

THE ROLE OF NIGERIA IN WEST AFRICAN REGIONALISM

Abstract:

The Discourse on: Nigeria en route West African Regionalism is largely a spectral examination of the principalities, capabilities, vulnerabilities, sensitivities, mutualities, peculiarities, deterrents and geostrategies inherent in Africa understood from the horizon or test module of West African integration process from the constitutional advancements of the colonial era to the continental organ of the African Union [AU]. The focus of the study in this process is to assess the levels of divergence and convergence of the political civilizations of the major states of the region taken as empirical modules. The research is however triggered by an approach to determine the defining factors of the politics of the region and how the Subregional politics is comprehensively applied in the region and relates to the international system.

Nigeria, perceived as a regional actor is defined and studied in relation with other states in the region. An examination of Nigeria en route African Regionalism is intended to highlight the level of her political consciousness, cohesiveness and perhaps the capabilities and disabilities that have advanced or deterred the continent in the comity of nations.

West African Regionalism therefore, reflects the measure of unicity involved in defining Africa of the West in terms of political and economic structuralization, development of her geopolitics and geostrategy, and civilization of states and regional political

security. It evaluates the process of power shift from statism to internationalism flowing necessarily from the political will of state actors and from the average of natural interests and strong regional security to guide and promote common regional interests. Thus, regionalism in West Africa is contextually defined and understood in terms of the political civilizations of African states in themselves and in their common relations to the rest of the world.