LEADERSHIP STYLE AND NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA: AN ASSESSMENT OF EBELE GOOD LUCK JONATHAN AND MUHAMMADU BUHARI'S ADMINISTRATIONS

OLAYINKA BABATUNDE ADEBOGUN, PHD
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS
olayinka.adebogun@calebuniversity.edu.ng

JOSEPH OLATUNJI ODUNTAN, PHD
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, CALEB UNIVERSITY, IMOTA, LAGOS

ABRAHAM EDEH, M.SC

KEYWORDS
Political Leadership, Leadership style, Governance, National security, insecurity and development

ABSTRACT
This study investigates the assessment of political leadership and implications for national security in Nigeria's fourth republicwith a specific focus on Former President Good-Luck Jonathan and President Muhamaddu Buhari's Administration. The objectives of the study examinedthe effect ofpolitical leadership on national security. The study employed secondary data in gathering information from books, newspapers, Journals, magazines, and internet sources. Transformational Leadership theory was adopted in this study. It was found in the study that the state of insecurity which manifested inits variousforms such as terrorism, militancy, kidnapping, corruption, poverty, unemployment, violation of human rights, and underdevelopment of some regions in the country is a result of political leadershipby various Nigerian leaders in their respective administration and this has seriouseffects on the security of the country. The study proposesthat politicalleaders ofthe Nigerian state should protect the interest of their people rather than their own personal interests.

Introduction

Political leadership plays a pivotal role in shaping a nation's policies, institutions, and responses to security challenges. The leadership's ability to formulate and implement effective security strategies, promote good governance, and foster national unity is instrumental in ensuring the safety and well-being of the citizenry. In the Nigerian context, understanding how political leaders have managed these responsibilities and their implications for national security is of paramount importance (Odeyemi, 2014).

The fourth republic has seen the rise of various political leaders, each with their own style, approach, and vision for the country. These leaders have had to grapple with a range of security issues in different geo-political zones,

from the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East to inter-communal clashes in the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta militancy in the South. Furthermore, economic challenges, such as fluctuating oil prices and corruption, have exacerbated security concerns. With political leadership regarded as either being too slow in reacting to the challenges or lacking the ability to tackle them (Ogele 2021b).

In recent decades, Nigeria has witnessed significant shifts in political leadership, with each administration facing distinct security dilemmas and adopting varying approaches to ensure national security. The administrations of Former President Goodluck Jonathan (2010-2015) and President Muhammadu Buhari (2015-2023) serve as crucial case studies for this research due to their respective periods of governance, each marked by distinct policy choices and security strategies (Muahmmed, 2020).

Jonathan's administration, amidst growing concerns over Boko Haram insurgency in the northeastern region, grappled with balancing national security imperatives against the need for regional stability and human rights considerations. This period witnessed the abduction of the Chibok schoolgirls, an event that drew international attention to Nigeria's security challenges and underscored the complex decision-making process involved in handling such crises (Soetan, 2017).

On the other hand, President Buhari assumed office with promises of heightened security measures and intensified efforts to counter corruption and insurgency. His tenure has seen a continued focus on Boko Haram, as well as the emergence of other security concerns, such as farmer-herder conflicts and separatist movements in the southeast. Buhari's administration aimed to restore a sense of security while also navigating the delicate balance between military action, dialogue, and socioeconomic development (Murtala, 2018).

Numerous measures have been implemented to address this aberration. Past administrations have initiated military operations, implemented peace and reconciliation programs, and embarked on socio-economic development projects in affected regions. Additionally, legislative frameworks have been established to enhance national security coordination and response. Civil society organizations have played an active role in advocating for peace and providing humanitarian assistance to affected communities. International partners have offered technical and financial support to bolster Nigeria's capacity to counter security threats. Despite these multifaceted efforts, the problem persists, demonstrating a resilient and deeply rooted challenge that requires further investigation (Okorie, Bitrus, & Ukata, 2020).

In spite of the comprehensive efforts to curb the abnormality, Nigeria continues to grapple with security challenges that threaten its stability and development. These challenges persist in various forms, including the persistence of insurgent movements, the escalation of farmer-herder conflicts, the emergence of separatist movements, and the ongoing threats to economic infrastructure. Furthermore, the effectiveness of different political leadership strategies in addressing these challenges remains a subject of debate. This enduring problem underscores the necessity of a rigorous and nuanced examination of the interplay between political leadership, the security dilemma, and national security within the Nigerian context.

Existing literature has explained extensively how issues such as Political leadership, corruption, and governance have affected the development and posed a threat to national security in Nigeria. These studies have helped us to understand how the political leaders in the Nigerian state have mismanaged the country’s natural resources for their own personal aggrandizement without pursuing the developmental visions and strategies of development and this has retarded development in all sectors of the economy of the Nigerian state and also posed a more significant threat to the country’s national security (Ricarddo, 2013; Omodia, & Aliu, 2013; Awofeso & Odeyemi 2014; Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015,). However, some gap still exist; existing literature has not adequately provided us an explanation of how different political leaders in Nigeria’s fourth republic have adequately failed to perform their responsibilities and the effects of these on the National security of the Nigerian state have not been adequately delved into.

This study seeks to address this persistent problem by conducting a comprehensive

assessment of the leadership styles and security strategies employed by Former President Goodluck Jonathan and President Muhammadu Buhari, with a view to shedding light on the complex dynamics of political leadership and national security in Nigeria. Thus, to effectively execute this paper in addition to the introductory parts encompasses the theoretical framework of analysis, Conceptual clarifications, PoliticalLeadership, and issues of National security in both Goodluck Jonathan and Muhammadu Buhari's administration as well as the conclusion and proposal for achieving a viable political leadership that will engender the security of the Nigerian state.

Conceptual Clarification

Political Leadership

Political leadership is one of the most widely experienced and intuitivelyor tacitly understood phenomena – like great power competition, Olympic rivalries, climate change, the right to develop, or central human rights controversies about trade-offs between security and civil and political rights (Masciulli, Molchanov, & Knight, 2020). Most political leadership researchers agree on several components that must be included in the concept of political leadership. These elements include the personality and traits of a leader or leaders, including her or his ethical and cultural character; the traits and ethical-cultural character of the followers with whom the leader interacts; the societal or organizational context in which the leader–follower interaction occurs – general culture, political culture, political climate, norms, and institutions; the agenda of collective problems or tasks which confront the leaders and followers in particular historical situations (certain problems/challenges may elicit bonding between leaders and followers); the nature of the leader's interpretive judgment, (the ability of the leader to interpret a given situation and act in such a way that meets the expectation of the followers); the material as well as intangible means that the leaders use to attain their ends and/or their followers‟ goals; encompassing the technique that leaders adopt to gain the willing support of their followers (Peele, 2005).

In addition to being a unique aspect of "social leadership" in general, as we argued above, political leadership shares a great deal of similarities with the higher levels of military, legal, organizational, religious, and ideological leadership. According to Masciulli, Molchanov, and Knight, the latter category encompasses leadership in the areas of parenting, business, education, science and technology, athletics, medicine, culture, the arts, and religion. (Masciulli, Molchanov, & Knight, nd). This is a broad definition of political leadership that encompasses the entire political leadership category in our discourse, extending well beyond the elected and appointed public officials who are typically considered to be political leaders in our culture. This is especially important in the current political climate because those in the political class who do not support the national government's ruling party prefer to politicize concerns about national security, sacrificing the interests of the country on the altar of political expediency.

Aransi (2009) raises the idea of variations among political leaders in terms of their capacity to perform in line with public expectations and the determinants of such performance. Aransi (2009: 119) writes that "the difference between two political leaders in the same position today rests relatively little on differences in policy direction and very largely on other behavior, which can be labeled „leadership styles‟. In Nigeria, there are no clear-cut differences in policy direction, as there are no specific programs that can be linked exclusively to any particular political party. Elected officials at national and state levels and other political leaders adopt whatever leadership styles they believe would endear them to the citizenry. This is very apposite in the Nigerian context, as there are no differences in ideology amongst the registered political parties. This has encouraged the frequent carpet crossing from one party to the other, by politicians with intentions of contesting for public office.

National Security

For a nation, security connotes conditions of peace, stability, order, and progress. National security has been construed in different ways, each of which emphasized vital factors underlying ideals. Brennan (1961) holds that national security is the protection of national survival, while Ray (1987) says that national security is to be understood in terms of the desire and capacity for self-defense. Ochoche (1998) holds that national security focuses on the amassment of military armament, personnel, and expenditure. All the above definitions show that National security has

changed over time. It was expanded to include international economics, long-term goals of national development and reconciliation. They are very important for the security of any nation. With this approach, Asad (2007) says "that national security cannot be narrowed down to exclusively military terms. Socio-economic and cultural aspects, problems of development and modernization, and national integration should be deemed important in considering".

In the words of Aigbovo and Igbinovia, (2014), security has been defined as the degree of protection against danger, damage, loss, and crime. It also refers to structures and processes that provide or improve security as a condition. Security is the state of being free from danger or threat, or the safety of a state or organization against criminal activity such as terrorism, theft, or espionage.

National security has been defined as the requirement to maintain the survival of the state through the use of diplomacy, power projection, and economic and political power.Kronenberg (1973, p. 36 cited in Asamu 2006, p.126 in Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015) defines national security as "that part of government policy having as its objective the creation of national and international political conditions favorable to the protection or extension of vital national values against existing and potential adversaries." National security, according to Imobighe (1990), is the absence of risk or dangers to a country's capacity to defend itself, uphold its treasured ideals and legitimate interests, and improve the welfare of its citizens.

According to Anyadike (2013), maintaining national security requires the deployment of economic policies, diplomacy (in multiple dimensions), power projection, and political authority by the government. It is thought that the idea originated in the United States of America following World War II. It used to be primarily concerned with military might, but over time, it has expanded to include non-military concerns like economic security, national security of the people, and all of the values upheld by the society at large. In order for there to be national security, a nation's population must be able to live in a free, secure, and comfortable environment and have access to the resources they need to do so. (In Nwogugu & Oluranti, 2015, Enahoro, 2004).

The authors mentioned above have given the idea of national interest, preservation of national interests against internal and external attack, as well as the quality of life for citizens, two important aspects. With this in mind, Aliyu (2009) offers a definition of national interest that incorporates both viewpoints when he states that national security extends beyond military readiness to defend the country to the issue of ensuring a good life for the populace. A country can maintain its sovereignty and protect its political, economic, social, and other interests in a sovereign manner both internally and in relations with other states. It is not only about the security of national territory and infrastructure but also, about the good life, the basic values which keep the community together and advancement in the quality of life available to the individual regardless of their social status.

Theoretical Framework: Transformational Leadership Theory

Transformational Leadership Theory is a widely recognized and applied theoretical framework in the fields of leadership and management. It was first introduced by James MacGregor Burns in 1978 and further developed by Bernard Bass in 1985. This theory posits that effective leaders can inspire and motivate their followers to achieve exceptional outcomes beyond their self-interest. Transformational leaders serve as role models and gain the trust and admiration of their followers through their personal qualities and values. They lead by example and set high ethical standards. For example, a political leader in Nigeria's Fourth Republic who is seen as a symbol of integrity and who promotes ethical governance can be considered an idealized influence.

Transformational leaders serve as role models and gain the trust and admiration of their followers through their personal qualities and values (Bass, 1985). They lead by example, displaying high ethical standards and integrity. These leaders are perceived as charismatic figures who inspire trust and admiration, fostering a strong sense of identification and loyalty among their followers (Bass, 1985). Transformational leaders articulate a compelling vision of the future, inspiring and motivating their followers to work towards shared goals (Bass, 1985). They use persuasive communication and enthusiasm to

energize their followers, making them feel personally invested in achieving the vision.

Transformational leadership theorists posit that Transformational leaders encourage creative thinking and problem-solving among their followers (Bass, 1985). They create an environment where innovative solutions to complex challenges are welcomed and supported. By promoting intellectual stimulation, leaders empower their followers to think critically and generate new ideas. Transformational leaders pay individual attention to the needs and development of their followers (Bass, 1985). They provide coaching and mentoring, recognizing the unique strengths and weaknesses of each follower. This personalized approach helps followers reach their full potential.

Transformational Leadership Theory posits that leaders who exhibit these core components can create significant positive change within organizations, teams, or even entire nations. It is a dynamic and influential leadership style that has been widely studied and applied in various contexts, including politics, business, and social organizations. By inspiring followers to transcend their self-interest and work towards a common vision, transformational leaders have the potential to achieve remarkable outcomes and leave a lasting impact on their followers and organizations (Bass, 1985; Burns, 1978).

Transformational leaders, as per the theory, excel in articulating a compelling vision of the future. In the context of Nigeria's Fourth Republic, political leaders can use this aspect of transformational leadership to inspire the nation with a clear and comprehensive vision for national security. This vision should encompass not only military aspects but also address socioeconomic, political, and communal dimensions of security. Nigerian political leaders can engage in dialogue with citizens, stakeholders, and experts to create a shared vision of national security that goes beyond addressing immediate threats and focuses on long-term stability and prosperity.

Applying Transformational Leadership Theory to the appraisal of political leadership and its implications for national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic can lead to more visionary, inclusive, and effective approaches to addressing security challenges. By embodying the principles of transformational leadership, political leaders can play a pivotal role in strengthening national security and promoting stability and prosperity in Nigeria.

Political Leadership and Issues of National Security during President Good-luck Ebele Jonathan

BBC News, The Punch, May 5th, 2010, Akinlade andPurefoy cited in Adebogun, Ogbonna, and Nnabuihe, (2017) asserted that after President Yar'adua's death on May 5th, 2010, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, hitherto Vice-President and Acting President was sworn in as Alhaji Yar'adua's successor on May 6th 2010, becoming Nigeria's 14th Head of State, while his vice, a former Kaduna State Governor, Mohammed Namadi Sambo, an architect, emerged on 18th May 2010. After becoming the Nigerian President, the populace, therefore have great expectations of him. But there seems to be a general disenchantment with him, especially for his "kids' glove" approach to handling the then endemic and hydra-headed corruption in the country and the issue of insecurity. Especially as it relates to the "Boko Haram" insurgency in the North Eastern part of the country and Kidnapping.

Jonathan's administration was faced with a post-election crisis in 2011 and the Boko Haram insurgency in North-eastern Nigeria. Boko Haram, officially known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, was founded in the early 2000s, but it gained significant momentum and became more prominent during President Goodluck Jonathan's tenure, which began in 2010. The group's core ideology is rooted in a radical interpretation of Islam and a desire to establish Sharia law in Nigeria. The North East region was ravaged by the terrorists with gradual escalation to other parts of the north - Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Kano and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Jonathan-led administration was widely criticized by Nigerians for allowing the insurgence to fester and blamed the menace of Boko Haram on the regime (Jega, 2002). The impunity of Boko Haram reached a climax with the abduction of more than 200 girls at Chibok Secondary School, Borno State on April 14, 2014. Under President Jonathan's leadership, Boko Haram evolved from a relatively localized insurgency to a more formidable and adaptable force (Obi, 2015). The group adopted new tactics, such as suicide bombings and

abductions, further complicating efforts to combat them (Igwe, 2014).

Also, under the Jonathan administration, Nigeria faced long-standing socio-economic challenges, including poverty, unemployment, and a lack of access to education in many regions. These issues created fertile ground for radicalization and recruitment, especially among disaffected youth who saw Boko Haram as an alternative (Nwozor, 2013). Despite the President's promised succor for the populace, youth unemployment was over 65% and a national unemployment rate of 23.9% as of December 2011. Also, power supply was nearly non-existent despite claims to the contrary, which he (the President) made ina CNN interview with Christiane Amanpour in January 2013, the economy was not strong enough to withstand the stress and storms of poverty, inequality, and unemployment which widened by the day; industries had gone moribund, and incidence of absolute poverty was indicated at 65%. It was widely observed that Nigeria did not meet the Millennium Development Goals, targets set by the International Comity of Nations as indices for measuring the development of developing nations like Nigeria which the target was in 2015.

The Jonathan administration was criticized for its perceived inability to address corruption and provide effective governance. This eroded public trust in the government and created space for extremist groups like Boko Haram to thrive. Oluokun (2014). Note that Nigeria is ethnically and religiously diverse, and these divisions have at times fueled conflicts. Boko Haram exploited these divisions, positioning itself as a defender of Muslim interests against what it portrayed as a corrupt and oppressive Christian-dominated government. According to Smith (2015), the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria found fertile ground in the socio-economic challenges that plagued the country, including high levels of poverty and unemployment. The group capitalized on these grievances to recruit disaffected youth.

Furthermore, the International Crisis Group's report (2013) highlights the role of weak governance and corruption in Nigeria exacerbating the insurgency, eroding public trust in the government, and providing an opportunity for extremist groups to gain support. It's essential to recognize that the Boko Haram insurgency did not emerge solely during the Goodluck Jonathan administration, but it escalated significantly during this period due to a combination of domestic and international factors.

The Government's Response to the Boko Haram Insurgency during Goodluck Jonathan's and Muhammadu Buhri's Administrations

The government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency during President Goodluck Jonathan's administration was a critical aspect of managing the security crisis. In response to the escalating violence and insecurity caused by Boko Haram, President Jonathan's administration declared a state of emergency in three northeastern states: Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa (Oyinlola, 2017).This declaration allowed for the deployment of additional security forces to the affected areas and granted them expanded powers to combat the insurgency (Yusuf and Abubakar, 2018).Recognizing the transnational nature of the Boko Haram threat, President Jonathan's government sought international assistance and cooperation in addressing the crisis. Nigeria engaged in joint military operations with neighboring countries such as Cameroon and Chad to combat the insurgency's cross-border activities (Nwafor, 2017.). In addition, the Nigerian government implemented various counterterrorism measures, including increased intelligence gathering, surveillance, and border security efforts. These measures were aimed at disrupting Boko Haram's operations and preventing the group from acquiring weapons and funds (Onapajo, 2019).

Also, President Jonathan's administration extended an amnesty offer to Boko Haram members, encouraging them to lay down their arms and embrace a peaceful resolution (Obi, 2019). This approach aimed to reduce the group's recruitment efforts and weaken its ranks by offering incentives for defection. The government also explored avenues for political dialogue and reconciliation with Boko Haram leaders, negotiations aimed at securing the release of abducted individuals and achieving a ceasefire periodically took place, though these efforts faced significant challenges and skepticism (Onapajo, 2019).

Despite these efforts, the government faced criticism for perceived inadequacies in addressing the Boko Haram insurgency. Some critics argued

that the government's response was slow and ineffective, leading to public frustration and skepticism regarding its commitment to security. One of the most prominent criticisms was the perceived ineffectiveness of the government's response, especially in the early stages of the insurgency (Igwe, 2014). Critics argued that the government struggled to contain Boko Haram's escalating violence and that security forces were ill-equipped to deal with the insurgency. There were also allegations of corruption and mismanagement within security forces, including reports of funds meant for counterterrorism efforts being misappropriated. Such allegations eroded public trust in the government's ability to address the insurgency effectively (Adeniyi, 2018).

The government's counterterrorism measures, including the declaration of a state of emergency, were criticized for potential human rights abuses and violations. Reports of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and abuses by security forces raised concerns. These actions alienated local communities and fueled sympathy for the insurgents. Lack of effective communication and collaboration hindered the response to the insurgency. Coordination between different security agencies and branches of government was often cited (Onapajo, 2017)

In summary, the government's response to the Boko Haram insurgency during President Jonathan's administration involved a combination of security measures, international cooperation, political initiatives, and counterterrorism strategies. While these efforts were implemented to address the crisis, they also faced significant challenges and criticism (Jega, 2020). The effectiveness of these responses and their impact on national security remained central questions during this period.

During President Muhammadu Buhari's administration in Nigeria, which began in May 2015 and till May 2023, political leadership and issues of national security remained at the forefront of the country's challenges. President Buhari inherited the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency, which remained a significant security concern during his tenure (Jega, 2020). The insurgency continued to affect the northeastern region and presented complex security challenges. Nwosu (2017) asserts that despite the fact that the problems predate the Buhari government, Nigerians have unfairly criticized it for its actions and inactions in the face of ongoing conflicts.

Apart from the Boko Haram insurgency, Nigeria experienced an escalation in conflicts between Fulani herdsmen and farming communities during this period (Obi, 2019). These conflicts had serious implications for national security and social cohesion. The Agatu Massacre in Benue State was one of the most well-known attacks purportedly carried out by Fulani herdsmen during the Buhari administration. Over 300 members of the villages were massacred in February 2016, and about 7,000 people were left homeless. According to certain sources, suspected herders killed numerous people in 10 Agatu communities at the beginning of 2016. Along with these murders, there were claims of rape, the burning down of homes and other property, and other crimes. The attacks, according to their leader, were retaliation against the Agatu people for the 2013 murder and cattle theft of a senior Fulani member. That the president took more than a week to denounce the incident, order an investigation, and that his spokesperson expressed because "[the President] is not a (sic) talkative," he has taken a quiet stance on the problem, which has infuriated many Nigerian

Moreover, the government and security organizations have come under fire for either inaction or plain complicity with the herdsmen. In a conversation, Mr. Sule Audu, the assemblyman for Agatu in Benue State, accused the military of letting the Fulani herdsmen to occupy the destroyed settlements while their cattle, numbering over 100,000, were allowed to graze freely on the farmers' land. The Fulani president gave his assailants more ammo because they perceived his lack of action as tacit support for the murderers. On April 25, 2016, alleged armed Fulani invaders raided the town of Ukpabi Nimbo in Enugu State, murdering numerous people. This garnered widespread censure and brought attention to the danger of the war igniting further security flashpoints. Should the deaths continue, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra, an organization pushing for the restoration of the separatist Republic of Biafra, may become involved. The government considers the group to be treacherous. Retaliatory attacks have been threatened by several

communities in the South-East (Anyadike, 2013). (Anyadike, 2013).

Similar clashes between herders and farmers have been observed in other parts of the nation (Nwosu, 2017). It is perplexing that virtually no successful prosecution or conviction has been obtained in any of these episodes of herdsmen murdering and wanton damage of property. To add to the people's sense of betrayal, Nasir el-Rufai, the governor of Kaduna State and a powerful friend of the President, agreed settling them to stop killing the predominantly Christian southern Kaduna people. In December 2016, Kaduna was engulfed in a crisis involving Fulani herders and inhabitants of southern Kaduna. The most concerning feature is that the attacks occurred within the state's 24-hour curfew. (Nwosu, 2017).

The Southern Kaduna Killings were allegedly Fulani herdsmen's retaliatory attacks for earlier murders, similar to the Agatu Crisis. Many people believe that the governor, a Muslim Fulani, emboldened the herders even if the settlement was given in good spirit by paying fellow Muslim Fulanis rather than bringing them to justice. Even a UN assessment on attacks carried out in Nigeria by herders decried "the complete impunity enjoyed so far by the perpetrators." Despite the Nimbo Massacre allegedly being committed by approximately 500 armed herdsmen, reports also claimed that 5 people were detained in connection with the incident. It is unsettling when attacks and retaliations may be carried out in a nation with little to no repercussions for the culprits. (Nwosu, 2017).

The specter of a fully-armed Fulani herdsman is new, according to some worried Nigerians, and the most puzzling question surrounding the conflicts is how cattle herders acquire sophisticated weapons like the AK-47 (semi-) gun. Several factors, including the Libyan Crisis and the free flow of firearms after Ghaddafi's death, gun running, and local politics have been blamed for the relatively easy access of Fulani herdsmen to dangerous weapons The transhumant Fulani from abroad are believed to be responsible for the recent wave of herdsmen-inflicted violence. If this is the case, it indicates a deeper issue that has dogged previous Nigerian administrations and continues under the current Buhari administration: the absence of efficient border security. Foreigners can travel as far south as Enugu and Osun State to wreak havoc. Even ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) regulations demand for a transition to ranching and do not support unrestrained and/or armed grazing. (Nwosu, 2017 in Ogbette, Attamah & Okoh, 2018).

To be fair to the Buhari administration, it appears like they are trying to stop such attacks. The grazing law is currently up for debate in the National Assembly. The measure aims to create grazing reserves in each state to enhance livestock productivity and avoid disputes between ranchers and farmers. The law appears to have little support from many Southern states, though, given the contentious nature of the issue. Many claim that their lands would be taken over in order to suit Fulani commercial interests, which is why they view the measure as unfair. Even more concerning is the fact that some Fulanis oppose the bill, claiming it violates their right to free movement. It appears that the federal government has not yet launched any systematic education campaign to allay these worries, real or imagined, nor proposed an alternative workable solution. (Nwosu, 2017).

Lack of a comprehensive and well-coordinated national grazing strategy could result in anarchy, where separate states decide their own fate. One example is the anti-grazing law that Ekiti State passed. The regulation, which forbids grazing outside of defined areas and hours as well as with firearms, has been denounced by the umbrella group representing the herdsmen, the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association. A careful examination of the issues reveals that some of the disagreements are motivated by claims of livestock rustling. Herdsmen were forced to carry weapons because they believed the established communities were robbing them of their animals and murdering their friends and children. According to Mohammed Abdullahi, the chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association in Plateau State, "The Fulani use the AK47 for defense since the government has failed to protect them." Such self-defense, while unacceptable, is a criticism of Nigeria's security system (Nwosu, 2017). What the police and other appropriate security services are doing to either prevent or quickly respond to attacks by Fulani herders is another security-related matter. The Southern Kaduna Killings are an example of how large-scale massacres and looting can occur during

a 24-hour curfew. This is abhorrent and indicates either a weak security apparatus or, worse yet, active collusion by security agencies. The government's overall inability to convict the majority of the violent offenders on both sides not only fails to dissuade future attacks but also fosters deadly weapons races on both sides of the war (Nwosu, 2017).In addition, secessionist movements and calls for restructuring Nigeria's federal system was significant contributor to ethnic and regional tensions in the country. These issues had implications for political leadership and national security during President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. The Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its leader, Nnamdi Kanu, emerged as a prominent secessionist movement during this period, advocating for the secession of the southeastern region of Nigeria to form the independent state of Biafra (Omodia, 2012). IPOB's activities, which included protests and calls for civil disobedience, led to increased tensions and security challenges in the region. The Nigerian government labeled IPOB as a terrorist organization, further intensifying the conflict. In addition, calls for the restructuring of Nigeria's federal system gained momentum during President Buhari's administration. Advocates argued that restructuring could address issues of governance, resource allocation, and regional autonomy, reducing ethnic and regional tensions. Debates on restructuring included discussions about devolving more powers to states and addressing perceived imbalances in the distribution of resources (Obi, 2019).

Gap in Literature

The appraisal of political leadership and its implications for national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic is an important and complex subject that has garnered some attention from scholars and analysts. However, there are notable gaps in the existing literature that deserve further exploration and research. While there have been studies examining specific aspects of political leadership or national security in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, there is a lack of comprehensive explanation of how different political leaders in Nigeria's Fourth Republic have failed to perform their responsibilities and the effects of these on the National security of the Nigerian state have not been adequately delved into.

Findings, Summary and Recommendations

The achievementof Peace and tranquility at all levels (National)in the Nigerian state would be possible if the leaders in this country aimed at providing and promotingthe social well-being of the people. Government which serves as the agency through which the will and purposes of the state would be realized should endeavor to accomplishthis goal by effectively adopting a type of leadership style that will help in realizing the goals of the stateto avoid any conflict between the state and its people which may eventually trigger into violent-conflict because if this occur, it may leads to the absence of peace and if thereis absence of peace in the country, certainly, the attainment of national security is utopia in nature.

The following are therefore recommended for the safety and protection of the Nigerian citizens and properties by their political leaders;

First, the study recommends that the leadership styles adopted by the Nigerian leaders in administering the country shouldtherefore be used in fostering and engendering her national security.

Second, the spirit and principle of the rule of law should be adhered to by the leaders before making and implementing any policy.

Third, Nigerian leaders should shift from being personal rulers to selfless leaders. And leaders in the Nigerian state should endeavor to protect the interest of their people rather than their interests.

Fourth, Nigerian leaders should endeavor to effectively perform their functions as the machinery ofthe state to prevent further social disconnections between the state and her citizens and the prevention of further springing up of other militant groups which may affect the national security or survival of the Nigerian state.

Fifth, the Nigerian state should increase the percentage of the derivation of the Niger-delta region to end the crisis and enhance development in the region.

Sixth, there should be provisions for employment opportunities for unemployed Nigerians by the Nigerian government and leaders.

References

Abdulkabir, O. S. (2017). Causes and incisive solutions to the widespread of kidnapping in Nigeria current administration: Under scholastic scrutiny. *Journal of Political Sciences and Public Affairs.* 5(2), 23320761.

Adebambo R.S, (2010). Nigeria and the Challenges of Effective Security. Published by Netview Books, Ibadan

Adebogun, O.B, Ogbonna, S. & Nnabuihe, E. O. "Comparative Analysis of Leadership Styles and its Implications for Governance in Nigeria (1999-2015)". A Paper Submitted and Published In the Book of Proceedings at the University of Ghana International Multinational Conference

Adeniyi, A. F. (2018). Terrorism and Nigeria's foreign policy: An assessment of the Boko Haram insurgency. *International Journal of Research and Innovation in Social Science*, 2(4), 1-9.

Anifowose F.E, (2005)" Element of politics. Sam Ironuasi Publications, Lagos

Anyadike, N. (2013). Boko Haram and national security challenges in Nigeria: causes and solutions. Journal of Economic and Sustainable Development 4(5): 12-23.

Asad, D. (2007). National affairs retrievedSeptember2007http://www.NigeriaVillageSquare.com

Brennan, D. (1961). Setting the goals of arms control In Brennan and National Security. New York: George Brazille

Chaudhry, A.O., & Javed, H. (2012). Impact of Transactional & Laissez Faire Leadership Style on Motivation. *International Journal of Business & Social Sciences*, 3(7), 258-264.

Dappa, T.O.G. and Omale, D.O.(2016). The Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW): Threat to National Security in Nigeria. *International Journal of Social Relevance & Concern.* 4 (5).

Ebeh. J, (2015). National Security & National Deve. A Critique. *International Journal of Arts & Humanities* Vol.4 (2), S/No 14, April 2015 1-14

Goodnight, R.(2011). Laissez-Faire Leadership. Encyclopedia of Leadership. London, UK: Sage Publication

Jega, A. (2002). Tackling ethno-religious conflicts in Nigeria. The Nigerian Social Scientist 5(2): 35-39

Lucia Retter, (2020). Relationships between the economy and national security: Analysis and considerations for economic security policy in the Netherlands. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4287.html

Mbagwu, (2017). Beyond Military Force as Strategy for Countering Terrorism In Nigeria: A Handbook

Muahmmed, I. (2020). Ripped by militia attacks, Shiroro communities lose farming season, likely facing future famine. HumAngle News, June 22nd. Retrieved from: https://humangle.ng/ ripped-by-militia attacks-shiroro-communities-lose-farming-season-likely-facing-future-famine/

Murtala, A. R. (2018). Cattle rustling and armed banditry along Nigeria-Niger borderlands. *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science* (IOSR-JHSS), 23(4), 66-73.

Naidu, S.P, (2014). Public Administration. Concept And Theories. New Age International (P) Limited, Publishers.

Nwozor, A. (2013). National security, religious anarchism and the politics of amnesty in Nigeria. *Covenant Journal of Politics and International Affairs* 1(1): 1-14.

Nzelibe G.C. Aniobi D.S.C. & Rmejulu, G. (1996). Element of government Enugu: optional publishers.

O. Aigbovo & Patrick E. Igbnovia, (2014). National Security Imperatives and Criminal Policy (Jonathan Presidency) edited by John A. A.

Ayoade, Adeoye A. Akinsanya, and Olatunde JB Ojo. University Press of America, (R) Inc.

Obi, N. N. (2018). "Election, security, and development: interrogating the interface" *PACEM Journal of Peace and Development*. Abuja, Centre for Peace and Development, Veritas University. 1(1), 1- 12.

Ochoche, S. (1998).The Military and National Security in Africa In Hutchful (Ed) Military & Militarism in Africa. Senegal: Codesirea

Odeyemi, T. I. (2014). "Leadership, Corruption and Underdevelopment in Nigeria", Being a seminal paper delivered at the M.Sc. Class, Department of Political Science, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria, May

Ogele E. P. (2021b). Identity Conflict and Development Challenge in Nigeria's Fourth Republic, 2011-2020. Saudi J. Humanities Soc Sci, 6(3): 96-108.

Okoli, A. C. & Ochim, F. (2016). Forestlands and national security in Nigeria: A threat-import analysis. *IIARD International Journal of Political and Administrative Studies*, 2(2), 43-53.

Okorie, A.; Bitrus, M. & Ukata, E.S. (2020). Election and national security in Nigeria, 1999-2020. *International Journal of Business Management and Economic Review*, 3(6), 214-231.

Ololube, N. P. (2013). Educational Management Planning & Supervision Model for Effective Implementation. Owerri: Springfield Publishers.

Omodia, S.M. (2012). Political leadership and national security in the Nigerian Fourth Republic: a discourse, *African Journal of Social Sciences*, 2(4): 90-96.

Onapajo, H., & Udo, B. (2019). Terrorism and Nigeria's foreign policy: The challenges and prospects. *Journal of International Affairs and Development*, 3(1), 51-60.

Onuoha, F.C. (2012). The Audacity of the Boko Haram: Background, Analysis & Emerging Trend. *Security Journal*, 25(2), 134-151

Ray, J. (1987). Global Politics. 3rd ed Boston: Houghton Mifflin. Retrieve from http//www.Amnesty.Org.ng. Nigeria: "Bullet Were Raising Everywhere". Amnesty International, 2016.

Soetan, S. O. (2017). Proliferation of Arms and Security Challenges in Nigeria. *International Journal of History and Cultural Studies*. Vol. 3(3).

ThisDay Newspaper, Thursday, 4 April, 2002.