

**A STUDY ON THE CHANGING NATURE OF NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN
NIGERIA**

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A PROJECT WORK SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARDS OF BACHELOR OF ARTS (B.A) HONOURS DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND DIPLOMACY, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY.

FEBRUARY 2025.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this project work was carried out by **JUDITH OMOKHEYEKEMWEN** in the department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, under my supervision.

.....

DR. WILLIAMS ORUKPE

Project Supervisor

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Date

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DR. FRANK IKPONWOSA

Head of Department

.....

Date

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty, the giver of life, for empowering me to successfully complete this programme.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I humbly acknowledge God for his mercies, provisions, comfort and protection during the years you spent in this great university, and for guiding me to the successful conclusion of my research work. Also, my gratitude goes to my project supervisor, Dr Williams Orukpe for his constant guide and patience during the course of carrying out this research. God bless you.

I want to appreciate my family, my Dad, for his supports throughout my stay in this university.

I also want to express my gratitude to my lecturers who have worked to improve me as a student and as a person. Dr Frank Ikponmwosa, Dr Charles Osarumwese and other outstanding departmental lecturers.

I will not fail to acknowledge myself, for staying strong, despite the challenges associated with the journey of education. I want to appreciate my friend, Victory for her kindness and kind gestures.

God bless you all.

JUDITH OMOKHEYEKEMWEN

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Introduction

Nigeria's national security landscape has undergone significant transformations since independence in 1960. The country's security challenges have shifted from traditional state-based threats to non-state actors, asymmetric warfare, and transnational crimes.¹ This study examines the changing nature of national security threats in Nigeria from 2009 to 2022, exploring historical roots, contemporary challenges, and government responses. Nigeria's national security trajectory is deeply rooted in its colonial legacy. The British colonial administration's divide-and-

rule policy created ethnic and regional tensions that persist today. Post-independence, Nigeria's national security concerns shifted from internal stability to regional and global issues, including the Nigerian Civil War and the Cold War. The post-Cold War era saw the emergence of non-state actors, terrorism, and insurgency.²

The colonial era's legacy continues to influence Nigeria's national security landscape. The country's ethnic and regional diversity, inherited from colonial boundaries, has contributed to internal conflicts and instability. The British colonial administration's neglect of Nigeria's economic and social development also created underlying tensions that have manifested in various forms of violence. Despite changes in national security threats, continuity exists in several areas. Porous borders remain vulnerable to smuggling, trafficking, and terrorism. Corruption remains a significant challenge, undermining national security efforts. Weak institutions, including the military and police, face capacity and resource challenges. Ethnic and regional divisions continue to fuel conflicts.³

New threats have emerged, including Boko Haram insurgency, kidnapping and armed robbery, and piracy and sea-borne threats. Boko Haram's violence has displaced millions and devastated the Northeast. Kidnapping, armed robbery, and piracy have devastated Nigeria's economy. Nigeria's coastal vulnerabilities expose it to piracy and other sea-borne threats. The changing nature of national security threats has significant implications for Nigeria. Human costs, including thousands of deaths and millions displaced, are staggering. Economic costs, including lost revenue and infrastructure destruction, are substantial. Regional instability, including threats to West Africa's security, is a concern. Global security implications, particularly regarding terrorism and piracy, are also significant.⁴

Nigeria's government has responded to national security threats with military operations, intelligence gathering, community engagement, and international cooperation. Despite these efforts, challenges persist, including inadequate resources, corruption, and institutional weaknesses. Nigeria's national security landscape has evolved significantly since 2009. Understanding historical roots, change and continuity, and impact is crucial for effective national security strategies. This study aims to contribute to this understanding, informing policy decisions and strategic planning. The Nigerian government's efforts to address national security threats have been hindered by various challenges, including corruption, inadequate resources, and institutional weaknesses. Despite these challenges, the government has made some progress in addressing national security threats, particularly in the areas of counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency.⁵

However, more needs to be done to address the root causes of national security threats in Nigeria. This includes addressing issues such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality, which are often exploited by extremist groups to recruit new members. It also includes strengthening Nigeria's institutions, particularly the military and police, to enable them to effectively respond to national security threats. The international community also has a role to play in helping Nigeria to address its national security challenges. This includes providing support for Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts, as well as helping to address the root causes of extremism, such as poverty and social inequality.⁶

In recent years, Nigeria has faced numerous national security challenges, including the Boko Haram insurgency, kidnapping, armed robbery, and piracy. These challenges have had significant impacts on Nigeria's economy, politics, and society. The Boko Haram insurgency, which began in 2009, has been particularly devastating. The group's violent attacks have resulted

in thousands of deaths and millions of displaced persons. The insurgency has also had significant economic impacts, including the destruction of infrastructure and the disruption of trade.⁷

Kidnapping and armed robbery have also become major national security concerns in Nigeria. These crimes have resulted in significant human and economic costs, including the loss of lives and the disruption of economic activity. Piracy and sea-borne threats have also become increasingly significant national security concerns in Nigeria. The country's coastal vulnerabilities expose it to piracy and other sea-borne threats, which have significant impacts on Nigeria's economy and trade.⁸

Nigeria's national security landscape is complex and dynamic, with numerous challenges and threats. Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account the root causes of national security threats, as well as the need for effective institutions and international cooperation.⁹ This research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of Nigeria's national security challenges and the ways in which they can be addressed. It is hoped that the findings of this study will be useful for policymakers, scholars, and other stakeholders who are interested in Nigeria's national security.¹⁰

Aim and Objectives of The Study

The aim of this research work is to examine the changing nature of national security threats in Nigeria from 2009 to 2022. Specific objectives are:

1. to examine the history of national security threats in Nigeria.
2. to analyze the change and continuity in contemporary national security threats facing Nigeria.

3. to identify the factors contributing to the changing nature of national security threats in Nigeria.
4. to assess the responses of the Nigerian government to the changing national security threats.
5. to explore the impact of the changing nature of national security threats on Nigeria's national security and stability.

Scope of The Study

The scope of this research work is to examine the changing nature of national security threats in Nigeria from 2009 to 2022. This study will focus on the key events and milestones that shaped Nigeria's national security landscape, including the 2009 Boko Haram uprising, the 2011 post-election violence, the 2014 Chibok schoolgirls' abduction, the 2015 presidential election and the subsequent change of government, and the 2020 #EndSARS protests. These events will provide a framework for understanding the evolution of national security threats in Nigeria during this period.

Methodology

This research work will employ the historical research methodology. Sources of data would be gotten from the primary and secondary sources. The primary materials would include oral interviews with security experts such as the Nigerian police force and policy makers. The secondary materials would include the reviews of existing literature on national security threats in Nigeria.

Primary Sources: The primary materials would include oral interviews, archival records, official reports of governmental agencies such as The Nigerian Army and police.

Secondary Sources: The secondary materials would include textbooks, journal articles, biography and online materials.

Literature Review

Mustapha Abdul Raufu in his journal article, "Understanding Boko Haram", Mustapha provides an in-depth analysis of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria. The book explores the historical, social, and economic contexts that have contributed to the rise of Boko Haram. Mustapha's work is helpful in this research as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the Boko Haram phenomenon, which is a significant national security threat in Nigeria. However, the book focuses primarily on the historical and social contexts of Boko Haram, leaving a gap in the analysis of the group's impact on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹¹ Nwankwo Chuka in his journal article, "The Evolution of Boko Haram: A Study of the Group's Ideology and Operations", Nwankwo examines the evolution of Boko Haram's ideology and operations. The book provides a detailed analysis of the group's transformation from a peaceful Islamic sect to a violent extremist organization. Nwankwo's work is helpful in this research as it provides insight into the dynamics of Boko Haram's operations and ideology. However, the book focuses primarily on the group's internal dynamics, leaving a gap in the analysis of the group's impact on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹²

Obi Cyril in his journal article, "Terrorism in West Africa: Exploring the Rise of Boko Haram", Obi examines the rise of Boko Haram in the context of West African regional security dynamics. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the regional and global factors that

have contributed to the rise of Boko Haram. Obi's work is helpful in this research as it provides insight into the regional and global contexts of Boko Haram's operations. However, the book focuses primarily on the regional and global contexts, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹³ Onuoha Freedom in his journal article, "The Islamist Insurgency in Nigeria: A Review of the Literature", Onuoha provides a comprehensive review of the literature on Islamist insurgency in Nigeria. The book examines the various factors that have contributed to the rise of Islamist insurgency in Nigeria, including poverty, inequality, and corruption. Onuoha's work is helpful in this research as it provides a comprehensive overview of the literature on Islamist insurgency in Nigeria. However, the book focuses primarily on the review of literature, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of Islamist insurgency on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁴

Oyewole Samuel in his journal article, "National Security Challenges in Nigeria: A Critical Analysis", Oyewole examines the various national security challenges facing Nigeria, including terrorism, insurgency, and kidnapping. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of these challenges on Nigeria's national security. Oyewole's work is helpful in this research as it provides insight into the various national security challenges facing Nigeria. However, the book focuses primarily on the analysis of national security challenges, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁵ Falola Toyin, and Matthew M. Heaton in their book "A History of Nigeria", Falola and Heaton provide a comprehensive history of Nigeria, including its pre-colonial, colonial, and post-

colonial periods. This book is relevant to this research work as it provides a historical context for understanding the national security challenges facing Nigeria. The book's analysis of Nigeria's historical development and its impact on the country's national security is helpful in this research. However, the book focuses primarily on Nigeria's historical development, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of contemporary national security threats on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁶

Herbst Jeffrey in his book "States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control", Herbst examines the relationship between state power and authority in Africa. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing African states in maintaining power and authority. This book is relevant to this research work as it provides a framework for understanding the challenges facing Nigeria's national security. Herbst's analysis of the relationship between state power and authority is helpful in this research. However, the book focuses primarily on the theoretical framework, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of national security threats on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁷ Maier Karl in his book "This House Has Fallen: Nigeria in Crisis", Maier examines the various crises facing Nigeria, including political, economic, and social crises. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of these crises on Nigeria's national security. Maier's work is helpful in this research as it provides insight into the various crises facing Nigeria. However, the book focuses primarily on the analysis of crises, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁸

Osaghae Eghosa in his book "Crippled Giant: Nigeria Since Independence", Osaghae examines the challenges facing Nigeria since independence, including political, economic, and social challenges. The book provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of these challenges on Nigeria's national security. Osaghae's work is helpful in this research as it provides insight into the challenges facing Nigeria. However, the book focuses primarily on the analysis of challenges, leaving a gap in the analysis of the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security. This research aims to fill this gap by examining the impact of Boko Haram on Nigeria's national security.¹⁹

CHAPTERIZATION

CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

This chapter would contain the aim and objectives, scope of the study, methodology and literature review.

CHAPTER TWO: CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

This chapter explores the concept of national security threats, including the political, economic, social, military contents and theories of National security.

CHAPTER THREE: NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN PRE-COLONIAL AND COLONIAL NIGERIA

This chapter examines the precolonial and colonial national security threats in Nigeria. It analyzes the changing nature of these threats, and identifies the factors contributing to these changes.

CHAPTER FOUR: NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN POST-COLONIAL NIGERIA

This chapter assesses the national security threats in post-colonial Nigeria and its impact on the political, economic, social and military sectors in Nigeria.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the summary of the entire research work. It concludes that the change and continuity in national security threats in Nigeria has been an issue of concern in the country. This chapter will contain observations and suggestions to these national security threats in Nigeria.

Endnotes

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CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPTUAL UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Introduction

National security is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various dimensions, including philosophy, politics, economy, military, and social aspects. At its core, national security refers to the protection of a nation's values, interests, and citizens from external and internal threats. This concept has evolved over time, and its meaning has expanded to include non-military threats such as terrorism, cyberattacks, and economic sabotage.¹

The philosophy of national security is rooted in the idea that a nation's security is paramount to its survival and prosperity. This philosophy is guided by the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the protection of citizens' rights and interests. National security is also closely tied to the concept of justice, which is recognized as a critical factor in achieving peace and stability in societies. From a political perspective, national security is shaped by a nation's political system, institutions, and policies. A stable and effective political

system is essential for ensuring national security, as it provides the framework for addressing security threats and protecting citizens' interests. The political content of national security also involves the management of internal conflicts and the promotion of national unity and cohesion. The economic dimension of national security is critical, as a nation's economic stability and prosperity are essential for its overall security. Economic security threats can take many forms, including terrorism, corruption, and economic sabotage. A nation's economic security is also closely tied to its energy security, food security, and environmental security.²

The military content of national security is perhaps the most visible aspect of national security, as it involves the use of military force to protect a nation's interests and citizens. However, the military dimension of national security is not limited to the use of force; it also involves diplomacy, strategic planning, and international cooperation. The social content of national security is often overlooked, but it is essential for ensuring national security. Social security threats can take many forms, including poverty, inequality, and social injustice. A nation's social security is also closely tied to its human security, which involves the protection of citizens' rights and dignity. Several theories have been proposed to explain the concept of national security, including the realist theory, the liberal theory, and the constructivist theory. The realist theory posits that national security is primarily driven by the pursuit of power and interest. The liberal theory, on the other hand, emphasizes the importance of cooperation and institutions in achieving national security. The constructivist theory suggests that national security is socially constructed and that it is shaped by a nation's identity, culture, and values.³

In contemporary security studies, the focus has shifted from external threats to internal threats such as terrorism, insurgency, and cyberattacks. The old perspective on national security, which emphasized the importance of military power and external threats, is no longer

sufficient. Instead, a new perspective on national security is needed, one that takes into account the complex and interconnected nature of security threats in the 21st century. This new perspective on national security recognizes that security threats are often transnational and that they require international cooperation and collective action to address. It also recognizes that national security is not just about protecting a nation's interests and citizens but also about promoting human security, human rights, and human dignity.⁴

National security is a complex and multifaceted concept that encompasses various dimensions, including philosophy, politics, economy, military, and social aspects. Understanding national security requires a nuanced and interdisciplinary approach that takes into account the complex and interconnected nature of security threats in the 21st century.⁵

Philosophy of National Security

The philosophy of national security is concerned with understanding the fundamental nature of national security, its underlying principles, and the ethical implications of security policies. National security refers to the protection of a nation's values, interests, and citizens from external and internal threats. At its core, national security is rooted in the concept of sovereignty, which refers to a nation's authority and control over its territory and citizens. The protection of sovereignty is essential to national security, as it ensures that a nation can maintain its independence and autonomy in the face of external threats.⁶

The philosophy of national security also involves understanding the relationship between security and freedom. Security policies often involve trade-offs between individual freedoms and collective security. For instance, security measures such as surveillance and intelligence gathering may infringe on individual privacy rights, but are deemed necessary to

protect national security. Another key aspect of the philosophy of national security is the concept of securitization. Securitization refers to the process of constructing security threats and justifying security policies. This process involves the identification of security threats, the mobilization of public support for security policies, and the justification of these policies. The philosophy of national security also raises important ethical questions. For instance, what are the moral implications of security policies that involve the use of force or coercion? How do security policies impact on individual rights and freedoms? What are the ethical implications of securitization, and how can we ensure that security policies are justified and proportionate?⁷

In addressing these questions, philosophers of national security draw on a range of ethical theories, including consequentialism, deontology, and virtue ethics. Consequentialist theories, such as utilitarianism, argue that security policies should be evaluated in terms of their consequences, and that policies that maximize overall well-being are morally justified. Deontological theories, such as Kantianism, argue that security policies should be evaluated in terms of their adherence to moral rules and principles, and that policies that violate these principles are morally unjustified. Virtue ethics theories, such as Aristotelianism, argue that security policies should be evaluated in terms of the character and moral virtues of the decision-makers, and that policies that reflect moral virtues such as wisdom, courage, and justice are morally justified. The philosophy of national security is a rich and complex field that raises important questions about the nature of security, the relationship between security and freedom, and the ethical implications of security policies. By drawing on a range of ethical theories and concepts, philosophers of national security can provide valuable insights into the moral dimensions of security policies, and can help to inform more just and effective security practices.⁸

Political Content of National Security

National security is a critical concern for any nation, and its political content is multifarious. In Nigeria, the security situation has been relatively stable since the civil war in 1970, except for occasional regional, political, and religious crises. However, over time, various regions in the country have been plagued by insecurity problems, which have resulted in significant loss of lives and properties. One of the primary factors contributing to insecurity in Nigeria is the porous nature of its borders. The country shares extensive land borders with several neighboring countries, including Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. These borders are largely unmanned, making it easy for immigrants, smugglers, and terrorists to enter the country undetected. The North-Eastern region of Nigeria is particularly vulnerable to border porosity. The region shares borders with Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, and its extensive land borders have made it a transit point for small arms and light weapons. The proliferation of these weapons has fueled terrorism and insecurity in the region.⁹

The Boko Haram insurgency, which emerged in 2009, has been a significant security threat in the North-Eastern region. The group's activities have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and properties, and have displaced millions of people. The porosity of the borders in the region has made it easy for Boko Haram militants to infiltrate the country and carry out their nefarious activities. Another security challenge facing Nigeria is the issue of illegal migration. The porous nature of the borders has made it easy for immigrants from neighboring countries to enter Nigeria undetected. These immigrants often engage in criminal activities, such as robbery, rape, and kidnapping, which have contributed to the insecurity problems in the country.¹⁰

The Nigerian government has taken several measures to address the security challenges facing the country. These measures include the establishment of the National Committee on the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the signing of bilateral agreements with neighboring countries to curb the proliferation of small arms, and the participation in multinational arrangements to address the global problem of small arms proliferation. However, despite these efforts, the security situation in Nigeria remains precarious. The porosity of the borders, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the activities of terrorist groups such as Boko Haram continue to pose significant security challenges to the country. To address these challenges, the Nigerian government needs to adopt a more comprehensive approach to national security. This approach should involve the strengthening of border security, the disarmament and demobilization of militant groups, and the addressing of the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty, inequality, and unemployment.¹¹

Economic Content of National Security

The economic content of national security is a vital aspect of a nation's overall security strategy. It encompasses the economic factors that impact a nation's security and stability, including trade, investment, economic development, and the management of natural resources. National security is not just about military power and defense; it also involves ensuring the economic well-being and stability of a nation. A strong economy is essential for a nation's security, as it provides the resources needed to maintain a strong military, invest in infrastructure, and promote economic development.¹²

One of the key economic content of national security is trade. Trade is essential for a nation's economic growth and development, and it can also play a critical role in promoting

national security. Trade agreements can help to promote economic cooperation and stability among nations, reducing the likelihood of conflict. However, trade can also be used as a tool of national security. Economic sanctions, for example, can be used to punish nations that pose a threat to national security. Sanctions can limit a nation's access to vital resources, such as oil, and can also restrict its ability to trade with other nations. Investment is another critical aspect of the economic content of national security. Foreign investment can play a vital role in promoting economic development and stability, and it can also help to promote national security. Investment in infrastructure, such as roads and bridges, can help to promote economic growth and development, and it can also help to improve a nation's military capabilities.¹³

Economic development is also a critical aspect of the economic content of national security. Economic development can help to promote stability and reduce the likelihood of conflict. When people have access to basic necessities, such as food, water, and shelter, they are less likely to engage in conflict. The management of natural resources is also a critical aspect of the economic content of national security. Natural resources, such as oil and gas, can be a vital source of revenue for a nation, and they can also play a critical role in promoting national security. However, the management of natural resources can also be a source of conflict, particularly if it is not done in a transparent and equitable manner. In addition, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons can have a significant impact on a nation's economic content of national security. The proliferation of these weapons can lead to increased violence and instability, which can have a negative impact on economic development and stability.¹⁴

Military Content of National Security

The military content of national security is a critical component of a nation's overall security strategy. It encompasses the military aspects that impact a nation's security and stability, including military strategy and planning, defense systems and infrastructure, military personnel and training, and weaponry and equipment. Military strategy and planning are essential aspects of the military content of national security. A nation's military strategy should be aligned with its national security objectives, and should take into account potential threats, vulnerabilities, and risks. Effective military planning involves identifying and prioritizing national security objectives, assessing the military capabilities required to achieve those objectives, and developing plans to acquire and maintain those capabilities.¹⁵

Defense systems and infrastructure are also critical components of the military content of national security. A nation's defense systems should be designed to detect, deter, and respond to potential threats, and should include a range of capabilities, such as early warning systems, command and control systems, and defense networks. Defense infrastructure, such as military bases, airfields, and seaports, provides the foundation for a nation's defense systems and enables the deployment and sustainment of military forces. Military personnel and training are essential aspects of the military content of national security. A nation's military personnel should be trained and equipped to perform a range of tasks, from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster response. Effective military training involves providing personnel with the skills and knowledge required to perform their duties, as well as the physical and mental toughness required to operate in challenging environments. Weaponry and equipment are also critical components of the military content of national security. A nation's military should be equipped with a range of capabilities, including small arms, artillery, armor, and airpower. The acquisition and maintenance of military equipment should be guided by a nation's military

strategy and planning, and should take into account factors such as cost, effectiveness, and sustainability.¹⁶

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons can have a significant impact on a nation's military content of national security. The widespread availability of these weapons can fuel conflict, undermine stability, and pose a significant threat to national security. Effective measures to prevent the proliferation of small arms and light weapons include regulating the trade in these weapons, providing alternative livelihoods for former combatants, and promoting disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs. In addition, the porosity of borders can have a significant impact on a nation's military content of national security. Porous borders can provide opportunities for terrorists, insurgents, and other malicious actors to infiltrate a nation's territory, posing a significant threat to national security. Effective measures to address the porosity of borders include improving border security infrastructure, enhancing border surveillance and monitoring capabilities, and promoting regional cooperation and information sharing.¹⁷

Social Content of National Security

National security is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various aspects of a nation's well-being, including political, economic, military, environmental, and social dimensions. The social content of national security refers to the social factors that impact a nation's security and stability. This includes social cohesion, cultural identity, education, healthcare, and social welfare. Social cohesion is a critical aspect of the social content of national security. A society that is cohesive and united is better equipped to withstand external threats and internal challenges. Social cohesion is fostered through shared values, norms, and institutions

that promote social inclusion and reduce social inequality. A cohesive society is more resilient to conflicts and crises, and is better able to respond to national security challenges.¹⁸

Cultural identity is another important aspect of the social content of national security. A nation's cultural identity is shaped by its history, traditions, and values. Cultural identity plays a significant role in shaping a nation's worldview and informing its national interests. A strong cultural identity can foster national pride and unity, and can provide a sense of purpose and direction. Education is also a critical aspect of the social content of national security. Education plays a vital role in shaping a nation's human capital and promoting social mobility. An educated population is better equipped to contribute to a nation's economic development and national security. Education can also promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, all of which are essential for addressing national security challenges. Healthcare is another important aspect of the social content of national security. A nation's healthcare system plays a critical role in promoting public health and well-being. A healthy population is better equipped to contribute to a nation's economic development and national security. Healthcare can also promote social cohesion and reduce social inequality.¹⁹

Social welfare is also a critical aspect of the social content of national security. Social welfare programs play a vital role in promoting social inclusion and reducing social inequality. Social welfare programs can provide a safety net for vulnerable populations and promote social cohesion. Social welfare programs can also promote economic development and national security. The social content of national security is also influenced by demographic factors, such as population growth, urbanization, and migration. These factors can impact a nation's social cohesion, cultural identity, and economic development, all of which are critical aspects of national security.²⁰

In addition, the social content of national security is also influenced by globalization and technological advancements. Globalization has created new opportunities for social interaction and cultural exchange, but it has also created new challenges, such as social inequality and cultural homogenization. Technological advancements have also created new opportunities for social interaction and communication, but they have also created new challenges, such as cybercrime and social media manipulation. The social content of national security is a critical aspect of a nation's overall security strategy. It encompasses social cohesion, cultural identity, education, healthcare, and social welfare, all of which are essential for promoting national security and stability. Demographic factors, globalization, and technological advancements also influence the social content of national security. Therefore, it is essential for nations to prioritize social development and promote social cohesion, cultural identity, education, healthcare, and social welfare in order to ensure national security and stability.²¹

Theories of National Security

National security is a concept that encompasses various aspects of a nation's well-being, including political, economic, military, environmental, and social dimensions. Theories of national security provide a framework for understanding the complex relationships between these different dimensions and for developing effective strategies to promote national security. Realism is one of the oldest and most influential theories of national security. Realists argue that the international system is anarchic, meaning that there is no central authority to enforce laws or maintain order. As a result, nations must rely on their own military power and economic strength to ensure their security. Realists also believe that nations are primarily motivated by self-interest and that security is a zero-sum game, meaning that one nation's gain in security comes at the expense of another nation's security.²²

Liberalism is another major theory of national security. Liberals argue that the international system is not as anarchic as realists claim and that cooperation between nations is possible. Liberals believe that nations can work together to promote common interests and values, such as democracy, human rights, and free trade. Liberals also argue that economic interdependence between nations can help to reduce the likelihood of conflict. Neorealism is a variant of realism that emerged in the 1970s and 1980s. Neorealists argue that the international system is still anarchic, but that the distribution of power among nations is more important than the absolute level of power. Neorealists also believe that nations are more likely to cooperate when there is a balance of power among them. Constructivism is a theory of national security that emphasizes the importance of ideas and identity in shaping national security policies. Constructivists argue that national security is not just about military power and economic strength, but also about the values and beliefs that a nation holds dear. Constructivists also believe that national security policies are shaped by the social and cultural context in which they are made.²³

Critical security studies is a theory of national security that emerged in the 1990s. Critical security studies scholars argue that traditional theories of national security, such as realism and liberalism, are too narrow and focus too much on the state. Critical security studies scholars believe that national security should be understood in a broader sense, encompassing not just military power and economic strength, but also social and environmental issues. Human security is a theory of national security that emphasizes the importance of protecting individuals and communities from harm. Human security scholars argue that traditional theories of national security focus too much on the state and neglect the needs and concerns of ordinary people. Human security scholars believe that national security policies should prioritize the protection of

human rights, the promotion of sustainable development, and the reduction of poverty and inequality.²⁴

Theories of national security provide a framework for understanding the complex relationships between different dimensions of national security. Each theory has its strengths and weaknesses, and no single theory can fully capture the complexity of national security. However, by considering multiple theories and perspectives, policymakers and scholars can gain a deeper understanding of national security and develop more effective strategies to promote it.²⁵

Conclusion

National security is a multifaceted concept that encompasses various dimensions, including philosophy, politics, economy, military, and social aspects. It has evolved over time to include non-military threats and recognizes the importance of international cooperation and collective action to address transnational security threats. A nuanced and interdisciplinary approach is necessary to understand national security, which ultimately aims to protect a nation's values, interests, and citizens, while promoting human security, human rights, and human dignity.

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CHAPTER THREE

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN PRE-COLONIAL AND COLONIAL NIGERIA

Introduction

The concept of national security is multifaceted and has evolved over time. In the context of precolonial and colonial Nigeria, national security threats took various forms, including environmental disasters, health crises, external aggression, and internal conflicts. This research examines the national security threats that Nigeria faced during the precolonial and colonial periods. In precolonial Nigeria, environmental disasters posed significant threats to national security. The Great Famine of 1203, for instance, had devastating effects on the population and economy of the Hausa city-states. Similarly, the femid drought of 1687-1692 led to widespread famine and displacement of people. These environmental disasters not only affected the livelihoods of the people but also created opportunities for external aggression and internal conflicts.¹

Another significant national security threat in precolonial Nigeria was the outbreak of epidemics. The smallpox epidemic of 1760-1765, for example, spread rapidly across the region,

causing widespread death and destruction. The lack of effective healthcare systems and the limited knowledge of disease prevention and treatment made the population vulnerable to such outbreaks. The rise of the slave trade also posed significant national security threats to precolonial Nigeria. The transatlantic slave trade, which lasted from the 15th to the 19th century, led to the loss of millions of Nigerians to slavery. The slave trade also created social, economic, and political instability in the region, as various ethnic groups and kingdoms competed for control of the trade.²

In addition to these internal threats, precolonial Nigeria also faced external aggression. The Fulani jihad of 1804-1808, for example, led to the conquest of the Hausa city-states and the establishment of the Sokoto Caliphate. Similarly, the British colonization of Nigeria in the late 19th century led to the imposition of foreign rule and the suppression of local cultures and traditions. During the colonial period, Nigeria faced new national security threats. World War I, for instance, had significant impacts on Nigeria's economy and population. The war led to the mobilization of Nigerian troops to fight in various parts of Africa, and the loss of lives and property was significant.³

World War II also posed significant national security threats to colonial Nigeria. The war led to the mobilization of Nigerian troops to fight in various parts of Africa and Asia, and the loss of lives and property was significant. The war also led to the imposition of austerity measures, including rationing and price controls, which had negative impacts on the livelihoods of Nigerians. National security threats in precolonial and colonial Nigeria were multifaceted and evolved over time. Environmental disasters, health crises, external aggression, and internal conflicts all posed significant threats to national security. Understanding these threats is essential

for developing effective strategies for addressing contemporary national security challenges in Nigeria.⁴

Peoples of Pre-Colonial Nigeria

Nigeria is a country located in West Africa, is inhabited by diverse ethnic and cultural groups. The major ethnic groups include the Hausa/Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo, while other prominent groups include the Edo, Ibibio, Tiv, Nupe, and Kanuri. Each of these groups has distinct customs, traditions, and languages or dialects. Historical records indicate that the people of Nigeria have been in constant motion, with various groups migrating to different parts of the country at different times. This has resulted in significant cultural exchange and interbreeding among the various ethnic groups. The advent of capitalism, Western education, and institutions has further facilitated cultural mixing.⁵

Nigeria is composed of 36 political states and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The country is home to an estimated 360 ethnic groups, with languages fewer than that number. Culture plays a significant role in shaping the lives of Nigerians, influencing their ideas, values, attitudes, and behavior. The major ethnic groups in Nigeria include the Hausa, Fulani, Igbo, and Yoruba. Other southern cultural groups include the Efik, Ekoi, Yakur, Ibibio, Edo, Esan, Isoko, Urhobo, Itshekiri, Izon, and Ogoni. In the north, there are several groups, including the Nupe, Idoma, Igala, Chamba, Mumuye, Tiv, Angas, Igbirra, Kanuri, Bata, Shuwa, Birom, Jukun, Bassa, Bariba, Gwari, Bura, and Longuda.⁶

The peoples of the Forest Belt of Nigeria are believed to be the oldest surviving groups in the country. The largest known groups in this belt are the Yoruba and Edo, who inhabit the western axis of the country. The Igbo, Ibibio, and Ejagham peoples inhabit the eastern and

southeastern regions of Nigeria. The Yoruba-speaking people are concentrated in Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, Kwara, and Lagos states. They share common traditions and trace descent to a common ancestor called Oduduwa. The Yoruba established powerful monarchical states like Ife, Oyo, Egba, and Ijebu. The Edo-speaking people are best known for their ability to build a strong and virile kingdom called the Benin Empire. They occupy a territory immediately east of Yoruba land. The Edo and Yoruba share much in common, with linguists believing that the Edo language broke away from Yoruba.⁷

The Igbo and Ibibio peoples, east of the Niger, are divided into several sub-groups. Unlike the Yoruba and Edo, these groups were not organized into centralized states. Instead, they were organized into clans and village groups, with authority distributed among a council of elders.⁸

Security Threats in Pre-Colonial Nigeria

From environmental disasters to social unrest, these crises have had significant impacts on the country and its people. One of the earliest recorded crises in Nigeria was the Great Famine of 1203, which affected the Hausa city-states in the north. This famine was caused by a combination of drought and pests, which led to widespread crop failure and food shortages.⁹

In the 17th century, the transatlantic slave trade brought significant social and economic disruption to Nigeria. The slave trade led to the loss of millions of Nigerians to slavery, and had a devastating impact on the country's social and economic fabric. In addition to these crises, Nigeria has also experienced frequent outbreaks of diseases such as smallpox and influenza. The 1918 influenza pandemic, for example, had a significant impact on Nigeria, killing an estimated 1% of the population. In the north, the Fulani herdsman have been involved

in frequent clashes with farmers, particularly in the states of Benue, Taraba and Adamawa. These clashes have resulted in significant loss of life and property, and have had a major impact on food security in the region.¹⁰

The Niger Delta region has also experienced frequent crises, particularly in relation to the oil industry. The region has been plagued by oil spills, pipeline vandalism and other environmental disasters, which have had significant impacts on the local ecosystem and economy. In the southwest, the Yoruba kingdom of Oyo experienced significant turmoil in the 19th century, particularly during the Yoruba civil wars. These wars led to significant loss of life and property, and had a major impact on the social and economic fabric of the region. Nigeria has experienced a wide range of crises throughout its history, from environmental disasters to social unrest. These crises have had significant impacts on the country and its people, and continue to shape the country's social, economic and political landscape today.¹¹

Famine

One of the most devastating famines occurred in the 1970s, affecting the Sahel region and northern Sudanic savannas. This famine was triggered by a series of drought years in the late 1960s. The Sahel region, which spans across several West African countries, including Nigeria, has been plagued by recurring droughts and famines. The 1970s famine, in particular, had a profound impact on the region, leading to widespread starvation, displacement, and social unrest.¹²

Despite the severity of the crisis, the international community was slow to respond. It was not until the famine had reached catastrophic proportions that the world took notice. The Sahel famine became a symbol of the devastating consequences of environmental degradation,

poverty, and inequality. In Nigeria, the famine had a disproportionate impact on the northern regions, where agriculture is the primary source of livelihood. The drought led to crop failures, livestock deaths, and a severe shortage of food. The government's response to the crisis was inadequate, and many people were forced to rely on international aid to survive.¹³

The Sahel famine also highlighted the vulnerability of Nigeria's agricultural sector. The country's reliance on imported food, particularly wheat and rice, exacerbated the crisis. The government's policies, including the overvaluation of the naira, made it difficult for local farmers to compete with imported goods. In recent years, Nigeria has made significant progress in addressing the root causes of famine. The government has implemented policies to promote agricultural development, improve food security, and enhance disaster preparedness. However, much work remains to be done to ensure that Nigeria is resilient to future famines and droughts.¹⁴

Drought

In the nineteenth century, Hausaland, a region in northern Nigeria, was plagued by recurring droughts and famines. These environmental disasters were not new to the region, but rather a recurring motif in Hausa history. The dialectic of "feast and famine" was a common theme, with intense hunger and food shortages often affecting vast tracts of land throughout the savannas. Despite the severity of these crises, rural communities in Hausaland developed adaptive strategies to cope with environmental risk. These strategies were geared towards ensuring a minimal subsistence, a margin of security that would guarantee the survival of the community. This subsistence ethic was characterized by three dimensions: risk aversion in agriculture, mutual support, and an expectation of minimal state support.¹⁵

At the household level, farmers employed various strategies to minimize risk. These included intercropping sorghums and millets, which had contrasting moisture requirements, and relying on historically established planting and intercropping strategies. This complex orchestration of microenvironments was supported by variations in spacing, moisture availability, and soil type. In addition to these agronomic strategies, communities also developed social support systems to cope with drought and famine. These included norms of reciprocity, where families would support each other in times of need, and moral economies, where the state was expected to provide minimal support to the poor.¹⁶

The state played a crucial role in providing support to communities affected by drought and famine. This included the provision of food aid, the maintenance of central granaries, and the implementation of tax policies that would help to alleviate the burden on poor farmers. Drought were recurring crises in nineteenth-century Hausaland. However, rural communities developed adaptive strategies to cope with these environmental disasters. These strategies were characterized by a subsistence ethic that emphasized risk aversion, mutual support, and minimal state support.¹⁷

Outbreak of Epidemic

Epidemics have been a recurring phenomenon in Nigeria, causing widespread panic, loss of lives, and strain on the healthcare system. The majority of these outbreaks can be attributed to environmental factors and negative human behavior. For instance, the yaws epidemic that ravaged Nigeria in the 1920s was sustained by poor sanitation, inadequate water supply, and poor personal hygiene. Similarly, the smallpox epidemic that swept through the country, particularly in rural and urban areas, caused widespread death and skin disfigurement.

However, aggressive environmental sanitation efforts and the discovery of an effective vaccine eventually brought the epidemic under control.¹⁸

Nigeria has continued to grapple with various disease outbreaks over the years. One of the most notable outbreaks was the cholera epidemic that occurred in 1970, which resulted in 22,931 cases and 2,945 deaths. The case fatality rate (CFR) was 12.8%, which was alarming. In 1991, Nigeria experienced another devastating cholera outbreak, which resulted in 59,478 cases and 7,654 deaths. The CFR was 12.9%, which remains the highest rate reported in the country to date.¹⁹

Other notable outbreaks in Nigeria include the 1984-1992 yellow fever epidemic, which affected one-third of the states in the country and resulted in over 20,000 cases and 5,000 deaths. The CFR was 25%, which was extremely high. In 2009, Nigeria experienced its worst outbreak of cerebrospinal meningitis, which resulted in 38,586 cases and 2,172 deaths. The CFR was 5.6%, which was significant. More recently, Nigeria experienced a serious outbreak of Lassa fever in 2018, which resulted in over 1,700 cases and 112 deaths. The CFR was 5.6%, which was alarming. The examples cited above highlight the need for Nigeria to develop or reinforce mechanisms to detect, verify, and respond rapidly and effectively to unexpected outbreaks and epidemics. This requires a multi-faceted approach that involves the government, healthcare professionals, and the general public.²⁰

War

Pre-colonial Nigeria was a complex and dynamic region, comprising various ethnic groups, kingdoms, and empires. One of the defining features of this period was the prevalence of wars, which played a significant role in shaping the political, social, and economic landscape of

the region. The Hausa city-states, which dominated the northern part of the region, were frequently at war with each other. These wars were often fought over issues such as territory, trade, and political power. The Hausa city-states were also involved in wars with neighboring kingdoms and empires, including the Kanuri and the Bornu.²¹

One of the most significant wars in pre-colonial Nigeria was the Fulani jihad, which took place in the early 19th century. The Fulani, a pastoralist group, had been expanding their territory in the region for several centuries. However, their expansion was met with resistance from the Hausa city-states, which led to a series of wars. The Fulani jihad was led by Usman dan Fodio, a Fulani cleric who sought to create a unified Islamic state in the region. The jihad was successful, and the Fulani were able to conquer many of the Hausa city-states. The resulting empire, known as the Sokoto Caliphate, became one of the most powerful states in West Africa.²²

Another significant war in pre-colonial Nigeria was the Yoruba civil wars, which took place in the 19th century. The Yoruba kingdom, which dominated the southwestern part of the region, was plagued by internal conflicts and power struggles. These conflicts led to a series of wars, which weakened the kingdom and made it vulnerable to external threats. The Yoruba civil wars were also influenced by the transatlantic slave trade, which had a devastating impact on the region. Many Yoruba people were captured and sold into slavery, which led to a significant decline in the kingdom's population and economic power. The wars in pre-colonial Nigeria had a profound impact on the region's politics, society, and economy. Many of the kingdoms and empires that existed during this period were shaped by the outcomes of these wars. The Fulani jihad, for example, led to the creation of the Sokoto Caliphate, which became a dominant power in the region.²³

The wars also had a significant impact on the region's population and economy. Many people were displaced or killed during these conflicts, which led to a significant decline in the region's population. The wars also disrupted trade and commerce, which had a devastating impact on the region's economy. Wars played a significant role in shaping the history of pre-colonial Nigeria. These conflicts had a profound impact on the region's politics, society, and economy, and many of the kingdoms and empires that existed during this period were shaped by the outcomes of these wars.²⁴

Rise of the Slave Trade

The transatlantic slave trade was a devastating phenomenon that ravaged the African continent, including pre-colonial Nigeria, for centuries. The slave trade was a complex and multifaceted system that involved the capture, sale, and transportation of millions of Africans to the Americas. In pre-colonial Nigeria, the slave trade was a significant aspect of the region's history, with far-reaching consequences for the population, economy, and politics. The slave trade in pre-colonial Nigeria was not a new phenomenon. Slavery had existed in the region for centuries, with various ethnic groups practicing domestic slavery. However, the transatlantic slave trade was a different phenomenon altogether. It was driven by European demand for labor in the Americas, particularly in the sugar plantations of Brazil and the Caribbean.²⁵

The Portuguese were the first Europeans to establish trade relations with the kingdoms of pre-colonial Nigeria. They arrived in the 15th century, and initially, their trade was limited to the exchange of goods such as cloth, beads, and metal goods for African commodities like gold, ivory, and pepper. However, as the demand for labor in the Americas grew, the Portuguese began to focus on the slave trade. The slave trade in pre-colonial Nigeria was

facilitated by various ethnic groups, including the Hausa, Yoruba, and Igbo. These groups had existing networks of trade and commerce that were easily adapted to the slave trade. The Hausa, in particular, were significant players in the slave trade, with their city-states serving as major centers for the collection and transportation of slaves.²⁶

The impact of the slave trade on pre-colonial Nigeria was devastating. Millions of people were captured and sold into slavery, leading to a significant decline in the region's population. The slave trade also disrupted the social and economic structures of the various ethnic groups, leading to widespread instability and conflict. The slave trade also had a profound impact on the politics of pre-colonial Nigeria. Many of the kingdoms and empires of the region were weakened by the slave trade, as they lost significant numbers of their population to slavery. This weakness made them vulnerable to external threats, including the eventual colonization of the region by European powers.²⁷

Despite the devastating impact of the slave trade, there were also moments of resistance and resilience. Many Africans resisted the slave trade, using various strategies such as escape, revolt, and flight. Some ethnic groups, such as the Igbo, also developed complex systems of social organization that helped to mitigate the impact of the slave trade. The slave trade was a significant aspect of the history of pre-colonial Nigeria. It had a devastating impact on the population, economy, and politics of the region, leading to widespread instability and conflict. However, despite this impact, there were also moments of resistance and resilience that highlight the complexity and agency of African societies during this period.²⁸

Security Threats in Colonial Nigeria

The region was characterized by a multitude of security threats, which emanated from both within and outside the various societies. These threats ranged from internecine wars and slave raids to external invasions and colonization. One of the most significant security threats in pre-colonial Nigeria was the trans-Saharan slave trade. This trade, which was facilitated by various ethnic groups and external actors, resulted in the capture and sale of millions of Africans into slavery. The slave trade had a devastating impact on the region's population, economy, and politics, leading to widespread instability and conflict.²⁹

Another significant security threat in pre-colonial Nigeria was the Fulani jihad. This jihad, which was led by Usman dan Fodio in the early 19th century, resulted in the creation of the Sokoto Caliphate, one of the most powerful empires in West Africa. However, the jihad also led to significant conflict and instability, particularly in the Hausa city-states, which were conquered by the Fulani. The Yoruba civil wars were another significant security threat in pre-colonial Nigeria. These wars, which took place in the 19th century, resulted from internal conflicts and power struggles within the Yoruba kingdom. The wars had a devastating impact on the kingdom, leading to significant loss of life, displacement, and economic disruption.³⁰

External invasions were also a significant security threat in pre-colonial Nigeria. The region was invaded by various external actors, including the Portuguese, the British, and the French. These invasions often resulted in significant conflict and instability, particularly in the coastal regions, which were vulnerable to external attack. The Kanuri-Bornu Empire, which dominated the northeastern part of the region, was also a significant security threat in pre-colonial Nigeria. The empire was known for its military prowess and expansionist policies, which resulted in significant conflict and instability in the region. The security threats in pre-colonial Nigeria were often exacerbated by the region's geography. The region's vast savannas

and forests made it difficult for societies to defend themselves against external threats. The region's numerous rivers and streams also facilitated the movement of external actors, who often used these waterways to launch attacks on local societies.³¹

Despite the numerous security threats, the societies of pre-colonial Nigeria developed various strategies to mitigate these threats. These strategies included the formation of alliances, the development of military systems, and the use of diplomacy to resolve conflicts. Pre-colonial Nigeria was a region characterized by numerous security threats, which emanated from both within and outside the various societies. These threats had a significant impact on the region's population, economy, and politics, leading to widespread instability and conflict. However, the societies of pre-colonial Nigeria also developed various strategies to mitigate these threats, which highlights the complexity and agency of African societies during this period.³²

World War I

The outbreak of World War I in 1914 had far-reaching consequences for Nigeria, a British colony at the time. The war had a significant impact on Nigeria's national security, economy, and politics. This essay examines the impact of World War I on Nigeria's national security, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that arose during this period. Prior to World War I, Nigeria was a relatively peaceful colony, with the British colonial authorities maintaining control through a combination of military force and administrative machinery. However, with the outbreak of war in Europe, Nigeria became an important theater of conflict. The German colony of Kamerun (now Cameroon) shared a border with Nigeria, and the British were determined to capture the colony and deny it to the Germans.³³

The British colonial authorities in Nigeria responded to the outbreak of war by mobilizing the Nigerian military forces, including the Nigerian Regiment, to fight against the Germans in Kamerun. The Nigerian troops played a crucial role in the Allied victory, suffering significant casualties in the process. The war effort had a significant impact on Nigeria's national security. The British colonial authorities introduced a range of security measures, including the establishment of a network of spies and informants, to monitor the activities of potential enemies. The authorities also imposed strict controls on the movement of people and goods, particularly in the border regions with Kamerun. The war also had a significant economic impact on Nigeria. The British colonial authorities imposed a range of economic controls, including the requisitioning of foodstuffs and other essential goods, to support the war effort. This led to widespread shortages and inflation, which had a devastating impact on the Nigerian population.³⁴

Despite the challenges posed by the war, Nigeria's national security was also strengthened in significant ways. The war effort led to the establishment of a range of new security institutions, including the Nigerian Police Force, which was established in 1916. The war also led to the modernization of Nigeria's military forces, with the introduction of new technologies and training methods. The war also had a significant impact on Nigeria's politics. The British colonial authorities introduced a range of new laws and regulations, including the Nigeria Defence Regulations, which gave the authorities sweeping powers to detain and punish suspected enemies. This led to widespread resentment among the Nigerian population, who felt that their rights and freedoms were being eroded.³⁵

World War II

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 had a profound impact on Nigeria, a British colony at the time. The war effort required the mobilization of resources, including manpower, materials, and infrastructure, which had significant implications for Nigeria's national security. This essay examines the impact of World War II on Nigeria's national security, highlighting the challenges and opportunities that arose during this period. Nigeria's strategic location in West Africa made it an important location for the Allied war effort. The country's ports, airfields, and transportation networks were critical for the movement of troops, supplies, and equipment. The British colonial authorities in Nigeria played a key role in supporting the war effort, mobilizing Nigerian troops to fight in various theaters, including North Africa and Burma.³⁶

The war effort had a significant impact on Nigeria's national security. The British colonial authorities introduced a range of security measures, including the establishment of a network of spies and informants, to monitor the activities of potential enemies. The authorities also imposed strict controls on the movement of people and goods, particularly in the coastal regions. The war also led to the modernization of Nigeria's military forces. The Nigerian Regiment, which had been established in 1914, was expanded and modernized, with the introduction of new technologies and training methods. The regiment played a key role in the Allied victory, fighting in various theaters, including North Africa and Burma.³⁷

Despite the challenges posed by the war, Nigeria's national security was also strengthened in significant ways. The war effort led to the establishment of a range of new security institutions, including the Nigerian Police Force, which was expanded and modernized during the war. The war also led to the development of new infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and airfields, which improved Nigeria's internal security and facilitated the movement of troops and supplies. The war also had a significant impact on Nigeria's economy. The British

colonial authorities imposed a range of economic controls, including the requisitioning of foodstuffs and other essential goods, to support the war effort. This led to widespread shortages and inflation, which had a devastating impact on the Nigerian population. However, the war also created new economic opportunities for Nigeria. The country became an important supplier of raw materials, including rubber, palm oil, and cotton, which were critical for the war effort. The war also led to the development of new industries, including textiles and food processing, which helped to diversify Nigeria's economy.³⁸

Conclusion

The concept of national security in precolonial and colonial Nigeria was complex, encompassing environmental disasters, health crises, external aggression, and internal conflicts. Understanding these historical threats is crucial for developing effective strategies to address contemporary national security challenges in Nigeria, and for promoting peace, stability, and prosperity in the country.

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CHAPTER FOUR

NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS IN POST-COLONIAL NIGERIA

Introduction

The post-colonial era in Nigeria has been marked by numerous security threats that have undermined the country's stability and development. These threats have emerged from various sources, including terrorism, communal conflicts, environmental disasters, and socio-economic crises. This paper examines the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria, with a focus on Boko Haram terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, flooding, kidnapping, insecurity, and ASUU/labour strikes. Boko Haram terrorism has been one of the most significant security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. The group's insurgency, which began in 2009, has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. Boko Haram's terrorist activities have been characterized by bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings, which have created a climate of fear and insecurity in the country. The group's ideology, which is rooted in Islamic fundamentalism, has been driven by a desire to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria.¹

The farmer-herder conflict is another significant security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The conflict, which has been ongoing for several decades, has been driven by competition for land and resources between farmers and herders. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The farmer-herder conflict has also had significant economic and social implications, including the destruction of crops and livestock, and the disruption of trade and commerce. Flooding is another major security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The country's geographical location, which is characterized by a network of rivers and streams, makes it prone to flooding. The flooding, which has been exacerbated by climate change, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of

thousands. The flooding has also had significant economic and social implications, including the destruction of crops and livestock, and the disruption of trade and commerce.²

Kidnapping is another significant security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The kidnapping, which has been driven by a desire for ransom, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The kidnapping has also had significant economic and social implications, including the disruption of trade and commerce, and the creation of a climate of fear and insecurity. Insecurity is a pervasive security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The insecurity, which has been driven by a range of factors, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The insecurity has also had significant economic and social implications, including the disruption of trade and commerce, and the creation of a climate of fear and insecurity.³

ASUU/labour strikes are another significant security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The strikes, which have been driven by a range of factors, including poor working conditions, low wages, and corruption, have resulted in the disruption of economic and social activities. The strikes have also had significant implications for the country's development, including the disruption of trade and commerce, and the creation of a climate of uncertainty and insecurity. The emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria are complex and multifaceted. These threats, which include Boko Haram terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, flooding, kidnapping, insecurity, and ASUU/labour strikes, have significant implications for the country's stability and development. Addressing these threats will require a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account the complex social, economic, and political factors that drive them.⁴

Emergent Security Threat

One of the most significant emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria is Boko Haram terrorism. The group's insurgency, which began in 2009, has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. Boko Haram's terrorist activities have been characterized by bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings, which have created a climate of fear and insecurity in the country. The group's ideology, which is rooted in Islamic fundamentalism, has been driven by a desire to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria.⁵

Another emergent security threat in post-colonial Nigeria is the farmer-herder conflict. The conflict, which has been ongoing for several decades, has been driven by competition for land and resources between farmers and herders. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The farmer-herder conflict has also had significant economic and social implications, including the destruction of crops and livestock, and the disruption of trade and commerce. Environmental disasters, such as flooding, have also emerged as significant security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. The country's geographical location, which is characterized by a network of rivers and streams, makes it prone to flooding. The flooding, which has been exacerbated by climate change, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The flooding has also had significant economic and social implications, including the destruction of crops and livestock, and the disruption of trade and commerce. Kidnapping has also emerged as a significant security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The kidnapping, which has been driven by a desire for ransom, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The kidnapping has also had significant economic and social implications, including the disruption of trade and commerce, and the creation of a climate of fear and insecurity. Insecurity is a pervasive security threat in post-colonial Nigeria. The insecurity, which has been driven by a range of

factors, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption, has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The insecurity has also had significant economic and social implications, including the disruption of trade and commerce, and the creation of a climate of fear and insecurity.⁶

The activities of militant groups, such as the Niger Delta Avengers, have also emerged as significant security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. The groups, which have been driven by a desire for resource control and self-determination, have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands. The activities of militant groups have also had significant economic and social implications, including the disruption of oil production, and the creation of a climate of fear and insecurity. The emergence of new technologies, such as social media, has also created new security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. Social media has been used by terrorist groups, such as Boko Haram, to spread their ideologies and recruit new members. Social media has also been used to spread hate speech and incite violence, which has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of people and the displacement of thousands.⁷

The increasing reliance on critical infrastructure, such as power grids and financial systems, has also created new security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. Critical infrastructure is essential to modern life, but it is also vulnerable to disruption and attack. The threat of critical infrastructure disruption is exacerbated by the increasing use of digital technologies, which can create new vulnerabilities and increase the potential for attack. The emergence of new forms of terrorism, such as lone-wolf terrorism and cyberterrorism, has also created new security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. These forms of terrorism are characterized by their use of new technologies and tactics, including the use of social media and other digital platforms to spread ideologies and recruit new members. The threat of new forms of terrorism is exacerbated by the

instability and conflict in regions such as the Middle East and Africa. The emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria are complex and multifaceted. These threats, including Boko Haram terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, environmental disasters, kidnapping, insecurity, militant groups, new technologies, critical infrastructure disruption, and new forms of terrorism, have significant implications for national security. Addressing these threats will require a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account the complex social, economic, and political factors that drive them.⁸

Boko Haram Terrorism

Boko Haram terrorism has been a major security threat in Nigeria since its inception in 2002. The group's ideology, which is rooted in Islamic fundamentalism, has been driven by a desire to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria. Boko Haram's terrorist activities have been characterized by bombings, assassinations, and kidnappings, which have created a climate of fear and insecurity in the country. The emergence of Boko Haram can be attributed to a combination of factors, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. The group's founder, Mohammed Yusuf, was a charismatic leader who capitalized on the widespread discontent among Nigerian youths. Yusuf's message of Islamic revolution resonated with many young Nigerians who felt marginalized and excluded from the country's economic and political systems.⁹

Boko Haram's terrorist activities began in 2009, when the group launched a series of attacks on government buildings and security forces. The group's tactics have since evolved to include the use of suicide bombers, improvised explosive devices, and other forms of asymmetric warfare. Boko Haram's terrorist activities have resulted in the deaths of thousands of people and the displacement of millions. The Nigerian government has responded to the Boko

Haram threat with a combination of military force and dialogue. The government has deployed troops to the northeastern region of the country, where Boko Haram is most active. The government has also established a number of initiatives aimed at addressing the root causes of the conflict, including poverty and unemployment. Despite these efforts, Boko Haram remains a significant threat to national security. The group's ability to adapt and evolve its tactics has made it difficult for the government to effectively counter its activities. Boko Haram's use of social media and other digital platforms has also enabled it to spread its ideology and recruit new members.¹⁰

The international community has also played a role in addressing the Boko Haram threat. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries have provided military assistance and training to the Nigerian government. The African Union and other regional organizations have also provided support to the Nigerian government in its efforts to counter Boko Haram. In recent years, Boko Haram has begun to fracture and split into different factions. One of the main factions, known as the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA), has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS). ISWA has been responsible for a number of high-profile attacks in the region, including the kidnapping of hundreds of schoolgirls in Chibok. Good The fracturing of Boko Haram has made it more difficult for the government to effectively counter its activities. The different factions have been able to operate with a degree of autonomy, making it harder for the government to track and disrupt their activities.¹¹

Boko Haram terrorism remains a significant threat to national security in Nigeria. The group's ability to adapt and evolve its tactics has made it difficult for the government to effectively counter its activities. The international community has played a role in addressing the Boko Haram threat, but more needs to be done to support the Nigerian government in its efforts

to counter the group. The Nigerian government needs to adopt a more comprehensive approach to addressing the Boko Haram threat. This includes addressing the root causes of the conflict, such as poverty and unemployment, as well as providing support to those affected by the conflict. The government also needs to work more closely with the international community to share intelligence and best practices in counter-terrorism. Ultimately, the defeat of Boko Haram will require a sustained and collective effort from the Nigerian government, the international community, and civil society. It will also require a commitment to addressing the root causes of the conflict and providing support to those affected by it.¹²

Boko Haram's emergence in 2002 marked the beginning of a new era of terrorism in Nigeria. Founded by Mohammed Yusuf, the group's initial goal was to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria, free from Western influence. Yusuf's charismatic leadership and message of Islamic revolution resonated with many young Nigerians, who felt marginalized and excluded from the country's economic and political systems. The group's early activities were largely peaceful, focusing on preaching and proselytizing. However, in 2009, Boko Haram launched a series of attacks on government buildings and security forces, marking a significant escalation in their tactics. The Nigerian government responded with force, leading to the death of Mohammed Yusuf and several other high-ranking members of the group.¹³

Abubakar Shekau, Yusuf's deputy, took over as leader of Boko Haram and vowed to avenge the deaths of his predecessor and other group members. Under Shekau's leadership, the group continued to carry out attacks, targeting police stations, government buildings, and Christian churches. The group's tactics became increasingly brutal, including the use of suicide bombers and mass kidnappings. In 2013, Boko Haram launched a series of coordinated attacks in the town of Bama, killing over 50 people and destroying numerous buildings. The group also

released over 100 inmates from a prison in the town. The Nigerian government responded with a large-scale military offensive, but Boko Haram continued to carry out attacks, including a massacre at a boarding school in Yobe state that killed over 50 students. In 2014, Boko Haram drew international condemnation after kidnapping over 275 girls from a boarding school in Chibok. The incident sparked widespread outrage and led to increased international pressure on the Nigerian government to take action against the group.¹⁴

In 2015, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) and changed its name to the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA). The group also experienced a significant split, with Abu Musab al-Barnawi, the son of Mohammed Yusuf, leading a majority of the militants, while Abubakar Shekau remained the head of a smaller faction. Despite the split, Boko Haram continued to carry out attacks, including a series of bombings in Abuja and other major cities. The group also continued to target Christians and other minority groups, leading to widespread human rights abuses and displacement. In recent years, Boko Haram has continued to evolve, with ISWA emerging as the dominant faction. The group has also become increasingly sophisticated, using social media and other digital platforms to spread its ideology and recruit new members.¹⁵

The Nigerian government has responded to the Boko Haram threat with a combination of military force and dialogue. However, the group's ability to adapt and evolve its tactics has made it difficult to effectively counter its activities. The government has also been criticized for its human rights record, particularly in regards to its treatment of civilians in the northeastern region. The international community has also played a role in addressing the Boko Haram threat. The United States, the United Kingdom, and other Western countries have provided military assistance and training to the Nigerian government. The African Union and

other regional organizations have also provided support to the Nigerian government in its efforts to counter Boko Haram. Despite these efforts, Boko Haram remains a significant threat to regional security. The group's ability to adapt and evolve its tactics, combined with its sophisticated use of digital platforms, has made it a formidable opponent. Addressing the Boko Haram threat will require a sustained and comprehensive effort from the Nigerian government and the international community.¹⁶

One of the key challenges in addressing the Boko Haram threat is the group's ability to recruit new members. Boko Haram has been able to tap into the widespread discontent among young Nigerians, who feel marginalized and excluded from the country's economic and political systems. The group's message of Islamic revolution and its promise to establish an Islamic state in Nigeria have resonated with many young Nigerians. To address this challenge, the Nigerian government will need to implement policies that address the root causes of the conflict. This will require a comprehensive approach that includes economic development, education, and job creation. The government will also need to address the widespread corruption and inequality that have contributed to the conflict. Another key challenge in addressing the Boko Haram threat is the group's ability to use digital platforms to spread its ideology and recruit new members. Boko Haram has been able to use social media and other digital platforms to disseminate its message and attract new recruits. The group's use of digital platforms has also made it difficult for the government to track and disrupt its activities.¹⁷

Farm Herders Conflict

The farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria is a complex and enduring crisis that has been ongoing for several decades. The conflict is characterized by violent clashes between farmers

and herders over land, water, and other resources. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, the displacement of millions, and the destruction of livelihoods. The roots of the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria are complex and multifaceted. One of the main causes of the conflict is the competition for land and resources between farmers and herders. Farmers and herders have traditionally coexisted in Nigeria, with farmers cultivating crops and herders grazing their livestock. However, in recent years, the competition for land and resources has intensified, leading to violent clashes between the two groups. Climate change has also contributed to the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria. Changes in temperature and rainfall patterns have led to droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events, which have had a devastating impact on agriculture and livestock production. Farmers and herders have been forced to compete for increasingly scarce resources, leading to tensions and conflicts.¹⁸

The farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria has also been fueled by ethnic and religious tensions. The conflict has often been characterized as a clash between the predominantly Christian farmers and the predominantly Muslim herders. However, this characterization oversimplifies the complex ethnic and religious dynamics at play in the conflict. The Nigerian government has responded to the farmer-herder conflict with a range of measures, including the establishment of a national commission to investigate the causes of the conflict and the deployment of security forces to affected areas. However, these measures have had limited success in resolving the conflict, and the violence has continued to escalate. Years of violence and mistrust have created a deep-seated sense of animosity between farmers and herders, making it difficult to establish a dialogue and find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The lack of trust between the two groups has been exacerbated by the fact that many farmers and herders have

been forced to flee their homes and livelihoods, leading to a sense of displacement and dislocation.¹⁹

The lack of effective governance and institutions has also contributed to the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria. The Nigerian government has been criticized for its slow response to the conflict and its failure to provide adequate support to affected communities. The government has also been accused of favoring one group over the other, which has exacerbated the tensions and conflicts. The international community has also played a role in addressing the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria. The United Nations and other international organizations have provided humanitarian assistance to affected communities and have supported efforts to establish a dialogue between farmers and herders. However, more needs to be done to support the Nigerian government in its efforts to resolve the conflict. In recent years, there have been efforts to establish a dialogue between farmers and herders. The Nigerian government has established a number of initiatives aimed at promoting peace and reconciliation between the two groups. These initiatives have included the establishment of a national commission to investigate the causes of the conflict and the deployment of security forces to affected areas.²⁰

Civil society organizations have also played a crucial role in promoting peace and reconciliation between farmers and herders. These organizations have established a number of initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue and understanding between the two groups. These initiatives have included the establishment of community-based peace committees and the promotion of interfaith dialogue. Despite these efforts, the farmer-herder conflict in Nigeria remains a complex and enduring crisis. The conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands of people, the displacement of millions, and the destruction of livelihoods. Addressing the conflict

will require a sustained and comprehensive effort from the Nigerian government, the international community, and civil society organizations.²¹

Flooding

Flooding is a recurring national disaster in Nigeria, affecting millions of people and causing widespread destruction to properties and infrastructure. The country's geographical location, with its network of rivers and streams, makes it prone to flooding. The impact of flooding in Nigeria is exacerbated by a combination of factors, including climate change, poor urban planning, and inadequate infrastructure. The frequency and severity of flooding in Nigeria have increased in recent years, with devastating consequences. In 2012, the country experienced its worst flooding in decades, with over 30 states affected and more than 2 million people displaced. The flooding resulted in the loss of hundreds of lives and billions of dollars in damages.²²

The 2012 flooding was caused by a combination of heavy rainfall and the release of water from the Lagdo Dam in Cameroon. The dam, which is located on the Benue River, was built to control flooding in Cameroon, but it has had the opposite effect in Nigeria. The release of water from the dam has caused widespread flooding in Nigeria, particularly in the northeastern states of Adamawa, Taraba, and Benue. The impact of flooding in Nigeria is not limited to the immediate effects of the disaster. Flooding also has long-term consequences, including the displacement of communities, the destruction of livelihoods, and the spread of diseases. Many communities in Nigeria are still recovering from the effects of the 2012 flooding, with many people still living in temporary shelters and struggling to access basic necessities like food, water, and healthcare. The Nigerian government has taken steps to address the issue of flooding,

including the establishment of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the creation of a national flood emergency response plan. However, more needs to be done to prevent and mitigate the effects of flooding in Nigeria.²²

One of the key challenges in addressing the issue of flooding in Nigeria is the lack of effective coordination and communication between different levels of government and stakeholders. The federal government, state governments, and local governments all have a role to play in addressing the issue of flooding, but often there is a lack of coordination and communication between these different levels of government. Another challenge is the lack of investment in flood prevention and mitigation measures. Nigeria has a limited budget for flood prevention and mitigation, and often the funds that are available are not used effectively. The government needs to invest more in flood prevention and mitigation measures, such as the construction of flood defenses, the creation of flood warning systems, and the development of flood-resistant infrastructure. The international community also has a role to play in addressing the issue of flooding in Nigeria. International organizations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank, can provide technical and financial assistance to support Nigeria's efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of flooding.²³

In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) can also play a crucial role in addressing the issue of flooding in Nigeria. NGOs and CSOs can provide humanitarian assistance to affected communities, advocate for policy changes to address the root causes of flooding, and support community-based initiatives to prevent and mitigate the effects of flooding. Flooding is a recurring national disaster in Nigeria that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from all levels of government, stakeholders, and the international community. The government needs to invest more in flood prevention and

mitigation measures, and there needs to be more effective coordination and communication between different levels of government and stakeholders. The international community also has a role to play in providing technical and financial assistance to support Nigeria's efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of flooding. Furthermore, it is essential to address the root causes of flooding in Nigeria, including climate change, poor urban planning, and inadequate infrastructure. This requires a long-term commitment to sustainable development and the implementation of policies and programs that promote environmental sustainability, social justice, and economic development.²⁴

Ultimately, addressing the issue of flooding in Nigeria requires a collective effort from all stakeholders, including the government, NGOs, CSOs, and the international community. By working together, we can reduce the impact of flooding in Nigeria and create a safer, more sustainable future for all Nigerians.²⁵

Kidnap for Ransom

Kidnapping for ransom has become a growing threat in Nigeria, with the country experiencing a significant increase in the number of reported cases in recent years. The phenomenon has become a major concern for the government, security agencies, and the general public, as it has resulted in the loss of lives, emotional trauma, and financial hardship for victims and their families. The rise of kidnap for ransom in Nigeria can be attributed to a combination of factors, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. Many young people in Nigeria are struggling to make ends meet, and some have turned to kidnapping as a means of survival. The lack of effective law enforcement and the corruption that pervades the system have also contributed to the growth of this menace. The modus operandi of kidnapers in Nigeria varies,

but it typically involves the abduction of victims, usually at gunpoint, and the subsequent demand for ransom. The ransom demands can range from a few hundred thousand naira to millions of dollars, depending on the perceived wealth of the victim or their family. In some cases, the kidnappers may also demand that the victim's family provides them with food, shelter, and other necessities while the victim is in captivity.²⁶

The impact of kidnap for ransom on victims and their families cannot be overstated. The experience of being kidnapped and held captive can be traumatic, and many victims have reported experiencing anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after their ordeal. The financial burden of paying ransom can also be devastating, with many families having to sell their assets, take out loans, or even go into debt to raise the funds. The Nigerian government has responded to the growing threat of kidnap for ransom with a range of measures, including the establishment of a special task force to combat kidnapping and the introduction of new laws to punish kidnappers. However, despite these efforts, the phenomenon continues to thrive, and many Nigerians are living in fear of being kidnapped. One of the challenges in addressing the issue of kidnap for ransom in Nigeria is the lack of effective coordination and communication between security agencies. The police, army, and other security agencies often work in silos, and this can hinder their ability to share intelligence and coordinate their efforts to combat kidnapping.²⁷

Another challenge is the corruption that pervades the system. Many kidnappers have been known to bribe their way out of trouble, and some security personnel have even been accused of colluding with kidnappers. This corruption can undermine the efforts of security agencies to combat kidnapping and can also erode public trust in the system. The international community can also play a role in helping Nigeria to address the issue of kidnap for ransom.

International organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union, can provide technical assistance and funding to support Nigeria's efforts to combat kidnapping. They can also help to facilitate international cooperation and coordination to combat transnational kidnapping networks. In addition, civil society organizations and community-based initiatives can also play a crucial role in preventing kidnapping and supporting victims and their families. These organizations can provide education and awareness-raising programs to prevent kidnapping, as well as counseling and support services to victims and their families.²⁸

Kidnap for ransom is a growing threat in Nigeria that requires a comprehensive and coordinated response from all stakeholders. The government, security agencies, civil society organizations, and the international community must work together to prevent kidnapping, support victims and their families, and bring perpetrators to justice. The Nigerian government must also take steps to address the root causes of kidnapping, including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. This can involve implementing policies and programs to create jobs, reduce poverty, and promote economic development. It can also involve strengthening institutions and promoting transparency and accountability to reduce corruption. Ultimately, addressing the issue of kidnap for ransom in Nigeria will require a sustained and collective effort from all stakeholders. By working together, we can reduce the incidence of kidnapping, support victims and their families, and promote a safer and more secure environment for all Nigerians.²⁹

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a pervasive and complex issue in Nigeria, affecting millions of people across the country. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), food insecurity is defined as a situation where people lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious

food to lead active and healthy lives. In Nigeria, food insecurity is a major challenge, with far-reaching consequences for human health, economic development, and social stability. Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa, with a population of over 200 million people. Despite its large population and vast natural resources, Nigeria is one of the poorest countries in the world. According to the World Bank, Nigeria's GDP per capita is approximately \$2,049, ranking it 137th out of 187 countries in terms of economic development. Poverty is widespread, with an estimated 87 million people living on less than \$2 a day. Food insecurity is a major challenge in Nigeria, with an estimated 30% of the population experiencing moderate to severe food insecurity. The country's food insecurity is driven by a range of factors, including poverty, conflict, climate change, and poor agricultural productivity. In the northern regions of Nigeria, the Boko Haram insurgency has led to widespread displacement and food insecurity, with an estimated 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance.³⁰

Climate change is also a major driver of food insecurity in Nigeria. The country is highly vulnerable to climate-related shocks, including droughts, floods, and heatwaves. Climate change has led to changes in temperature and rainfall patterns, which have negatively impacted agricultural productivity and food availability. In 2018, Nigeria experienced a severe flood that affected over 2 million people and destroyed thousands of hectares of farmland. Poor agricultural productivity is another major driver of food insecurity in Nigeria. The country's agricultural sector is dominated by small-scale farmers, who lack access to modern farming technologies, credit facilities, and markets. As a result, agricultural productivity is low, and food production is unable to keep pace with population growth. According to the FAO, Nigeria's agricultural productivity is approximately 1.5 tons per hectare, compared to 3.5 tons per hectare in other African countries. Food insecurity has severe consequences for human health in Nigeria.

Malnutrition is widespread, particularly among children and pregnant women. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Nigeria has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, with an estimated 11 million children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition.³¹

Food insecurity also has severe economic consequences for Nigeria. The country spends an estimated \$10 billion annually on food imports, which could be better spent on domestic food production and other development priorities. Food insecurity also leads to reduced economic productivity, as people who are malnourished or hungry are less able to work and contribute to the economy. To address food insecurity in Nigeria, the government and other stakeholders must take a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. This includes investing in agricultural development, improving access to credit facilities and markets for small-scale farmers, and providing humanitarian assistance to those affected by conflict and climate-related shocks. The government of Nigeria has taken some steps to address food insecurity, including the establishment of the National Food Security Council and the launch of the Agricultural Transformation Agenda. However, more needs to be done to address the scale and complexity of the challenge.³²

ASUU/Labour Strike

The Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and labour unions in Nigeria have been embroiled in a prolonged dispute with the federal government over university funding and workers' rights. The dispute has led to numerous strikes, with the most recent one lasting for several months and causing widespread disruption to academic activities. At the heart of the dispute is the issue of university funding. ASUU has been demanding that the federal

government increase funding for universities, which have been struggling to cope with inadequate resources and infrastructure. The union has argued that the government's failure to provide adequate funding has led to a decline in the quality of education and research in Nigerian universities. The labour unions, on the other hand, have been demanding better wages and working conditions for workers. They have argued that the government's failure to implement the minimum wage and provide adequate benefits has led to widespread poverty and hardship among workers.³³

The federal government has responded to the demands of ASUU and the labour unions by arguing that it does not have the resources to meet their demands. The government has claimed that the country's economy is facing significant challenges, including a decline in oil revenues and a rise in debt. Despite the government's claims, ASUU and the labour unions have remained resolute in their demands. They have argued that the government's failure to prioritize education and workers' rights is a reflection of its lack of commitment to the welfare of Nigerian citizens. The strike has had significant consequences for students, workers, and the broader economy. Students have been forced to stay at home for several months, leading to a disruption in their academic activities and a loss of valuable time. Workers have also been affected, with many facing financial hardship due to the non-payment of salaries.³⁴

The economy has also been affected, with the strike leading to a decline in economic activity and a loss of revenue for businesses. The strike has also had a negative impact on the country's reputation, with many investors and tourists avoiding Nigeria due to the perceived instability. Despite the challenges, there are signs that the dispute may be nearing a resolution. The federal government has recently agreed to meet some of the demands of ASUU and the labour unions, including the payment of outstanding salaries and the provision of additional

funding for universities. However, the dispute is far from over, and there are still many issues that need to be resolved. ASUU and the labour unions have made it clear that they will not back down until all of their demands are met, and the government has agreed to prioritize education and workers' rights.³⁵

In the long run, the resolution of the dispute will depend on the government's willingness to prioritize education and workers' rights. The government must recognize that investing in education and workers is essential for the country's economic growth and development. The international community can also play a role in supporting the resolution of the dispute. International organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), can provide technical assistance and support to help the government and ASUU/labor unions reach a mutually beneficial agreement. In addition, civil society organizations and community groups can also play a crucial role in supporting the resolution of the dispute. These organizations can provide a platform for stakeholders to come together and discuss the issues, and they can also provide support and resources to help the parties reach a resolution.³⁶

Conclusion

The post-colonial era in Nigeria has been marked by numerous security threats, including Boko Haram terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, flooding, kidnapping, insecurity, and ASUU/labour strikes. These threats have undermined the country's stability and development, requiring a comprehensive and integrated approach to address them.

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CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

This study has examined the changing nature of national security threats in Nigeria from 2009 to 2022, exploring historical roots, contemporary challenges, and government responses. The study has highlighted the complexity and dynamics of Nigeria's national security landscape, including the impacts of colonial legacy, ethnic and regional diversity, corruption, and institutional weaknesses. The research has also emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing national security challenges, taking into account the root causes of threats, effective institutions, and international cooperation. The findings of this study are expected to contribute to a deeper understanding of Nigeria's national security challenges and inform policy decisions and strategic planning.

Also, this study has underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of national security threats, such as poverty, unemployment, and social inequality. Strengthening

Nigeria's institutions, particularly the military and police, is also crucial to enable them to effectively respond to national security threats. The international community has a role to play in helping Nigeria to address its national security challenges. Providing support for Nigeria's counter-terrorism efforts and helping to address the root causes of extremism are essential in this regard. This research has provided a comprehensive analysis of Nigeria's national security challenges and has identified the need for a multifaceted approach to addressing these challenges. It is hoped that the findings of this study will be useful for policymakers, scholars, and other stakeholders interested in Nigeria's national security.

This research has provided a comprehensive analysis of the concept of national security, its various dimensions, and the different theories that explain it. The study has examined the philosophy, politics, economy, military, and social aspects of national security, highlighting their interconnections and interdependencies. The research has also explored the various theories of national security, including realism, liberalism, neorealism, constructivism, critical security studies, and human security. Each theory has its strengths and weaknesses, and no single theory can fully capture the complexity of national security. The study has also highlighted the importance of understanding national security in a holistic and multidimensional manner. National security is not just about military power and economic strength, but also about social cohesion, cultural identity, education, healthcare, and social welfare.

Also, the research has emphasized the need for policymakers and scholars to consider multiple theories and perspectives when analyzing national security issues. By doing so, they can gain a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between different dimensions of national security and develop more effective strategies to promote it. In addition, the study has underscored the importance of addressing the root causes of national security threats, such as

poverty, inequality, and unemployment. It has also highlighted the need for international cooperation and collective action to address transnational security threats, such as terrorism, cybercrime, and climate change. The research has emphasized the need for ongoing research and analysis of national security issues, given the rapidly changing nature of security threats and the evolving nature of international relations.

This research has provided a comprehensive examination of the national security threats faced by Nigeria during the pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods. The study has highlighted the complex and dynamic nature of national security threats in Nigeria, which have evolved over time in response to changing internal and external circumstances. The study has shown that environmental disasters, health crises, external aggression, and internal conflicts have been recurring themes in Nigeria's national security history. The transatlantic slave trade, the Fulani jihad, and the Yoruba civil wars are examples of significant national security threats that had far-reaching consequences for the population, economy, and politics of pre-colonial Nigeria.

The colonial period introduced new national security threats, including the imposition of foreign rule, the exploitation of natural resources, and the disruption of traditional social and economic systems. The experience of World War I and World War II also had a significant impact on Nigeria's national security, as the country played a key role in supporting the Allied war effort. The post-colonial period has seen the emergence of new national security threats, including terrorism, insurgency, and kidnapping. The Boko Haram insurgency, which began in 2009, has been particularly devastating, causing widespread death and destruction in the northeastern part of the country. This research has also highlighted the importance of understanding the historical roots of national security threats in Nigeria. By examining the

complex and dynamic nature of these threats over time, policymakers and scholars can gain valuable insights into the underlying causes of contemporary national security challenges.

The research has emphasized the need for a comprehensive and multifaceted approach to addressing national security threats in Nigeria. This approach should take into account the historical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts of the country, and should involve the active participation of government, civil society, and the private sector. Also the government should work to address the underlying causes of national security threats, including poverty, inequality, and social injustice. This can be achieved through the implementation of policies and programs that promote economic development, social welfare, and human rights.

This research has examined the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria, with a focus on Boko Haram terrorism, farmer-herder conflicts, flooding, kidnapping, insecurity, and ASUU/labour strikes. The findings of this study highlight the complexity and multifaceted nature of these security threats, which have significant implications for national security and development. The study has demonstrated that Boko Haram terrorism remains a significant threat to national security in Nigeria, with the group's ability to adapt and evolve its tactics making it difficult for the government to effectively counter its activities. The farmer-herder conflict has also been shown to be a major security threat, with the conflict driven by competition for land and resources between farmers and herders. Flooding has been identified as another significant security threat in Nigeria, with the country's geographical location making it prone to flooding. The study has also highlighted the impact of kidnapping on national security, with the phenomenon driven by a desire for ransom and resulting in significant financial and emotional hardship for victims and their families.

Insecurity has been shown to be a pervasive security threat in Nigeria, with the threat driven by a range of factors including poverty, unemployment, and corruption. The study has also examined the impact of ASUU/labour strikes on national security, with the strikes driven by demands for better wages and working conditions. In order to address these emergent security threats, this study recommends a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account the complex social, economic, and political factors that drive them. This includes addressing the root causes of the conflicts, such as poverty and unemployment, as well as providing support to those affected by the conflicts. The study also recommends that the Nigerian government invests in flood prevention and mitigation measures, such as the construction of flood defenses and the creation of flood warning systems. In addition, the government should prioritize education and workers' rights, and work to address the corruption and inequality that have contributed to the conflicts.

Ultimately, addressing the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria will require a sustained and collective effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the international community. By working together, we can reduce the impact of these security threats and promote a safer and more secure environment for all Nigerians. To address the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria, a comprehensive and integrated approach is necessary. This approach should take into account the complex social, economic, and political factors that drive these security threats. Firstly, addressing the root causes of the conflicts, such as poverty and unemployment, is crucial. This can be achieved through the implementation of policies and programs that promote economic development and job creation. For instance, the Nigerian government can invest in initiatives that support entrepreneurship and small business development, particularly in rural areas where poverty and

unemployment are most prevalent. In addition, providing support to those affected by the conflicts is essential. This can include providing humanitarian assistance, such as food and shelter, to those displaced by conflicts, as well as supporting the rebuilding of communities and infrastructure. The Nigerian government can also establish programs that provide psychological support and counseling to those affected by conflicts.

Investing in flood prevention and mitigation measures is also critical. This can include the construction of flood defenses, such as levees and dams, as well as the creation of flood warning systems. The Nigerian government can also invest in initiatives that promote sustainable land use practices, such as reforestation and soil conservation. Prioritizing education and workers' rights is also essential. This can include investing in initiatives that improve access to education, particularly in rural areas, as well as implementing policies that protect workers' rights and promote fair labor practices. The Nigerian government can also establish programs that provide training and vocational skills to workers. Addressing corruption and inequality is also critical. This can include implementing policies that promote transparency and accountability, such as the Freedom of Information Act, as well as establishing institutions that investigate and prosecute corruption. The Nigerian government can also invest in initiatives that promote social justice and equality, such as programs that support women's empowerment and gender equality.

Furthermore, promoting community engagement and participation in conflict resolution is essential. This can include establishing community-based initiatives that promote dialogue and reconciliation, as well as supporting traditional dispute resolution mechanisms. The Nigerian government can also invest in initiatives that promote community development and social cohesion. The international community also has a critical role to play in addressing the

emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria. This can include providing humanitarian assistance and support to those affected by conflicts, as well as supporting initiatives that promote economic development and job creation. The international community can also provide technical assistance and support to the Nigerian government in its efforts to address corruption and inequality. In addition, regional organizations, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), can play a critical role in promoting regional security and stability. This can include supporting initiatives that promote conflict prevention and resolution, as well as providing humanitarian assistance and support to those affected by conflicts.

Ultimately, addressing the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria will require a sustained and collective effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the international community. By working together, we can reduce the impact of these security threats and promote a safer and more secure environment for all Nigerians. The Nigerian government should also establish a national commission on security, which will be responsible for coordinating and implementing national security policies and programs. This commission should comprise representatives from various stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector. The commission should also establish a national security fund, which will be used to support initiatives that promote national security and stability. This fund should be sourced from a combination of government allocations, private sector donations, and international assistance.

Also, the Nigerian government should establish a national security strategy, which will outline the country's national security objectives and priorities. This strategy should be developed in consultation with various stakeholders, including civil society organizations, the private sector, and the international community. The strategy should also identify the various

security threats facing the country, including terrorism, kidnapping, and flooding, and outline the measures that will be taken to address these threats. This should include initiatives that promote community engagement and participation in conflict resolution, as well as programs that support economic development and job creation. In addition, the Nigerian government should establish a national security council, which will be responsible for advising the president on national security matters. This council should comprise representatives from various stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the private sector.

The council should also establish a national security advisory committee, which will be responsible for providing technical advice and support to the council on national security matters. This committee should comprise experts from various fields, including security, economics, and politics. Ultimately, addressing the emergent security threats in post-colonial Nigeria will require a comprehensive and integrated approach that takes into account the complex social, economic, and political factors that drive these security threats. By working together, we can reduce the impact of these security threats and promote a safer and more secure environment for all Nigerians. The Nigerian government should also prioritize the development of its security agencies, including the military, police, and intelligence agencies. This should include providing training and equipment to these agencies, as well as supporting initiatives that promote community policing and engagement.

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