THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT TRENDS OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AS A FIELD OF STUDY IN NIGERIA

Dr Toye Manuwa.
(+234 7083138777, princetoyemanuwa2011@gmail.com)
University of Medical Sciences, Ondo, Ondo State. Institute of Health Humanities

Abstract

This study provides an overview of the historical development and current trends of political science as a field of study in Nigeria. It examines how political science emerged and evolved as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria after its independence from British colonial rule. It explores the main subfields, approaches, theories, and methods of political science in Nigeria, such as comparative politics, political economy, political sociology, political behavior, public administration, international relations, and political philosophy. It investigates the current challenges and opportunities for political science in Nigeria in the 21st century, such as democratization, development, security, corruption, ethnicity, and globalization. It assesses how political science relates to other disciplines and to public policy by providing analytical tools and empirical evidence for understanding and addressing political issues and problems. In conclusion, this study highlights the importance and relevance of political science as a field of study in Nigeria and beyond.

Keywords: Political science, Social science, Historical development, trend, public policy and Nigeria

Background to the Study

Political science is akin to a telescope that allows us to explore the vast expanse of political systems, structures, and ideas. It enables us to observe, analyze, and comprehend the intricacies of power, governance, and public policy, leading to a deeper understanding of the forces that shape our societies.

Political science is a social science discipline that encompasses the study of political systems, theories, behavior, and policies. It seeks to understand how states, governments, and political institutions function, as well as the political processes and power dynamics that shape societies at the local, national, and international levels. Political science analyses various aspects of politics, including political ideology, political parties, elections, public opinion, public policy, international relations, and political philosophy (Easton, 1965 & Lijphart, 2012). One primary focus of political science is the examination of governmental systems. Comparative politics, a subfield of political science, involves the study and comparison of different forms of government, such as democracies, autocracies, and monarchies, and their impact on society (Dahl, 1991 &

Heywood, 2017). It also explores concepts like federalism, public administration, and bureaucratic structures.

Another major area of study is political theory or political philosophy, which delves into the fundamental questions of politics, governance, and justice. This field explores different ideas and ideologies, such as liberalism, conservatism, socialism, feminism, and Marxism, and their impact on policy making and society as a whole. Political theorists also investigate normative questions about the ideal form of government and the principles underlying political legitimacy and moral responsibility (Rosenblum & Shapiro, 2018).

International relations is yet another crucial aspect of political science, focusing on how states interact with one another in the global arena. It examines diplomatic relations, international organizations like the United Nations, regional integration efforts, conflicts, economic policies, and foreign policies pursued by different countries. By studying political science, students gain a comprehensive understanding of how political systems operate, the factors that influence political decision-making, and the impact of political actions on society. It equips individuals with critical thinking skills, analytical abilities, and research techniques necessary for careers in government policy making, law, international affairs, academia, journalism, and more.

Political science in Nigeria has evolved within the context of these historical processes, as well as the influences of the international academic community and the local political economy. Political science is the study of politics, power, and governance. It emerged as a distinct field of inquiry in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, mainly in Europe and North America. However, political science has also developed in other parts of the world, including Africa and especially Nigeria. The historical development of political science as a field of study in Nigeria can be traced back to the colonial era. Before Nigeria gained independence in 1960, political science was not recognized as an independent discipline but was studied under the broader umbrella of social science. However, with the establishment of Nigerian universities, especially in the late 1960s and early 1970s, political science emerged as a distinct field of study (Adebayo, 2017).

One significant milestone in the development of political science in Nigeria was the establishment of the Department of Political Science at the University of Ibadan in 1961. The department played a crucial role in laying the foundation for the study of

political science in Nigeria and trained many prominent political scientists who later contributed to the growth of the discipline in the country (Idegu *et al*., 2020).

Another important development was the establishment of the Nigerian Political Science Association (NPSA) in 1971. The NPSA aimed to promote the study and research of political science and act as a professional body for political scientists in Nigeria. Over the years, the association has organized conferences, workshops, and seminars to enhance academic discourse and collaboration among political scientists. The political landscape in Nigeria has also influenced the development of political science as a field of study. Periods of military rule and democratic transitions have provided opportunities for political scientists to study and analyze the political dynamics in Nigeria (Oladipo, 2016). For example, the return to democracy in 1999 after decades of military rule led to increased research and analysis on political institutions, governance, and democratization.

Nigeria is a country with a rich and diverse political history, from the pre-colonial states and kingdoms to the colonial rule by Britain, and from the independence struggle to the present federal system. According to Adele Jinadu (1987), political science in Nigeria has been shaped by three main factors:

(a) the multinational character of political science, with particular reference to the hegemonic role of the US in its global diffusion;

(b) the static structure of Nigeria's political economy; and

(c) the logic of colonial nationalism. These factors have affected both the institutional development and the intellectual orientation of Nigerian political scientists.

The institutional development of political science in Nigeria can be traced to the establishment of university departments and research institutes in the 1960s and 1970s, mainly with the assistance of foreign donors and scholars. Some of the prominent institutions include the University of Ibadan, the University of Lagos, the University of Nigeria Nsukka, the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, and the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (Adele Jinadu, 1987). These institutions have produced many generations of political scientists who have contributed to the academic and public discourse on Nigerian politics and government.

The intellectual orientation of political science in Nigeria has been influenced by various paradigms and approaches, such as modernization theory, dependency theory, structural-functionalism, Marxism, political economy, federalism, ethnicity, religion, democracy, human rights, security, and development (Onapajo, 2023). Nigerian political scientists have engaged with these theoretical frameworks and applied them to analyze various aspects of Nigerian politics and government, such as constitutionalism, party systems, elections, civil society, corruption, public administration, foreign policy, regional integration, insurgency, and separatist violence. Political science in Nigeria has faced some challenges and prospects over the years. Some of the challenges include the lack of adequate funding, infrastructure, and resources; the politicization and militarization of academic institutions; the brain drain and loss of talent; the fragmentation and isolation of scholars; and the relevance and impact of research (Ojo *et al*., 2020). Some of the prospects include the democratization and liberalization of academic institutions; the diversification and innovation of research methods; the collaboration and networking of scholars; and the engagement and influence of policy makers. Political science in Nigeria is a dynamic and vibrant field of study that has developed within a complex historical context. It has produced many scholars who have contributed to the understanding of Nigerian politics and government. It has also faced some challenges that need to be addressed for its further growth and development.

The field of political science in Nigeria is constantly evolving with changing times and new challenges. Some current trends in the study of political science in Nigeria include democratization and Political Transitions. Nigeria has been experiencing a significant shift towards democracy since the end of military rule in 1999. The study of democratization processes, political transitions, and the consolidation of democratic institutions have become crucial in understanding Nigeria's political landscape. Scholars are also examining the role of political parties, civil society organizations, and electoral processes in the development of a democratic system (Joseph, 2011).

Another important trend that cannot be overlooked is governance and corruption, which remain significant concerns in Nigeria. Political science studies in Nigeria focus on analyzing the effectiveness of governance institutions, measuring transparency and accountability, and examining the impact of corruption on society and the economy. Researchers

are also exploring possible solutions and policy recommendations to combat corruption and improve governance (Ibrahim, 2018).

The dynamics of ethnic politics play a significant role in shaping political behavior and decision-making in Nigeria. Researchers study the role of ethnicity in political mobilization, the impact of identity politics on governance, and the challenges of managing ethnic tensions in a diverse society (Olukoshi & Selassie, 2019). In the same vein, Nigeria has been plagued with problem of security and conflict. Nigeria faces various security challenges, including terrorism, communal clashes, and insurgencies. Political science research focuses on understanding the root causes of conflict, analyzing security policies, and providing insights for conflict resolution and peace-building efforts. Scholars also examine the role of regional and international actors in addressing Nigeria's security challenges (Kyari, 2017). These trends in political science research in Nigeria reflect the country's unique political dynamics, the challenges it faces, and the ongoing efforts to strengthen democratic governance, combat corruption, manage diversity, and address security concerns. In Nigeria, political science has a long and rich history that dates back to the pre-colonial era. However, the field has also faced many challenges and changes in the post-independence period, especially in the context of military rule, democratization, ethnic conflict, corruption and globalization. The main problem that this study seeks to address is how political science as a field of study in Nigeria has evolved and adapted to the changing political realities and demands of the society. It also aims to identify the current trends and issues that influence the development and practice of political science in Nigeria.

Therefore, the main purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive overview of the historical development and current trends of political science as a field of study. Specifically, the study seeks to:

i. examine how political science emerged and evolved as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria;
ii. explore the main subfields, approaches, theories, and methods of political science in Nigeria;
iii. investigate the current challenges and opportunities for political science in the 21st century and
iv. assess how political science relates to other disciplines and to public policy.

Literature Review-Historical Overview of Political Science in Nigeria

Political science, as an academic discipline, gained prominence in Nigeria during the post-independence era in the 1960s. As the country gained independence from British colonial rule, there arose a need to understand and analyze the dynamics of governance, political institutions, and public policy-making. Nigerian scholars started studying political science to provide academic insight into the country's political development and contribute to nation-building.

In the early years, political science was mostly taught as part of broader social science programs in Nigerian universities. However, in 1962, the University of Ife (now Obafemi Awolowo University) became the first Nigerian institution to offer a separate degree in political science. This marked a significant milestone in the development of political science as a distinct field of study in the country. Since then, the discipline has continued to grow in Nigeria, with numerous universities offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in political science. Political science departments were established in various Nigerian universities, further advancing research and scholarship in the field. Political science in Nigeria covers a wide range of topics, including comparative politics, international relations, political theory, public administration, and public policy. Scholars and researchers in the field have contributed to understanding Nigeria's political landscape, its democratization process, ethnic and religious dynamics, gender politics, and electoral systems.

Olowu & Wunsch (2004) in their book provide a comprehensive and nuanced analysis of the challenges and prospects of decentralization in Africa, focusing specifically on Nigeria. The booke]$_e$ integrates theoretical frameworks with empirical evidence, drawing on contributions from Nigerian scholars to provide a contextualized understanding of the political dynamics at the local level. The book's exploration of the impact of decentralization on governance and its emphasis on the need for context-specific reforms make it a valuable resource for scholars, policymakers, and practitioners interested in local governance in Africa.

In emphasizing the history of political science in Nigeria, the research article by Yusuf and Danjibo (2018) explores the process of democratic consolidation in Nigeria through an analysis of the 2015 general elections. The authors aim to shed light on the significance of these elections for the country's

democratic governance and highlight the role of political science in understanding electoral processes. The article begins by providing a background on Nigeria's historical struggles with democratic consolidation, emphasizing various challenges such as political instability, electoral fraud, and ethnic tensions. It emphasizes the importance of credible and inclusive elections for democratic consolidation to occur. Drawing on a range of sources including literature reviews, surveys, and interviews, the authors delve into the specific dynamics of the 2015 general elections. They examine key factors such as the role of political parties, voter turnout, transparency of electoral processes, and the effectiveness of electoral management bodies. Besides, according to Manuwa, T. (2022), of great concern also, is the level of political participation which can take various forms such as voting, campaigning, protesting, lobbying and petitioning.

The authors argue that the 2015 general elections in Nigeria played a significant role in democratic consolidation. They highlight the successful transition of power from the ruling party to the opposition as a positive development for democratic governance in the country. They also discuss how the elections fostered a sense of citizen participation and political accountability.

Furthermore, the article underscores the relevance of political science in comprehending the complexities of electoral processes. The authors emphasize that the discipline offers valuable insights into topics such as voter behavior, electoral institutions, and the role of political parties.

Yusuf and Danjibo (2018)'s research article offers a comprehensive analysis of the 2015 general elections in Nigeria and their implications for democratic consolidation. It highlights the importance of credible elections for democratic governance and underscores the contributions of political science in understanding electoral processes.

How Political Science Emerged and Evolved as a Distinct Academic Discipline in Nigeria

Political science emerged and evolved as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria through various historical and contemporary factors. This development can be traced back to the colonial era and continued with the post-independence period (Olomola, 2019). It is worth noting that while Nigeria's political science field shares many similarities with its counterparts around the world, the specific conditions and experiences of Nigeria have shaped its unique characteristics.

1. Colonial Era:

During the colonial era, Nigerian intellectuals were exposed to Western education, which included the study of political concepts and systems. These exposures, predominantly through Christian mission schools and European universities, laid the foundation for the study of political science in Nigeria (Ogu, 2017). Ideas from classical political theorists like John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Machiavelli became influential in shaping Nigerian intellectuals' understanding of politics.

2. Post-Independence Period:

With Nigeria's independence in 1960, there was a need to establish academic institutions that could address the political challenges faced by the new nation. The Nigerian federal government emphasized academic and intellectual development, leading to an increase in the establishment of higher institutions, including universities nationwide (Adejumobi, 2015). The introduction of political science as an academic discipline in these universities played a crucial role in the discipline's emergence.

3. Scholarship and Research:

The formation and evolution of political science as an academic discipline in Nigeria were also facilitated by the rise of political and governance research institutes and think tanks, which conducted studies on political issues specific to Nigeria's context (Fawole, 2012 & Isike, 2014). These institutions, such as the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs and the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research, produced research that contributed to the development of political science as a distinct discipline.

4. Professional Associations and Journals:

Professional associations and academic journals played a vital role in the development of political science in Nigeria. The Nigerian Political Science Association (NPSA), founded in 1986, provided a platform for scholars and practitioners in political science to share research, exchange ideas, and promote the discipline (Babawale, 2009). The association organizes regular conferences, workshops, and seminars that contribute to the academic growth of political science.

5. Curricula Development:

Political science developed as a distinct discipline through the establishment of specific curricular frameworks in universities and other higher institutions (Adebanwi, 2012). Faculties of social sciences and political science departments were created, enabling students to pursue undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate degrees in political science. Over time, these programs evolved to incorporate Nigerian political realities and challenges, making them more relevant to the country's context.

6. Recent Research and Publications:

To elaborate further, recent references can shed light on the current state of political science as an academic discipline in Nigeria. Many Nigerian scholars have made significant contributions to political science research, particularly in areas such as democratization, political behavior, governance, and conflict resolution (Okoli & Ukpere, 2014). A search of recent publications in reputable political science journals, such as the Nigerian Journal of Political Science and the Africa Development Research Series, can provide insights into the ongoing research in the field.

Political science, as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria, emerged and evolved through historical and contemporary factors, including colonial education, post-independence developments, research institutions, professional associations, curricular frameworks, and recent publications. These factors interacted to shape the Nigerian context, emphasizing the study of politics within the country's specific challenges and dynamics.

The Main Subfields, Approaches, Theories, and Methods of Political Science in Nigeria

Political science in Nigeria encompasses a variety of subfields, approaches, theories, and methods for studying the political dynamics and institutions in the country. These different aspects of political science contribute to a comprehensive understanding of Nigerian politics. In this discussion, we will explore some of the main subfields, approaches, theories, and methods used in political science in Nigeria, while also highlighting recent references that shed light on the country's political landscape.

1. Comparative Politics: Comparative politics is a key subfield of political science in Nigeria, where scholars compare and analyze political systems, processes, and institutions across

different countries or regions. In recent years, several studies have focused on comparing Nigeria's political system with other African countries, examining factors such as democratization, state-building, party politics, and electoral systems (Harrison, 2019).

2. Political Economy: Political economy investigates the relationship between politics and the economy, focusing on how political institutions and economic policies influence each other. In Nigeria, political economy studies have been crucial in understanding issues such as corruption, resource management, and economic development. Scholars have explored how Nigeria's oil-dependent economy affects its political stability, resource distribution, and governance (Edigin, 2019).

3. Public Administration: Public administration examines the implementation of government policies, the functioning of bureaucracy, and the management of public resources. In Nigeria, public administration studies have addressed topics like public service reform, anti-corruption efforts, and ethical governance. Recent research has investigated public administration reforms in Nigeria, with a specific focus on civil service reforms and organizational performance (Lawan & Samman, 2020).

4. International Relations: International relations focuses on interactions between states, non-state actors, and the global political system. In Nigeria, scholars have explored foreign policy decision-making, regional integration, security, and diplomacy. Recent studies have examined Nigeria's foreign policies towards neighboring countries, its participation in regional organizations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and its response to regional security challenges (Onuigbo, 2018).

5. Political Theory: Political theory investigates philosophical foundations and normative concepts in politics. Scholars in Nigeria have analyzed various theories to understand the political dynamics in the country. Recent research has explored the concept of federalism in Nigeria, examining its relevance, challenges, and prospects for managing ethnic diversity and promoting good governance (Uya, 2020).

In terms of approaches and methods, political scientists in Nigeria employ both qualitative and quantitative research methods. Qualitative methods such as interviews, participant observations, and content analysis are used to gather in-depth insights into political phenomena. On the other hand, quantitative methods including surveys, statistical analysis, and

modeling assist in analyzing trends, patterns, and correlations in political data.

It is worth noting that the political science landscape in Nigeria is ever-evolving, with continuous updates and additions to the subfields, theories, and methods.

The Current Challenges and Opportunities for Political Science in the 21st Century

Political science is a field that studies the theory and practice of politics, focusing on understanding political behavior, institutions, and policies. In the 21st century, this field faces both challenges and opportunities in its pursuit to contribute meaningfully to society.

One of the main challenges political science faces today is the increasing complexity of political systems. Political science traditionally focused on nation-states, but with globalization, political forces now operate at multiple levels, including regional, international, and global scales (Dryzek & Dunleavy, 2018). This complexity requires political scientists to develop new theoretical frameworks and analytical tools to understand and explain this intricate web of political interactions. Additionally, the rise of digital technology and social media has fundamentally transformed political communication and participation. The spread of fake news, online manipulation, and echo chambers has challenged the traditional role of informing citizens and shaping public opinion (Chomsky, 2018). Political scientists must adapt to these changes by studying the impact of social media on political behavior, developing strategies to combat misinformation, and exploring novel forms of political participation.

Another significant challenge for political science is the erosion of democratic norms and institutions. Across the globe, we are witnessing a rise in populism, illiberalism, and democratic backsliding. The challenges to democracy, such as increased polarization, erosion of trust in institutions, and the concentration of power, demand rigorous research to understand the causes and consequences of these trends (Hajnal & Trounstine, 2014).

Furthermore, political science faces the challenge of decolonization and diversification. The dominant paradigms and theories in the field have traditionally been developed from

Western perspectives and often neglect the experiences and perspectives of non-Western countries. Political scientists need to engage in more inclusive and intersectional research, incorporating diverse voices and perspectives to generate more comprehensive and accurate knowledge about politics.

While political science faces these challenges, it also presents various opportunities for the field to make meaningful contributions. For instance, the increased availability of data and technological advances in data analysis provide political scientists with unprecedented opportunities to conduct rigorous empirical research (Diamond & Plattner, 2015). Big data and computational methods enable researchers to analyze vast amounts of information, leading to new insights into political phenomena.

Another opportunity lies in interdisciplinary collaborations. Many of the challenges faced by political science, such as climate change, economic inequality, and global health crises, require interdisciplinary approaches to solve (Inglehart & Norris, 2016). Collaboration with experts from other disciplines, such as economics, sociology, and environmental science, can lead to innovative research and practical policy recommendations.

Moreover, the 21st century offers the opportunity for political scientists to engage directly with policymakers, civil society organizations, and citizens. Political scientists can contribute to evidence-based policy-making by providing valuable insights and recommendations. This engagement also allows for the bridging of the gap between academia and society, ensuring that political science research is accessible and relevant to a broader audience.

Recent literatures highlight the challenges and opportunities for political science in the 21st century (Belluz & Resnick, 2017; Norris, 2010). For example, a study published in the Journal of Information Technology & Politics explored the impact of social media on political behavior during the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The study found that exposure to political information on social media platforms influenced individuals' political attitudes and behaviors.

Political science in the 21st century faces significant challenges but also presents numerous opportunities. The increasing complexity of political systems, digital transformations, threats to democracy, and the need for decolonization are all challenges that political scientists must address. However, the availability of data, technological advancements, interdisciplinary

collaborations, and engagement with policymakers and society provide opportunities to generate valuable knowledge and contribute to a more informed and just political world.

The Relationship of Political Science to Other Disciplines and to Public Policy in Nigeria

Political science is a multidisciplinary field that intersects with several other disciplines, such as sociology, economics, history, and law. It is also closely linked to public policy, as political scientists often contribute to the formulation and evaluation of policies. In Nigeria, the relationship between political science and other disciplines, as well as its connection to public policy, is crucial for understanding and addressing the country's political challenges and for promoting effective governance (Oyinloye, 2019). Political science and sociology have significant overlaps in Nigeria. Both disciplines study social phenomena, including power dynamics, social movements, and political behavior. Sociological perspectives enrich political science by examining how social structures and institutions influence political processes. For example, sociological studies can shed light on the impact of ethnic divisions on political mobilization or how social inequalities shape political participation in Nigeria.

The intersection of political science and economics is also fundamental. Economic factors, such as resource allocation, taxation, and wealth distribution, are essential aspects of public policy. Political scientists analyze how economic policies are formulated, implemented, and their consequences on society. In Nigeria, the relationship between political science and economics is particularly crucial in understanding the challenges related to resource management, corruption, and economic development.

Political science and history are intertwined in Nigeria, as historical events shape the political landscape. Historical knowledge provides insights into the origins of political systems, the evolution of institutions, and the dynamics of political change. The study of history helps political scientists understand the historical legacies that influence contemporary politics in Nigeria, such as ethnic tensions, regionalism, and the impact of colonial rule. Furthermore, political science intersects with law in Nigeria, as both disciplines deal with governance, institutions, and legal frameworks (Chukwurah & Chukwurah, 2015 and Sangodipe, 2018). Legal studies provide a foundation for analyzing constitutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and the role of the judiciary in shaping public policy. Political

science, on the other hand, offers insights into the political context and dynamics that influence legal processes and the enforcement of laws in Nigeria. The relationship between political science and public policy in Nigeria is symbiotic. Political scientists contribute to public policy by providing empirical analysis, policy recommendations, and evaluations of existing policies (Akinfolarin & Olagunju, 2018). Their research helps policymakers understand the political implications of policy choices and the potential consequences on society. In turn, the study of public policy informs political science as it examines the processes through which policies are formulated, negotiated, and implemented.

Political science also plays a critical role in promoting good governance and democracy in Nigeria. Political scientists study democratic institutions, electoral processes, and democratic transition. Their research aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of democratic systems, assess electoral integrity, and propose reforms to enhance democratic governance in Nigeria.

Summary

Political science is the systematic study of politics, power, and governance. It emerged as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria in the late 1950s and early 1960s, following the country's independence from British colonial rule. Political science in Nigeria initially focused on the analysis of the political system, institutions, and processes of the new nation-state, as well as its relations with other African countries and the international community. Political science in Nigeria has since diversified into various subfields, approaches, theories, and methods, such as comparative politics, political economy, political sociology, political psychology, public administration, international relations, security studies, and political philosophy. Political science in Nigeria faces several challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, such as the consolidation of democracy, the management of ethnic and religious diversity, the promotion of human rights and social justice, the resolution of conflicts and violence, the integration into regional and global networks, and the adaptation to environmental and technological changes. Political science in Nigeria also relates to other disciplines and to public policy by providing critical insights, empirical evidence, normative frameworks, and practical

recommendations for understanding and addressing various political issues and problems.

Conclusion

In conclusion, political science as a field of study has a rich and dynamic history and a promising future in Nigeria. Political science emerged as a distinct academic discipline in Nigeria in the late colonial and early post-colonial period, influenced by the political and social changes that accompanied the struggle for independence and nation-building. Political science in Nigeria has explored various subfields, approaches, theories, and methods to understand and explain the complex and diverse political phenomena in the country, such as democracy, federalism, ethnicity, religion, corruption, civil society, and foreign policy. Political science in Nigeria faces many challenges and opportunities in the 21st century, such as the need to address the security, economic, and environmental issues that affect the country and the region, the need to enhance the quality and relevance of political science education and research, and the need to engage more effectively with other disciplines and with public policy. Political science in Nigeria has a vital role to play in advancing the scientific knowledge of politics and in shaping the country's political landscape. By examining its historical development, exploring its subfields and approaches, addressing current challenges and opportunities, and assessing its relationship with other disciplines and public policy, political science can contribute to informed decision-making, evidence-based policies, and the advancement of democratic governance in Nigeria.

References

Adebanwi, W. (2012). Political science as academic discipline in Nigeria: Issues in the Professional frontiers. Journal of Politics in Africa, 7(1), 21-35.

Adebayo, A. (2017). The Nigerian State and the Political Science Discipline. Journal of Nigerian Studies, 1(2), 1-18.

Adebayo, R. (2007). Political science education in Nigeria: Retrospect, evolution, and future prospects. Journal of Social Sciences, 15(2), 149-156.

Adejumobi, S. (2015). The development of political science in Nigeria: A historical analysis. Journal of Nigerian Political Science Association, 4(1), 17-27.

Adelejinadu L. (1987). The Institutional Development of Political Science in Nigeria: Trends, Problems and Prospects. International Political Science Review 8(1): 59-72.

Agbalajobi, D. T. (2017). The role of political science in peacebuilding in Nigeria. Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 5(2), 15-22.

Akinfolarin, A. O., & Olagunju, T. (2018). The Intersection of Law and Politics in Nigeria: An Overview. Port Harcourt Law Journal, 5(2), 1-17.

Babawale, T. (2009). Political science in Nigeria: Searching for an identity. Journal of Policy and Development Studies, 3(2), 28-48.

Belluz, J., & Resnick, B. (2017). Election rigging is dangerous for democracy. Vox. Retrieved from: https://www.vox.com/2017/11/13/16646070/us-elections-voter-fraud-rigging

Blais, A., & Bodet, M. A. (2006). Does proportional representation foster closer congruence between citizens and policy makers?. Comparative Political Studies, 39(10), 1243-1262.

Chomsky, N. (2018). Requiem for the American Dream: The 10 Principles of Concentration of Wealth & Power. Seven Stories Press.

Chukwurah, L. E., & Chukwurah, E. N. (2015). The Contribution of Political Science to Democracy in Nigeria. International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, 5(11), 184- 190.

Dahl, R. (1991). Democracy and Its Critics. Yale University Press.

Diamond, L., & Plattner, M. F. (2015). A new era of civil society: Building on the legacy of Václav Havel. Journal of Democracy, 26(3), 70-84.

Dryzek, J. S., & Dunleavy, P. (2018). Theories of the Democratic State. Palgrave Macmillan.

Easton, D. (1965). A Framework for Political Analysis. Prentice Hall.

Edigin, A. O. (2019). Political economy of Nigeria's resource wealth: Common good or common woes? IFRA Nigeria Working Papers Series, No. 53.

Fawole, O. (2012). Political science as an academic discipline in Nigeria: An overview. African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 6(7), 136-147.

Hajnal, Z. L., & Trounstine, J. (2014). Where its difficult to elect good people: An examination of the outcome bias in the quality of local candidates. The Journal of Politics, 76(4), 1029-1045.

Harrison, G. (2019). Democratic resurgence and political values in Nigeria: Comparative perspectives. European Journal of Comparative Politics, 6(2), 3-20.

Hay, C., & Wincott, D. (2012). The political economy of European welfare capitalism. Palgrave Macmillan.

Heywood, A. (2017). Political Ideologies: An Introduction. Palgrave Macmillan.

Ibrahim, J. (2018). Nigerian Public Administration and the Challenge of Fighting Corruption. Public Administration and Development, 38(2), 95-105.

Idegu, O. C., Agene, I. I., & Eze, O. I. (2020). Political Science in Nigeria: Achievements, Challenges, and Prospects. International Journal of Politics and Good Governance, 11(1.2), 685-711.

Inglehart, R., & Norris, P. (2016). Trump, Brexit, and the rise of populism: Economic have-nots and cultural backlash.

Faculty Research Working Papers Series, Harvard Kennedy School.

Isike, C. (2014). The evolution of political science education in Nigeria: A framework for understanding its trajectory. Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 2(1), 1-8.

Janis, I. L. (1982). Groupthink: Psychological studies of policy decisions and fiascoes (2nd ed.). Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Joseph, R. A. (2011). Democracy and Prebendal Politics in Nigeria: Critical Interpretations. African Studies Review, 54(2), 1-24.

Keohane, R., & Nye, J. (1977). Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition. Little, Brown and Company.

Kyari, A. (2017). Terrorism and Insurgency in Nigeria: Addressing the Causes. Mediterranean Quarterly, 28(2), 1-21.

Lawan, U. A., & Samman, A. A. (2020). Civil service reforms and organizational performance in Nigeria. Public Organization Review, 20(3), 423-448.

Lijphart, A. (2012). Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. Yale University Press.

Manuwa, T. (2022). The Impact of Social Media on Political Participation and Mobilization in Nigeria. Sarcocouncil Journal of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Vol 1. (online)

Norris, P. (2010). A virtuous circle: Political communications in postindustrial societies. Cambridge University Press.

Ogu, M. (2017). The evolutionary stages and challenges of political science as an academic discipline in Nigeria. Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research, 3(2), 28-37.

Ojo E.O., Olaopa O.R., Aiyede E.R., eds. (2020). Nigerian Politics. Palgrave Macmillan.

Okoli, S. A., & Ukpere, W. I. (2014). Political science, teaching, and research in Nigeria: A look into the future. Journal of Social Sciences, 9(2), 91-97.

Oladipo, O. T. (2016). Political Science in Nigerian Universities: Challenges and Prospects for the Future. African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 10(4), 50-59.

Olagunju, T. A. (2021). The politics of gender representation in Nigeria: Challenges and prospects. Nigerian Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 7(2), 87-98.

Olomola, A. S. (2019). The genesis and evolution of political science in Nigeria. Journal of Political Science and Public Affairs, 7(3), 119-127.

Olowu, D., & Wunsch, J. S. (Eds.). (2004). Local governance in Africa: The challenges of democratic decentralization. Lynne Rienner Publishers.

Olukoshi, A., & Selassie, B. (2019). Ethnicity and Democratic Governance in Nigeria. African Studies Review, 62(1), 187-210.

Onapajo H. (2023). Nigerian Politics and Government. Oxford Bibliographies Online.

Onuigbo, A. C. (2018). Nigeria's foreign policy in regional security: The case of Boko Haram. Africa Spectrum, 53(2), 65-86.

Oyediran O., Agbaje A., Nwosu H., eds. (2016). An Introduction to Nigerian Government and Politics. Macmillan Publishers.

Oyinloye, O. (2019). Political Science and Public Administration: Challenges in Nigerian Universities. Journal of Political Science and Public Affairs, 7(4), 414.

Rosenblum, N., & Shapiro, I. (eds.) (2018). Political Theory: Methods and Approaches. Palgrave Macmillan.

Sangodipe, S. A. (2018). Sociology and Political Science: Understanding the Complexity of Political Behavior in Nigeria. International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Reviews, 8(1), 120-126.

Uya, O. E. (2020). Federalism and ethnic politics in Nigeria: Challenges, prospects, and the way forward. Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs, 8(2), 420.

Yusuf, M. O., & Danjibo, N. D. (2018). Democratic consolidation in Nigeria: A study of the 2015 general elections. African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, 12(2), 22-33.