

PREFACE

The direct consequences of the socio-political uprising and agitation for democracy, rule of law, and political rights followed the annulment of the presidential election of June 1993 by the military junta and their civilian cohorts. These led to violence, overt human-rights abuses, tensions, and socio-ethnic upheavals in Nigeria in the era preceding the period examined. The efforts later led to the birth of the current democratic republic in 1999.

The decision to democratize governance by the Hausa-Fulani oligarchy was accelerated because of the influences of various internal and external factors acting cohesively. These include socio-political coercion and isolation, the effects of the economic hardship from the various embargoes laid on the regime by the international community, fear, and threats of a repeat of civil war and cessation along ethnic lines within Nigeria.

From 1999 to 2009, Nigeria—a very heterogeneous, multi-ethnic, and multi-religious nation—has continued to sustain democratic rule. This has resulted in the longest period of uninterrupted civil rule since Independence in 1960. In order to explain this exceptional incidence, the book looks at the influences of globalization and transnational law as the primary factors for this stability.

The exponential and sporadic growths in electronic media, unrestrained access to modern equipment and methods of communication, and most importantly the Internet, have made the transfer of

information faster and easier. Thus facilitating instantaneous transfer of cross-boundary reports, unrestricted exchange of socio-political ideas and ideologies, and the free flow of other channels that affect every part of the human existence. While they continue to act interdependently, these factors have largely contributed to the stability of civil rule.

The collective influences of the judiciary on the polity, which is referred to as 'judicial activism', were further improved and strengthened through globalization. This was achieved by the application of transfinite judicial interpretations to comparable constitutional provisions and statutes in Nigeria.

In addition, organized pressure groups, non-governmental organizations, as well as the 'Civil Society Organization', whose influences have been greatly facilitated by the judiciary and the media have played very significant roles as vehicles of socio-political change and transformation. They continue to act as buffers for the sustenance of democratic rule, well beyond the period in question.

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