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***ASSIGNMENT:***

***Write an essay on violent conflict on a geo-political zone in Nigeria***

***SOLUTION:***

Before we hit the nail on the head we have to first of all do the following;

* Define conflict and list the types of conflict
* Define violence and list the classes of violence
* Mention the geo-political zones in Nigeria

When all this is done the basis of the question has been set and only then can we finally talk about violence conflict in a geo-political zone in Nigeria.

DEFINE CONFLICT AND LIST THE TYPES OF CONFLICT:

There are differences in people’s background, psychology, norms, etc. according to the layman’s views, conflict is the incapability between two people, a disagreement between two or more parties. It can be individual or group due to differences of objectives and goals. When the difference is objectives and goals dash then conflict happens. Conflict isn’t violence. Conflict is rooted from the Latin word ‘conphotus’ which is a past participle of ‘coafliegere’ which means to strike or to compete with someone. Conflict has its positive and negative aspects. Conflict is 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. Conflict in groups often follows a specific course. The types of conflict include;

1. Intra personal conflict
2. Intra group conflict
3. Inter personal conflict
4. Inter group conflict

DEFINE VIOLENCE AND LIST THE CLASSES OF VIOLENCE:

There are many definitions of violence. According to fisher 2000 ‘violence is an action or consists of actions, words, attitude, system or structure that causes physical, psychological and environmental damages and prevents people from realising their full human potential.’ Violence includes hurting, injuring and harming people, property or animal. It is an extreme form of conflict. It is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal development, or deprivation. There are four classes of violence;

* Physical or behavioural violence
* Structural or contextual violence
* Attitude violence
* Cultural violence

MENTION THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONES IN NIGERIA:

* North-Central
* North-West
* North-East
* South-South
* South-East
* South-West.

ESSAY ON VIOLENCE CONFLICT IN SOUTH-SOUTH:

The lexicology of peace, like other words, could be understood by bringing into picture its

Sociological synonyms such as safety, justice, equity, harmony and love; and its antonyms such as conflict, war, envy, greed and hatred. These concepts create disparities in societies: primitive and civilized nations; underdeveloped and developed nations; violent and non-violent nations; corrupt and less corrupt countries. This composition explains why societies which tilt towards the synonyms of peace are likely to be more developed than crises-ridden societies. It is often said that no meaningful development can take place without peace. What brings peace is the understanding that the next person, group or nation deserves justice and equity. Is peace a fluid concept? Is it possible in Nigeria if we understand that the combination of justice and equity is the springboard upon which lasting peace is launched? These questions appear unanswered in the views of many Nigerians hence the justification for this paper as it attempts to capsulize the variation of peace education that can enthrone the needed social mantra for development in the South-South Nigeria. This discourse is even more apt giving the open embrace which the maxim, “if you want peace, prepare for war” has gained among Nigerians especially agitators in her various regions. The situation is even worse when the choice of violence has a biblical backing as in “And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffered violence, and the violent take it by force”, giving justification and impetus to agitation violent means. This paper, therefore, specifically x-rays (1) the level of development in South-South Nigeria, (2) the level of violence in the region vis-à-vis the impact of agitations through violence, and (3) peace education as an alternative mediation mechanism. South-South (Niger Delta) geopolitical zone is one area in Nigeria that has suffered brazen injustice in terms of sustainable development. In the words of Ijomah (2016): From the very beginning of our contact with the West, the Niger Delta has been a major factor in the political economy of the nation. It is the sustained of the nation’s economy, first, in the slave trade, second, in the palm produce trade

And now in the petroleum and gas trade. Yet, and sadly, the Niger Delta has suffered. Slave trade destroyed vast territories, destroying towns and villages; millions of persons who could have contributed to the development of Niger Delta were carted away into slavery. No eternity will be long enough to wipe away the horrors of slave trade. There is yet another horror. The consequences of oil industry to human, land and animal ecology are yet to be appreciated. The above opinion describes a picture of injustice and lack of sustainable development. According to Obisike and Iloma (2018), it was this scenario that instigated The Green Niger Delta Initiative Conference on Sustainable Development. The report clearly states:

In many cases, the conditions of rural communities where crude oil is produced are deplorable, with severe environmental degradation, and no access to safe drinking water, electricity, health services and other social amenities. What an irony of fate? Therefore, considering the historical nature and magnitude of marginalisation and neglect of the region in the Federal Republic of Nigeria, it is the view of the BRACED States that there are currently insufficient precincts upon which to enthrone peace and sustainable development in the Federation.

BRACED means Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo, Delta states. Six years after

The submission of the above report, the zone has remained an endangered species. Similarly, the report of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on the assessment of Ogoni in August 2011 further corroborates the injustices which the zone suffers. The report recommends to the Federal Government of Nigeria to begin a comprehensive clean-up of Ogoni land, restore polluted environments and put an end to all forms of ongoing oil contamination in the region. Azad, Crawford and Kaila (2018) gave a preliminary report of level of violence in South-South of Nigeria between 2010 and 2017; a collaborative project of National Bureau of Statistics and World Bank. The study explained the extent to which conflict-and violence-related events affected households.

• 22% of households in the zone were directly affected by conflict events or vio

• 87% of the conflict events were attributed to criminals, cultists and individuals.

• 37% of the affected households had at least o

They described the South-South zone in these words: his area is renowned as Nigeria’s source of oil wealth; widely perceived as the economic force driving Nigeria forward. Nevertheless, this resource wealth has not translated to economic success for most inhabitants of these states. Instead, the region suffers from ecological degradation as a result of oil spills, high rates of youth unemployment, and extensive inequality between local population and employees of oil companies. The above described injustices play a major role in making the region a beehive of agitations, alongside the fact that the social nature of man makes him vulnerable to crisis, because he is constantly in competition with others in his environment. Again, over militarization of the Nigerian State has misled people to think that ethnic agitations can only be addressed through violent means, blood shedding, terrorism, kidnapping, vandalism, etc. Hence, Ijomah defined peace as “a suspension of conflict between or among people cast in social relations”. However, man’s susceptibility to conflict could be reduced if the values of justice, equity and love are entrenched in society. These values are the nexus of education. According to Rank (2012), peace education is targeted at developing more peaceful societies, which also change culture of violence to culture of peace and it is a lifelong learning (from childhood socialization to adult education). Peace education would infuse in the society the culture of due process, respect for constituted authorities, respect for the laws of the land, and above all, it would inculcate an attitude of religious and political tolerance.

Accordingly, National Policy on Education, FRN (2008) clearly designates education as an instrument for peace and national development. There is the need for peace education to be fully integrated not only in the school system but also in the national life so that the social matrixes that engineer violence in society can be curtailed. Building on this connection, this paper sees peace education as a veritable tool for sustainable development in Nigeria. In sum,

this paper aims to conceptualize peace education and sustainable development, and the imperativeness of the former as one solution to the problem of the South-South region of Nigeria.