

WESTERN IMPERIALISM AND NIGERIA'S ROLE FOR GLOBAL PROSPERITY TO THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES

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Abstract

The Britain that colonized Nigeria and some European countries like United State, UK and France do not mean well for her. The West has accorded the position of inventor of ideologies to herself. She believes that providence has placed her ahead so as to play this important role. But the irony of the whole matter is that the way she plays this role is suffocating and destroying Nigeria. Those ideologies and decisions strengthen her own economy and politics, while weakens Nigeria's economy and her institutions. They have bulldozed their way in as a force that regulates global economy, politics, regulates international trade and determines exchange rate. And so have become principality that determines what should stand as World Order, philosophy, economic structure and policies that govern international trade in the world political space. Unfortunately Africa does not have a say presently on what should be the value of its currencies against dollar, pounds or Euro and this is the type of continent that Nigeria found itself. The leaders of most of the developed countries, if not all have continued to encourage Nigerian leaders to continue what they are doing i.e. institutionalizing corruption. The reason is that they don't want Nigeria to get better. Hence they know that any day Nigeria escape from this slavery chain, the living condition in the West will definitely fall. Therefore, this paper tilt towards exposing this evil plan and traced it to colonialism and imperialism staged against Africa by the Western world. This paper also shows how colonialism, neocolonialism and imperialism have hampered development in Nigeria. It went further to explain how this arrangement has impoverished Nigeria and reduced her to a mere raw material producer to global prosperity for the advanced countries. Hermeneutical approaches were devised as a veritable tool in pursuance of this objective. The only way African economy and the value of its currencies can appreciate in the nearest future is if Nigeria can escape from the chain of Western economic control and reject her policies. Nigeria must be practically independent of the Western colonialism and imperialism. Nigeria must start producing and stop supplying its raw materials to the west. There is urgent need for Nigeria to move from consumption to production nation. Good governance and Industrialization will push Nigeria forward to achieving this goal. Nigeria supplying its raw materials with the already developed countries cannot develop the country. Earlier the better Nigerian leaders, citizens and the youths catch this vision, the possibility of Nigeria achieving development.

Keywords: Colonialism, Imperialism, Raw material, Economy, Global prosperity

1. Introduction

The colonial lords succeeded in reprogramming and reconfiguring Nigeria's vision during colonial era and this was a serious attack on the psychology and perception of Nigerians on politics, leadership, development and economy. Colonialism was really a bad experience for Nigerian. As a result of this, the Nigeria's competitive spirit and communal life were slaughtered in the altar of colonialism hence it initiated a strange philosophy in its entirety completely different from Nigeria's ontology and cosmology. The idea of colonialism was intentional and well calculated. It was a mission and a movement propagated by the West so as to subject Nigeria to a raw material producer agent to global prosperity for the developed countries. Having discovered how endowed Nigeria were in natural resources, the West staged their pipe of economic exploitation and pushed it on Nigerian soil to enable her extract these raw materials in order to export them to their various countries for their economic use and consumption. Within short period of time they had made policies and decisions favorable to themselves and unfavourable to Nigerian who supposedly is the original owner of these raw materials. The West saw economic values in these raw materials and needed them by all means either to get them for free or buy them for penny. And then, they came with their tricks and idea of devaluation of Nigerian currency on the premise that Nigeria's naira was over-valued globally. The then Nigeria leaders consented to this deceitful suggestion. But the truth is that the west has all these years exploited and has impoverished Nigeria and its citizens. The concern question is; who will deliver Africa?

Despite the economic exploitation Nigeria has experienced over the years and is still experiencing today, Nigerian leaders and institutions are yet to learn from history. Even though competent personalities are many and will be willing to help the country overcome these manipulations from the west yet Nigerian leaders have decided to follow the trend of corruption left behind by their predecessor. Instead Nigerian executive, judiciary and legislature, the three arms of government have frustrated every effort to liberate Nigeria economical and political exploitations. The only way Nigeria can move forward and experience economic turnaround is if it rejects every form of corruption, neocolonialism and Western imperialism. But the obvious is that Nigerian leaders are still playing dice with Nigeria's future, politics and economy. Nigeria's leaders and Nigerians should know that the west cannot on its own stop this extraction of raw materials in the country even when they know that it affects Nigeria's economy and make Nigeria poorer. More extractions of the advance countries from developing

country's soil will make the former richer and the later poorer. There is need for Northern and southern protectorate in Nigeria to unite together and fight for common good against every background of colonialism and imperialism. The first thing to do is to recognize what the west did and is still doing. The step Nigeria need to take before dealing with this problem is to accept that corruption is endemic in Nigeria. The root cause of the problem must be pointed out before the problem can be solved. Nigeria must know that winning the battle of economic freedom is necessary and will require another serious fight. Having this knowledge will guide Nigerian leaders and the institutions to continue fighting until the battle is won. Living the battle behind is dangerous. Except the war against economic exploitation in Nigerian is won, Nigeria will remain under the category of the Third World nations and will continue to play the role of raw material producer to the global prosperity for the developed countries. The implication of this is that Nigeria as a nation will not develop and its currency will never strong nor become equal to dollar, pounds or Euro unless it does something different.

2. Colonial Encounter and its Impact on Nigeria

With colonial encounter, the white man succeeded in destroying the progressive mentality and unison found amongst Nigerians. The mistake that kept on hurting Nigerians was that of 1914 where amalgamation of northern and southern protectorate was made. Colonialism is an emotive and incendiary topic and it is not within the scope of this paper to discuss it in details. With colonialism that spirit to develop Nigeria to become the financial giant of the world and a respected nation was slaughtered. The first thing the Europe did as they found their feet on Africa was to force Africans to accept the superiority of white race over black race. Racism was a very strong weapon used by the West against Africa. In the word of Casely-Hayford, before even the British came in contact with our people, our people were a developed people, having our own institutions, having our own ideas of government¹, but I would rather state that before the British colonialists came in relation with African continent, Africa were developing, having its institutions and own ideas of government.

As it is well known, Africa has had prolonged and extensive contact with Europe, and one has to bear in mind that contact between different societies changes their respective rates of development and narratives. That is the same problem Nigeria is facing. Violence is always a central feature of the colonizing nations, and the modern citizens of former colonial power have no moral obligation to feel guilt for the actions of their ancestors.² Colonialism follows different waves of British presence as various kinds of Britons pursuing their own interest came to West Africa. West Africa traded and

interacted with Europeans for hundreds of years outside a colonial context. A combination of European curiosity about a legendary and mysterious inland river in West Africa and Industrial Revolution in Europe changed the nature of the relationship to one between conqueror and subject.³ Richard Lander's discovery of fertile land on the banks of the River Niger changed the emphasis of British contact with West Africa from exploration to economic extraction. In general, European countries named territories after the commodities they expected to extract: Ivory Coast, Gold Coast (later Ghana) and Slave Coast (Nigeria).⁴

By mid-to-late 1884-5, European countries were almost coming to war in their haste to grab piece of Africa for themselves. Given how unpopular West Africa was for Europeans, and how rapidly it consumed British visitors, why did the British keep coming back? After Britain made it illegal for its citizens to engage in slave trading in 1808, British businesses engaged in the trade had to turn to other ventures to make money. As Europe industrialized and became less depended on human and slave labour, and more reliant on machinery for production, West Africa offered a natural supply of goods that Britain and other European countries needed. Fortunately for Britain and other European countries and unfortunately for West Africa, the raw commodities that Britain required to power its industrial revolution were in the river Niger area. There were an increase in demand for oil to lubricate industrial machinery and, as hygiene standards in European during the first half of the 19th century were appealing, soap became essential to health survival.

Macaulay suggestion to the British parliament was a solution to how the Europe can gain access and to colonize Africa so that they can take control of its economy and raw materials. Thus he suggests:

I have travelled across the length and breadth of Africa and
I have not seen one person who is a beggar, who is a thief,
such wealth I have seen in this country, such high moral
values, people of such caliber, that I do not think we would
ever conquer this country, unless we break the very
backbone of this nation, which is her spiritual and cultural
heritage, and therefore, I proposed that we replace her old
and ancient education system, her culture, for if the
Africans think that all that is foreign and English is good
and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem,

their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation⁵

When Nigeria sought for independence; political independence was granted without economic freedom. The mistake Nigeria as a nation made was that she did not use the time independence was granted to strengthen herself, instead she used it to institutionalized corruption that later paved way for neocolonialism and Western imperialism. This perplexing problem of economic, political and social domination has absorbed the creative energies of black leadership since the days of slavery. In history, African continent have struggled and have passed through a lot against a comprehensive system of domination imposed on her by the white.⁶ For many decades now before and after independence, Nigeria have experienced this system of domination most acutely. This economic and political oppression was compounded by a legal system of neo-colonialism and imperialism that denied Nigeria independent freedom, the kind the Western world is enjoying today.

The aim of this paper is not to blame the western world out-rightly for the present economic backwardness Nigeria is facing today. But to give a guideline and suggest the right mechanism which Nigeria must employ so as to liberate itself completely from Western colonization and imperialism. Of course political leaders, religious leaders and the institution have also in one way or the other contributed to this economic bondage Nigeria has found itself. A colonized people or individuals are usually forced to follow the culture and tradition of the colonialists. Most colonized individuals do not know whether to follow their own culture or the culture of the colonizer. This is what I think is happening to Nigeria presently. It is either that our leaders do not know which way to follow or that they know but has preferred to satisfy the imperialist and themselves. Could it be that it is what Peter Willem Botha said about the black race in 1988 is what is playing out in Nigeria till today. Botha stated that ‘‘black people cannot rule themselves because they don’t have the brain and mental capacity to govern a society. Give them guns; they will steal all government money. Give them independence and democracy, they will use it to promote tribalism, ethnicity, bigotry, hatred, killings, and wars.’’⁷ Until Nigeria’s institutions and its leaders do something different to change the present poverty stricken condition of Nigeria politics and economy, then the notion of Peter Willem Botha still remain a living proof that African people cannot rule themselves without Western influence and interference.

It is not that some concerned Nigerians are not pushing to change this narrative. But the issue is that some of these intellectuals have been seen as traitors and so Nigerian leadership will always oppose any attempt they are making to liberate Nigeria and will label their attempts treason. Unlike the masses and majority, intellectuals still have a taste for rationality and still have interest in facts. Their critical habit of mind makes them resistant to the kind of propaganda that works so well on the majority.⁸ Apart from religion, the white man also brought and imposed his government on Nigerians. They built courts where the District Commissioner judge cases in ignorance against the traditions of the land. According to Achebe, the white man is very clever. He came quietly and peacefully with his religion. And we were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clans no longer act like one. He has put a knife on the things that held us together and we have fallen apart.⁹ The white man used tricks on the pre-colonial Nigerian leaders and natives. Colonialism was a very powerful strategy used by the West to weaken Nigeria as a country. They started by using diplomacy and dialogical method but in a deceitful way to seek for our people's co-operation and acceptance.

Like sheep but in wolf clothing, the white man got approval and acceptance to live with our people and then revealed its real identity. Such sweet words like, 'we shall not do you any harm if only you agree to co-operate with us. We have brought a peaceful administration to your people so that you may be happy' are all lies. Within a short period of time, the white man turned into a tiger and began to use the law court, guns and injustice to destroy and torture our people. Eventually our culture and communal way of living was slaughtered because of the white man's quest to take control of the wealth and raw materials in Nigeria. So they began to use iron hand on our people using the leaders of societies in colonial Nigeria to collect illegal taxes from our people and our people were molested. They began to arrest the natives taking them to law court which was established as a colonial strategy and psychological weapon to dehumanize our people. They arrested leaders of the clans, charge them to court, accuse them of molesting others and fine them two hundred bags of cowries. A condition was given to them that if they accept to collect these fines from their people in form of taxes they will be released. The moment the clan in pre-colonial Nigerian society's leaders consented to collect these taxes colonialism and capitalist system was established.

3. Nigeria Economic Development

More often than not, the term "development" is used in an exclusive economic sense; the justification being that the type of economy is in itself an index of other social features.¹⁰ What then is economic development? A society develops economically as its

members increase jointly their capacity for dealing with their environment. This capacity for dealing with the environment is dependent on the extent to which they understand the laws of nature (science), on the extent to which they put that understanding in practice by devising tools (technology) and on the manner in which works is organized.¹¹ Nigeria as a nation was a participant in the process in which human groups displayed an ever increasing capacity to extract a living from natural environment. Nigeria as a country was gradually developing independently until they were taken over directly or indirectly by the British power and later to United States and Europe. Many modern-day North Nigerian cities, the Hausa sates formation is not known but they likely arose sometime between the 7th and 9th centuries. As far back as mid-19th century, thirty thousand camel loads of salt arrived annually in Kano for distribution as far as away Ashanti land in modern-day Ghana. The Ashanti exchanged their gold and kola nuts for livestock, clothe and salt from Hausa traders.¹² The catalyst behind the 19th-century transformation of Hausa-land was an Islamic cleric of the Torobe Fulani who a British army officer described as ‘‘the African Napoleom’’ Usman dan fodio.¹³

Before 1800, the Yoruba-speaking area of Western Nigeria had its own system of government and was ruled by the Alaafin (Lord of the Palace). Although overall political leadership of the Oyo Empire resided with the Alaafin, the kingdom also had multiple provinces ruled by subsidiary chiefs know as obas. The Alaafin doubles as a political and spiritual leader yet did not have absolute dictatorial powers.¹⁴ Oyo’s government had separation of powers with checks and balances, and Alaafin was expected to take advice from a seven-member non royal council known as the Oyomesi. If they lost confidence in the Alaafin, the Oyomesi could force his resignation by passing a resolution calling for him to abdicate honourably by committing suicide.

Benin is one of the Nigerian kingdoms with the longest history of pre-colonial contact with Europeans. By the time Nigeria came into existence, the kingdom already had over five hundred years of trade and other relations with Europeans, including the Portuguese, Dutch and British. Although the precise date of its formation is uncertain, oral tradition places it around the 12th or 13th centuries. Like his counterparts in Ife and Oyo, the Benin King (Oba) was a political and spiritual leader and derived his authority from a god. Benin city was one of the first places in the world to have street light. According to the 1974 edition of the Guinness Book of Records, Benin City was where the largest earth works ever constructed in the world prior to the Industrial Revolution. The 120-feet-wide roads to the Oba’s palace were illuminated at night by metal street

lamp fuelled by palm oil that stood several feet high. Portuguese explorer who visited Benin in 1691 wrote; Great Benin, where the king resides, is larger than Lisbon, all the streets run straight and as far as the eye can see. The houses are large, especially that of the king which is richly decorated and has fine columns. The city is wealthy and industrious.

It is so well governed that theft is unknown and the people live in such security that they have no doors to their houses. Evidence of Benin's and Oyo's artistry and technical sophistication is provided by the stunning array of bronzes, terracotta objects and other art works which they produced. According to the British historian, these art works ranked among the masterpieces of world sculpture. A British visitor to Benin claimed that no one who went there in the old days came away without being impressed. Yet by the late 19th century, British visitors described Benin 'as possessing only the ruins of its former greatness and as being in a terrible state of bloodshed and disorder, which led them to call it the city of blood. Benin's decline corresponded with its contact with Europeans and primarily with its centuries engaging in slave trade.¹⁵ Benin people whose palm-kernels were cracked by a benevolent spirit was too quick to forget humility.

The Igbo inhabited the area which would later become the southeast Nigeria. Igbo communities lack paramount ruler or large states under own political administration. Each Igbo village was largely autonomous, and villages often had emotional or lineal affiliation to each other through descent from common ancestor. There is no evidence that Igbo ever recognized one person or political authority as their ruler. Pre-colonial Igbo society operated as an idiosyncratic gerontocratic democracy. Social authority usually resides with the oldest male-member of each family or clan that claimed descent from a common ancestor. The oldest male of each lineage group usually exercised authority over his lineage and upon his death; his authority was transmitted to the next oldest male. Even though Igbo society had age-grade fellowships, secret societies and title societies, these are usually operated at village level, and rarely came under a single directing authority. The absence of paramount kings ruling over large areas was encapsulated by the maxim 'Igbo amaghi eze (Igbo knows no king).¹⁶

The West has done the worst to Africa. Imposing the role of raw material producer on Africa shows the European readiness to destroy Africa by extending her suffering. Of course the way the imperialist west have conditioned Sub-Sahara Africa as the sole provider of raw material to the developed countries affects Nigeria greatly. It makes one

to wonder how is it possible that there are up to fifty functional refineries in US but there is no single functional refinery in Nigeria that its wealth in crude and natural resources can feed the whole of Europe. What an irony. How did Nigeria get here? And Chinua Achebe writes: whenever two Nigerians meet, their conversation will sooner or later slide into a litany of our national deficiencies. The trouble with Nigeria has become the subject of our small talk in much as the same ways as the weather is for the English. But national bad habits are a different matter we resign ourselves to them at our peril.¹⁷ Nelson Mandela once said that the world will never respect Africa until Nigeria earned that respect. The black people of the world are looking up to Nigeria to be a source of pride and confidence. Colonialism was really the cause of Nigeria's set back.

This has been proven that British and European countries never mean well for Nigeria. What they succeeded in doing during colonial era was to make Nigeria her slave forever and turned her into a mere raw material producer for herself everlasting. And yet Nigeria has over the years resorted in treating the effect of this problem without given any attention to the main cause of her problems. An even bigger problem is that Nigeria people and other parts of the colonized world have gone through cultural and psychological crisis and have accepted at least partially the European version of living. By exaggeration, it may be said that Africa itself has doubt on his capacity to transform and develop its natural environment. With such doubt, it has even challenged those of his brothers who say that Africa is still redeemable and can still develop through the efforts of its own people. European anthropologists who had studied African societies have done so mainly from a very prejudiced and racist position. Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad, for instance, was one of the most read novels around the time of its publication in 1899. The writer of the novel described Africa as a "wild, dark; and uncivilized continent. Not only was Conrad view about Africa a misrepresentation of Africa, it was also humiliation to African people. It was through the insights of Things Fall Apart that the world became more appreciative of Africa and its people and at the same time the truth surrounding the stereotypical ideas that once existed about Africa began to appear in a much clearer light.¹⁸

3. Main Reasons the West Turned Nigeria into a Raw Material Provider

The colonialists and European leadership saw Sub-Sahara Africa as a fertile ground to be exploited because of its endowment in natural resources. So they positioned their exploiting pipe to extract any valuable raw materials that can be found in African soil without any atom of regret. Nigeria as one of the African countries is seriously being exploited and manipulated by the European countries both politically and economically.

It was Britain that the West used to establish this plan. And today United States, France, UK and China are the ones championing it. But China is a little bit straight forward than the Western countries. But one thing is clear. Every colonial administration in any colonizing country worked hand in hand with the leaders and some few individual cabals. Without such magnitude of exploitation, imperialist activities will be difficult. What are the aims of colonialism and imperialism? (a) To protect national interest against competition from other capitalist countries. (b) And to guarantee optimum conditions under which private companies could exploit the colonial countries.

Of course there is collaboration between European leaders and desperate Nigerian leaders to continue promoting corruption in Nigeria. They knew that once this is achieved the environment that permits neocolonialism and imperialism is established. Since this was achieved playing the role of raw material producer to global prosperity for the developed countries became Nigeria's role. Because of this, Western leaders does not speak against the evil Nigerian leaders indulge in. Today corruption is endemic in Nigeria and nothing seems to be working. In this twenty-first century period, Nigeria as a nation is going backward economically, politically and developmental wise than moving forward. The Western countries have used aids, loans through World bank, Europeans Union, palliatives etc; using IMF as catalyst to make African currencies look almost worthless.

Western world is so much relying on African raw materials especially that in Nigeria's soil because they knew that their survival depends on it. So they can do anything even if it matters committing genocide to ensure that this trend continue running as a process. In 1946, according to Oppenheimer, the consolidated mines that sales of diamonds during the war generated about 300 million American dollars for Great Britain.¹⁹ It was on this very issue of currency that the colonial government did the most manipulations to ensure that Africa's wealth was stashed away in the coffer of the metropolitan state. Through this, they were able to establish an intricate financial network which served the common end of enriching Europe at Africa's expense. It was such gap that provided both the necessity and the opportunity for Europe to move into imperialist epoch and to colonized and further exploit African continent without their conscience pricking them. European monopoly and firms operated by constantly fighting to gain control over raw materials, markets and means of communications. That means the European capitalists were forced by the internal logic of their competitive system to seek abroad in less developed countries opportunities to control raw material supplies, to find markets, and to find profitable fields of investment.

Western countries interest in Nigeria has nothing to do with the good of the people, and because of that nothing has changed. The interest that did exist was borne by a small caucus of British politicians, civil servants and businessmen, and it was purely imperialistic. The policy was aimed at the maintenance of law and order, the raising of taxes to pay for the administration of the colony, the stimulation of the production of raw materials for British industry and the establishment of a consumer market to purchase manufactured goods from British Industry. As was the case of Nigeria, with independence, the first two functions were handed over to the selected and suitably friendly indigenes, while the later two remained as before in the hands of the British. Up till now, Europe has taken Nigeria to be a valley of raw materials extraction and they are not ready to give up any time soon. They are yet to see Nigeria as a nation with population of real people, but have over six decades seen Nigeria as a market place where they come to get raw materials cheap even when poverty is ravaging the country. Various attempts made by majority who are tired of such conditions has been discouraged and considered treasonable attempts. That was why, the Biafra's desire for partition from the rest of the country fell squarely²⁰, because they wouldn't want a tribe who are more organized to end decades of economic slavery they have subjected Nigeria into. And this is what Forsyth has to say:

British leadership wished to see a single and unified Nigeria so long as this was practically feasible, is not blameworthy; but what happened was that in its total determination to see a single economic units no matter that the cost in suffering to the people of the country, through the grossest interference in the internal politics of that country, British government chose to ally itself not with the people or their aspirations..²¹

The pertinent question we need to ask is, what strategy has Nigeria put in place to prove to the Europe and some developed countries that her game of colonialism and imperialism is well understood and that as a nation, it has decided to employ new approach to develop and strengthen Nigeria's institution and economy? It is an irony for one of the greatest nation in Africa like Nigeria that gained independence in 1960 to still export crude oil for refining and import it back into the country again for sales, distributions and consumption and Nigerian government is still talking about subsidy and subsidy removal. Over the years, Nigerian tribes have allowed tribalism, hatred, religious affiliations and quest for power to dominate our politics. To the extent that citizens has allowed criminals, drug

barons, ex-convicts, bandits and incompetent leaders to assume leadership positions because they are from their tribe or have the same religious affiliations with them. And then, those who are tested and trusted, who have integrity and are competent are being frustrated and chased out just because they come from the most hated tribe. The only time Nigeria will develop is when a separation is made between the looters and the hard working Nigerians who love Nigeria and want it to survive.

4. A Country Endowed with Natural Resources

In Nigeria, there are over forty mineral resources in Nigeria including oil and gas, limestone, marble, gypsum, lithium, silver, granite, iron ore etc. Crude oil is by far the most important mineral enormously available in the country.²² According to Audu Ogbe, the tragedy of Nigeria started in 1986 when adjustment programme was suggested. The government in power was persuaded to devalue Nigerian naira every week for thirty-two years on the ground that Nigeria's naira was over-valued globally. Thus he stated:

During the time I was still going to school, naira/dollar exchange rate was ₦1 against \$1 50 cents. Then naira was almost 1 pound sterling. Some Westerners brought some brilliant Harvard University scholars and some World Bank workers to come to Nigeria and convince Nigerian leadership and CBN that weekly devaluation of Naira was wonderful. Thirty-two years of devaluation of naira was quite a long time; over three decades. As a result of that, Nigerian currency depreciated so well against the dollar until it becomes ₦527 for 1 dollar. At ₦527 for \$1 they were still saying that naira was still overvalued. That brought poverty and misery upon us because the interest rate climbed up to 30% and nobody could start a farm, factory, produce anything or create jobs. Because anytime you bring in a ship load of rice or imported goods you will be charged import duty fee on that note you develop their countries and impoverish our nation. They seized the country's economy and have taken Nigeria hostage and have no intention of given up, because to them it is a huge market, a very sweet market and they have taken control.²³

Every Nigerian citizen should be made to understand this. We should know that Nigeria is the hope of Africa. Because Nigeria is still struggling economic and development wise, that is why Africa has not risen and has not earned the respect due for her. The fundamental error about Nigeria's leadership and economic struggle was committed when

Britain intentionally handed over power to the Fulani's because they think they have an oligarchy that suit the type of leadership that works for them. They believed that they can control Nigeria, through the caliphate. Britain said that Igbo people are people who believe in excellence and so handing over power to them will spoil their prospective plan for neocolonialism and post-colonialism in the country. Of course it was an agreement between Britain and Fulani. That is why Britain, US, UK, China etc are not speaking against the evils going on in Nigeria as being perpetuated by the caliphate and their cohort in piloting the affairs of the country. The political and economic struggle of the nation today is because power is in the hand of the oppressor and those who are being oppressed cries without comfort yet freedom is not granted. Of course you cannot talk about freedom without the rule of law in existence and being enforced.

5. Western World as Inventor Of Ideologies

The Western world has claimed the position of inventor of ideologies. It is their assumption that the third world countries especially Africa countries if not all lack political and economic 'will' to contribute anything meaningful as regarding the political and economic policies that should be guiding the world politics and economy. The Western world arrangement to subject Nigeria to play raw material producer role to global prosperity for the developed countries was intentional. The deal has already been concluded and sealed unless Africa does something different to break out of it. To the Western world, Nigeria is fundamental to global prosperity to the advance countries. The fundamental question we need to ask is; what was the aim of colonialism, racism, neocolonialism and post-colonialism by the west at the first place? Why have they continued to frustrate Africa politically and economically ensuring that Africa remain her slave? We appreciate the fact that they brought western education, the gospel, civilization, technology and so on but have they really allowed Nigeria as a nation to actually enjoy her freedom? Before their eyes the democracy in Nigeria is collapsing yet they prefer Nigeria to be in a state of anarchy so that the developed countries can benefit in Nigeria's misery and corruption. The just concluded election of 25th February, 2023 in Nigeria for instance is a good example where there was a rape of democracy and the Western world leaders could send delegates to attend inauguration of someone who stole nation's mandate. If they certainly want the best for Nigeria, would they have accepted such 'thing' as election? An election that was marred with frauds, impunity, killings, falsification of results and manipulations even when INEC signed into law 'Electoral acts' and promised that the election will be free and fair and that INEC will comply to electoral act and that it will be completely electronic voting via the Bimodal Voters Accreditation

System BVAS)? But INEC and Buhari led administration compromised and failed woefully in keeping to these promises.

The West is like a gadfly that feeds and depends on Africa's wealth and raw materials for survival and for sustainable development especially that of Nigeria due to the type of system and administration we have. Nigeria as a country is enormously blessed richly with raw materials which if managed well would transform the entire Country and Africa at large. Take for instance; most of the African countries do not have functional refineries because some few people in government want the condition to remain so that they can continue to milk the country dry. The implication of this is that for these African countries to process their crude, they have to export the raw materials for refining to any of the western countries that have functional refineries. After refining the crude oil and converting it into fuel, gas, diesel etc. they are imported back into the same country where it was exported from. Simple arithmetic will give us swift explanation that what happens in the process of this exporting, processing and importing back transactions is that the African countries that are involve in these refining transactions abroad are developing the western countries when they refine their crude oil and such activities underdevelopment these countries as a result of the irrational transactions.

The first hand enemy to Nigeria's economic reversal and development is Britain, US, and others. This paper does not dispute the fact that Nigeria's contact with the Europe in one way or the other has benefited the country in some ways, but what this paper argues is that those factors was an avenue for Europe to impose its culture and ideology on Nigeria and forced her to accept it so as to manipulate her both politically and economically. This is the strategy the West is using to loot Nigeria's natural resources and they wished that Nigeria continue to produce blind and visionless leaders so that this economic exploitation can go on and on ad infinitum. It is the wish of the West that Africa don't break-away from this chain of political and economic slavery that is why they will always block any policy that could grant Nigeria economic independence. It is Western arrangements to impoverish Nigeria so that Nigeria can resort to selling of raw materials as the only alternative for survival. The economic structures, projections and Western executions were designed to frustrate Nigeria so as to remain at the condition it has been. Whether is Europe, USA, China, and or any other developed country, it has always been the same. One of the weapons the West is using against Africa is to package and present corruption to appear wonderful to its leaders at Federal, State and local government level which they have already become champions, thereby making corruption look so appealing. Because the West desperately need these raw materials and would need to get them cheaper or can

even snatch them and take them for free if they can have their way. The US, Europe, China and some of the developed countries wants Nigeria to continue playing this role of raw material producer till eternity unless Nigeria do something different.

The standpoint of Western world is that, they will never allow Sub Sahara Africa to escape from this chain of raw material producer role. They have resolved that all the economic structures, all institutions, and the economic they teach everyone is all designed to keep Africa exactly where it is. Whether it is Europe, US, China, they are all the same. They only want Africa to be impoverished because they need those raw materials, and they need them that cheap. But it does not mean there is nothing Africa can do. Of course there is. But what Africa can do to gain its total economic freedom is what the West has been fighting against starting with colonialism and today has gone into digital imperialism. The West knew that if Africa dare do something different, the living standards of all those in Europe and North America and Asia is going to fall. And to them this is a big price to pay. And the West cannot allow that without a big fight. So Keeping Africa impoverished is absolutely fundamental to every Western country. This is what those in academics teach western institutions and students at every level to ensure that this trend of oppression and injustice continued. One of the works of the western academics is to convince Africans to continue doing what they are doing and to show Africa that it's her fault that she is poor and not their fault. The West knows the basic forces that have caused this underdevelopment; it is colonization. So there is need for Africa to fight for her economic freedom, if Nigerian leaders and institutions can agree, they can be the leading force. The West doesn't want countries of Africa especially Nigeria to industrialize and start producing and manufacture. So any sign shown to industrialized, produce and manufacture, they do everything to stop it.

From their dealings, they have practically shown how they can block it. They had east Asian rapid industrialization process, so in the earlier periods, they had Japan, Korea and Taiwan, rapid growth, sucking in raw materials from Africa especially from Nigeria, driving up the prices. After those countries finished industrialization, then Sub-Sahara African growth rate falls again. They have condemned Sub-Sahara Africa to this role, just the supplier of raw materials, not a manufacturer. And this is the type of continent that Nigeria found itself. After colonization ended, the West planed ahead to open a new structure to keep Nigeria where they were. And one of the structures they set up was Aid. Now aid for what? Nigeria was offered aid to keep repressive regimes in power. The hypocrisy about transparency and democracy are all propaganda. They go to country to country offering loans through IMF, World Bank, European Union etc. for poverty

alleviation and palliatives to cushion the effect of something that may not even concern Nigeria. If the presidents of these countries developing countries refuses to accept loans, they may risk being pushed out of office or would be killed. This is the economic strategy the west is using to manipulate Nigeria and Africa at large. To them, this is all about economic warfare. To them nothing is wrong with such. Their justification is tied to the belief that such trend is going on in every country. The rich always declares war on the poor and the rich always controls the government.” That is just the mission the West is propagating and they have made Nigeria and African continent the sacrificial lamb. Nigerian societies were weak, and because of their weakness they were colonized. Fortunately Nigeria survived the oppressive colonial period. By combination of factors Nigeria gained her independence. The problem is that when Nigeria gained her independence, she did not leverage on that to strengthen and make herself stronger. And now the former colonials are coming back to start from where they left Nigeria because they still have unfinished business in Nigeria. That is the misery of Nigeria.

6. Industrialization and Production as Parameters of Development In Nigeria

Country like Singapore was not a natural country but man-made. But through the leadership of Lee Kuan Yew, they discovered that the only way to survive was to industrialize. So they ventured into tourism which they saw was labour intensive. It really created many jobs and put coins into many empty pockets but it didn't solve the problem of unemployment. Yew and his cabinet toed Singapore to the path of industrialization. Yew was convinced that his people must never have an aid-dependent mentality. He understood that accepting aids from some of the developed countries are traps that may pave way for economic and political exploitation; but this is what Nigerian leaders have not been able to see instead they have embraced those offers. To Yew, if we were to succeed we had to depend on ourselves. His mentality was that assistance should provide Singapore with jobs through industries and not make Singapore dependent on perpetual injections of aids. Yew warned Singapore workers; suggested that the world does not owe Singapore a living. Singapore cannot live by the begging bowl. Singapore did not have natural resources for multinational corporations to exploit. All it has been hard-working people, good basic infrastructure, and a good government that determined to be honest and competent.²⁴

How was Singapore able to shave out corruption? Singapore system was well explained by Yew as follows: first, good intelligence; next, an impersonal, not a subjective approach; third, solid backing from the top for anti-corruption investigation and prosecution.²⁵ But these are virtues Nigerians and its leaders have refused to covet. Before

Nigeria can win this battle; it must go for the best brain and the culture of discipline, integrity, hard-work, accountability, trust and transparency must be established. Then for productivity, the older officials would be slowly ease out and younger ones who are untainted must be engaged and ensure they maintain high moral standard and should be paid well. Yew maintained that unless the top leaders were beyond reproach, and higher echelons cleaned up before the lower, it would be a waste of time.²⁶

When most African countries gained independence in 1960s, the new governments saw industrialization as an illogical means of shaking off colonial trade patterns and attain sustainable development. Therefore they employed state-led strategies to develop logical industries to produce goods that were previously imported. But this arrangement was short lived when World Bank encouraged African leaders in early 1980 to embrace structural adjustment policies. By 1980s, Nigeria governments embraced the said structural adjustment policies promoted by the World Bank, and International Monetary Fund (IMF) which reduced the role of the state in economic activities and encouraged the sales of public enterprises. As Nigeria industries faltered, most economies remained dependent on a narrow range of primary products. This is a growing concern among development planner, who warned that unless Nigeria diversifies the range of products it produces and exports, it will further be marginalized in the global economy.

Building or rebuilding industries across the developing world is really a major challenge. Countries that have successfully shifted from producing raw materials into manufacturing have done so in stages. They started by moving into the processing of primary commodities, a process known as vertical diversification. Some African countries, for instance, are now exporting leather instead of just hides, textiles in place of cotton, or paper, plywood or furniture instead of logs. Ivory Coast now a major fish-and wood processing country, has managed to do this. So has Senegal which also shifted from simply selling raw fish into processing and packing its produce. At independence in 1966, Botswana was one of the Africa's poorest countries, but it soon discovered diamonds and its economy has been one of the continent's fastest growing. Aware that these diamonds will one day exhausted, Botswana has used the revenues to invest heavily in human resources. In 1997 South Africa launched a major industrialized drive, partly based on value added industries in the cattle sector such as meat and hide processing and production of cattle and chicken feed. The country is also promoting small but rapidly growing industrial sector in textiles, motor-vehicle assembly, electronics and garments and jewelry. Although South Africa has managed to build up Sub-Sahara Africa's most sophisticated industrial sector, the executives there are also concerned about the

economy's continuing resilience on mining. We cannot solely depend on the extraction industry and forget about the fact, the resources that Africa have.²⁷ Not that there are no records of the areas Nigeria is developing. Diversification of economy were promoted as an alternative process that can boost Nigeria's economy and individuals, companies, private sectors etc. began to explore in some of these areas especially in agriculture, industries, tourism, empowerment programmes etc. There were railways and road constructions but corruption, bad governance, epileptic power supply, terrorism, kidnapping, herdsman killings of farmers et cetera has frustrated these efforts.

6. Solutions to Nigeria Developmental Situation

To tell the truth, the proof of success lies in a whole social structure being changed from bottom up. The extraordinary importance of this change is that it is willed, called for, and demanded for. The natives who are imperialist victims know that they are not animals: and it is precisely at the moment they realize their humanity that they began to sharpen their weapons with which they will secure their victory. In every age, among the people, truth is the property of the national cause. Truth is that which hurries on the break-up of imperialist regime. A man who is in the thick of the fight in an urgent matter to decide on the means and tactics to employ; that is to say, how to conduct and organize the movement. If this coherence is not present there is only a blind will toward freedom, with the terribly reactionary risk which it entails.²⁸

As it stands today, the story of Nigeria is pleasant but the land is barren. Leadership failure is the main reason why Nigeria is yet to develop. Anything that needs to be done has to start from there. We have to change the method through which we have been selecting our leaders. Before Nigeria can develop, the mindset of Nigerians about reality must change. We must kill tribalism, religious sentiment and embrace unity and become more patriotic about the nation Nigeria. If we are still thinking with such mentality as give it to me now and forget about tomorrow, then we are still trying to put the new wine skin into an old wine skin bottle. Oppression for a long time has become one of the defining characteristics of blacks. Whether this condition will continue or not is dependent on Nigerians willingness or unwillingness to change this narrative once and for all or allow the status quo to remain. Historically, Nigeria has struggled and have being through a lot against a comprehensive system of domination imposed on her by the colonialists and the West. Like some of the third world countries in the same page with Nigeria, Nigeria has found itself at the bottom of economic ladder and without any substantial political power.

But then the economic and political oppression was compounded by a legal system of neo-colonialism and imperialism: these two evils have denied Nigeria freedom which it supposed to enjoy routinely with most of the developed countries especially those in Europe. There is still hope for Nigeria to pursue, to recover and overtake both in economic and political sphere. But it is when Nigeria is willing to do something different from what it has been doing that it can achieve economic and genuine political freedom. As Dr. Ngozi Okongo-Iwala stated in her book: fighting corruption is dangerous. Of course when you fight corruption definitely you must touch the pockets of those who are stealing public funds and converting them to their own private belongings. The issue is that when you touch their pocket they don't just keep quiet, they fight back.²⁹ But if Nigeria really want to do away with anything called corruption it is important to know that there is every tendency that those fighting it will be intimidated, ridiculed, pushed to the wall or may be killed. It is something they should expect unless they are not ready to win this battle. And when it arises there is no need to give up but to stay on and fight on. That is the only way the battle against corruption, neocolonialism and imperialism can be won.

But it does not mean to say that there is nothing Nigeria can do about this very condition. What we need to know is that this is the very struggle Nigeria have been into these years. And the closest opposition has been some enemies within Nigeria and some of the developed Western countries who before they hand over political power entered a treaty with their preferred tribe for neocolonial activities for furtherance of their intending imperialist expansion. First of all, Nigeria needs to build synergy within and become more united than divided. Then identify who are her enemies, the cause of her predicament and those who are opposition to good governance in the country. The fear some of the developed countries who are benefiting from the present condition of Nigeria is if Nigeria do something different it is going to hamper development in their countries and living standard over there will fall. But this is the secret Nigeria should leverage on to something different. The West is not ready to allow Nigeria to enjoy her total freedom without frictional combat. It would be very difficult for the West to allow Nigeria to win such fight. But the question is; has some patriotic citizens who mean well for Nigeria been speaking and fighting against these evils of economic oppression and imperialism? The answer is yes. But the neocolonialism, post-colonialism and imperialism that are ongoing in Africa and beyond has been a stumbling block to win this battle.

Nigeria's natural wealth has not served its population as supposed because certain key institutions has remained weak and few aristocrat ruling class has hijacked power and

have being cooperating and dancing to the tune of the imperialists lords. Of course economy of a nation can fall due to weak economic management, and such has thrived in Nigeria over the years without economic progression. Due to its size and economic endowment, Nigeria matters to Africa and the world at large. This is why good political and economic policies and good governance is necessary and that is the more reason why the world must pay attention on what is happening in Nigeria and lend its support to ensure that Nigeria moves onto the right development path. What we need in Nigeria today is an institution of men and women who will shun wrongs and stand up for the right wherever they are. A group of people who will resolve within themselves to start seeing that certain things are wrong, whether they're never caught up with and that some things are right, whether nobody sees someone doing them or not.³⁰

7. Conclusion

Presently some Western countries have pretended to have shown concern over what is happening in Nigeria. Whether they are pretending over it or they meant it, is what we cannot say. We should know that talking about it and posting videos on social media does not mean they will do anything to help Nigeria to overcome these challenges. Because America, European countries, some developed countries including China and what they are offering to Nigeria are tantamount to Nigeria's economic stability and development. During Buhari's administration some looted fund saved in foreign accounts by Abacha were returned but the truth was that the returned funds were not properly managed. Another corrupt administration squandered and looted the money again without utilizing it to any developmental project. What a tragedy? Nigeria is still far away from aligning itself to Francis Fukuyama's predictions of Liberal democracy standing out and constituting the end point of mankind's ideological evolution and the final form of human government's and constituting the end of history. May be democracy is not meant for Nigeria and African continent. What we have noticed in the political architecture of Nigeria's mainstream is the case of one tribe claiming that the right of governance was handed over to them and therefore is their hereditary. I think before Fukuyama put his thesis forward, Africa were not in the picture, because Africa is very much backward and insensitive to access and apply liberal democracy up till now.

Yet the Liberal democracy in question is a Western ideology. Nigeria endorsing democracy as its system of government confirms the claim that the West is the inventor of ideologies. Nigeria may have claimed to be in democratic regime for over three decades now, but the fact is that democracy is yet to find its feet in Nigeria practically. Liberal democracy may have emerged as a system of government over the past few decades, but

it is working in Western countries and not in Africa. Democracy is yet to work in Nigeria. I still believe that what will liberate and develop Nigeria is within Nigeria; it may not be democracy. The West cannot come and develop Nigeria for Nigerians. Anything that makes them speak is always to their own interest. All the loans from IMF, World Bank, European Union etc and aids offered to Nigeria are not actually to help Nigeria but to trap her so that she will be more indebted to the Western world which will give the west the audacity to dictates and control her.

The only way Nigeria can become one of the developed countries in the nearest future is if Nigeria can escape from the chain of Western dictates and reject policies that does not in anyway favour its economy and politics. Before Nigeria can move forward, it must practically be independent of the Western dictates and imperialism. Nigeria must come out from being a consumption continent and become a production nation. Good governance and Industrialization will push Nigeria forward to achieving this goal. Nigeria transacting its raw materials with the already developed countries cannot develop Nigeria; instead it will continue to impoverish her. Earlier Nigeria understand this Western arrangement of colonization and imperialism to impoverish and manipulate her through offering aids, loans etc, the better for Nigerian leaders and its citizens.

There is need for Nigeria as a nation to rebuild its domestic industries and refineries so as to go into full time production and processing of its raw materials by itself such as crude oil, cocoa, coal, granite and so on and export them to foreign countries. If Nigeria can achieve this, it will create enabling environment for competition and relation between Nigeria continent and other countries. And that will Nigeria's economy. Nigeria should see refining of crude oil outside Nigeria, exporting and importing it back to Nigeria as great offence. Nigeria should stop building its philosophy on the background that if it stops selling raw materials to some of the developed countries it would not survive. That is a primitive kind of thinking. What the world is looking for in this twenty-first century is what difference one can bring to the deck as solution to one of the world's problem and not the other way round. Everyone have a role to play; government, church, leaders and the institutions. Keeping quiet and doing nothing cannot liberate or save Nigeria. Nigeria must shun every indirect dictates and influence that comes from the West and some other developed countries. What will make Nigeria great and what will develop Africa is within and not without.

The West has deceived Nigeria all these years and has sold the wrong ideology to our leaders to believe that it is impossible for Nigeria to develop on its own without western

influence, ideology and structures. But this was built on wrong philosophy and this has been the battle those who want Nigeria to have total freedom have been fighting. Hegel's contention that truth is the whole led me to a philosophical method of rational coherence. His analysis of the dialectical process, in spite of its shortcoming helped me to see that growth comes through struggle. Is either that Nigeria struggle and clear his head off from Western imperialism or become silent and wait for the second missionary journey of colonialism. If Britain, United States, France, China and some of the developed countries want crude oil; then they should come to Nigeria and build refineries then Nigeria will supply them crude oil. If they want cocoa, steel, rubber, etc. then they should come to Nigeria, build companies and Nigeria will supply them the raw materials. My point is that let those raw materials be refined and processed in Nigeria. Then it can now be marketed in Nigeria or exported abroad. In so doing more Nigerians will be gainfully employed and unemployment rate will reduce drastically. Nigeria will develop the more and Nigeria's economy will be strengthened and the rate of imperialist activities will be reduced to the barest minimum.

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