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PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES
PCS 316
CONFLICT DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH
ASSIGNMENT.

QUESTION: Using specific case study(ies) in the South, discuss how democracy have led to development and conflict.
ANSWER
TITLE: DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA.

INTRODUCTION

The definition of democracy is a form of government in which the common people hold political power and can rule either directly or through elected representatives. A democratic system emerges I societies where free will and individuality is often encouraged, in ancient Greece the city states had to create a form of government in which there was representation of the people, this came to be because the ancients saw it as the duty of every man to be part of the decision making process in his society.
Development is a process that creates growth, progress, positive change or the addition of physical, economic, environmental, social and demographic components. A society can be said to be developing if it undergoes any sort of positive change which affects it.
Nigeria is a multi-cultural society of more than 200 million individuals, it has over 250 ethnic groups, structures and societies, this means that Nigeria is heterogenous in nature, many traditional Nigerian societies have trace elements of democracy in them such as the Yoruba and Igbo tribes, the Yoruba practice more of a representative democracy while the Igbo practice direct democracy. As a modern state Nigeria is described as the federal republic of Nigeria meaning it has three levels of government the local, state and federal as well as an elected president, she has undergone many changes in her time from being amalgamated in 1914 to military rule between civilian governments, and other constitutional change, the sum total of these experiences can be described as Nigeria’s development pattern.

DEVELOPMENT (OF) AND DEMOCRACY IN NIGERIA

Democracy has many forms, and its practices and outcomes vary from nation to nation. Nigeria, like other countries of the world, is not left out of this sweeping wave of democratic awareness and enlargement. It is noteworthy that it is one of the countries in Sub-Saharan Africa still struggling to develop. After more than fifty years of independence from the British colony, the scenario in the country remains disappointing. Democracy is totally misinterpreted, and it is wrongly practiced in the country. A good number of explanations have been devised to account for this dwindling state of affairs. These include: mismanagement of public fund, poor macroeconomic policies, public malfeasance, inadequate skilled manpower, as well as poor political will.
In the political realm Nigeria has not shown adequate development, its statesmen do not inspire the people behind noble causes, most government officials show high level of corruption, its legal system can be called into question when even elder statesmen can be tried and charged without evidence. Nigeria’s political system is in shambles and this had led to a number of embarrassing experiences in the international community for example, the burning down of government offices, the blatant lies told by government officials as to why huge sums of public funds disappear etc.
The gross domestic product (GDP) measures of national income and output for a given country's economy. The gross domestic product (GDP) is equal to the total expenditures for all final goods and services produced within the country in a stipulated period of time.
The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria was worth 410 billion US dollars in 2019, according to official data from the World Bank and projections from Trading Economics. The GDP value of Nigeria represents 0.34 percent of the world economy. Since 2015, economic growth remains muted. Growth averaged 1.9% in 2018 and remained stable at 2% in the first half of 2019. Domestic demand remains constrained by stagnating private consumption in the context of high inflation (11% in the first half of 2019). On the production side, growth in 2019 was primarily driven by services, particularly telecoms. Agricultural growth remains below potential due to continued insurgency in the Northeast and ongoing farmer-herdsmen conflicts. Industrial performance is mixed. Oil GDP growth is stable, while manufacturing production is expected to slow down in 2019 due to a weaker power sector performance. Food and drink output are expected to increase, likely in response to import restrictions. Construction continues to perform positively, supported by ongoing megaprojects, higher public investment in the first half of the year, and import restrictions.
Overall Nigeria is still performing at a rate that is unusual for a country with as much human and natural resources as a developed nation, Nigeria is I believe on a path to greatness it may just take a while.

Conclusion

I hereby conclude with the obvious statement that Nigeria which is a developing country by world standards has a lot to achieve but with cooperation and a willingness to change I believe that the sustainable positive development we have all as Nigerians been waiting for will emerge.