
The Politics of America's Foreign Aid and Development in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

This research is centered on the politics of America's foreign aid and development in Nigeria. The study therefore set out to examine the relationship that tie both America and Nigeria. The main reason for this research is to evaluate to what extent, has American foreign aid has impacted towards Nigeria's development and to understanding the political underpinnings behind the foreign aid to Nigeria. The theoretical framework adopted is to dependency theory and data collection was sourced from the secondary sources. Findings were made, which revealed that there are reasons behind America giving foreign aid to Nigeria and other underdeveloped countries which ranges from assistance for them to be able to get out of poverty and get developed, to the hidden interest of America influencing their polity, relatively controlling their economy through bilateral economic relations and need for these Africa countries, particularly, Nigeria to remain dependent on American Economy to advance their own economy. For Nigeria to develop, some recommendations were made such as improving the technological skill, diversification of Nigeria's economy, strengthening anti-corruption Agencies in Nigeria, promoting good governance among others. These proferments if applied properly will help Nigeria to emancipate herself from underdeveloped dependent country to a developed country.

Keywords: Politics, Foreign Aid and Development.

INTRODUCTION

Foreign aid otherwise known as foreign assistance is one of the major imperialistic instrument used pretentiously as a helping mechanism to some developing countries in other for them to have a leap in the advancement process, particularly countries in Africa and mostly those of the sub-Saharan African developing countries to robust their economy. Foreign aid is an outright assistance rendered by a developed country or group countries to an under developing or developing country or countries. It does come in different dimensions such as development loans, military aid, technical/industrial assistance, grants and commodity import programs, etc. foreign aid entails all kinds of financial engagements, transactions or transfer between two or more countries with the intension of help the lesser countries. To this end, developed countries have seized the opportunity to be using the avenue to influence the third world countries that are at their bake and call, equally desperate to go cap in hand begging for help. In this regard, it paves way for the donor countries to use aid as an instrument with which they can interfere in the domestic affairs of the recipient states. Also, financial institutions can equally give aid to countries that are in need of it, which could be either in cash of material help. Other form of foreign aid do go to the needy countries at a considerable low rate in terms of evaluating when it is on a normal circumstance. These

assistance are presumed to help to do those countries indulge in infrastructural development (Aluko and Arowolo, 2010). Foreign aid involves all sorts of assistance transferred from a developed country to those that are developing on a slow pace so that it could address poverty related issues as to ameliorate or drastically reduce the effects on the people. Foreign aid mostly stimulates economic growth of underdeveloped countries by that boosting their investment capacity through savings. Again, foreign aid goes with the transfer of technology that on the other hand increases productivity and the promotion of more technical changes that are within the receiving country (Mbah and Amassoma, 2014).

Moreover, foreign aid has the most primary duty of bringing about desired development that is lacking in the developing countries of the world if its intended purposes are diligently met. The development of foreign aid in most countries seems to have failed woefully apart from very few that have made good use of it as some scholars have argued. It does appear that the leaders of the developing states in the third world have seen aid as a means of getting money for their development but would channel them towards meeting other projects for which they did obtain such loans or assistance; which most often times, does not meet the desires and needs of the teeming population of the recipient nations. Obtaining loans and getting assistance from donor countries in the modern economy is not fundamentally or entirely a wrong thing but its utilization to promote productivity from the projects embarked upon that would ensure development is paramount. It is the diversion of funds meant for service delivery to the people to other irrelevant projects that has caused the continuous lack of development in the developing countries, Nigeria is not an exception. Thus most developing states have not felt the impact of foreign aid or any kind of assistance from the developed countries of the west following the near absence of development. Foreign aid can therefore be seen as a deliberate plan, designed to influence the foreign policies of the developing nations including Nigeria to favour the concerns and interests of the developed world.

Again, foreign aid to Nigeria has been politically and economically devastating and as such made the country to incur more debt than ever. Nigeria's quest for foreign aid in the recent years has been on the increase due to the total net aid flows that she received from all donor countries which summed up to US \$ 152 million in 1999. It increased to \$185 million in 2000 and in 2004 it rose to \$573 million. As the years roll by, so the increase occurs. In 2008, it was \$1.29 billion and as at 2011, it amounted to \$1.78 billion (Aluko and Arowolo, 2014:4). Evidence abounds that Nigeria had since independence in 1960 received aid from various countries and agencies. Notwithstanding the enormous inflow of foreign aid to Nigeria, she is faced with the inability to make effective use of such aid to the extent that the country is still being characterized by low level of income, high level of poverty, low industrial capacity and low level of employment among others.

Furthermore, this situation has made the country not too attractive to investors and investments that are of high quality are less found within Nigeria. Indeed, foreign aid seems to have mortgaged the sovereignty of Nigeria and damaged its self-development processes, which its destruction is antidevelopment. Nigeria's much reliance on the United States of America for aid all the time to enable her drive her economic growth and development has caused her to be strongly dependent on the US economy which has culminated to a relationship that can be best described as that of "a master – servant" kind of relationship. The relationship is caused by economic subservience where countries of the developing world are highly indebted to the donor countries because of the pursuit of foreign aid from the developed countries for "development purposes".

The extent relationship is such that gives rise to constant seeking for influence for foreign aid though borrowing; a situation that goes to sustain underdevelopment, dependency and the worst of it all, poverty (Aluko and Arowolo, 2010).

In addition, it has dangerous or harmful effects on these nations because of the conditions attached to aid coming from the advanced or donor countries. Aid is condition specific, which culminates in a dependent relationship. Nigeria, for instance, is one country where majority of its citizens or peoples standard of living are very low because there exists economic inequalities among the teeming population as very many of them are living in abject poverty. Yet it has abundance of natural resources that are not tapped and where they are tapped, they are mismanaged, misappropriated and are of no benefits to the masses.

Also, foreign aid has been one tool at the disposal of the developed donor countries to use in providing assistance to the various developing countries that are in need of help, through loans, grants and some other means of donations on their influence on less developed countries is based on the roles, foreign aid play and their desire to support third world countries. All these aspects of foreign aid are geared towards shaping developed countries diplomatic and military status to be in better chance of influencing and regulating the economy of those of the third world countries. Although most of the citizens of the United States of America for instance, are misconstruing the importance and role of aid. As a matter of fact, the amount of aid given out has enormous impact on the economic growth and security of the recipient countries of the world. Nigeria has been rated high on the list of the top aid recipients from the United States of America with \$419.1 million in 2018. And it is believed by many people that the major purpose for all these aid, especially, that from the USA is to reduce abject/extreme poverty that is prevalent in the country, support for the entrenchment of a durable and stable democracy that is participatory, people centered and development driven for the interest of the people and equally for the improvement of their standard of living.

Again, it is for the promotion of a good quality life of the citizens that the United States continuously indulge in giving grants, aid and other means of assistance to third world nations which Nigeria is among. Interestingly, it is worthy to note that foreign aid from the developed world has similar roles to play in other countries like Tanzania with the same aim of ameliorating poverty and to enhance economic tie between them. Some other countries for which the United Nations have made foreign aid available and accessible include Iraq, Zambia, Kenya, Egypt, Uganda, Jordan, Israel and Afghanistan among others.

Consequently, Africa's quest for foreign aid had been on the increase over the years but its impact has been problematic with high rising debt profile. Africa owed \$350 of external debt as at 2000 and above \$5 billion and \$8 billion from 1970 to 1984 respectively. To service these debts, Africa uses over 50% of earnings from export which amounts to 42.5% of the total capital inflow of Africa in 1980 (Aluko and Arowolo, 2010;4). These situations are indicators that there is a slouch pace of economic progressive growth which is largely caused by high population growth, political instability and high dependence on imports despite these aid to revamp the economy. It is against this background that Nigeria is most often times described as one of the poorest country in spite of its abundant natural and human resources.

On the contrary, there is a huge problem concerning this foreign aid because developed countries adopted it as a strategy, in terms of development and economic growth, to lure the developing better described as underdeveloped countries to conform in adopting their own policies

and programmes. The idea about aiding down trodden countries of the third world is not bad but what is wrong there is the issues associated with such aid to recipient countries, which are enormous; considering that no major progress has been achieved by the states or nations that seek to have it for their development efforts. Some scholars have adduced that the failure of foreign aid has been to the fact that they are tied to specific projects and programmes that are in the interests of the donor countries. This has been responsible for ineffectiveness of aid as postulated by several scholars such as Olatujoye, Fajobi and adeniran (2016), Girma (2015), Anjorin (2013) among others. Foreign aid discourses tend to show that aid is measured with economic growth of the recipient countries without much attention on the political and general development of the receiving countries bearing in mind that the political and economic underpinnings that are attached to foreign aid. This constitutes a challenge and has therefore become a focus of this study to unravel the political implications of the United States and Nigeria's situation.

Finally, the study seeks to investigate the impact of foreign aid on the socio-political development in the United States – Nigeria Relations with the intended objectives such as, to examine the motivating factors for foreign aid in the United States – Nigeria relations, examine the extent to which foreign aid has strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries and lastly, to determine the role of foreign aid in the socio-political development of Nigeria.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Politics is a process of resolving problems that are affecting one another in a society. It can come or be seen as a process of settlement, a process of empowerment a process of governance, a process of election, a form of power, authority or game. It can equally come or be seen as a process of consideration on matters that affects the socio-cultural, economic and political life of a people. Therefore, politics is involved in any interactions between person to person, or country to country for a better, quality and standard living. To this extent, foreign aid is viewed as been political; in the sense that there is always latent underpinning attached to the grant of foreign aid to less developed countries from the developed ones.

However, espousing the view of the traditional development economics, Habtom (2016: 50) puts it that “foreign aid is a tool designed to oversee savings gap in developing countries”. Citing Abuzied (2009) Habtom argue that the assumption or basis for foreign aid is that poor countries lack the required capital for investment in income generating ventures. Also making reference to the “Big Push” thesis, Habtom submits that aid is “the necessary catalyst for investment” capable of promoting growth and lead a pathway to economic development. He views foreign aid in terms of official development assistance and defined ODA as “the flow of official finance to the developing world that is concessional in character” in the form of grants and loans consisting of at least a grant component of 25%. Tracing the evolution of foreign aid Niyonkuru (2016) asposes that scholars of the dependency school views aid as an exploitative and self-enrichment which mostly benefit mainly the elites of that donee country. While for the neo-liberals, aid is an extortion of wealth from the poor nations that cannot be able to make good or adequate use of their endowed resources to bounce out of impoverishment. Conversely, foreign aid is not only incapable of reducing poverty rather, it is a means of fostering dependency.

Furthermore, Tamer (2012) citing Lancaster (2006) postulate that foreign aid is a non forceful transfer of general resources in form of money from a formal authority to another, be it government, NGO or any formal organization internationally with not less than 25% grant source

with the intention of advancing the human conditions in the recipient nation which could be either in cash or kind. That is to say that any help given to countries in need, be it in kind or cash should be regarded as an aid. Gukurume maintains that aid appears to have certain functions or roles, which includes being a signal of diplomatic approval, a kind of reward to a government for exhibiting certain behavior that is of interest to the donor country or government, and a tool for boosting military tie with countries fo low income. Aid can actually be given to recipient countries for the provision of infrastructure which will further boost resource extraction by donor states or counties in the receiving state or country for profit maximization. The Official Development Assistance, according to Gukurume, is the most common form of foreign aimed at promoting development and the eradication of poverty possibly.

Moreover, there are three major types of aid; humanitarian aid, systematic aid and developmental aid. Firstly, the humanitarian aid is that given to a country, people or organizations that have immediate economic, social and political challenges. The aid serves as a relief to end the suffering encountered during that emergency situations and periods such as natural disasters like flood, fire, etc. Such aid is granted in response to addressing the devastating effects of such natural calamities. While systematic aid refers to aid payments from government to government directly, which is often referred to as bilateral aid. Whereas developmental aid is that which is mobilized by developed countries in most cases to support the social and economic development in countries that are less developed countries. It is mainly targeted to alleviating poverty in the long run. Aja (1998) posit that aid is not actually a free assistance or for charity sake as they made it to look like rather it is a tactical means which the developed countries device in form of help out of generosity to countries that are in need. That foreign aid is more like a business which the donor nations use to influence the donce countries powerfully bearing in mind that their ulterior intention is to relatively control their political, economic, social, technical and military interests, out rightly ensuring that they remain dependant on them. Aja maintained that there are other forms of aid which ranges from programmes, technical, financial, project, emergency and food aids among others. He further asserts that foreign aid is motivated by self-interest, support for allies, strategic interest and pressure for international organizations. Self-interest is important as it entails the selfish interest of donor countries or institutions. Nations consider their national interest and security interest that could be creating and improving their political understanding between the recipient and donor countries. Interestingly, after the Second World War, aid to several democratic countries of the third world has been a part of the United States foreign policy objectives to ensure political closeness. In addition, foreign aid is an instrument used to support allies that could either be natural, friendly, and situational emergency allies.

Again, to get strategic interest achieved, aid is granted to ensure security ties with other countries. For instance, aid extended to South Korea and Taiwan by the United States is strategic for her security interest of containing the then USSR military presence and the prevention of the expansion of communism. The US outstanding intelligence outpost in South Africa is strategic and therefore attracted aid from the United States. This is similar to the relationship that exists between the United States and Israel (Aja, 1998:215).

On the other hand, international organizations such as the United Nations sometimes, would mount pressure on nations of the advanced world to grant aid to developing nations to enable them fulfill their demand for it. Aid is sometimes given to national governments thorough international agencies and multilateral institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and

the World Bank. Such aid is called multilateral aid, which mostly have conditionalities such as democracy and free market, among others, attached to it. There are however, three main categories of aid; Bilateral, multilateral and private. According to Gukurume (2012:4) “Bilateral foreign aid is a financial outflow from one country to another” and “accounts for about 60% of aid to developing nations”. This type of aid is sometimes in the form of loan for development payable in a long term.

Finally, development is a process of advancement that requires stable economic growth as a supportive mechanism to achieve improvement on economic social, political, environmental and human spheres of life. Development centres majorly on the welfare of man and his environment which is conversely made possible by man also. It is a concept that is being measured with three indicators which are as follows; poverty level, inequality level and unemployment level in any part of the globe. Hence, some countries are classified developed and others underdeveloped or developing as the case may be, even though all countries in the world are developing, because development does not have a bench mark or limit rather it is a continuous process in continuum. It has being argued that one can only develop based on self-reliance, self decision and determination matched with action and not by depending on aid from others to have a leap. It is equally obvious that no country is an Island but it is ideal for each country to struggle on their own based on their area of endowment and compete favourably with the international community and let each need be actually what a country wants to use in boosting their production in consideration with their area of comparative advantage in the international market. This will wholesomely and drastically reduce the quest for foreign aid and improve our economic growth and productivity.

THEORETICAL MODEL

This research work adopted the dependency theory as its theoretical framework. The dependency theory according to Obi (2005) has to do with a situation of subjecting a country's economy to be regulated by another to such an extent that the subjected one is not fit nor capable of self-decision on her own economic activities. This situation is one in which a nation is conditioned economically to be a reflection of others economic development, thereby turning the form a subject economically. The country that becomes a subject as a result of the unequal relationship is powerfully influenced by the country that has the upper hand as high income earned country. The subjected country most often times rely on the developed country/ties for their technological transfer, technical assistance, aid for development and poverty reduction. Nna (2004) posit that dependency is wholesomely concerned with a conditioning interaction that exists between countries economically whereby changes and transformation are solely depending on the development of another nations economy which is not to be benefit of the dependent nation. For instance, when country A determines what goes on in country B, automatically country A has great influence that is economically powerful over country B. Thus a dependent economy according to Nna (2004) is any economy that is having less control over her economic activities and those that are economically disempowered in its affairs in an interdependent relationship and most often incur economic losses. It is based on this unequal relationship that dependency scholars see the challenges in both economic and political spheres of life of a less developed nation as caused by their contact with the developed states, and their eventual integration into the world capitalist in which they are restricted because of the inequality in the system as suppliers of raw materials and capital goods, manufacturing and capital goods; machinery and technology.

In view of Ibaba (2006) dependency connotes a situation where one or more countries' economies are relying on another to advance, to extent that when the development of a country's economy becomes a reflection of the development of another country's economic advancement, such country is said to be depending on the other to grow. Interesting thing concerning this view is that there is an unbalanced interactive relationship and the division of labour that is in existence is undermining the less developed nations and resulting in them specializing in the producing primary products that serve as raw materials, while the developed nations specialize in the production of capital and manufactured goods. In this situation, the market control is solely in the hands of the developed nations.

Lastly, adopted the dependency theory for the purpose of this research is relevant bearing in mind that Nigeria is a developing country and finds itself in alliance with the developed United States of America particularly. Nigeria is described as a developing and for this reason does not have all it takes to advance to become a developed one, hence the need for partnership and engagement in bilateral relations with the countries of the advance societies, not excluding the United States of America indeed , the tie between Nigeria and US is a strong one that Nigeria depends on US for aid to achieve its development goals. Over the years, Nigeria depends on the United States for foreign aid to either strengthen military capacity, improvement in the electoral system, reduction in poverty rate and development in general. It is against this backdrop of unequal relationship that this research adopts the dependency theory as its theoretical framework to investigate the impact of foreign aids from the United States of America on Nigeria. More importantly, is that the proponents of this dependency theory are originally scholars from Latin America and Africa people like, Andre Gunder Frank, Dos Santos, Osvaldo Sunkel, Paul Baran, Samir Amin, Walter Rodney, Claude Ake, etc. they wrote on persistent challenge of underdevelopment in Latin America and the newly created states in Africa who were former colonies of the colonial administrations.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

For the purpose of achieving the objectives of this research, the history and analytical method were adopted. The study is a qualitative one and this would rely on secondary sources includes books, journals, articles, magazines, national dailies, the internet and other official documents containing the relevant information required for success of this research work.

DISCUSSION

AMERICA AIDS TO NIGERIA:

America has always been an advanced country that has interest in supporting Nigeria in Nigeria democratic struggle as to ensure the achievement of a stable political environment that will pave way for development to strive. In this regard, America government has shown interest in what Nigerian government is doing by giving aid to enable Nigeria government fiancé most of their selected programmes and implementation of some of their policies too. This aid assistance was meant to help strengthen our democratic institution, constraint corrupt activities promote to a very large extent good governance and improve the security level. These in turn go to ameliorate the rate of crisis, conflict or any act of terrorism and improve the standard of living of Nigerians. In addition, American aid to Nigeria was incant to help Nigerians improve in their productivity

both in Agriculture and industrial sector, their capacity to provide healthcare facilities, food production and educational sector among others (US Department of State, 2017).

Moreover, the United States of America is known to be the most generous donor in terms of foreign aid to Nigeria and many other underdeveloped and developing nations which has strengthened the bilateral trade relationship between America and Nigeria alongside other countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa. To show that US was the single donor country recorded to hugely and greatly supported other needy countries in Africa through foreign aid and foreign direct investment, the table below serve as a proof.

Table 1.1: The 2015 United States of America's Foreign Aid Donated to other Countries.

S/N	Country	Amount received
1	Afghanistan	\$US650,000,000
2	Jordan	\$US635,800,000
3	Kenya	\$US632,500,000
4	Tanzania	\$US534,500,000
5	Uganda	\$US435,500,000
6	Zambia	\$US426,525,000
7	Nigeria	\$US413,300,000

Source: Haynes (2017).

Also, it is important to know and recognize the roles America has been playing to encourage development in Nigeria through their foreign aid programme; an instance of improvement of security measures in Nigeria by the Security Governance Initiative (SGI) under president Barack Obama of America in other to improve security sector to be able to have the force, capacity and the enablement to confront the threats from any terrorist group is commendable. And to be able to carry out this security programme, the SGI embarked on a long term financial funding required to sustain the security programme, quality political leadership and commitment by other involved countries to guarantee the pursuit of the agreed policies that have been set out as their objectives (US Mission Nigeria, 2014).

As a follow up, America Defense Departments were involved in a fund raising to the tune of \$40 million global security contingency fund for countries like; Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria to use in countering terrorist groups such as Boko Haran in Nigeria (US Mission Nigeria, 2014). Equally, it is on record that the Us Agency for International Development (USAID) supported the survived family members of the abducted chibok girls through a \$4.5 million, five year (2010 – 2015) programme. The USAID introduced all kinds of training for the teams in Borno which happen to be the dean of these Boko haram. Those social workers were trained on psycho-social aspect of life as to be able to sensitize the community members (US Mission Nigeria, 2014). In addition to all these, the USAID introduced and started educational programme for the children both boys and girls in the Northern part of Nigeria through the foreign aid costing \$20 – 30 million particularly for the internally displaced people (IDP) and other affected groups. This was together with a five-year \$120 million programme equally to strengthen educational system in the Northern Nigeria to create access to educational and encourage the reading culture among the primary pupils (US Mission Nigeria, 2014).

Furthermore, Sulaiman (2016) recorded the US foreign aid received by Nigeria between 2010 – 2015 ranging to \$3 billion. Again, in January 2016, US government donated 24 Mine-Resistant and Armor-Protected (MRAP) vehicles valued \$11 million, a new warship tagged NNS Okpabana 80 foot flight deck (Sulaiman, 2016). The US government through USAID provided over \$526.7 million humanitarian help starting from 2017 that qualified them to be the single largest bilateral humanitarian donor to Nigeria (USAID, 2018). And lastly, on January 15, 2015, Johnnie Carson (Former Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs) proposed increased ties between America and Nigeria as to assist in Nigeria’s upcoming general 2015 election which was capital intensive (Carson, 2015).

IMPACT OF AMERICA’S AID TO NIGERIA

A lot of Nigerians have the believe and hope that US foreign aid to Nigeria is a sine qua non to Nigeria’s development, hence, Odusanya, Logile an Akanni (2011) opined that foreign aid from America and other countries that are classified developed have immensely contributed to the growth in Nigeria’s economy, although it does not reflect on the welfare of the citizens. In the same view, Burnside and Dolla (2004) supported their postulation by affirming that American foreign aid and others have greatly enhanced economic growth based on the condition that accommodate adequate economic policies like maintenance of small budget deficits, managing inflation and liberalization of global trade which on the contrary hurts the Nigeria’s economy.

On the contrary, despite the fact that Nigeria has been receiving aid from Africa, abject poverty still looms large number of Nigerians and the worst is that underdevelopment persists which makes it evidential that foreign aid does not affect Nigeria’s economy positively. Rather according to Fasanya and Onakoya (2012), in spite of the series of foreign aid that Nigerian government benefited in getting, yet the socio-economic development has constantly remained so gloomy. Adeyeye (2013) corroborated this view by asserting that Nigeria’s advancement indicators have remained unimproving, as a matter of fact, even worst not withstanding over forty years of constant opportunity of benefiting from foreign aid and still a good number of Nigeria’s population, about two-third (2/3) are living on below one dollar daily.

In addition to the above, Mbah and Amassoma (2014) affirmed in conformity with what some scholars are postulating that economic growth history in Nigeria, foreign aid has always played a negative impact on the economy through the down playing on the economic growth. Moreover, as noted by Adeyeye (2013:16-17) “Theft and misappropriation of development aid are thriving, too. They are a subset of Nigeria’s ubiquitous corruption – the government has not shown interest in prosecuting those who steal aid because of its tolerance for corruption generally. Government officials who steal from their country’s budget should not be expected to treat foreign grants or aid differently”. Due to the embezzlement of foreign aid money in Nigeria, it becomes difficult for foreign to impact positively on Nigeria’s economy. This was supported by the revelation of Nuhu Ribadu, the former chairman of Nigeria’s anti-corruption Agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2006 that government officials who are corrupt among them and other allies do steal these foreign aid funds. According to Ribadu, “My pet example is the Z220 billion (\$405 billion) of development assistance that has been stolen from this country since independence to date by past leaders”. In corroboration to that, Adeyeye (2013) affirmed that endemic corruption stand as a huge problem to a development which has equally affected the sole objectives of foreign aid most often are not properly channeled towards areas that

will benefit the poor masses rather being misappropriated and misplacement of priorities in terms of foreign aid disbursement from America to Nigeria. Hence, Mbah and Amassoma (2014) supported the view that it has been wrong direction and misplacement coupled with irrational channeling base on parochial interest on most aid funds to unproductive areas thereby constraining the immense potentials of given out foreign aid to help in the development processes in Nigeria.

THE POLITICS OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN AID TO NIGERIA

The politics of America's foreign aid to Nigeria is very tactical, in the sense that America has the intention and ultimate set goal of maintaining or perpetuating their leadership role after the second world war. Therefore, they give out foreign aid to underdeveloped African and other countries of the world with the intention to curb or ameliorate poverty level and help to institutionalize stable democracies all over the world. America government recognizes that aid giving creates a symbolic relationship between the donor and the recipient country, and to a very large extent, American government has been benefiting from aid giving. Aid giving has paved so much ways for American government to benefit economically, socially and political too. Future trade gains in terms of creating market for American goods and services, influencing the political development of the recipient country as well as systematically changing the social cultural ways of life of the people, thereby, appearing to claim ethnocentric to the termed people of the underdeveloped countries.

However, the politics of foreign aid by American government can also be viewed differently in the sense that America has the intention to empower countries that might develop to join the empowerment team. For instance, South Korea that was transformed as a poverty-ridden nation through the USAID help to now an independent contributor to financial and humanitarian aid all over the globe (Harounoff, 2018). Now the question is why hasn't Nigeria transformation to be developed as to join donor country category? It is clear that Nigerians have a leap and climb the rung of the ladder of development, except through American foreign aid. Again, America made our political leaders to believe that America is a safe land for their loots. American government keeps giving aid to Nigeria considering Nigeria strategic position without the sub-Saharan Africa region in terms of untapped commercial market opportunities for their goods and services that will eventually boost American business considering the population targeted.

Moreover, despite the pitfalls of the politics of aid between America and Nigeria, there are some virtues. This corroborate with what David Cameron, former British prime minister observed and said, as the time of New York University interview in 2012, that "there is a huge agenda here. It is time to stop speaking simply about the quantity of aid and start talking about what I call the golden thread: this, he explain, is his idea that long development through aid only happens if there is a golden thread of stable government, lack of corruption, human rights, the rule of law and transparent information democratic ideals of the west (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2014:1-2). Glaringly, American foreign aid to Nigeria government how much they are interested in seeing Nigeria develop. Rather, it is an erroneous impression because American foreign aid has been couched on the politics of supremacy of American policies, to be seen as First among equals in all sense of it, globally.

Finally, it is a proven case that Nigeria has received an avalanche of foreign aid over the years from America without a corresponding correlation habit of showing the ulterior motive for help aid to Nigeria which often cumulatively point in the direction of bolstering her interests in socio-economics and political sphere; the culture of financial transparency and accountability is

lacking in Nigeria, consequently, corrupt division of foreign aid has officials to the extent that official money is seen as private fund. Most of the neither received nor borrowed funds are diverted to private banks accounts; however, foreign aid from America to Nigeria have strengthened bilateral relations between United State and Nigeria.

CONCLUSION

There have been nuances in the understanding of foreign aid in America to Nigeria, inherits of its important on the development of Nigeria. Different scholars have equally condemned and discourage its continuation because there is not much to show on its impact, despite the ulterior motive of the donor country and the portrayed intentions. Most of the challenges underdeveloped countries are facing includes, corruption, poor maintenance, short lifespan of projects and non-prioritization of needs before delivering aid, poor and inadequate inspection, etc. foreign aid intervention has recognizably contributed although not as envisage to the development and always will contribute, no matter how small when ones certain measures are put in place to ensure achievement of the set goals or objectives behind the aid giving. Again, foreign aid cannot be rejected by underdeveloped countries of Africa, especially, Nigeria with her huge population that is being ravaged by object poverty, will always need such foreign aid from America or elsewhere to help herself and her population. Nigerian as one of the underdeveloped countries benefiting from this foreign aid should device a means or better approaches of implementation in order to ensure effectiveness and efficiency in allocation of the aid funds delivery in accordance with the critical restricting in respect to the process surrounding foreign and from America, interestingly, Nigeria as a recipient of America's foreign aid, must design and structure a radical mechanism for coping with the conditionality's attached to them rather than complaining of its aftermath which we were of course, aware of before accepting the foreign aid offer. More so, foreign aid is not often comes with a hot of ideological underpinnings intended to impose one country's ideology, on the contrary, to have dominium and even external control on the recipient country. This is the time picture of how foreign aid and technical help have structured the relationship of Nigeria and America.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

To this end, we recommend as thus;

- ❖ Nigeria should as a matter of urgency, place more emphasis on technology development as an effort and measure to broaden and strengthen the industrial sector to promote exportation and discourage so much importation.
- ❖ There is need for American government and other foreign contours to guarantee that they are providing foreign aid to truly assist the underdeveloped countries get out of poverty and improve their standard of living.
- ❖ There is need for diversification and restructuring of Nigeria's economy as to boost agricultural production and not only developing on petro-naira oil production alone
- ❖ It is ideal for Nigerian to accept foreign aid which seriously and generally need as well as channeling the aid to fund projects and programs that are development oriented as to facilitate economic growth that will equally engender national development
- ❖ Nigeria should Shum or rejects the offer for foreign aid that will mortgage her sovereignty and destroy her self-development processes.

- ❖ There is need for Nigerian political leaders to embrace good government which is necessary for the achievement of national development when resources are harnessed and mobilized properly for the attainment of national development set goals.
- ❖ More importantly, anti-corruption agencies are to be strengthened to stabilize the officials and their operations as to curb corrupt practices and punish offenders punitively.
- ❖ Nigeria should maintain their bilateral relationship with America with caution because no country is an island, because there is need for interactive economic relative between both of them. Their partnership must be guided strategically with wisdom for Nigerian government to benefit.

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