

**EXAMINATION OF THE CAUSES OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY
AND THE IMPLICATIONS IN MODERN SOCIETY**

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Abstract

Politics uncertainty is a social reality. In politics, political instability is a frequent phenomenon that always threatens the nation's unity and peaceful coexistence. Political instability results from the general public's perception of social injustice and discrimination as well as the government's failure to solve the problems faced by the majority of people. Consequently, a breakdown of political instability, together with its sources and national implications is examined in this study.

Even the most developed nations in the world are not completely immune to it, despite significant national leaderships taking efforts to reduce its incidence. However in order to address the problem, a full grasp of the traits, causes, and origins of political instability is required. This paper's primary goal is to achieve this. As a result, the study looks at the traits and underlying reasons of political instability in modern society.

Keywords: Political Instability, Politics, Good Governance, National Unity

Introduction

Political instability is a widespread occurrence that still controls the political landscape in many nations. Political instability is the innate propensity of a government to fall, either as a result of developing hostilities or disputes between different political groups, which can occasionally turn violent. A quick change in government or policy can also lead to political instability and raise the risk of more instability in the future. There is a close relationship between political stability and economic prosperity. Political instability can impede development through repression and unfavorable change and lead to social, ethnic, or national disintegration. Additionally, it might lead to increased foreign influence or foreign interference. Uncertainty brought on by an unstable political climate might slow down investment in the nation in issue and slow down the rate of economic growth. Furthermore, political instability and the fall of governments can result from weak economic performance. These circumstances are a recurring and major factor in the political unrest that certain nations experience.

Every political system, including democratic ones, has its weaknesses. Regardless of the political regime's internal strife, corruption and drastic changes can also cause instability and eventually lead to a government's fall, either peacefully or violently. With the potential to bring about change quickly, this might occur gradually or quickly. In many of the world's former stable governments experiencing unpredictable major upheavals can cause severe disruptions to daily life and inadequate security conditions that are conducive to the growth of serious criminal activity and terrorism in today's cultures. In the era of social media and technological advancements, this can also occur quickly, leading to the rapid development of dangerous situations in previously thought-to-be safe nations and areas. In addition to posing a risk to the safety of anyone caught in these zones, this can also have an adverse effect on transportation connections through and around the region of disruption or violence.

For example, Nigeria usually referred to as the "giant of Africa," has seen and continues to experience numerous unstable phases of violence and strife. Experiences with rivalry and mistrust among different ethnic groups have resulted in political instability throughout the nation, making the process of breaking through the political power corridor violent and contentious. Nigeria is still impacted by the oppressive and unfair systems that the previous colonial rulers left behind, dating back to the pre-independence era. Inadequate state structures and a never-ending battle for political dominance are the inevitable consequences. This often comes at the expense of the general populace's well-being and the nation's overall development. This is true even though the country has an abundance of natural and human resources. Nigeria gained independence in 1960; however the country's efforts to achieve political stability and growth have remained elusive. This must be related to the turbulent political and social climate of the nation, which is reflected in the prevalence of poverty, corruption, shoddy planning and execution, and overall societal indiscipline. Throughout Nigeria's decade of independence and the years after the civil war that started in 1967 and ended in 1970, political instability has been a significant problem that has shaken the nation with bloodshed. Given the geopolitical environment of Nigeria, there have been several instances of intermittent violence as well as counterattacks by other regions. The underlying causes of the nation's violence consistently result in unpredictably bad events like bombings, the killing of innocent people, and the political unrest that destabilizes already vulnerable areas. Without the anxiety and threats that have engulfed the country up to this point, none of this would have happened.

Political Instability: Conceptual Clarification

Political stability is the reverse of political instability, and grasping this concept requires knowledge of it. In light of this, we looked at other people's ideas of political stability and came to the conclusion that political stability is the consistency of a government and its actions intended to fulfill its duties to the people. Political stability fosters social, economic, and political development and includes national security, good governance—that is, the pursuit of the common good- and social peace. We define political instability as the absence of the

aforementioned, in keeping with the definition of political stability given above. Political instability can thus be defined as the shakiness of a government and its actions intended to fulfill its duties to the people in a way that undermines its fundamental principles. According to Unah, political instability can also be referred to as the phenomenon of change itself, which is defined as frequent social change, especially when that change disrupts the current political order (Unah, 1995: 106). Political instability is a type of social instability. Based on the aforementioned, the Hobbesian hypothetical state of nature, in which individuals do as they like, whenever they please, and in whatever way they please, best describes a politically unstable society. There is a constant state of conflict and the associated uncertainties because of the heinous circumstances in the natural world. This condition of affairs has an impact on all aspects of societal life; as a result, life is short, cruel, and unpleasant. Fundamentally, the ideas of political stability and instability are notions of politics. However, these ideas turn socio-political and philosophical when philosophy shines its light on politics. The origin of philosophy is man. He is both the creator and the recipient of civil society at the same time. Thus, there is a close connection between philosophy and society. This is due to the fact that "All human transactions, be they intellectual or practical, take place within the matrix of society, within a social context." (Unah, 2002: 10). Men engage with one another, have disagreements and work through them, and reach compromises for the benefit of each person as well as society as a whole when they live together. Nevertheless, there are times when a lack of social harmony causes civilization to be upended completely. Such social unrest or political instability can be philosophically attributed to two things: (1) the essence of man; and (2) the dynamic nature of society.

The Conception of Man as a being

Philosophical inquiry into the essence of man remains a topic of fascination. There are philosophers who believe that man is fundamentally good, while others believe that he is egotistical and evil. Some, however, saw him as a hybrid of the two. Based on Thomas Hobbes, society can only escape the state of nature- which is anarchy and political instability—if it is governed by an absolute power like the Leviathan? This is based on Hobbes' belief that the character of man is the fundamental cause of his fictitious condition of nature. Hobbes' theory of man can be summed up as follows: Hobbes believed that man was fundamentally selfish and that his appetites, desires, and passions drove him to action rather than his brain or reason. In this kind of war, there is no organized conflict, but rather a never-ending fight between all individuals, driven mostly by rivalry, insecurity, and a desire for glory. There is no justice or law. Man's life is short, brutish, unpleasant, and impoverished (Appadorai, 1968: 22).

In Appadorai's analysis of human nature, Hobbes' perspective is likely to have had some influence. He argues that: Generally speaking, two facts emerge from the observation of man's existence around us: first, every man wants to act and think how he pleases, but second, because he is a member of society, he cannot have his own way. When two men have different desires, they clash. As such, the government must regulate the relationships between the various members of

society (3). Though they differ from Hobbes in that they do not consider nature to be a state of conflict, John Locke and J.J. Rousseau nevertheless perceive it as a state filled with dread. It is impossible for us to focus on just one facet of humanity. Ignore the opposing party. Humanity has shown itself to be a reasonable being on many occasions and a beastly being on others. Based on human nature, the knowledge that he is the primary source of political unrest. According to existentialists, who believe that man is a creature of his environment and must find meaning in his life, this study concurs. Almost without exception, he finds himself in a predicament from which only he can escape. Man, realizing the void within him, tries his hardest to rid himself of all obstacles. The ongoing conflict between humans and the natural world escalates into a deep-rooted sense of unease, which J.P. Sartre attributes to nothingness. The emptiness of man and the absurdity of life are captured by nothingness. It motivates him to work at bridging the gaps in his life and rescuing the various predicaments he finds himself in. In light of the aforementioned, Unah states that "being human is the origin of every form of instability" (Unah, 1995: 105).

The Strength of Society

Given that society is composed of and governed by individual men, it follows that society itself must be dynamic if man is dynamic. Society provides tangible expressions for the byproducts or manifestations of man's rationality. Philosophers, particularly social philosophers, have proposed concepts targeted at defining societal goals in their endeavors to transform their own worldviews. As stated by E. K. Ogundowole, A society's life endeavor, as well as that of individual personalities in a sense, consists of national groups, social organizations, and other human communities. (Ogundowole, 1991) In order to complete assigned societal duties, collaboration between genuine people, both the led and the leaders. This is so because society is an assembly of people. These contributions add up to the ontological definition of society as interpersonal relationships. According to Unah: Existing in a social context and engaging in human interaction with others is the primary original meaning of society. However, the inherent conflicts and friction that come with this kind of unrestricted engagement made it necessary to direct and control human interaction (Unah, 2002: 11). Sometimes achieving social harmony is hampered by the challenge of combining individual and communal interests. Even members of the ruling class may differ on what constitutes the societal tasks of a given era. The completion of the assigned tasks might not follow the anticipated pattern, even in cases where the ruling class agrees. All of the preceding points to the fact that conflict and disagreement lead to change, which is a natural part of society from the outset. This is due to the fact that although man cedes part of his liberties and rights to society, he yet holds onto those that are essential and unalienable. He is unwilling to let go of these. Plato's view of the essence of man and how it translates to society led him to insist that philosophers become rulers or rulers become philosophers. A just society can only be governed by people who are qualified to do it. The impact that human nature has on society was recognized by Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Marx, and other scholars.

The Background Causes of Political Instability

Political instability has socioeconomic roots, which are in fact an empirical reflection of societal socioeconomic situations. They represent the particular response of man to the state's acceptance or rejection of his ceding of some of his liberties, rights, and sovereignty. These reasons are frequently connected to how a person or group perceives injustice or a lack of justice being done to them. Therefore, it follows that these are responses, either individual or collective, to the policies and programs of the government—or lack thereof. We will address these issues under the following four headings: Economic, racial, and lack of effective governance, as well as office persistence

Economical Causes of Political Instability

The next most important thing to a man after his life and health is his economy. To the extent as humanly practicable, man must be able to safeguard his life and health, which requires a robust economy. So, it should come as no surprise that the majority of men would do whatever it takes to improve their financial situation. However, a portion of a man's economic rights are given up to the state for the straightforward reason that society would descend into anarchy if every individual had unfettered freedom to pursue his economic interests. As a result, it is the responsibility of the government to control citizens' economic activity in a way that ensures everyone has the chance to reach their full potential. When there is economic disparity and/or economic mismanagement, economic crises either ultimately lead to political instability or have the capacity to do so. In his remarks made on July 20, 2002, to the United Nations Security Council. According to Ambassador Jean David Levitte, Permanent Representative of France to the European Union, "economic and social development is the first aspect of conflict prevention" (Levitte: 2000). He stated that "Poverty leads to frustration and revolts which may degenerate into conflicts." As stated by Freedom House Incorporated, political instability is a direct result of income inequality. It states that "income inequality ultimately leads to instability, which in turn causes slow or negative growth, and, ultimately, weaker democracy" (Freedom House: 2000). A severe economic environment brought on by the government's economic policies- or lack thereof- is also included in the definition of economic crisis, which goes beyond economic disparity. Political instability may also result from poor economic management and the government's incapacity to steer the economy. This has been the main cause of political unrest and recent government changes in Brazil, Indonesia, and Argentina. The fact that the working class in Marx and Engels' Western Europe contributed significantly to the development of the intellectual and economic pillars of Marxism- Historical Materialism and Dialectical Materialism- is, of course, undeniable.

Cultural Discrimination

Even in some of today's most developed societies, cultural discrimination in multiethnic societies frequently results in political instability. For instance, the circumstances that gave rise to the Irish Republican Army (IRA) in the United Kingdom have not entirely disappeared. In less developed societies, social discrimination is often exacerbated by ethnic competition for state resources.

Caprioli and Trumbore perceive this as assuming the risk of being unstable in politics.

a situation in which societal norms and policies sustain political and economic inequality- a society that arbitrarily discriminates against certain of its members. (Gledisch, 2003: 7). They also embrace the view expressed by Van Evera (8) that "the risk of wars increases with the severity with which nationalities oppress minorities living in their states." Political stability is impacted in such societies by ethnic disparities in access to economic and political resources. Examples of nations where ethnic discrimination has frequently resulted in political instability include Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, and Nigeria.

Lack of Good Governance

The ability of a government to efficiently manage the state's resources so that it can meet the basic needs of the populace and enable them to realize their full potential within a democratic political framework based on the rule of law is known as good governance (Abati, 2000: 4).

Accordingly, The Africa Leadership Forum has determined the following indices of effective governance: 1. Effective and flexible governmental administration; 2. Sound economic management; 3. fair play, justice, and equity in government programs and initiatives; 4. a real improvement in citizen welfare and quality of life; 5. fundamental human rights and the rule of law; 6. The public sector should become less politicized; the public should be able to approve public 7/ political leadership through democratic channels; 8. Accountability and openness;

9. Law and order in the public sphere; 10. Discipline; 11. Carrying out wise foreign policy; and 12. Political stability (Somorin: 2001:1). Respecting the aforementioned aids the state in achieving its goals. On the other hand, their nonexistence indicates poor governance, which could spark uprisings and wars and ultimately cause political instability.

Obstinacy of Office

The obstinacy of office, or the sit-tight syndrome, among public office holders is a contemporary socio-political source of political instability. The struggle between the ruling class and the ruled is exacerbated when leaders continue to hold onto power despite clear instances of poor governance. Many societies have suffered greatly as a result of this condition, including Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Cameroon, Togo, Algeria, Haiti, Zimbabwe, and Nigeria, to name a few. African leaders "always find it difficult to go on retirement because they regard political office as traditional stool from which there is no exit except to God's headquarters," Babarinsa likely concluded as a result of the syndrome's prevalence in African states (Babarinsa: 2005: 5).

Goerge Ayittey is interested in this problem. According to Ayittey (1993), there has to be fully independent election commissions, press freedom achieved, an independent judiciary, and impartial, professional security services in order to

stop the sit-tight syndrome and war scenarios in Africa. When the aforementioned elements are absent from a society, conflict typically arises between those who support the overthrow of the existing order and the establishment of a new one, and those who occupy positions of authority in the obsolete order and their sympathizers. The previous system usually crumbles in the ensuing conflict, which brings down the office holders. The state and its citizens experience only fleeting satisfaction when such a battle is won, as the newly elected officials immediately begin formulating plans to stay in power. This leads to further hostilities, and the unstable situation persists. This section of the study has addressed the factors that lead to political instability.

States, as well as the people and organizations that comprise them, are frequently negatively impacted by political instability. The Impact of Political Instability on the Economy and Society Political instability causes a state's population to become impoverished and hinders the state's economic and political advancement. An atmosphere of uncertainty is produced by socio-political instability. States with high levels of political instability make greater investments in their armed forces and police, often at the expense of the welfare interests of their citizens. More instability results from this frequently. Additionally, capital flight brought on by political unrest damages the economy. In general, political instability causes impacted societies to grow less politically and economically. As a result, these societies are referred to be the least developed.

Causes of Political Instability in Nigeria: An Overview

The primary source of political instability in Nigeria most of the time are internal reasons.

A particular instance is the political class's lax adherence to the fundamental principles of constitutionalism and democracy (Kew, 2006). According to Harriman (2006), this kind of environment has led to the misuse of authority, blatant corruption, manipulation of the electoral process, intolerance of political opposition, and institutional deterioration. This goes against the principles of governance, which need social interaction between the ruled and the ruler in a political community (Adejumobi, 2004). Since January 15, 1966, there have been numerous military engagements in national politics as a result of the political class's inability to maintain effective administration. Their professional duty is to maintain peace and quiet, but instead of using the Armed Forces to defend the nation's territorial integrity, they meddled in politics. An unstable political system exists in the nation, as seen by the unhealthy and fierce power struggles that occur between the military hierarchy and the political elite as well as between civilians and soldiers. Egbon (2001) pointed out that,

any state's political structure becomes unstable when the armed forces become involved, which in turn causes economic collapse and is essentially a result of the state's leadership issues. Politicians in Nigeria frequently cause political instability because they view politics as a business where they

can make money. This is because of their greed for power. He went on to say, "The problem with Nigerians is that they go into politics when they want money." Therefore, the politicians would embezzle the funds that could have been used for the nation's progress. Despite having a big domestic market, a wealth of natural resources, and a significant amount of human capital.

An additional reason for the ongoing violence and the subsequent political instability in the nation is the impunity of the masterminds who incite, organize, fund, and even arm the rioters. In the event that they are found guilty and given lengthy prison terms, they are never charged or put on trial in any court. Some of the powerful and privileged people in society are the ones who encourage violent disputes. Some people have the impression that they are untouchables, and those who follow them share this belief. Since many of these sponsors have never been held accountable for their horrible acts, they return to plot more rounds of hostilities and carnage. Furthermore, there is a lack of crisis management training among the police and other security agencies. Throughout violent outbursts, the rioters are often described as being "too tough" for the inexperienced and inexperienced police to control. It is unexpected that the rioters frequently have sophisticated weapons and are well-prepared. Conflicts also continue to arise in Nigeria because the government has never followed the advice of the judiciary and other inquiry bodies on violence and civil disobedience. Political instability frequently results from this in the nation. The fact that Nigeria is a multiethnic state means that when many ethnic groups believe their aims and desires cannot be fulfilled concurrently, war and political instability will result.

Thus, it makes sense that there would be unrest, opposition controversy, and political instability when there is inequality in access to control over natural resources and political power, as was the case during the Nigerian civil war, Niger-Delta militant uprisings, and ongoing Boko Haram insurgencies, among other instances. The foregoing makes it abundantly evident that Nigerian politics have historically been the antithesis of those in developed nations, and Nigerian politicians in particular continue to adhere to outdated ideals like broken pledges, political corruption, avarice, violence, tribalism, and intimidation. Fraud, embezzlement and misuse of public funds, inflation in contract awards, a lack of accountability and transparency in governance, and inequality in wealth distribution are a few examples of how political instability is said to appear. Political unrest has a discernible effect on Nigerians' lives, leading to underdevelopment, corruption, and economic distortion.

Implications of Political Instability in Modern Nigeria Society

Political instability has far-reaching effects and consequences on the entire nation. There is much that Nigeria could do better given the prevalence of violent conflicts that have consistently resulted in political instability for more than 50 years. Some of the ramifications in Nigeria include the following. The Nigerian state's inadequate utilization of its natural and human resources is the first issue.

Nigeria has thus been permanently stuck with poverty, hunger, and other signs of an economic downturn. Second, there are always going to be casualties from political unrest. Many people have died as a result of violent upheavals in Nigeria. For example, the 1967–1970 Nigerian Civil War claimed the lives of about two million people. A number of other lesser crises in the nation, such the ongoing insurgency by Boko Haram, have also resulted in fatalities. Because of the impact on the youthful workforce, the death toll has an impact on the country's economy. Many Nigerians who were bright and skilled were killed by Boko Haram insurgents, while hundreds of oil workers and foreigners have perished in the brutal wars in the Niger Delta (O'Neil, 2004). Additionally, government revenue generation is negatively impacted, particularly during periods of industrial unrest. The country would have lost a great deal of money as a result of these strikes.

Furthermore, political unrest may serve as a deterrent to increased foreign investment in the nation. Foreign investment growth and flow have also been slowed down by Nigeria's ongoing violent conflicts. Nigeria's economy is fragile, and no foreign investor will be enticed to make investments there. While political unrest and insecurity may deter foreign investors from making investments in Nigeria, the country's general atmosphere of peace, security, and stability will draw tourists from abroad (Ajayi, 2004). However, another wave of refugees and internally displaced persons has resulted from political, religious, and sectarian strife in the nation. Those who lived in the areas devastated by conflict were forced to evacuate and seek sanctuary in other states, towns, or foreign nations. Not only do refugees and internally displaced people have an impact on the economies of their host countries, but they also introduce unfamiliar faces to their new communities, placing additional strain on the social services available to them.

Conclusion

Clarifying the notion of political instability was the intended objective of this paper. Its origins and causes were also studied extensively. Our sources for these were the socio-political factors and intellectual works. Humans are dynamic beings who alternate between egocentrism and altruism, according to the philosophical source. Having written the book and living in the world, Since it becomes challenging to combine the interests of various groups and individuals to achieve the common good, man's character are reflected in the dynamic of his endeavor, society. Human response to governmental actions can be traced back to socio-economic and political origins. Human nature naturally dictates that a person should want to maximize their happiness and reduce their own suffering as much as feasible. In light of how political instability affects society, people, and organizations, we believe that it stifles the development of the state and its citizens. Therefore, if the majority of the aforementioned recommendations are put into practice in order to support national economic development and guarantee accountability and transparency in government operations, there will need to be a concerted effort by all citizens of the nation to put an end to all forms of political instability. Taking into account the research

results, it is suggested that political figures make sure that all of their acts are transparent and accountable, especially when it comes to money. To combat corruption in all areas of national life, citizens- political leaders in particular and public servants- must possess the necessary resolve. A fundamental reorientation regarding societal ideals is necessary for politicians. All educational levels around the nation ought to offer courses on political education and incorporate it into their curricula. When there is a breakdown in law and order anywhere in the nation, law enforcement officials need to be ready to respond quickly and decisively. Lastly, legislation against hooliganism, thuggery, and vandalism should be enacted by the National Assembly and applied equally for all.

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