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MECHATRONICS ENGINEERING

Question:

Write an essay on violent conflict on a geopolitical zone in Nigeria.

Answer

CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH GEOPOLITICAL ZONE

The current conflict in the Niger Delta first arose in the early 1990s over tensions between foreign oil corporations and a number of the Niger Delta's minority ethnic groups who feel they are being exploited, particularly the Ogoni and the Ijaw. Ethnic and political unrest continued throughout the 1990s despite the return to democracy and the election of the Obasanjo government in 1999. Struggle for oil wealth has fueled violence between ethnic groups, causing the militarization of nearly the entire region by ethnic militia groups, Nigerian military and police forces, notably the Nigerian Mobile Police.The violence has contributed to Nigeria's ongoing energy supply crisis by discouraging foreign investment in new power generation plants in the region.

Nigeria, after nearly four decades of oil production, had by the early 1980s become almost completely economically dependent on petroleum extraction.Despite the vast wealth created by petroleum, the benefits have been slow to trickle down to the majority of the population, who since the 1960s have increasingly been forced to abandon their traditional agricultural practices. Annual production of both cash and food crops dropped significantly in the later decades of 20th century. Cocoa production dropped by 43% for example; Nigeria was the world's largest cocoa exporter in 1960.While many skilled, well-paid Nigerians have been employed by oil corporations, the majority of Nigerians and most especially the people of the Niger Delta states and the far north have become poorer since the 1960s.

This lead to the formation of militants like the Niger Delta Avengers. The Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) is a militant group in Nigeria's Niger Delta.The group publicly announced their existence in March 2016.NDA have attacked oil-producing facilities in the delta, causing the shutdown of oil terminals and a fall in Nigeria's oil production to its lowest level in twenty years.The attacks caused Nigeria to fall behind Angola as Africa's largest oil producer.The reduced oil output has hampered the Nigerian economy and destroyed its budget,since Nigeria depends on the oil industry for nearly all its government revenues.

The NDA's declared aims are to create a sovereign state in the Niger Delta and have threatened to disrupt Nigeria's economy if their aims are not met.

This conflict can be avoided by the following ways:

1. The government providing adequate security in the Niger Delta.
2. The government should compensate those that have lost family members and farm lands due to oil spills and violence in form of Amnesty.
3. The government should make sure infrastructures that are meant to be built in the Niger Delta are built to international standard.
4. The government should set up a panel to investigate every act of fraud committed by all Politicians in the Niger Delta and its environs.
5. The government should put accountable Niger Delta indegenes in Government organization like NDDC,NNPC so that they can be held accountable for all forms of thefts from the governments purse.