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* CONFLICT DEVELOPMENT AND DEMOCRACY IN THE SOUTH

Conflict can be defined as a form of disagreement between two or more parties, it is also referred to as a clash of interest. The basis of conflict may vary but, it is always a part of society. Basis of conflict may be personal, racial, class, caste, political and international.

The process by which the economic well-being and quality of life of a nation, region or local community are improved according to targeted goals and objectives is called “development”.

Democracy is a system of government in which the people exercise the authority of government. Who people are and how authority is shared among them are core issues for democratic theory, development and constitution. A common definition of democracy is that, it is a government of the people by the people and for the people.

Nigeria gained independence in 1960 from Britain then Nigeria fell prey to the first of so many military coups on 15th of Jan 1966, and then, a civil war. Nigeria is an emerging nation state, and we must be sure not to overlook the important difference between emerging democracies and established democratic regimes existing in states with long traditions of uninterrupted sovereignty. The core of democracy is the principle of popular sovereignty, which holds that government can be legitimated only by the will of those whom it governs and it can be understood why a military coup may not be seen as a democratic regime, and during these times Nigeria was not a democratic state.

For most of its independent history, Nigeria was ruled by a series of military rulers. This still can be a form of democracy, as military rule initiates a sense of security and a safety from harm; the degree of resistance to, or protection from harm. This protection of harm applies to any vulnerable and valuable asset, such as a person, dwelling community, nation or organization. For a nation, security is important and especially for democratic security, military rule can be seen as revolutionary.

There are brief moments of primary democracy, for example from 1979 to 1983 with Alhaji Shehu Shagari, there is secondary democracy in forms of military governance, just more rigorous in approach.

The end of military rule brought about a new era of regular elections as well as the return of civil liberties, free press and an end to arbitrary arrests and torture, although human rights violations still occur regularly. Nigeria also began a long campaign against the bureaucratic and military corruption that had paralyzed its economy and severely tarnished its international reputation.

Democracy in Nigeria hasn’t made much possible development the way for the society and considering the fact that the minority do not have a say in the society. One of the features of democracy has always been “supremacy of law” ie, nobody is above that law but in Nigeria today the law doesn’t apply to those in power, some of which we know as power imbalance.

Some demerits in democracy in the country at large are;

Political instability

Short termism

Corruption

Potential incompatibility with former politics

Efficiency of the system

Susceptibility to propaganda

Limited responsiveness and representation, etc.

Democracy hasn’t made much improvement in the south, stating example with the civil war of 1967, between the government and the state, when workers became increasingly aggrieved by low wages and bad conditions, knowing for a fact that the politicians are living extravagant lifestyle. The conflict resulted from political, economic, ethnic, cultural, and religious tensions, the federal government surrounding and capturing the oil facilities. In a bid to control the oil wells, the federal government placed a shipping embargo on the territory.

* the supposed correlation between democracy and improved standard of living has yet to materialise for Nigeria in years
* the advertised abstract benefit like press, freedom, human right, the right to free political choice and the right to make deliberative input in governance have all been denied Nigeria under the democracy.

Points have shown that democracy have not made much improvement in these societies because those in power are those benefiting more.