

Terrorism: Impact on Nigeria's Foreign Policy, 1999-2015

Authors : Omolaja Akolade Oluwaseunfunmi

Abstract : This study seeks to ascertain the origin and history of terrorism in Nigeria, determine the causes of terrorism in Nigeria, examine Nigeria's foreign policies from 1999 to 2015, evaluate how terrorist groups like Boko Haram and the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) have affected Nigeria's foreign policies in the international arena; ascertain the measures taken by the government in tackling terrorist acts in Nigeria and give recommendations on how to tackle this menace. The methodology used in this research is the analytical method. The study derives its data from both primary and secondary sources. Findings from fieldwork showed that terrorism has also become one of the most important fundamentals of Nigeria's foreign policies and relations; respondents from the people interviewed showed that terrorism is a menace and that terrorism must be adequately tackled in order to achieve Nigeria's foreign policy. Furthermore, results revealed that the fight against the scourge has increasingly gained legitimacy and justification among the international community particularly as many countries consider it to be their international obligation to support the global movement to ameliorate or eliminate the menace. In conclusion, this research made, among other recommendations, that the Nigerian government should ensure the provision of a good life for its citizens, the inter-connectivity of terrorist organizations must be defeated, the government should undergo a foreign policy drive designed at rebuilding its image in the international environment, and also the promotion of peace education among various government, religious institutions, private sector, and civil society groups should be encouraged.

Keywords : foreign policy, Boko Haram, movement for the emancipation of Niger delta (MEND), terrorism

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