain that toes due to the fact of his dexterity and assumed battle towards corruption thru the putting up of anti - graft

Institutions like the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) and the strengthening of anti – corruption Institutions.

REFERENCES

1. Akindele, R. A. (1982). The National Assembly and External Affairs, Nigerian Forum, Lagos: NIIA.
2. Akindele, R. A. (1990). The Operation & Management of Federal Republic of Nigeria Foreign Strategy System: Reflections on the Experience of the First Thirty Years" in Olusanya G., O. and Akindele R., A. (eds), The Structure and Processes of Foreign Strategy Making and Implementation in Nigeria, 1960 – 1990. Ibadan: Vantage Publishers International Ltd.
3. Akinyemi, B. (1983). A Farewell to Strategy. NIIA Lecture Series, 35, mentioned in Hassan A.
4. Aluko, O. (1981). Essays on Nigerian Foreign Strategy. London: George, Allen and Union.
5. Aminu, J. (2005). The Impact of Domestic Environment on Foreign Strategy. A Publication of the Presidential Advisory Council on International Relations (PAC) 2005. Foreign coverage in Federal Republic of Nigeria Democratic Transition, Abuja.