



**A CASE STUDY ON THE CAUSES OF ETHNIC CONFLICT  
WITHIN NIGERIA.**

**BY  
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## **ABSTRACT**

Ethnic conflict in Nigeria has led to the lack of peace and harmony. Nigeria is a complex country in Africa with over 300 ethnic groups and 120 different languages spoken throughout the country. The issue of discrimination, based on “We” and “Them,” negatively affect the socio-economic and political development of Nigeria. Since the day of independence, there has been the struggle for superiority and recognition among the various ethnic groups that led to the Nigerian civil war from 1967-70. Colonization, the struggle for position and power, resource control, social class status and land dispute has been the causes of ethnic conflicts within Nigeria. The objectives of this study are to explain the root causes of ethnic conflicts that lead to ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria and to evaluate the magnitude of human and material resources destroyed as a result of such conflicts. A historical research method was employed for gathering secondary data from sources such as books, newspapers, magazines, dictionaries, journals, government publications and online information. The result revealed that the six geo-political zones of Nigeria namely; North West, North East, North Central, South West, South-South and South East zones have all witnessed all kinds of ethnic conflicts resulted from the same set of causes. Based on the findings, it was recommended that Nigeria should stop the practice of federalism and embrace confederation, which will give the country and its people autonomy to rule and manage their resources. The government should not be biased in sharing the wealth of the nation, one ethnic group, in particular, should not be favored against another.

**Keywords:** Nigeria, Conflicts, Ethnic Conflicts, Peace

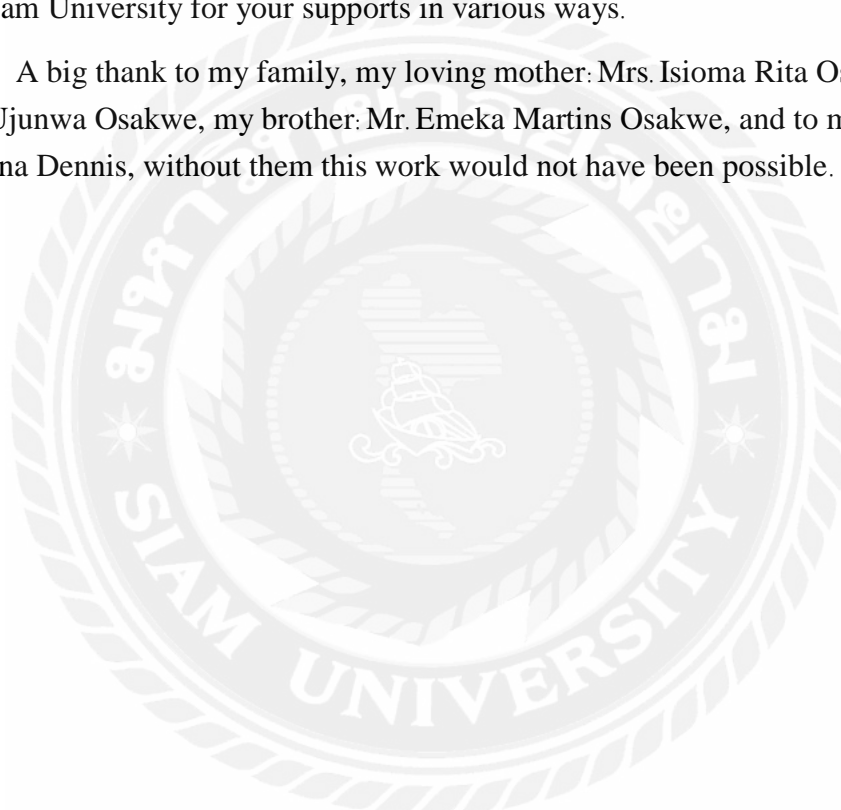
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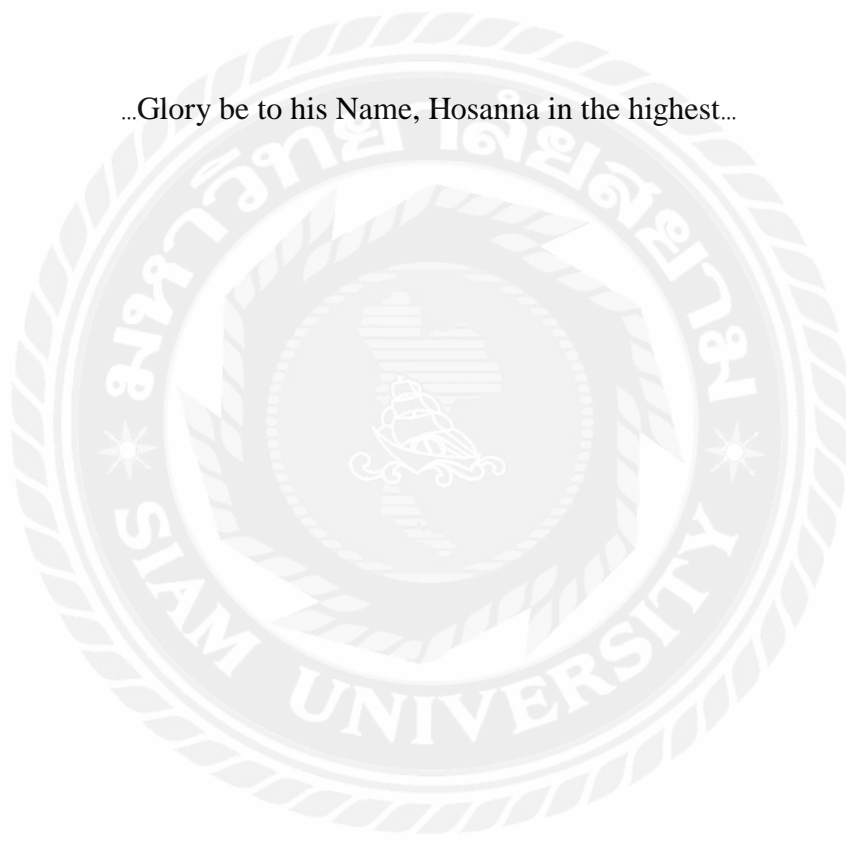
A big thank to my family, my loving mother: Mrs. Isioma Rita Osakwe, my wife: Esther Ujunwa Osakwe, my brother: Mr. Emeka Martins Osakwe, and to my friend: Mr. Nwaizu Obinna Dennis, without them this work would not have been possible.



## DEDICATION

I dedicate this Research Study to **God Almighty** my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. He has been the source of my strength throughout this program and on His wings only have I soared.

...Glory be to his Name, Hosanna in the highest...



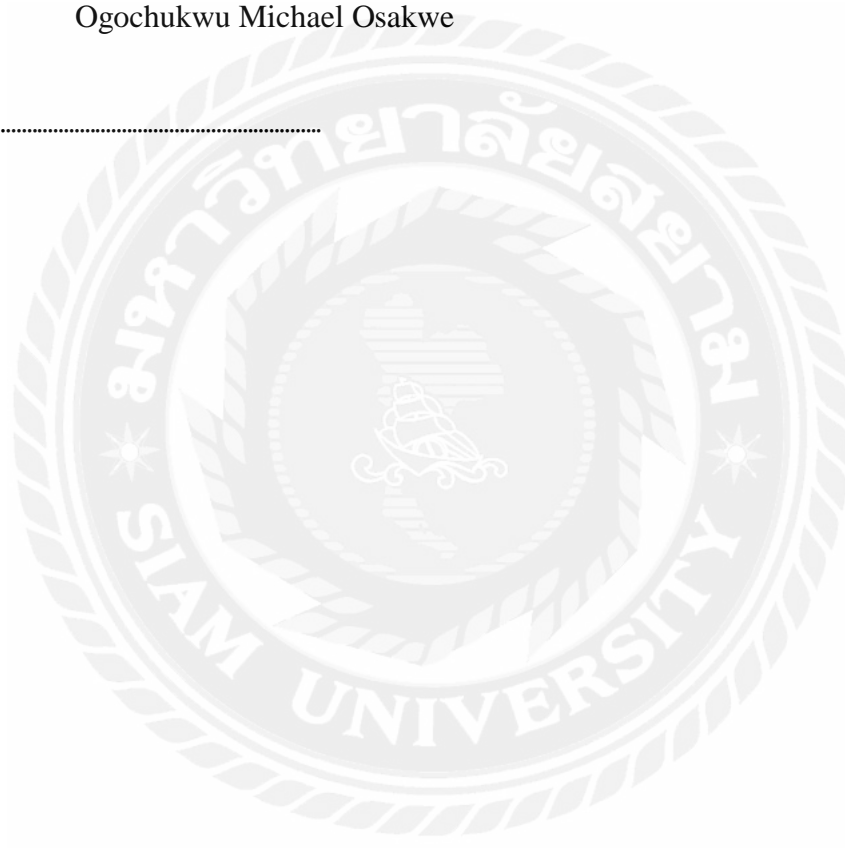
**DECLARATION**

I, Mr. Ogochukwu Michael Osakwe, hereby declare that this independent study is the record of authentic work carried out by me. I may have discussed the paper with others and used advice and suggestions from others in writing it, but the paper is my own original work and is neither copied from another source without proper acknowledgement, nor written for me by another person, in whole or in part, and has not been submitted to any other university or institution for the award of any degree or diploma.

**Signature:**

**Name:** Ogochukwu Michael Osakwe

**Date:** .....



**ABBREVIATION**

APC	Arewa	People's	Congress.
EBA	Egbesu Boys of Africa		
FCT	Federal Capital Territory		
HDI	Human Development Index		
HDR	Human Development Report		
INC	Ijaw National Congress		
IYC	Ijaw Youth Council		
LGA	Local Governments' Areas		
MASSOB	Movement for the Actualization of Sovereign state of Biafra		
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission		
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization		
OAUTHC	Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospitals Complex		
ONSOPADEC	Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission		
OPC	Oodua People's Congress		
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program		
UN	United Nations		
USIP	United States Institute of Peace		
WHO	World Health Organization		

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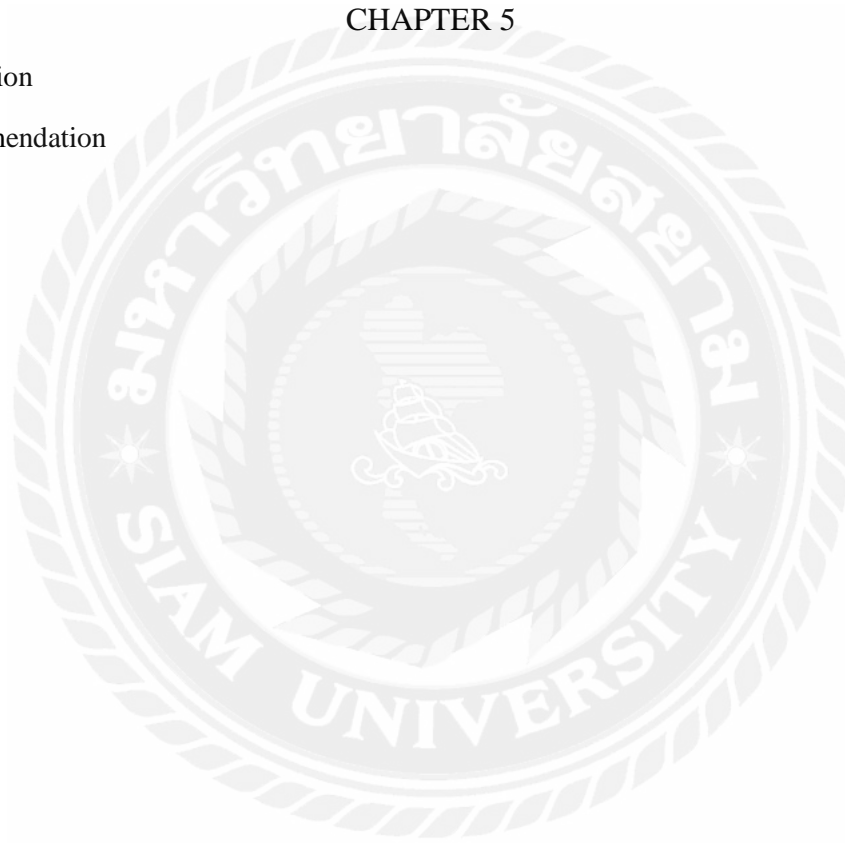
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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Nigeria is a country in the continent of Africa, with over 300 ethnic groups and 120 different languages spoken in the country. Nigeria has two major religious affiliations Christianity and Islam, which are both the origin and history of ethnic conflict in the country. The ethnic groups have all seen themselves as a rival competing for power and decision making over economic resources. Today the country faces a more serious challenge to peace and stability as a result of ethnic differences; this has led to insecurity, instability, poverty and corrupt political institutions in the country.

According to Reuter (2015) International peace and security has been mainly threatened by ethnic clashes. The clashes in Balkans, Rwanda, Chechnya, Iraq, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India, and Darfur, as well as in Israel where the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are the worst examples of the late 20th and 21st centuries. Ethnic chaos is the widely known result of unstable province, states and most of the case, the whole region. These incidents are associated with ethnic clashes, multitude human right violations, genocide and crimes against humanity, all make the economic to fall to the lowest, state failure and refugee crises. Chaos in ethnic clashes often led to huge human hardship.

Many African countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan, Burundi and many more have experienced series of conflict, that occurred between communities, ethnic groups and religious groups and Nigeria is not excluded. Conflict have been linked to ethnicity and this have led to serious loss of life and property in many areas of the country.

The first years of Nigerian independence were characterized by severe conflicts within and between regions (InfoPlease, 2012). Compounding the problem of underdevelopment in a poor country like Nigeria is ethno nationalism, access to resources and allocation of power poses a great threat to peace, security and progress of the nation. Nigeria has a long history of ethnic conflict in which development cannot take place.

According to StudyMode Website (2013), the problem of Nigeria ethnicity and ethnic clashes has its roots from the history of colonialism, which forcefully brought the ethnic groups of the northern and southern states to form the entity called Nigeria in the year 1914. In addition to the problem, StudyMode, (2013) stated that the case of Nigeria circumstance with past event of colonialism distress have brought into existence, hatred and clashes within different ethnic groups.

As the case may be, the country persists and remains polarized along ethnic divisions. Lack of trust and discrimination has frequently characterized the features relationship of all the ethnic groups in the country, affecting unity, peace and stability of the country. Nigeria has

witness series and countless of different ethnic crisis / violence such as the Igbo-Hausa crisis in Kano, Hausa-Yoruba crisis in Lagos and Ogun States, Zagon-Kataf in Kaduna State, Jukun-Tiv in Taraba State, Birom-Hausa in Plateau State, among others, the civil war of 1967-1970 and many more which have threatened the unity and well-being of Nigeria.

Ife-Modakeke chaos is the ancient intra-ethnic clashes in Nigeria archive. Nigeria southwestern state Osun belongs to Yoruba tribe where both Ife and Modakeke are part of the same tribe and state. These two communities of Ife and Modakeke are both descendants of Oduduwa, the ancestral father of the Yoruba people according to hereditary traditional story. The two community's lifestyle and governance operational way are greatly identical and their surrounding spreading greatly with one another. Ife and Modakeke are both relatives, but they have fought each other in a bitter struggle clashes for century (Akanle,2009).

The circumstance continued to impact negatively on the forces of national integration and cohesion in ethnically divided Nigeria. A country that is troubled with series of ethnic difficulty can only face enormous loss of lives, destruction of property and refugee crisis, that frequently redirect the attention of government from the business of governance to crisis management. To end ethnic conflict in Nigeria, an effort must be made to create and foster an enabling environment which result in peace, stability and assured the security and well-being of the people and the optimal use of human and natural resources to promote and improvement the quality and value of all citizens.

According to AnswersAfrica (2013) Nigeria largest tribe is the Hausa, which makes up to 29 % of the country population. The Hausas occupied the northern part of Nigeria, Niger Republic southern part and Chad Republic west end are also being occupied by the Hausas. The rural and urban areas in northern part of Nigeria consists of Kano, Kaduna, Jos, Katsina, Abuja, Sokoto, Bauchi, Birnin Kebbi, Damaturu, Gombe and Jos. Most often these two tribes in Nigeria, Hausa and Fulani, have the same identity in their tradition and lifestyle which makes them to be called Hausa-Fulani. One of the main tribes in Nigeria are the Igbos with measured amount of people inheriting their ancestry from the Igbo tribes. Past events show that the Igbo tribes were from Nri kingdom, one of the oldest kingdom in Nigeria.

Culturally, Igbos are productive. During the Stone Age they produce bronze ceremonial vessels as way of their culture and heritage. The south-eastern part of Nigeria and some of the main cities such as; Enugu, Onitsha, Owerri, Asaba, Awka, Abakiliki, Abia, Orlu are habitable by the Igbo tribes. (AnswersAfrica, 2013). Nigeria population of 21% is the Yoruba tribe and this amount to 40 million people. The Yoruba tribes occupied the southwestern part of Nigeria and also spread across some of the West African countries like Benin Republic, Ghana, Togo and surprisingly the Caribbean. The Yoruba has ancient past event of poetry and arts in 1100 to 1700, which produce magnificent bronze statues which represent their goods and their rulers in heads form, they produce so much bead work, metalwork weaving and mask making as part of artworks (AnswersAfrica, 2013).

Picture No 1: - Ethnic Map of Nigeria



Source: <http://www.onlinenigeria.com/mapethnic.asp>

Regarding origin of the name of the country, Flora Shaw, a British journalist and a writer, created the name Nigeria. Shaw suggested the name Nigeria to the Times of London through a message on January 8th of 1897. The name Nigeria was proposed to the British Protectorate along the Niger River. Shaw research writing to be used for a short form "agglomeration of pagan and Mahomedan States" which was operating under Royal Niger Company territories as an official name. The thinking of Royal Niger Company Territories as a term is too long for a name of a Real Estate Property which was Shaw concern. She then looked for a name and called it Nigeria, liking to such as Central Sudan" that were known with the area by some geographers and travelers (Wikipedia, 2016).

The 19th century saw the British manipulation over the most-biggest Africa nation called Nigeria. The year 1960, independence of Nigeria from the British were declared. After the Second World War, many events constituted Nigerian the self-rule of their own nation. Nigeria, for more than 40 years, was governed by the military between the 1966-79 and 1983-98. It just became a constitution state in 1999 with some peaceful handover from civilian to civilian in the past 16 years of democracy. Nigeria still have its ethnic and religious hostility up to date, with the 2003 and 2007 election reported to be fraud and with chaos, at the moment the nation is seen as the longest democracy form of government in the history of the country since its independence.

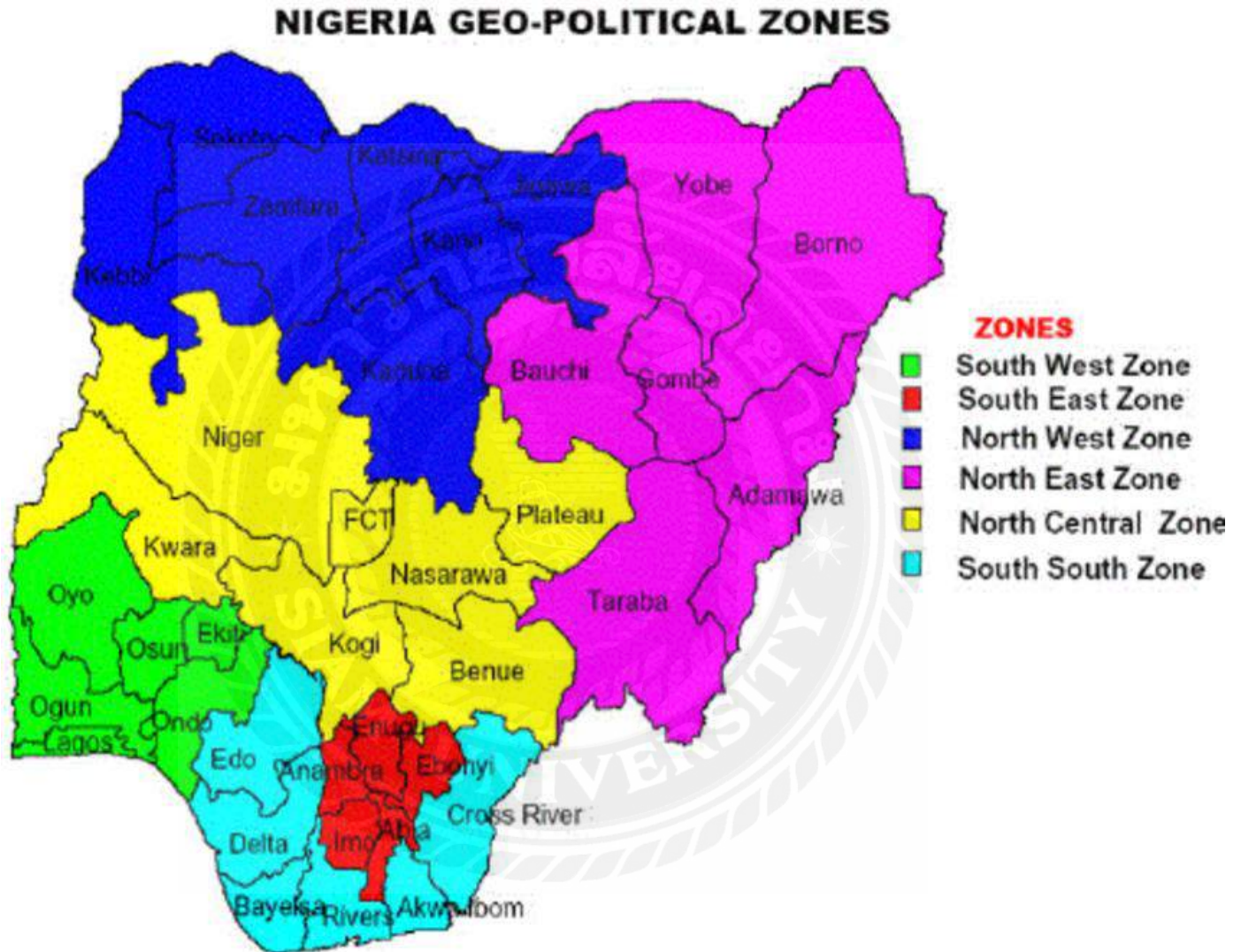


The April 2007 election was noted to be the first transition of power from a civilian to a civilian in the history of the nation, while the 2011 election was recognized as free and fair. Nigeria in January 2014 gained a non-permanent seat in the UN security council for 2014-15 era (Online, 2014).

Nowadays, the Federal Republic of Nigeria is made up with 36 states with 774 local governments' areas (LGA) and 9,565 wards with the Federal Capital Territory located in Abuja (FCT). The nation is divided into six geopolitical zones such as; North Central - North West - North East - South West - South East and South-South. The nation is still in chaos up to date, due to the inefficient of the leaders to supply enough sociopolitical and economic stability to all the ethnic groups. The living standard of Nigeria citizens is very poor and it has grown into an epidemic, such that almost 100 million are living below \$1 per day, even though the nation economic has grown so much. According to the National Bureau of Statistic of 2010, 60.9% of Nigeria citizen still live definitely in hardship, which rose from 54.7% in 2004. (BBC, 2012).

Picture No 2: -Nigerian Map showing Six Geopolitical Regions, Thirty-Six States and One

FCT



Source: [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/290211693\\_fig2\\_Figure-2-Nigerian-Map-showing-](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/290211693_fig2_Figure-2-Nigerian-Map-showing-Six-Geopolitical-Regions-Thirty-Six-States-and-One-FCT)

[Six-Geopolitical-Regions-Thirty-Six-States-and-One-FCT](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/290211693_fig2_Figure-2-Nigerian-Map-showing-Six-Geopolitical-Regions-Thirty-Six-States-and-One-FCT)

## 1.2 Significance of the Problem

As mentioned in the background of the study, Nigeria is a complex country with over 300 ethnic groups and 120 different languages spoken in the country. According to Nnenna (2014), Nigeria citizens are radical when it comes to ethnicity. This makes it easy for Nigerians to be annoyed when being referred to as another tribe which is not them. The problem of antisemitism has destroyed the socioeconomic and political growth of the nation. Nigeria, as a country, been rooted on "we" and "them" that has had a bad impact on the nation. This is not the real image of federal nation, diversification in ethnicity has been the sociological issues holding back the progress of Nigeria as a nation. In addition to the issue, according to Nnenna, (2014); the entity called Nigeria is a forced marriage in which the people involved were not been asked if they want to be one nation. The battle for supremacy has brought chaos among the ethnic groups since the independent of Nigeria, which also had led to civil war between 1967-70. This war was fought between the Igbo tribes called Biafra and the Nigeria federal government, which was led by General Yakubu Gowon and mainly populated by the Hausa's.

While every main ethnic groups in Nigeria have taken advantage against other groups, they have created militants for their own selfish purpose which are not legitimate. Because of the absent of the law enforcement agencies, they formed some watchful groups that have done more chaos than good (PBS, 2007).

Political supremacy and lack of availability of economic wealth is responsible for the epidemic of ethnic militant in Nigeria as a nation. These are ethnic groups militants and their base in the country, South West occupied by - the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), South East - the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB), South-South - the Egbesu Boys of Africa (EBA), North (North West, North Central and North East) - the Arewa People's Congress etc. These affiliated groups are certainly made up of youths and they profess to represent ethnic groups and their interest.

In addition, disaster to the nation's socioeconomic progress goal also been caused by the ethnic militant activities in Nigeria. Many ethnic groups want to fulfill their own interest at the cost of the nation, which happen to be the real truth about the circumstance of Nigeria. The disaster to the progress of Nigeria in aspect of politics of bitterness, culture of impunity, moral decadence, hooliganism and many more are due to the events of militants groups in the nation.

Investigating Nigeria as the giant of Africa, with over 300 ethnic groups overwhelming velocity of ethnic clashes is very interesting, the reason is that most main causes of the clashes such as; politics, power, economic, culture and regional issues have been abandoned as cause factors to the Nigerian clashes, the research will center the main root of ethnic clashes in Nigeria and how dangerous it will be in the future.

The research will look on the effect that ethnic clashes have done to the socioeconomic and political progress of Nigeria, which will also look at all the most affected states that have suffered from the ethnic clashes.

This investigation job will be used as a fair root of character progress. The investigation will identify the main source that is producing ethnic chaos in Nigeria, with important data available for people. It will be used as recorded proof that widen the understanding of the ethnic leaders, followers and policy makers on the atrocity of ethnic clashes in Nigeria. A preferable policy formulation right from the local, state and national levels would enhance in correcting problems relating to ethnic clashes in Nigeria. The anticipated benefits of this investigation are that it will be used as a way towards the progress of a policy plan and notable force in peaceful co-existence among the practitioners of different ethnicity in Nigeria.

Upon these mentioned rationale, the research study got my attention while I was moved on my last visit to Zaria, one of the major city in Kaduna State in northern Nigeria. I found out that they were in some kind of disagreement with the next community. Less than a day they were killing among the ethnic groups over the unresolved issue. I got interest to know more why circumstances like this occur among the ethnic groups in Nigeria. I want to learn more on conflict issue and learn how to prevent and profound solution when needed in the future.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

This research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To evaluate the magnitude of human and material resources destroyed as a result of ethnic conflict in Nigeria
2. To explain the roots causes of ethnic conflicts in Nigeria
3. To recommend a comprehensive strategy for resolving ethnic conflict in Nigeria

## **1.4 Definition of terms**

### **Conflict**

According to Wikipedia. (2016, 09 28), conflict refers to some form of friction, disagreement, or discord arising within a group when the beliefs or actions of one or more members of the group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more members of another group.

### **Conflict Prevention**

Conflict Prevention in this paper refers to strategies, mechanisms used to avoid, reduce or control potential violent conflicts, and to prevent violent conflict from re-occurring or happening. These mechanisms help to control potential violent conflicts or dispute from escalating into violence. Despite the development and effort of various government agencies and NGOs working together to promote social justice, conflict resolution, good governance and participatory sustainable development, the number of violent conflicts has increase rather than decrease in Nigeria.

## **Conflict Resolution**

In this study, conflict resolution refers to the methods or process of attempting to find solution to settle a dispute. In today Nigeria, very few people involved in conflict resolution are trained to either prevent or settle disputes (Fatunde,2010). Fatunde further stated that the University of Ibadan recently signed a memorandum of understanding with two government agencies to establish an Institute of Peace that will train people in this crucial field.

In addition, three major events in the recent past have galvanized the government to seek the creation of a peace institute: the crisis in Niger Delta, Nigeria's economic honey pot; the ethnic-religious conflict in Plateau State, the country's tin producing region; and Nigeria's involvement in the multi-ethnic conflict in Darfur, in south west Sudan.

## **Ethnicity**

Ethnicity refers to shared cultural practices, perspectives, and distinctions that set apart one group of people from another. That is, ethnicity is a shared cultural heritage. The most common characteristics distinguishing various ethnic groups are ancestry, a sense of history, language, religion, and forms of dress. Ethnic differences are not inherited; they are learned (Harcourt, 2016).

## **Ethnic Conflict**

According to (Wikipedia, 2016) Ethnic conflict is a conflict between two or more contending ethnic groups. While the source of the conflict may be political, social, or economic, the individuals in conflict must expressly fight for their ethnic group's position within society.

## **National Stability**

National Stability refers to the common or characteristics of a whole nation in a state of being stable or peacefully united.

## **Peace**

Peace, is seen as harmony and tranquility with the absence of violence and freedom from fear of violence. Peace in Nigeria is critical to regional stability. The government should be held accountable in ensuring peace and unity in Nigeria. The leader's must step-in to inform and educate the public, mostly the uneducated citizens about the unity and peaceful living among the ethnic groups, with the main theme of equality and oneness. This can be spread through all form of media to the massive population. Nigeria was built on the foundations of peace and unity. They should support the Nigerian dream of unity in diversity and stay strong, peaceful, and united despite the challenges ahead of them.

## **Peace Building**

Peace Building in this study is the mechanisms designed to facilitate and ensure that stability and peace is reinstated and prevent the recurrence of conflicts by promoting peace building and reconciliation through social, political and economic transformation. Today, the united states institute of peace (USIP) work jointly with the Inter-Faith Mediation Center to promote religious peace building and reduce conflict in the Niger Delta area by funding and facilitating dialogue among the three ethnic groups locked in competition and conflict.



## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

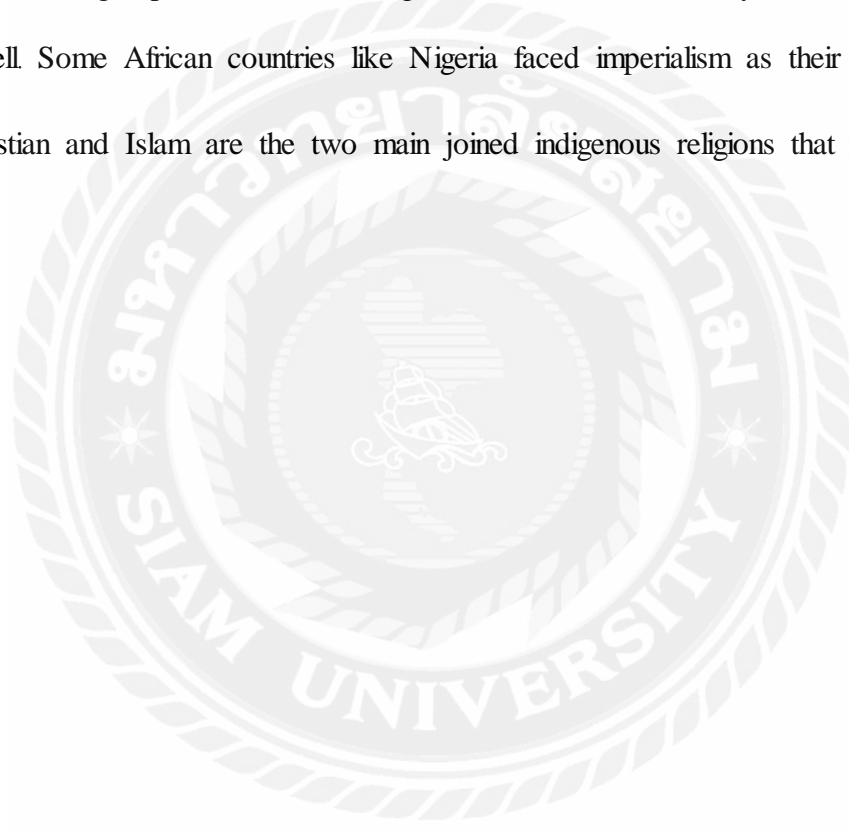
#### 2.1 A Brief History of Modern Nigeria

Nigeria, gained independence on October 1st 1960 from the British and became a republic on October 1, 1963. Nigeria is known as the "Giant of Africa" and the largest African nation in the world. Nigeria is a country on the coast of West Africa, bordered by the Bight of Benin and the Gulf of Guinea in south. Nigeria is bordered by Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. It shares maritime borders with Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, and São Tomé and Príncipe. With an area of 923,768 km<sup>2</sup> the country is almost four times the size of the UK or slightly more than twice the size of the U.S. state California. Nigeria's main rivers are the Niger, where it got its name from, and the Benue, the main tributary of the Niger. The country's highest point is Chappal Waddi (or Gangirwal) with 2,419 m (7,936 ft.), located in the Adamawa mountains in the Gashaka-Gumti National Park, Taraba State, on the border with Cameroon (Online, 2014).

As of 2015, the estimated population of the country is over 182,202,000 million (World Health Organization WHO, 2015).

This is the 7th most populated country in the world with 39%-51% literacy. Nigeria have more than 300 tribes, which the biggest are Husa-Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba, Ijaw, Kanuri, Annang, Tiv, Ibibio, Etsako and Efik, which some smaller tribes different from those mentioned are in

few percentages that makes up the total tribes in Nigeria. Almost 120 different languages are spoken in Nigeria, which English is an official language of the country that 70% of the population are Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, this is the outcome of British colonization which took some years. (Answers Africa, 2013). Some factors are responsible for the unrest in Nigeria, which religious doctrine that is proclaimed as truth, tradition, ways of life and attitude of each ethnic's groups towards other ethnic group have divided Nigeria, which has not really makes the country to bound very well. Some African countries like Nigeria faced imperialism as their colonial masters evil deed. Christian and Islam are the two main joined indigenus religions that is proclaimed as truth.



Picture No 3: - A map of territorial boundaries of West African countries



Source: <https://www.mapsofworld.com/africa/regions/western-africa-map.html>

## 2.2 Types of ethnic conflicts in Nigeria:

Majority simply assumes that ethnicity is the major conflict in Nigeria but that was proven not totally true. Actually, most of the conflicts may partially relate to ethnicity but not all occur because the parties belong to different ethnic groups. Factors such as religion, population and struggling for scarce resources or compete for all state power could lead to conflicts. However, what makes them look like ethnic clashes were to the cases that they clash in the way that contenders belong with various ethnic or sub-ethnic groups (Ibrahim Sa'adu, 2016). The contenders do not always attack each other due to their ethnic backgrounds, but instead on minor personalize or represented issues that may not directly related to general ethnic groups. The contention begins on individual rather than ethnic bases. Nevertheless, for the most part when such issues increase, the nearby ethnic group turn out to be completely involved (Sa'adu, 2016).

**(I). Intra Ethnic Conflict:** - This is defined as a kind of conflict between the same ethnic or sub-ethnic group within the same or different border. The cause of this conflict could be political, religious and economic issues (Sa'adu, 2016). An example of such intra ethnic conflict in Nigeria is the Ife - Modakeke conflict and Aguleri - Umuleri conflict.

The establishment of Ife-East Local Government and the location of the new council headquarters in Ife 1997 brought conflict between Modakeke and Ife, which huge lives and properties was lost during the conflict, before the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo interceded and put an end to the bloody conflict in between the two fractions (Adeniyi, 2014).

According to Akanle (2009) the people of Modakeke are not seen as indigene in Ife. Ancient records, indicated that they are not the real settler of Ife, because they came to reside in Ife after the lost of ancient Oyo kingdom in the nineteenth century, this has led to huge humanitarian problem in the south were they are living at the moment. Furthermore, Akanle (2009) stated that two separate groups of people were giving; the indigene, which are the Ife and the non-indigene the Modakeke's. These grouping format is the main architect of the clashes among the two fractions, they are prompt to be clashes in these kind of setting, when groups feel that their own interest are at stake due to the others who they see as a threat.

Moreover, new evidence has indicated that there will be another clashes between the people of Modakeke and Ife (Adeniyi, 2014). The election which brought Governor Rauf Aregbesola into office on August 9<sup>th</sup>, saw Ife people pointing fingers to the Modakeke's as a backstabber that didn't support their own candidate to win the governorship election. Adeniyi stated that the Modakeke's, who happen to be non-indigene, shouldn't return to Ife to their landed properties which belongs to the Ife people and henceforth the Modakeke's will be paying some royalties from their farmlands, which the Modakeke refuse to comply with the demand (Adeniyi, 2014).

The Aguleri and Umuleri are of the same Igbo ethnic extraction and are predominantly Christians. The Aguleri and Umuleri towns are located in the south-eastern part of Nigeria in Anambra State, close to the large town of Onitsha, which lies on the Niger River.

In the south-eastern part of Nigeria, they are considered to be among the most highly educated as a result of their early contact with the missionaries (StudyMode, 2011).

Okoli, (2012) recalled that the 1995-1999 crisis left the two communities in total ruins as over 1,000 lives and property worth billions of Naira were wasted.

**(II). Inter-Ethnic Conflict:** - This is defined as a conflict between, among, or involving two or more ethnic groups living inside the same geopolitical boundaries. Citing of local government headquarters, religion, land disputes and marginalization could bring about such clash (Sa'adu, 2016).

An example of such inter-ethnic conflict in Nigeria is the land disputes between the Jukuns in the Former Wukari Federation, Taraba State and Tivs from Taraba/Benue States in Nigeria. Or inter-ethnic dispute between Bachama and Hausa Youths, which since the present location of mosque close vicinity of Bachama Chiefdom, has become a source of bloodshed in Numan, Adamawa State [This Day Newspaper, June 12, 2004]. Other inter-ethnic dispute occurs in Nigeria whenever the Fulani helmsmen grazed cattle on the neighbouring communities' farms causing damages (Habu, n.d).

**(III). Ethnic-Religious Clashes:** - Partly because of their tendency to spill over from their initial theatre's into other localities, states, or even regions of the federation, ethno-religious clashes have proved to be the most violent instances of inter-group crisis in Nigeria.

For instance, it is not easy to understand the clashes that has to do with religious and ethnicity in the states that have Hausa-Fulani groups that are Muslims and the Middle-Belt groups that are both Muslim and Christian, which both are in the Northern parts of Nigeria, the Hausa-Fulani's, who happens to be Muslims in the North and Middle-Belt of Nigeria have been instigated against the non-Muslims who are either Southerners or the Middle-Belt's (Suberu, 2005). These are the real clashes of ethno-religious in Nigeria which are; Kafanchan-Kaduna crises in 1987 and 1999, Zangon-Kataf riots of 1992, Tafawa Balewa clashes in 1991, 1995 and 2000, the Kaduna Sharia riots of 2000, and the Jos riots of 2001. They were no real data of victims to be officially confirmed, the events of Kaduna riots of 2000 and the Jos riots of 2001, each claimed several hundreds of lives and generated violent ripple effects beyond Kaduna and Jos respectively (Suberu, 2005).

### **2.3 Causes of ethnic conflicts in Nigeria:**

Sa'adu, (2016) outlines seven likely causes of ethnic conflicts in Nigeria as identified below;

- 1) The fight for the capacity of land and the wealth accessible.
- 2) Disagree leadership of definite custom rulers and chiefs, where a King of one ethnic or sub-ethnic group processes power over people owned to another ethnic group.
- 3) Establishment of new local government councils and the site of their headquarters.

- 4) Economic wealth and political insufficient entrance from subdivision competition or ethnic and individual.
- 5) The small and large social formation in Nigeria.
- 6) Population increase and economic expansion propensity to maintain ethnic leap, profession a kind of clashes famous within the users of land wealth.
- 7) The awareness or over look of cultural symbol and the contamination of cultural application.

A major dominant and perhaps most powerful cause of conflict is poverty, which is a manifested in unemployment and deterioration of infrastructure. Both unemployment and deterioration of infrastructure provide the bedrock for ethnic conflicts Sa'adu, (2016).

The hardship in the life of people have given birth to conflicts among people living together, due to high level of poverty, unemployment and lack of infrastructures, people contest for the little wealth that is not enough. These places where people are living is not conducive for human habitation. Most firms are closing down and it has created huge unemployment crisis, where families can't afford to meet up with their daily needs, there are no basic human needs such as; water, medical care, schools, roads and good infrastructures, this has led to uncertainty in the lives of people living with other ethnic groups in a community, and makes the ethnic groups that owns that community to think that the other ethnic groups are their problem and they should leave their community for them to benefit the little wealth that is in their own land (Samuel, 2012).



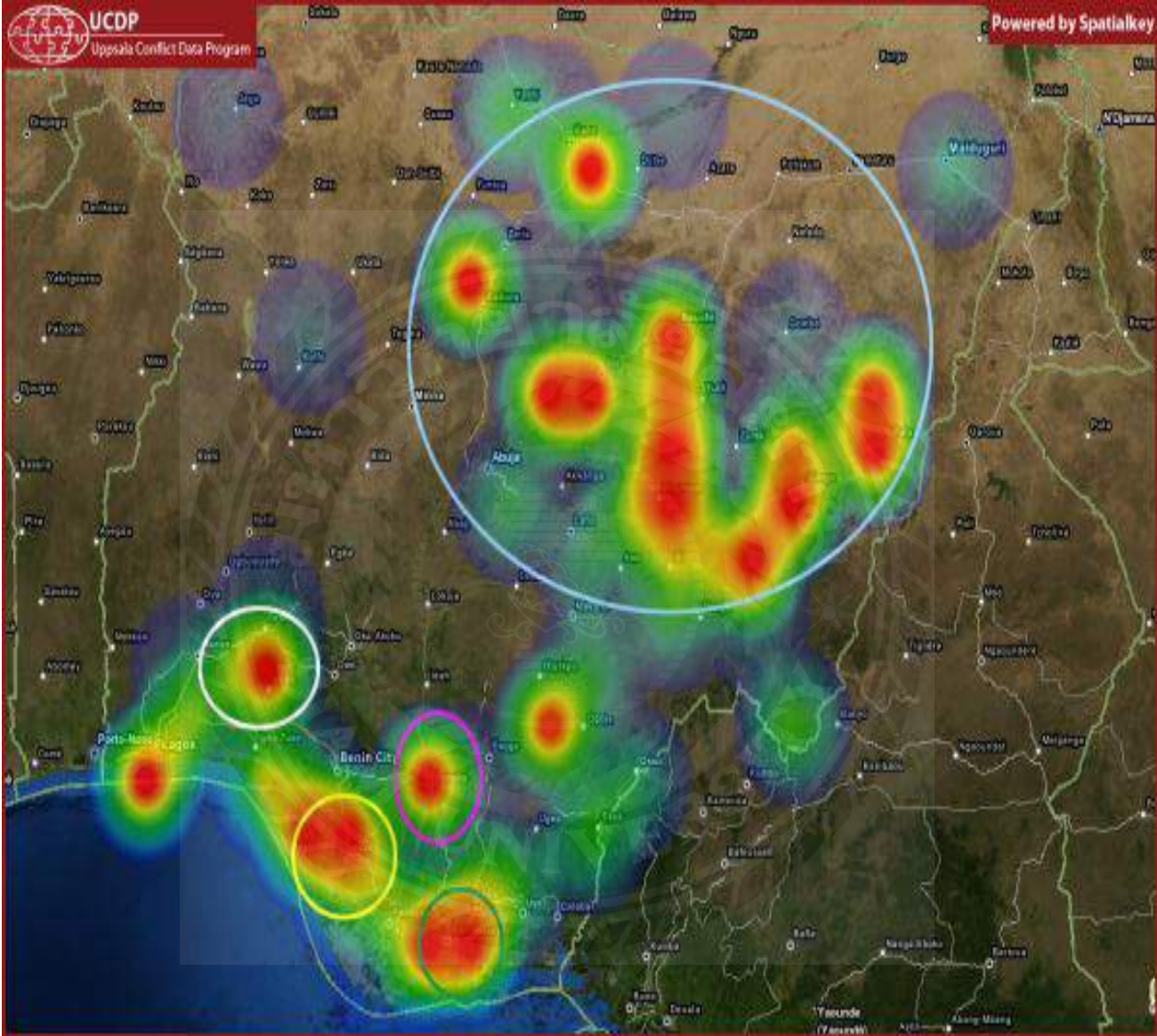
Samuel, (2012) stated that, with reference to many signs in a particular printing by the office of statistic of the federal government in 1996, one out of ten in Nigeria could be chronicle non-poor, while the remaining 90% are either real poor or average poor. In reality of Nigeria as a nation, 11 million people are the people that are seen as living being, while the 99 million are not living being, due to the gap between the rich and the poor which is quite huge.

In addition, the Human Development Report (HDR), indicated Nigeria in a picture of Human development rating, which Nigeria was rated 137th out of 174 countries that are below Human Development nations. The picture shows the HDI of Nigeria, which is rated at 0.400. Nations that have HDI that is rated under 0.5 are seen as low Human Development.

Communal conflicts in Nigeria can be divided into two broad categories:

- (I) The main root causes of cultural, ethnicity, religious and tribal identities, which religious clashes between Christian and Muslim are often ethnic conflicts.
- (II) The disagreement of land, which the grassing of cow is the main issue between the Hausa-Fulani (herdsman) and the Tiv or Tarok (farmers) is often called "Herder-farmer clashes".
- (III) The Middle-Belt states in Nigeria are the most affected states in the country, which around 2000 casualties was recorded between 2004 and 2011 during the clashes, this clashes also repeated again in 2015 that recorded 700 casualties (Wikipedia, 2016).

Picture No 4: - Communal conflicts in Nigeria



Source: <https://uppsalaconflictdataprogram.wordpress.com/2012/06/21/backgrounder-communal-conflicts-in-nigeria/>

The picture here indicates the space designs of community clashes around Nigeria between 1989-2010. According to Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) the blue circled area in the map are the main hotspots of conflicts within the Christian and Muslim communities. The conflict illustrated here is been categorized with Christian versus Muslim border, even some certain communities are choosing out. These involvements are not restricted to the Hausa-Fulani (Muslim), Tarok, Igbo, Kataf which are Christians, Yoruba (mixed religion), and Yugur (mixed, with Christian and traditional faiths). Plateau, Bauchi, Kaduna, Kano and Taraba states are the main conflicts zones, according to the locations that they are located. UCDP, (2012).

According to UCDP, (2012) the clashes among the Christians and Muslims in Nigeria is a piece of a large setting of ethnic and religious agitation that are seen in the Nigerian communities. These agitations are mainly irregular skyrocket into weapon clashes. These clashes always erupt with an outward hardship dispute and swiftly worsen into religious conflicts. The UCDP, (2012) identified the truth that Christians and Muslims are the important religions in Nigeria that are present in different parts of the nation, which many situations lead to organizing along the religious lines. The truth is that most of the 200 languages, ethnic groups in Nigeria are strongly Christians or Muslims, which is the truth to describe the presence of religious clashes in Nigeria, that makes it easy to label ethnic clashes in Nigeria as a focus of religious problems.

Tens of thousands are been dislodge and thousands have also lost their lives has a result of farmer-herder clashes.

The movement in the expansion of the farmer-herder clashes all through the western Sahel was followed, required to enlarge agriculturist population and cultivated land at the detriment of pastureland, environmental decline conditions, fertile land becoming desert and soil decay, breakdown in customary clashes resolving techniques of land and water disagreement and the rapid increase of small arms and crime in rural areas (Wikipedia, 2016).

Crude oil is the important revenues of Nigeria, which the southern region of Nigeria and mostly is where the Niger Delta area is located. The truth is that oil and the succeeding revenues is to be squeezed out from it, intense to this area which many ethnic groups profess their homeland, led to conflict in series between ethnic groups competing for the ownership of land in the oil rich Niger Delta area (UCDP,2012). The situation has made many groups to organize and create interest groups for their own ethnics. This has contrast the flimsy relations in the southern parts of Nigeria and has led to circumstances that battle for land ownership, taxing the land or even amount of employees at the oil facilities were all possibilities clashes of issues. Addition, the certain extreme clashes in this place have stood among Adoni and Ogoni communities (Port Harcourt, marked with green), the Ijaw and Itsekiri (Warri location, marked with yellow), the Aguleri and Umuleri (Onitsha, marked with purple) and the Ife and Modakeke (Ibadan and Ondo, marked with white).

## 2.4 Review of Related Research:

Ethnic conflicts can be seen as clashes, which erupt from two different ethnic groups, that did not understand or agree with each other and could be in form of war, violence and any form of chaos that put lives and properties in danger. According to Alao and Michael (2017), ethnic group is being driven with a great value, which its belief that is much more good for their own existence and it's their goal in life, this often leads to conflicts that comes from mistrust, suspicion, selfishness, intolerance and ignorance between ethnic groups (Alao and Michael, 2017).

Nigeria is recorded today is an extensive multi-ethnic country, where ethnic cleavages remain a crucial issue and where ethnic conflicts erupted occasionally. In recent times, Nigeria had seen the onset of various conflicts communal or ethnic conflicts, although some old ones had increased extra intensity (Asiyanbola,2010). The recent well known ones are the: Tiv-Jukun in Wukari Taraba State; Ogoni-Adoni in Rivers State; Chamba-Kuteb in Taraba State; Itsekiri Ijaw/Urhobo in Delta State; Aguleri-Umuleri in Anambra State; Yoruba-Hausa community in Shagamu Ogun State; Eleme-Okrika in Rivers State; the intermittent clashes in Kano State; Zango-Kataf in Kaduna State; Fulani-Irigwe and Yelwa-Shendam both in Plateau State; Ijaw-Ilaje conflict in Ondo State; Basa-Egbura in Nassarawa State; Hausa/Fulani-Sawaya in Bauchi State; Hausa-Yoruba clashes in Idi-Araba in Lagos State, and Ife-Modakeke in Osun State (Asiyanbola,2010).

Alao and Michael (2017), stated that many circumstances often leads to ethnic conflicts in Nigeria, which might come from different circumstances such as; colonial legacy, boundary disputes, struggle for power and resources, struggle for citing of local government headquarters or government institutions, failure of the traditional model of conflict resolution, poverty, perceived lack of sincerity and fair play on the part of government, manipulation of the elites in the society, ethnic intolerance and religious intolerance.

Achimugu et al. (2013) notice that the colonial urban position constitutes the cradle of social groups in Nigeria. It gave the meeting point to groups from the distinctive precolonial politics and various language and social development that make the ethnic group obtained a common awareness or perception of one's surroundings. He went further to reveal that contact alone did not bring about ethnicity, but rather competition for scarce resources among various groups intensify human beings of being mindful of the ethnic group they belong to. in addition, Achimugu attempted to show how ethnicity does not exist in a natural form; it is constantly related to political jurisdiction, religious and different social view that constitutes its critical component. To him, ethnicity is a social phenomenon related to interaction among individuals of different ethnic groups and these ethnic groups are social formations representing their communal character, including language, culture and so on.

Study review that, most Nigerians does not identify as citizens of Nigeria, rather they see their selves as an ethnic of a group, which often known as politically vital identity in the country.

Furthermore, studies shown that Nigerians are more recognize in their ethnic group that identify them better to their regional and religious groups, which percentage of 48.2 see their selves as an ethnic of a group which includes their language and local regional, 28.4% chose to be identified as class and 21 % opted for religious identity (Osaghae & Suberu, 2005).

Scholar proves that, ethnicity has built a huge barrier around Nigeria societies, which makes it difficult for the future leaders of the nation not to get to their door of future prospect in their future endeavor, due to some barriers created by ethnicity, such as; a child seeking admission into federal schools, students wishing to enter college or university, graduate seeking employment in public service, a business man tendering for a contract, a citizen applying for a passport will have to fill a form to state or confess his state of origin (Achinugu et al., 2013).

Soyemi (2016), wrote the ethnicity issue in Nigeria is at least one of the reasons the country retains and keeps up its strange presidential rotation system. Under the unofficial system, the presidency seat rotates after two tenures between the major political regions—the north, the southeast and the southwest. It is not coincident that these three regions coexist with the three major ethnic groups in Nigeria, the Hausa (north), Igbo (southeast) and the Yoruba (southwest).

Nigeria as a nation has been categorized by ethno-religious clashes. The political system of the nation has been blamed for causing ethno-religious clashes in the country (Nwankwo,2015). This kind of governance also plays a part in the unifying of various ethnic groups.

According to Nwankwo (2015) religious and ethnic conflicts are well known sources of fatalities among Christianity and Islam in the south and north separately to the degree that an

amount of 1,090 casualties are documented every annually, compared to 410 in the incident as documented by Nwankwo in 2006-2011. State like Plateau, Kano and Kaduna happen to be the conflict area of ethno-religious clashes where members of Christianity and those of the Islamic groups have been involved in brutal conflicts which affect the political stability of the nation.

In particular, ethno-religious clashes in Nigeria are usually caused as a result of below issue, (Nwankwo, 2015).

(I). The government's abandon the necessities of ethnic and religious groups, by exploitation, segregation, minimization, bias, and infringement of human rights, corruption and environmental degradation.

(II). Poor governance and bad policies that causes unemployment, underdevelopment and hardship. This transform the country from a nation recognize by the international community as being a wealthy nation, into having a supply of those who are simply annoyed and free to battle and initiate clashes or stir up conflicts.

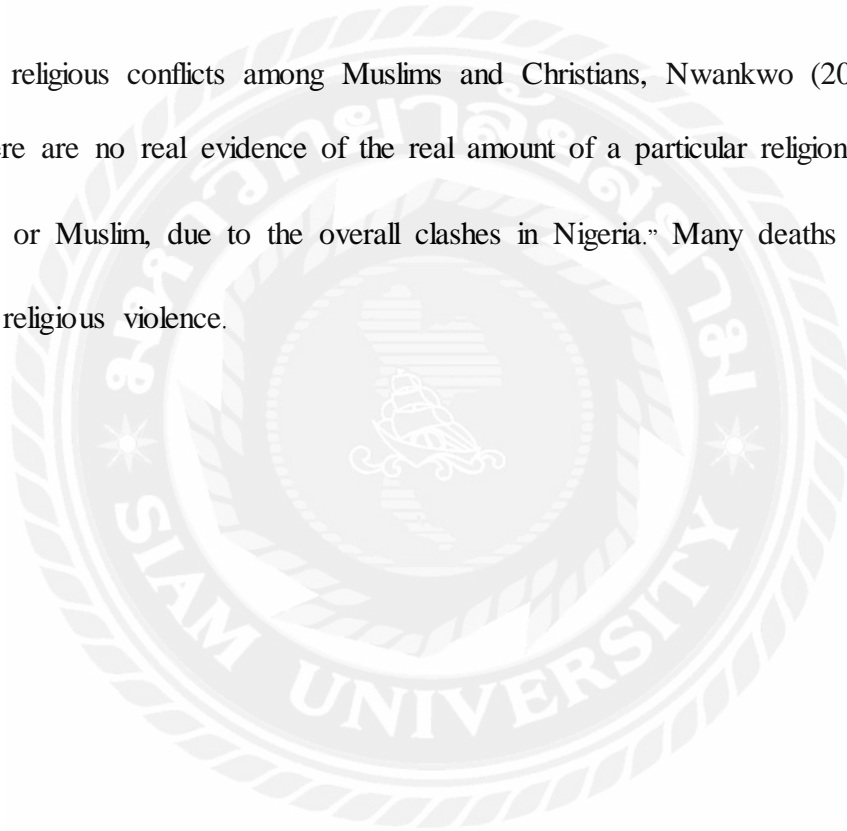
(III). The breakdown of customary institutions, for example, the family and the lack of a high standard education.

(IV). The absence of inter-religious dialogue between people of different religious traditions at all levels and not caring or showing concern about other groups problems, mostly enhance by religious fanaticism, struggle for resource control, inequality among the groups, poverty and youth unemployment.

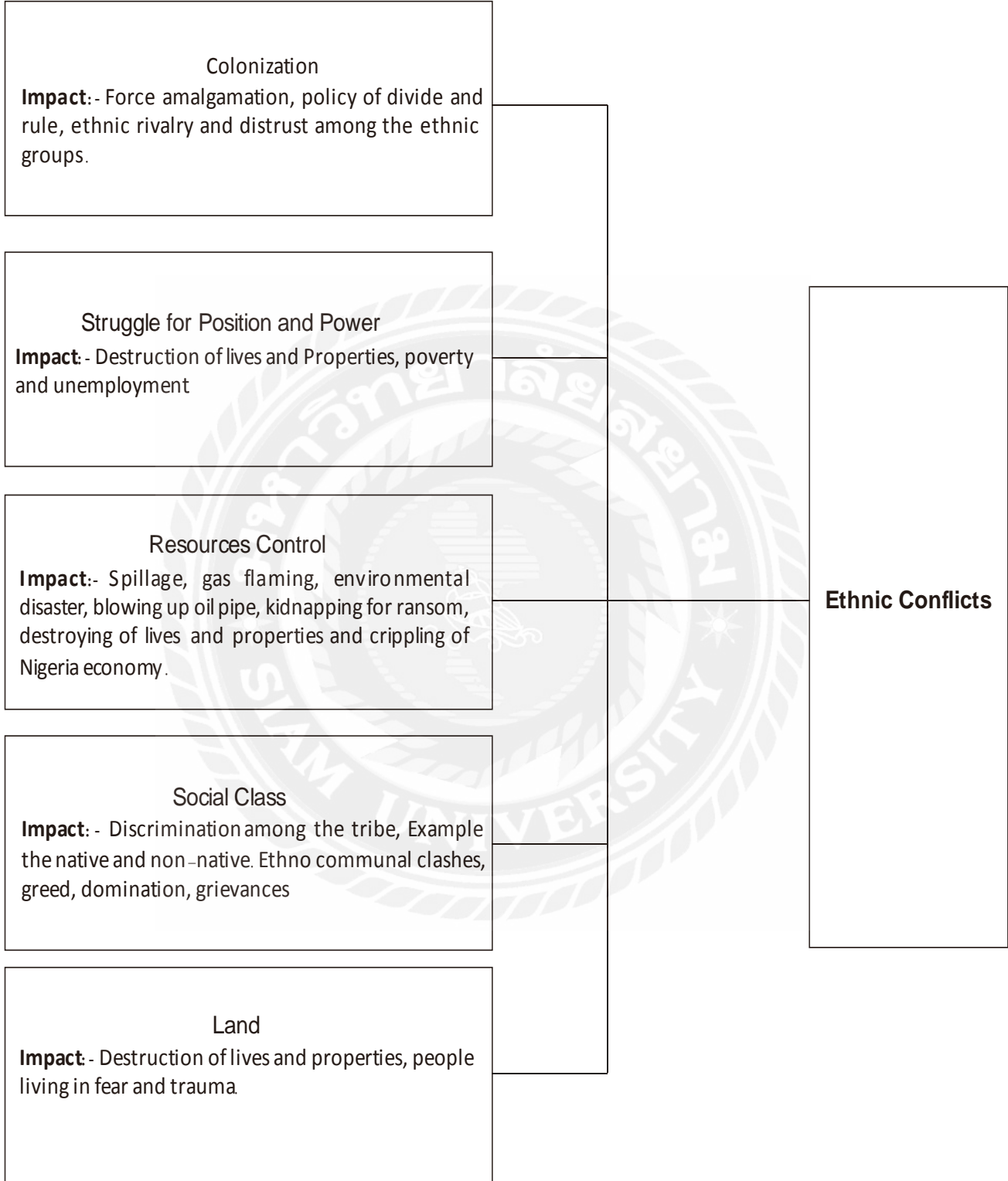


There were instances when journalist published produced discussions that prompted into ethno-religious clashes that peaked in the demise of several numbers of citizens. For example, 12,000 Nigerians were announced dead following the sectarian violence since 1999. The tradition of unprovoked violent in some northern states against Christians, and retaliation assaults by both Christians and Muslims have kept on raising avoidable between religious clashes which are normally fueled by the passionate connection of individuals to ethnic identity.

On the religious conflicts among Muslims and Christians, Nwankwo (2015) state, along these lines: “there are no real evidence of the real amount of a particular religion that was killed, either Christian or Muslim, due to the overall clashes in Nigeria.” Many deaths are documented because of this religious violence.



2.5 A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This research adopts the historical research methodology. Black & Ubbes (2009) describe historical research as the procedure of gathering and evaluating past incident, circumstance or occasion to create an exact report and interpretation of those events. Historical research utilizes no single technique due to the complexity and all-encompassing nature. Black & Ubbes argue that history is not a subject unto itself instead a method of believing that incorporates reflection upon the past. Historical research helps in establishing expected outcomes relationships over time by analyzing and explaining events in the past (PBWORKS, 2009). PBWORKS stated further that historical method takes information from documents that are gathered and produce new outcomes. Busha & Harter state that it encompasses their: origins, growth, theories, personalities, crisis, etc. In conclusion, the historical method is most suitable in examining the history of a particular society, providing a documentary value of the local achievements and problem faced by the people.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The research design refers to the overall strategy that one chooses to incorporate the different element of the study in a rational and consistent way. There are actually six basic steps required in doing a historical research. Some examples are:

1. The study of past events needs a major recognition or issue of past events has to be noted.
2. Practical subject matters or issues that are important have to be collected in large data.

3. The creating of concept, if relevant, preliminary tells the links among past events circumstances.
4. The roots, different data and the legitimate of the proof, confirmation of corporation and the extremely thorough gathering.
5. Coming to an end, the choosing, corporation and the interpretation of the certain appropriate gathered proof.
6. Taping an end in a significant history.

The use of qualitative approaches of research was well-applied and being useful in this study because it gives the necessary time and opportunity for the researchers to review and explain the meaning of historical events within their context (PBWORKS, 2009). This study will analyze the root causes of ethnic conflict within Nigeria. Also, the analysis of the concepts of peace, violence and peace building and what it requires.

### **3.3 Data Collection**

Data used in this study were collected from secondary sources such as encyclopedias, books, newspapers, magazines, dictionaries, journals, government publications and unpublished sources, all were utilized to supply background information for the study. The choice of historical approach is chosen for analyzing the problem in a clearer and more accurate way.

### **3.4 Data Analysis Methods**

Basically, data analysis approach is applied in the course of this study. Data collected from existing literature, review of theses and books on ethnic conflict and other interpersonal conflict were analyzed. The research also involved the use of secondary sources, which are referred as data that are generated by individuals other than the person making use of them.

These are existing data collected by other persons and companies from encyclopedias, books, newspapers, magazines, journals, government publications and unpublished sources.

The secondary data utilized in this study are derived from:

- 1) Academic Journal articles.
- 2) Books relating to ethnic conflicts and Communal conflicts in Nigeria.
- 3) Report and information statistics from World Health Organization (WHO), etc.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

This chapter explains research findings on the magnitude of human and resources devastated as a result of ethnic conflict in Nigeria, examines the roots causes of ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria and recommends constructive solutions and strategies to resolve ethnic conflict in the country. The unity of the Nigeria as a nation has been threaten for over thirty years, which ethnic and religious crisis are the main causes of disunity in the country.

#### **4.1 Research findings on the magnitude of human and resources devastated as a result of ethnic conflict in Nigeria**

##### **4.1.1 Ethnic Conflicts between the Northern and the Southern in the North Part of Nigeria.**

The study unfolds the continuation of religious crises in Nigeria at the Northern part, which can be pointed at the danger of poverty and unemployment among lively youths, these are epidemics affecting the live of the people in most parts of the country. These occurrences, often take away their basic rights as human, can be seen in the school of the Almajiri in which they pick up survival that makes them to end up begging in the streets. This people are the large majority in the ethnic group and are always used to stir up violence to destroy other ethnic

groups that are southern. They release horrible terror destruction to other minorities which are the southern, due to their status in life with huge poverty level among them (Jacob,2012).

The study also indicated that there are no major industries in the Northern region, which the only industry that existed in Kaduna was a textile company that tried to employ both skilled and unskilled laborer, this later collapse and resulting to the high rate of unemployment in the North-Central region, these Northern parts of Nigeria are highly blessed with rich agricultural and mineral resources that could be found everywhere in the region than other parts of the nation, but they abandon it for the oil and gas in the Niger Delta region and it has eventually rendered them poor and unemployment rate is high (Adamu & Keffi, 2002)

The past thirty years have shown some high indication for both ethnic and religious violence in Nigeria, which most of the times, it reflects to irrational attacks to some group of people as a way to express their own anger towards others, this has also moved the ethno-regional position and the offspring of ethnic militias, which uses violence and terror on a high mode on the governance of the people. Even as the nation has come back to democracy rule since 1999, Nigeria has made some great moves to trim tribal wars which has not yielded to any success, which the problems are still present up to date, three wide kinds of religious violence in Nigeria was seen in this research, which are; intra-religious unrest which happen between different Christian believers, inter-religious clashes generally between followers of separate religious beliefs and able to conclude socio-ethnic dimension and inter-religious clashes that has socioeconomic beginning that end up in the way of religious clashes (Ojo, 2010).

According to Ojo, Nigeria inter-religious unrest often leads into inter-ethnic clashes despite started as clear religious divisions. Some circumstances are responsible for inter-religious clashes, which those that are in authority have some interests in the clashes. The elite uses different means to pour out their non-acceptance to country decision making processes. These ways are ended up bringing religious violence and coups d'état. The main religious clashes that often happen in the

Northern Nigeria is to a large number of rich Southerners that lived there. A lot of the ruling class of the Northerners was disturbed by the progress made by the Southerners in their region and they use religion duties to stir up their people to destroy the business and properties that belong to the Southerners (Canci & Odukoya, 2016).

Canci and Odukoya further stated that, different religions that belong to some ethnic groups engaged in ethno religious clashes are as well the symptom of social clashes. Both religious and ethnic entity that causes the main social clashes in Nigeria has always acted together which are important to recognize. Most of the times Nigerian has complained about religious and ethnic inequity in every aspect of life in the past years, which has make most people to demand for their own religious and ethnic rights in their own state. As most states uses religion and ethnicity in political dialogue to cause clashes in another way, they pointed towards accusation and allegation of neglect, oppression and domination are the main factor that trigger ethno-religious clashes.



#### 4.1.2 Ethnic Conflicts Between Ilaje and Ijaw Arogbo Over Control of Resource in the Southwest and South-South of Nigeria.

According to the information collected by Ojo, indicated that ethnic clashes in six geopolitical zones of Nigeria is still going on up to date, looking from the south-west zone of Nigeria in Ondo State, where the Ilaje and Ijaw Arogbo has been fighting tribal war between their selves since September 1998 till August 5, 1999 when ceasefire was attained. (Ojo, 2010)

Findings show the clashes between the Ilaje and Arogbo Ijaw, was as a result of disagreement over land and boundary issues, fight for resource control, fear of domination, marginalization, religious leadership crises and quest for political autonomy arising from clashes among the groups involved in the past, this also shown that the ethnic clashes have gone beyond the instant element that can't solve historical problems between the two groups, which if it is not solved it might leads to more clashes and war in the nearest future (Damilohun Damson,2015).

According to report on the clashes between Ijaw and Ilaje in the river side of Ondo State, it shown that the two oil producing areas of former Western Region of Nigeria, the Ijaw and Ilaje, are faced with some problem attached to the oil exploration such as; spillage, gas flaring and environmental disaster. Most of the battles were not fought on the land, but on the Island of the communities or in the water areas. Even as rich the communities are, they are confronted with environmental disaster and ethnic conflicts, which makes them the poorest of the poor among the local governments of Ondo State (Alabi, 2017).

Alabi further stated that, the Ijaw people who accommodated three communities namely; Ojumola, Awoja and Obenla, lost their land to sea incursion, the incident in which the Ilaje said

that the land belong to them and their boundaries are not with the Ijaw but with the Itshekiri of the Delta state. The clashes between Ijaw and Ilaje have always been with the oil rich side of Apata village, which have always instigated chaos in the land. The clashes have also been due to the discovery of oil in the rich communities, which Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission (ONSOPADEC) and Niger Delta development Commission (NDDC) are the main stakeholders in the incident of conflict between the two communities (Alabi, 2017).

In addition, the research finding suggests that inequality distribution of resources has often causes clashes in Nigeria, where lands, money, power and influence that are not in large quantities often cause clashes in three major ways, if the scarcity of the resources needed is not sufficient to go round the people, the unjust manner of distributing the resources and the abject poverty among the people often stand as a tool for clashes in the country (Alabi, 2010).

#### 4.1.3 Ethnic Conflicts between Ile-Ife and Modakeke Over Social Class in the Southwest of Nigeria.

Report stated that, after the fall of ancient Oyo empire in the nineteenth century causing a refugee problem in the south, Ile-Ife and the people of Modakeke came to settle in this land called Ile-Ife. There have been two types of indigenes, the native (landlords) and the settlers (tenants, farmhands and the refugee “resettled groups”), this escalate to clashes due to the grouping of people in the region at that time, they are many issues that caused clashes between Ifes and the Modakekes which are; the two bloody battles of 1849, the communal war of December 1882, the conflict over selection of Imam by the Modakeke in 1934, the Isakole ( Land Rent) dispute of 1946-47, the confrontation over the reception of a British parliamentarian (Rev.

Sorenson) in January 1949, the conflict over the establishment of Olorunsogo PJank Market, the opposition to self-help development project by a Fund raising activity of Modakeke in 1980 and the request for a separate Local Government Council in the 1950s (Press, 2013).

According to Asiyabola, 2010, the status of the indigenes of Modakeke has always been an issue, because in both Ila-Ife and Modakeke social stander is very important in the communities, this often leads to clashes between the two communities, which the co-existence between the two communities have not really gone well, because of ethno-communal clashes that has always been there since the arriver of the Modakekes to the land of Ile-Ife. Studies also shown that the acts of both the two communities are driven by greed, fighting for position and right to the ownership of the land, all has led to looting, domination, grievances and clashes (Adeyemi, 2008).

Report stated that, there was a new violence in Ile-Ife, which was like the Ife-Madakeke clashes, but was between the Yoruba and the Huasa communities living in Ile-Ife, when an Huasa man reported slept with a Yoruba man's wife and this erupted into violence between the two ethnic groups. This lead to destruction of life and properties and was put under control by the Osun State security operatives (Kolawole, 2017).

4.1.4 Conflicts Between Ethnic Group and Multinational Companies in the South-South part of Nigeria.

Osagie et al stated that, the Niger Delta region has seen their own share of the violence, which was not between the communities but with the oil multinational companies. For the past

eight years the Niger Delta communities which are; Obobutu, Umucchem, Uzere and Ogoni have been clashes with the multinational oil companies such as; EIF and Shell over the issue of resource control and have resulted to blowing up of oil pipes, kidnapping for ransom, destroying of lives and properties, which has make the region unstable with chaos every time (Osagie, Funmilayo, Fred & Samuel, 2010).

According to a report, it stated that the clashes in the Niger Delta region is traced to the abject poverty in the region, despite the huge contribution made by the region to the Nigeria

economy, which the nonchalant attitude of the multinational companies towards the Niger Delta people has led to a negative manner, thereby causing chaos all over the region. Most clashes have been ignited by some factors such as; revenue allocation formula and resource control, federalism, environmental degradation, state imposed poverty and unfulfilled promises made by the government of Nigeria (Nwankwo, 2015).

#### 4.1.5 Ethnic Conflicts between Aguleri and Umuleri Over Land in the South East of Nigeria.

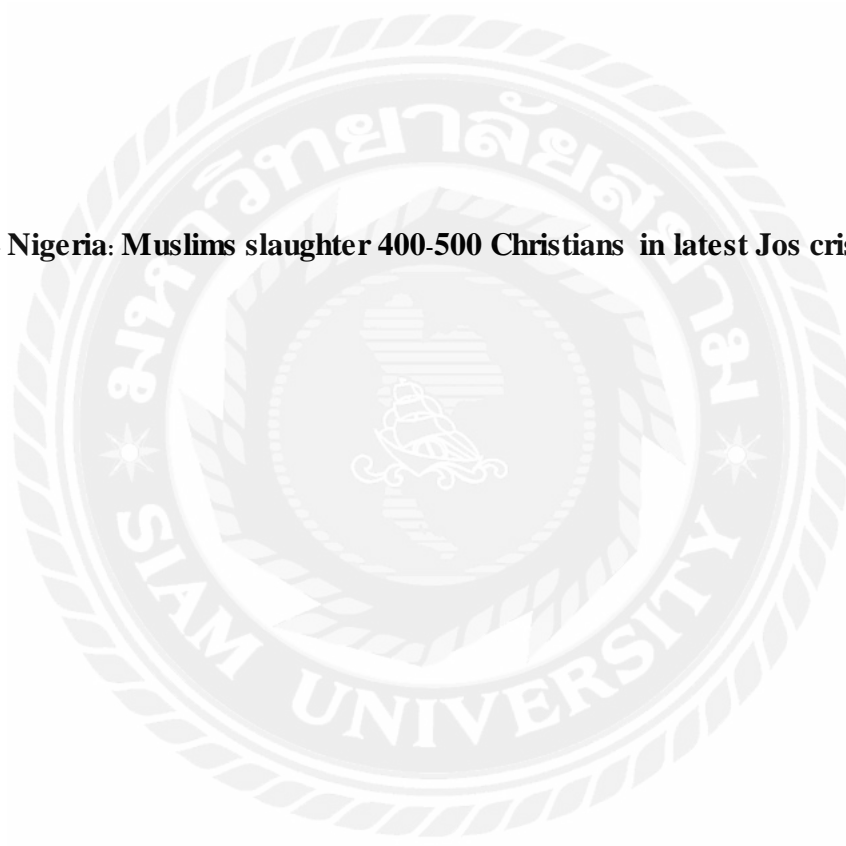
Founding also shown the eastern part of Nigeria, namely Anambra State, has also see some three infective communities that have been long in clashes within their selves in the East local Government of the area, they are Aguleri, Umuleri and Umuoba, these three communities have destroyed their selves, their properties and their economic valuables, this ethnic clashes can be trace as far back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century before the recent clashes in 1999 (Ojo, 2010).

The finding stated that, it is unable to identify who owns Otuocha land, because land have always been an important issue in the Igbo land, where there are majority of Aguleri

indigenes living on the right side of the road of Otuocha and minority of Umuleri indigenes living on the left side of the road which is been divided by the major road which stand as a boundary between them. This issue has been in the court during the colonial rules, which the Umuleri people claimed that the first court ruling was in their favor, which makes them the legitimate owner of Otuocha land. While most ruling has said that the land does not belongs to them and they have been going to court to fight over this issue. As the Privy Council said that the land does not belong to the Umuleri people. After the civil war in Nigeria the Aguleri people came back to claim ownership of the place and the Umuleri people refuses to acknowledge Aguleri ownership (Igwa, 2016).

According to report, the Otuocha land dispute between Aguleri and Umuleri was so brutal, that life and properties was lost, because the two communities claimed ownership to the land, which makes many people to go to sleep with one eye closed and the other opened, even women and children were hidden into the inner most depth of any place, people were living in fear and trauma, because of the dispute of Otuocha land that both Aguleri and Umuleri claimed to ownership (Okoroafor, 2012).

**Picture No 5: - Nigeria: Muslims slaughter 400-500 Christians in latest Jos crisis**





Source: <https://creepingsharia.wordpress.com/2010/03/08/nigeria-muslims-slaughter-400-500-christians-in-latest-jos-crisis/>

**Picture No 6: - Nine Times ethnic and religious crisis threatened the peace of Nigeria**





Source: <https://www.naij.com/1082502-9-times-ethnic-religious-crisis-threatened-peace-nigeria.html>

**Picture No 7: - A Bloody Clash in Ile-Ife**





Source: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2017/03/13/a-bloody-clash-in-ile-ife/>

#### **4.2 Research findings on the roots causes of the ethnic conflicts in Nigeria**

The following factors have been identified as the root causes of conflicts within Nigeria; Colonization, Struggle for position and power, Resource control, Social class and Land. All these had led to conflicts in the six geo-political zone of Nigeria.

First of all, intense ethnic rivalry and distrust in Nigeria lasting until nowadays has been caused by colonialism, the forced amalgamation, which brought the north and south together to form the entity called Nigeria. In 1914, the north and south region of Nigeria have different ethnic group, which the British Empire later put into three major tribes called the Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa, in which they use a colonial police of divide and rule, which instigate inter-ethno-religious suspicion, residential segregation and antagonism with different communal groups, this later became conflicts among these ethnic groups, because there were no institution or mechanism to mediate among feuding and competing groups, or placate aggrieved groups.

Struggle for position and power has leads to the following; unemployment among the citizens of the nation leading to poverty, which has caused the destruction of lives and properties of the Southerner in the Northern region of Nigeria.

Resource control has also brought spillage making the land not suitable for planting of agricultural produce, environmental disaster that has make the place not being conducive, which has leads to militant activities to destroy the economy of Nigeria government by shutdown of oil terminal and the fall of Nigeria oil production to the lowest level.

Social class has leads to discrimination among the tribe, by which people are grouped into two types of groups namely; native (landlord) and non-native the settlers (tenants, farmhands

and the refugee “resettled groups”) this has brought ethno-communal conflicts in the society. Land has always been huge issue among the people of Nigeria, this often lead to the destruction of lives and properties displacing Nigerian people.

### **4.3 Discussions on the Findings**

The discussions of the results in this study were based on each of the findings, the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria namely; north west, north east, north central, south west, south-south and south east zones have seen some conflicts in different ways. The whole of north west, north east and north central have the same form of conflicts that is often seen as ethno-religious conflicts. Nevertheless, the real cause of the conflicts is the struggle for position and power that often makes the northern elite manipulating their people against the southern groups who happen to be Christians and it is often called it ethno-religious conflict. The three remaining geo-political zones have different forms of conflict in which two of the three zones have one similarity. The south west and south-south have a conflict of resource control within two communities of the two geopolitical zones that share boundary along the riverside, where the natural resource of oil and gas could be found and it has often brought conflicts among the two communities that lives there. The south-south conflict that is still similar to the one they have with south west, but with a different group which is the multinational oil companies. The south west has one conflict which is different from other parts of the zones, the conflict of south west that is different from other zone is social class status that has to deal with the native and the settlers, while the southeast zone conflict has often been related to land dispute, which two communities battle for the rightful ownership of land. The recommending solutions and strategies based upon the results

findings will be more elaborated and directly discussed in the chapter 5: conclusion and recommendations.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Conclusions

In conclusion, the literature has shown that Nigeria has been unstable before, during, and after the colonial days up to date. The country has witnessed countless of conflicts in all six geographical regions, which have destroyed lives and properties in many ways. The effects of these conflicts are often seen in every part of the nation and in the lives of the people. The main causes of these conflicts in some part of the nation like in the Northern Nigeria are religious crises, poverty, unemployment, ethnic issue which have often led to violence that is called ethno-religious conflicts. Most often the elite's stir up violence in order to express their dissatisfaction with the decision making process of the country, thereby causing religious violence and sometime leading to coup d'état.

The south-west of Nigeria has a prolonged tribal wars between two communities fighting for the control of resource, because of the production of oil in their region each of the ethnic group wants to take control of the resources, which had led to disagreement over land and boundary issues, fear of domination and marginalization. The Ondo State Oil Producing Area Development Commission (ONSOPADEC) and the Niger Delta development Commission (NDDC) are the main source of chaos between the two communities, because they have failed to utilize the allocations meant for these two communities that are in conflicts. The other part of the south-west conflicts was caused by social status of the two indigenes, where a creation of native

and non-native indigenes was identified by casting other into another group of people and because history owns it that the other non-natives migrated to the place they called it home.

The Niger Delta conflicts were not between communities, but between the multinational companies and the communities over revenue allocation formula and resource control. Federalism, environmental degradation, state imposed poverty and unfulfilled promises made by the government of Nigeria, which often cripple the economy of Nigeria and gives birth to the operation of militants in the region.

The south-east conflicts is attributed to land, which is an essential in the region, the ownership of land has brought so many conflicts in the region, which saw a minority group of people claiming ownership of a land that has been occupied by majority group of people. Even when the court during and after colonial era in Nigeria give the ownership of the land to the majority of the people who also occupied the land, the minority group of people refuse to acknowledge that and it has always brought conflict between the two communities.

## **5.2 Recommendations**

The author's recommendations are, Nigeria should stop the practice of federalism and embrace confederation, which will give states and people the autonomy to rule and manage their resources. Nigeria should decentralize the form of governance and allow people to govern themselves the way that will really help them to develop and actualize their full potential as people. This will really solve the issue of poverty, under development, unemployment, ethnic conflicts and religious conflicts that lead to ethno-religious clashes.

People should be given a chance to express their feelings when it comes to issues concerning them, when there are conflicts in a particular area of the nation, the people involved in the conflicts should be allowed to come to a round table to discuss the issues before them. There should be a mediator that will mediate with an understanding resolving the issues between the two parties involved, not to stand and accuse the other party for doing wrong, but to find a solution to the conflicts. People should be ready to resolve conflicts also, they should keep in minds that peace is the only solution to solve conflict and as a result all must give and take, because there is no win win situation for a particular ethnic group. It must be a give and take situation between the ethnic or religious groups involved in the conflicts.

Government should be responsible with the wealth of the nation, the manner by which the sharing of the resources of the country should be done fairly. There should not be bias when it comes to sharing the nation wealth in the way of favoring one ethnic group against another. Just because they belong to that ethnic or religious group does not mean that they should favor one over the other, government should hold people responsible when there are conflicts, people who instigate the conflicts should be brought to justice irrespective of their social, religious and traditional position the society, they should create an enabling environment for all the citizens of the country for people to operate properly with good code of conduct.

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