THE ROLE OF CRUDE OIL ON NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY

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DOI: https://doi.org/10.64633/wissj.v9i6.02

Keywords

Crude oil, Nigerian state, foreign policy and Nigerian Economy

Abstract

The paper examined the role of crude oil on Nigeria's foreign policy. The paper is qualitative in approach, historical and exploratory methods were used to analyze the data. The paper revealed that crude oil not only contribute in the economy of Nigerian state but also influences its foreign policy objective at the international system. The study found out that Crude oil sustains Nigeria's economy the over years 80% of revenue in Nigeria is derived from oil. This crude oil in Nigeria but ironically, the huge amount realized from the oil does not really translate to development and improvement of its foreign policy achievement. The paper concludes that foreign policy not only shapes Nigeria's identity at large but also determines its place and its future in the world. Without exception, the foreign of states in today's world consider issues of production, exchange, technology, market alliance, economic development, political stability and predictability, quality of governance, and prevailing leadership and its qualities.

Introduction

Since the discovery of commercial quantities of crude oil in the late fifties, crude oil has been a focal point of the Nigerian economy and foreign policy. Being one of the leaders of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the foreign policy of Nigeria has frequently been conditioned by its oil resources and has impacted relations on the diplomatic level, economic cooperation, and the power of the country in the area. The current paper looks into the crude oil production in Nigeria, its production volumes, the trend of government revenue since the 1950s, and the role of oil in the foreign policy pursuits of the country, Daily Production: The production of crude oil in Nigeria has been fluctuating between the decades due to the geopolitical, economic, and operational factors. By 2023, Nigeria is estimated to have about 1.4-1.6m barrels per day (mbd), although this has been much larger in past years (e.g. 2.5mbd in the early 2000s) (EIA, 2023). Daily Exports: Nigeria also exports oil to the tune of 1.1 to 1.3 million bpd, which is one of the highest in Africa (OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin, 2022). Government Revenue: Since 1950s, oil has been generating

more than 70 percent of government revenue and 90 percent of its export earnings (NNPC, 2021). Nevertheless, overdependence on oil has resulted in exposure to the economy in the case of a price crash, as in 20142016 and 2020.

In 1971, Nigeria became a member of OPEC and this cemented its position on the world oil politics. Its foreign policy has tended to take the same line as that of OPEC, including. Energy Diplomacy: Nigeria leverages on oil in its bilateral and multilateral relations with countries of the U.S., China and EU (Akinboye, 2005). Regional. Nigeria facilitates energy security and infrastructural project advancement via regional entities such as the African Union (AU) and ECOWAS, including the proposed Trans- Saharan Gas Pipeline (Ogwo, 2018). Advocacy in Economic Diversification: The current changes in foreign policy focus on the decrease in oil dependence, including relationships with renewable energy and non-oil investments (Adibe, 2020). According to Ake (1981), the oil wealth in Nigeria has led to a renter state, where the interests of the elite are underpinning the foreign policy at the expense of national development. According to Oshewolo (2020), oil revenues have also made Nigeria the provider of power in West Africa, yet exposed it to external shocks. Ebegbulem (2012), points out the role played by oil diplomacy by leaders such as Yakubu Gowon and Olusegun Obasanjo in enhancing OPEC influence in Nigeria yet they have not achieved domestic energy security.

Theoretical and Literature Reviews

The Concept of Foreign Policy

Several attempts have been made to provide a generally accepted definition of foreign policy. However, as Aluko (1989) rightly observed, nobody has really formulated a universally acceptable definition of the concept and probably nobody will ever succeed in doing so. According to Ujo, (1999) foreign policy can simply be defined as a course of action adopted by one state in relation to other states. Every state protects and projects its national interest in the relationship with other states (Ujo, 1996). This definition implies that the protection of the national interest is the major goals of every state in its foreign posture. Izah (1991) defines foreign policy as a coordinated strategy with which institutionally designated decision makers seeks to manipulate international environment in order to achieve certain national interest. Adeniji (1992) observed that foreign policy is 'in fact a projection of the country's national interest into the transnational arena and the consequent interaction of one with the other". Wallace (1971) sees foreign policy as "that area of politics which bridges the all-important boundary between the nation-state and its international environment". Olusanya and Akindele (1986) opines that foreign policy is the "country's national interest in its interaction with the outside world and relationship with specific countries in the international system". Frankel (1975) defined it 'as a dynamic process of interaction between the changing domestic demands and supports and the changing international environments". Ukeje (1999), "foreign policy constitutes an endless dialogue between the powers of continuity and the powers of change". For London (1965), foreign policy "may be called the father of all things in international relations. Indeed, the fate of the world depends upon wise foreign policy". Some realists like Lippmann (1943) states that "a foreign policy consists in bringing into balance, with a comfortable surplus of power in reserve, the nation's commitments and the nation's power. The above definitions shows that foreign policy to a large extent is conditioned by a country's domestic goal that is achievement of national interest.

All foreign policy manoeuvres are often usually or always targeted toward the

attainment of these national goals otherwise referred to as national interest. What is imperative in a nation's foreign policy is the promotion and sustenance of her national interest. Although, national interest of a country is often not clearly defined in specific terms, yet, two broad views exist on this concept – the subjectivists and the objectivists. Graham Allison and Brecher represent the former, and maintain that national interest is not an objective truth that prevails whether or not it is perceived by members of a nation; rather, it is a pluralistic set of subjective preferences that change when the requirement and aspirations of the nation's member change. On the other hand, Morgenthau, who is of the later school, is of the view that "the best interest of a nation is a matter of objective reality". Ukeje (1999) Legg and Robinson, (2003) defined foreign policy as a set of objectives with regard to the world beyond the borders of a given social unit and a set of strategies and tactics designed to achieve these objectives (Legg and Robinson cited in Alkali, 2003:29). Frankel (1967).

Foreign policy is defined also as, "a set of explicit objectives with regard to the world beyond the borders of a given social unit and a set of strategies and tactics designed to achieve these objectives." That is perception of the need to influence the behaviour of a state or states of international organizations (Legg and Morrison, 1996). Foreign policy as seen from power perspective is said to be the use of political influence by one state to induce other state (s) to exercise power in the manner it desires (Northedge, 1962). Northedge further argued that foreign policy decisions and actions are product of environmental factors both internal i.e. domestic and external. He said foreign policy is conceptualized as a measure of state capacity to influence the behaviour, shapes decision or alter goals and objectives of other actors. These views could be said to be more or less emphasis on the power potentials and ability of a nation to pursue what the leaders conceived as good. And this, of course has to do with values which are often rooted in foreign policy, that in turn makes nationalism so intense with consequent difficult in conflict resolution between countries. A classic example was the ideological rivalry that existed between the then western Bloc led by the United State of America and the Eastern bloc represented by former Soviet Republic, all in the name of maximizing their values, potentials, protecting their sovereignty and superiority. According to Akinboye (1966), the foundation of the state's foreign policies is her national interest, which in turn directs the course of the foreign policy. He further posited that, the foreign policy of a country is to achieve its National interest, which he regards as the totality or aggregate of interest of individual or group within a given nation state. Viewed from its classical perspective, National Interest encompasses the various strategies employed in the international attraction or states in order to ensure the preservation of the stated goals of the society. In the light of the above, foreign policy can be defined as a measure of a state's capacity to influence the behaviour, to shape the decision or to alter the goals and objectives of other states. In a nutshell, it is an extension of domestic policy. Foreign policy of a state concerns itself with the objectives, aspirations and actions of that state with respect to other states as well as with the domestic conditions under which such actions and objectives are formulated, projected and pursued. Foreign policy is primarily designed to communicate a country's capacity to both potential and actual allies and to defend the vital interest of the country such as preservation of the nation's sovereignty, defence of its integrity, promotion of economic development, military, strategic and diplomatic interests, to increase and maintain power and prestige so as to influence international events. It is also designed to promote the domestic interests of that country. The foreign policy of any state grapples with

the actions that state towards the external environment and the specific conditions under which these actions are formulated. Herman (1990) also defined foreign policy as a programme (plan) designed to address some problems or pursue goals that entail action towards foreign entities (Herman, 1990). Furthermore, conventional wisdom has it that foreign policy is seen as those series of demands a sovereign state makes upon other states in the international system as well as series of responses a sovereign state offers to demands other state put before it.

A set of meticulous, articulated goals and objectives a sovereign state seeks to actualize in the conduct of its interaction with other states, as the former seeks to protect and advance its national interest; A cluster of attitudes and disposition a state brings towards the international milieu which governs relations with the rest of the world (Ogunbanjo, 2002). In the light of the above, we can rationalize foreign policy to be the pursuit of national interest utilizing all means available to state actors as they engage in relation with one another. It is a system of action of one government towards another state or of government towards an international organization. They are designed to promote, protect and defend a nation's vital interest. It is a plan and behavior of one state towards another. It deals with the internal life and external needs of the state. In summary, as Holsti (1999) puts it, holds that foreign policy aims at enhancing a state's ability to achieve specific goals or set of objectives. Nigeria has been a key player in international politics since the attainment of political independence in 1960. Therefore, the main thrust of her foreign policy over the years stood at the promotion of her national. interest and policy of afro centrism. Thus, almost all the regimes in Nigeria have tried to pursue the country's foreign objectives in virtually the same manner. This has been done from regime to regime with various adjustment and modifications, dependent on the orientations and peculiarity of the political leadership. Thus, it has been difficult to clearly ascertain the foreign policy posture of the country due to fact that out of her 56 years of existence, the country witnessed dynamic foreign policies of different military leadership for over 32 years. In context of Nigeria's foreign policy, Aluko (1981) viewed Nigeria's resources (oil) as an important factor that led to its radical stance. Oil boom, as according to Aluko, made it possible for the government to embark on radical foreign policy. Though, he maintained that the personal idiosyncrasy, charisma and personal perceptions of leaders influenced Nigeria's foreign policy, but the boom was seen by him as the more contributing factor. Izah (1991) analyzed some domestic issues that were used on the effect of Nigeria's civil war on Nigeria foreign policy. He was astonished by the generalization made by some foreign commentators that, "due to the fact that most African Countries gained their independence in the 1960's, they have limited history and knowledge in International Relations, therefore, they lacked efficient procedure of decision making process as such the leaders act in ways deemed fit and appropriate, in relation to foreign policy".

In all the foreign policy of any country are the product of the people's domestic circumstance and a function of the people's domestic circumstances and function of their aspiration in the external environment. It is a dynamic process which reckons with the changing circumstance of the people pitted against the demands and sensitivities of the external environment. ideology as a political posture (Nweke 1985). It can therefore, be argued that the foundation of Nigerians foreign policy was laid before independence. This is because the organization and administration of the country's foreign policy machinery was concealed and planned prior to independence

while the training of those who services have had the most profound effects on the conduct of Nigerians foreign policy took place during the pre-independence era of the fifties.

Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

The factors defining the relations of Nigeria with other countries can be found in the transformation of foreign policy of the Nigerian state. Foreign policy is a reflection of the desires of a Nation and the way to fulfill them. It is still not an abstract word or one that exists in isolation, it is a factor that is affected by both the domestic and external environment. In that regard, the Foreign policy of a nation is a combination of external and internal environmental factors that encompass the country (Alkali, 2003:29). Frankel (1967) went a bit further to state that the environment of a foreign policy decision is theoretically unrestricted, but the environment is practically constrained by the scope of interest, as well as the constraints of the power of any single state. Foreign policies are made to facilitate, and safeguard the national interest of a given state.

The national interest as an idea holds various interpretations to various citizens. As an example, the idea of defining the power of a nation as the origin of what is most likely to suit it and as the foundation of determining its value preferences and the scope of possible interest is as wide as the fertile imagination of mankind. The significant concepts in foreign policy are national interest. It is simply the totality of all national values- national in both senses of the term, both of nationality and nationality. A perfect foreign policy includes a systematised articulation of national interest whereby contradictory interests have been filtered out, and the interests themselves are reviewed against each other in terms of priorities, and also the interests collectively, budgeted against the power of the state to attain those interests. integration of the interests into overall foreign policy is achieved, the state is supposedly prepared in its relations with other states, to pursue a logical and consistent policy. Although the cornerstone of a rational foreign policy is thereby marred with challenges, a country needs to possess some sense of what policy it wishes to achieve. It is lost in a sea without any guidance about its direction and subject to the vicissitudes of international relations which are usually tumultuous (Okoro, 2006). In order to seek and attain these interests, a nation should put considerable weight to the total of all tangible and intangible instruments of power that a nation possesses vis-a-vis those possessed by other nations. These concrete determinants of the state power are the population size, demographic structure, natural resources and their distribution, the development level, its military forces and technological advancement. To achieve these foreign policy goals, Alkali (2003) asserts that states in international system whether small or big, strong or weak, democratic or totalitarian system, within or without an established alliances employ the different methods and tools of foreign policy to shape, even dictate the role, orientations, goals and behaviors of the other states. No less significant is the non-tangible foundation of state power. These encompass, the degree of national consciousness, national integration and degree of identification of the people with the values of the state, interests, ideals of the state and its institutions which are usually demonstrated in the morale and will of the people to dedicate themselves to a national path (Alkali, 2003:30).

Crude Oil and its Role in Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives

In this work crude oil and petroleum are used interchangeably. As Angaye (1986) observed, oil is a mixture, which is made up of many substances, with the majority of the substances being the elements of carbon and hydrogen which make oils bituminous. Non-hydrocarbon elements are also very minimal in

petroleum with some of these elements being sculpture, nitrogen and oxygen (Angaye, 1986). Nation states, by definition have to interact with each other. This interaction may have various forms and be based on various motives. The calculated steps made by states can be called foreign policy and the opportunity to maximize opportunities that are outside their geographical borders (Oluwatosin, 2016). One can also attempt to interpret foreign policy as response to the external stimuli and consideration of domestic realities. Crude Oil since the19th and the early 20 th century has been of pre-eminent significance especially to states. Part of the significance of oil today can be attributed to the fact that it is a source of energy and the industrial and technological progressing nations have a keen interest in it. This energy is consumed to propel automobiles, trucks, airplanes, trains and ships worldwide, it is consumed to drive the manufacturing processes in industries and it offers heat, light and air conditioning to homes and businesses. The other significance is that, oil can be used as a lubricating agent to machines. Lubricants when sprayed on machineries lessens the friction between the moving components.

Crude oil has many lubricants as its products. Lubricants Since the late 19 th century, oil which is abundant, can be distilled and condensed without decomposition, has provided over 90 percent of all lubricants. It is also revenue-generating to the states, oil discovery has boosted the revenue of various countries, such as; the discovery of oil in the Arabian Peninsula, the Niger delta of Nigeria and the Gulf of Mexico. It is also relevant since those nations that have oil and other energy resources are of significant interest in international relations because of the ownership of oil and this is added to their national interest in the international arena. The study of oil and its purposes in inter-state relations in the field of International Relations is quite new, with its primary aim being to analyze it as a means of foreign policy. The resources manipulation is one of the frequently used techniques. Threats of denial of material, or monetary benefits, whenever one party has control over resources or money, that are vital to the survival or good health of another party, can be made to serve as a weapon. Five largest oil producing countries in the world formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in 1960; since then the OPEC countries have demanded a series of concessions on various industrial countries by manipulating the supply and price of crude oil as well as in certain cases trade embargo. Once again, Oil is also employed as a tool of coercion in a foreign policy through embargoes and restrictions of imports due to political reasons or in order to safeguard or to promote their interests. The US has used more oil embargoes than any other country, such as oil embargoes on Japan prior to World War II, on the Soviet Union in the 1960s, and on South Africa, Burma, Serbia, Haiti, Libya, Iraq, Iran, and Sudan in the past 20 years. In 1956, 1967, and 1973, many Arab oil-producing nations predominantly US allies employed oil as a tool of coercion against the Western countries. Their aim, particularly in 1967 and 1973, 43 nations that allied with Israel to amend their foreign policies and pressurize Israel to leave their territories that they had occupied in the 1967 war (Oluwatosin, 2016).

Could be the consequence of their relations among the strong economic countries is the determinant of the vibrant foreign policy and could also define their coercive power among the comity of countries in the world. Coercion, may be regarded as the act of using threats to manipulate the behaviour (a target state but sometimes a non-state actor) by making it decide to comply instead of compelling it to comply i.e. by brute force). Coercion may entail application of deterrence, induced in order to make a target state avoid doing something or to make a target state abandon an ongoing action or to do something different. As an example, as

there is no central authority in the world, every nation keeps the capacity and the right to employ coercion to any other nation with which it has a conflict depending on the degree of power they have. A huge array of coercive instruments may and has been exercised. An illustration is when the United States re-supplied the weapons to Israel during Yom Kippur War in 1973, Arab oil producing nations reduced their oil export to United States and other western states. Oil as a means of coercion to foreign policy entails the exploitation of oil as a source of power by a supplier nation or nations which go out of their ways to exploit transfer of the embargoing of oil to influence the foreign policy of the targeted nation or nations. In this regard, the appeal to oil as a tool of coercion as a foreign policy is a kind of economic sanction. The use of oil as a form of coercion in foreign policy will be effective, when it leads to a significant change in the policy of the target of the initially set objectives. At this point, it can be argued that, Nigeria could not afford to sanction any earring country, because of its heavily reliant oil as a source of revenue. Nevertheless, it has become a given fact that oil has an impact on international relations since its discovery as a source of energy. It has directly influenced such huge percentage of the global population, shifting the fortunes of nations with huge percentages deposit of oil. It has even impacted foreign policies of most countries.

With petroleum having been found to be the most flexible form of fuel that had ever been discovered, as Muse (1999) pointed out, and lying at the heart of the contemporary industrial economy, it is present in the middle. Similarly, in Nigerian, as petroleum was the driver of the economy as the largest source of the Nigeria foreign policy earnings, is also a key component to Nigeria foreign exchange during the oil boom of the 1970s and 1990s up to date.

Historical Context of Nigeria and United State of America Oil Relations

The history of foreign policy in Nigeria has been influenced by the massive oil deposits which contribute more than 90 percent of its exports as well as taking up a sizeable portion of the national revenues (Akinboye, 2013, p. 45). The US being among the largest consumers of crude oil in Nigeria has had a strategic economic and political association with Nigeria, which affects its foreign policies. According to scholars, the oil wealth has been a curse and a blessing to Nigeria as it has not only given the country an economic leverage but also rendered it susceptible to external factors (Obi, 2010, p. 12).

Nigerian crude oil was a point of interest in the 1970s when the U.S was a large importer of the commodity since it has low sulphur content hence suitable in American refineries (Adibe, 2008, p. 67). According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Nigeria contributed approximately 10 percent of imported crude oil into the U.S in 2010 (EIA, 2011). This energy dependency influenced the foreign policy of Nigeria because the successive regimes wanted to have a strong relationship with Washington to ensure investment and military partnership (Oshewolo, 2020, p. 89).

Economic Diplomacy: Nigeria has been using its oil exports to boost bilateral relations with the U.S. As an example, under the Obasanjo government (1999-2007), Nigeria became a good energy partner to the U.S., which caused better trading and security partnership (Ogwu, 2007, p. 112). OPEC and International Influence: Nigeria as an Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) applies its quota of oil output to give it control over the global oil markets which impacts indirectly on the U.S. energy policies (Aluko, 1977, p. 34).Security and

Counterterrorism Cooperation. U.S. has been offering military assistance to Nigeria, in part, to ensure that oil infrastructure in the Niger Delta is not attacked by militants (Ikelegbe, 2005, p. 78).

Historical Context of Nigeria-Russia Oil Relations

Nigeria's foreign policy has long been influenced by its crude oil resources, shaping diplomatic engagements with major global players, including Russia. While Nigeria's oil relations with Western nations (particularly the U.S. and EU) have dominated scholarly discourse, its ties with Russia though less pronounced have strategic implications. Scholars argue that Nigeria-Russia oil relations are driven by mutual economic interests, energy security, and geopolitical balancing (Akinboye, 2018, p. 67). Russia and Nigeria, both major oil producers, have maintained fluctuating diplomatic and economic relations since the Cold War. During the Soviet era, Nigeria's non-aligned stance allowed for limited but symbolic cooperation with Moscow (Ogwu, 1995, p. 112). However, post-1991, Russia's re-emergence as an energy superpower under Vladimir Putin renewed interest in African oil markets, including Nigeria (Larionova & Shelepov, 2016, p. 45).

Nigeria exports crude oil to Russia, though in smaller volumes compared to Europe and Asia. Russian oil giants like **Lukoil** and **Gazprom** have shown interest in Nigerian offshore oil blocks, though U.S. and Chinese firms dominate investments (Obi, 2020, p. 89). Bilateral trade reached **$600 million in 2021**, with oil and gas as key components (NBS, 2022). **Geopolitical Balancing in OPEC**. Both nations are members of OPEC (where Russia plays a dominant role alongside Saudi Arabia). Nigeria has occasionally aligned with Russia on oil production quotas to stabilize global prices (Adibe, 2019, p. 34).

Russia has supplied military equipment to Nigeria, partly to secure oil installations in the Niger Delta (Ikelegbe, 2021, p. 78). The **Wagner Group** (a Russian paramilitary organization) has been linked to security deals in Africa, raising concerns about energy-backed mercenary influence (Parker, 2023). **Western Influence.** Nigeria's long-standing ties with the U.S. and EU limit deeper energy cooperation with Russia (Adebajo, 2017, p. 56). **Sanctions on Russia.** The 2022 Ukraine war and subsequent Western sanctions complicate Nigeria's oil dealings with Moscow (EIA, 2023). While Nigeria-Russia crude oil relations are not as robust as those with Western powers, they remain strategically significant. Cyril Obi (2020) notes, *"Nigeria's oil diplomacy with Russia is a balancing act leveraging partnerships without alienating traditional allies"* (p. 102). *Moving* forward, Nigeria must navigate these relations carefully amid shifting global energy dynamics.

Historical Context of Nigeria and China oil Relations

Nigeria's crude oil has been a cornerstone of its economic and diplomatic relations with China, Africa's largest trading partner. Since the early 2000s, China's insatiable demand for energy resources has driven deep investments in Nigeria's oil sector, shaping bilateral ties and influencing Nigeria's foreign policy strategies (Taylor, 2014, p. 78). Scholars argue that Nigeria-China oil relations exemplify a **resource-for-infrastructure** model, where oil exports facilitate Chinese-funded development projects (Alden & Alao, 2015, p. 112). Diplomatic relations between Nigeria and China date back to **1971,** but energy cooperation intensified in the **2000s** when China's rapid industrialization necessitated secure oil supplies (Ogunsanwo, 2009, p. 45).

2006: China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) acquired a **$2.3 billion stake** in Nigerian offshore oil blocks (EIA, 2012). **2010:** Nigeria became **China's third-largest crude oil supplier in Africa**, exporting over **200,000 barrels per day (bpd)** (BP Statistical Review, 2011). **Oil-for-Loans Agreements:** China has extended multi-billion-dollar infrastructure loans (e.g., railways, refineries) in exchange for long-term oil supply contracts (Brautigam, 2020, p. 67). **Trade Volume:** Bilateral trade reached **$20 billion in 2022,** with crude oil accounting for **70% of Nigeria's exports to China** (NBS, 2023).

Infrastructure Investments in Nigeria's Oil Sector. Lagos-Ibadan Railway ($1.5 billion), partly financed by oil-backed loans (Adeniran, 2021, p. 89). Nigeria's alignment with China has occasionally strained relations with Western partners, particularly the U.S. (Campbell, 2018, p. 56). China's non-interference policy appeals to Nigeria, contrasting with Western conditional aid (Obi, 2016, p. 102). **Debt Trap Concerns.** Nigeria's rising debt to China ($4.1 billion as of 2023) raises fears of sovereignty risks (World Bank, 2023). **Unfulfilled Promises.** Some Chinese-funded refinery projects (e.g., Kaduna refinery upgrade) face delays (ThisDay, 2022). **Environmental & Labour Issues.** Chinese firms in the Niger Delta face accusations of pollution and poor labour practices (Okereke, 2020, p. 78).Crude oil remains the linchpin of Nigeria-China relations, facilitating economic exchanges while presenting strategic dilemmas. on China (Adebajo, 2020). *China's oil diplomacy in Nigeria is less about ideology and more about securing long-term energy supplies..Nigeria's reliance on Chinese loans backed by oil exposes it to neo-colonial economic dependencies."*

Conclusion

Foreign policy not only shapes Nigeria's identity at large but also determines its place and its future in the world. Without exception, the foreign of states in today's world consider issues of production, exchange, technology, market alliance, economic development, political

stability and predictability, quality of governance, and prevailing leadership and its qualities. Issues that were one in the exclusive domain of internal affairs are now put forward to external relations. Thus, some nations have and can make up for some gross domestic deficiency by constructing and nurturing strategic alliances. Thus, the analysis demonstrates the fact that foreign policy could be used as instrument or vehicle for achieving the much-needed development package in Nigeria.

Recommendations

1. The Nigerian economy is burdened with heavy reliance and dependence on petroleum revenues which has left the country vulnerable to major global fluctuations in prices, especially in 2016. The crude oil prices averaged was $97 per barrel in 2008, and reached now a peak of about $50 per barrel. The crash resulted in governments at the state and federal levels to resort to internal and external loans to maintain expenditures at levels of recent oil boom period. Therefore, efforts should be made at all levels of government to focus on non-oil based economic activities. Rather than crowding out other productive sectors of the local and national economy, and focusing on the centralization of government revenues, there should be policies to decentralize such revenues in order to make levels of government derivation emerge from the different

states instead of total reliance on oil. Incidentally, Nigeria is blessed with varieties of natural resources that can transform state of development in all states.

2. There is need for the current administration to embark on economic diplomacy and vibrant foreign policy in order to place Nigeria high at the international political economy.
3. The is need for Nigerian government to focus more on domestic policies which could be translate to external policies instead of focusing more on African affairs or the African centre piece of her foreign policy.
4. There is need for Nigerian government to at least place oil embargoes on countries that are not having much contribution to her growth and development.

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