# Institutional Decay and Failure of Institutions, The Rise of Violent Conflicts and Security Challenges in Nigeria and Way Forward.

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*Abstract*

*Conflict is not a new phenomenon in the world, it is traceable to first and second world wars or even earlier, violent conflict is however new and alien to Nigeria as it has not been part of our culture and tradition, people have often live in peace and harmony from time immemorial. However, over the past three decades, Nigeria society has characteristically been plagued into violent conflicts occasioned by insurgence, terrorism, kidnapping, banditry and armed robbery among others, this is attributable to institutional decay, declining ethical values, break down in the family system and social organizations (clan), cultural infiltration, eroding traditional institutions and values, falling standard of education, politicization of the military institution, radicalization of region and religious institutions and agencies among others. This research work relying on the structural functionalism theory of Emile Durkheim and Talcott Parson, view society as a complex system with interconnected parts that work together to maintain stability and meet societal needs, this work re-examines the falling standard in the roles and responsibilities of societal institutions in the maintenance of societal norms, values and the maintenance of law and order which have led to violent conflicts and breakdown of law and order. The method used in the collection of data is secondary sources such as publications articles, journals, periodicals, textbooks, Newspaper as well as internet material. Findings reveals that the poor state of societal institutions (state and non-state) institutions are responsible for increasing violent conflicts and breakdown of law and order, it is the belief of the researcher that concerted effort need to be made to resuscitate and energize societal institutions beginning from the family level to the state institutions such as the military and civil service. This is the only way to ensure and enhance social stability and harmony.*

*Keywords: Failure, Institutions, Institutional decay, Rise, Security Challenges, Violence conflicts*

**Introduction and background to the study:**

Colonialism and liberation struggles in Africa, the Middle East and Asia have left various legacies, including divisive and militarized politics and fierce struggles for power and land. Post-liberation leaders in some countries have sustained these dynamics, retaining power through neo -patrimonial networks, state capture, militarization and coercion. Studies have shown that in some cases, they have promoted ideologies of 'Us versus Them', excluding and marginalizing other groups. The domination of access to state structures and resources by any one leader, group or political party to the exclusion of others exacerbates social divisions. It may provide incentives for excluded leaders to mobilize groups to protest and engage in violent rebellion. Lindeman, S., 2008 posited that Sub-Saharan Africa is the world's most conflict-intensive region. But why have some African states experienced civil war, while others have managed to maintain political stability? The ability

of post-colonial states in Sub-Saharan Africa to maintain political stability depends on the ability of the ruling political parties to overcome the historical legacy of social fragmentation.

Conflict as often said is obviously part of social life and indeed inevitable in every social organization or society, it therefore presupposes that with or without Colonization or Political Struggles conflict is still band to occur in social organization or communities, what is important therefore is how to manage and resolve conflicts and to nipped it in the bud before it become violent. However, some conflicts by nature are violent and can only be curtail or resolve through more violent ways or means, it suffices to say some conflicts are violent conflict by their nature and character and requires non-conventional approaches in dealing with them such as insurgence, terrorism and counter terrorism, gorilla war fare, banditry and kidnapping among others. Nigeria as a country has witnessed series of conflicts some ethno-tribal, religion and communal in nature, these has been an aged long issues and to which government has taken measures and in fact in some instance established adhoc and permanent institutions to resolve them, this has no doubt assisted in curtailing and reducing the rate and spread of conflicts. Of late however the scenario and dynamics of conflict has changed from the hitherto communal, ethno-tribal and religious war and conflicts to sophisticated violent conflicts and war such as the Boko- Haram insurgence and terrorist conflict in North-East Nigeria, banditry in North-West, kidnapping for ransom in North-Central among others.

It is imperative to explore and know the causes and dynamics of conflicts in Nigeria, especially, the new wave of violent conflicts, this research work posit that violent conflicts is occasioned by institutional decay from the smallest social intuition to the wider political organization and international institutions and organizations i.e from family institution, state institution , educational institutions, security institutions (Police, Army, and other paramilitary institutions  to international organizations such as UNO, AU and ECOWAS among others. This research work will examine the role this institution has been playing and how the neglect of their roles or decay of these institutions has led to the emergence of violent conflicts threatening the survival of the country as a whole. societies are constantly under internal and external "stresses" corruption, youth unemployment, racial discrimination, religious competition, foreign invasion, and international terrorism. These stresses can become violent conflicts if we lack the "institutions" to manage them. A typical institution is an independent judiciary, an elected parliament, or a police force.  When those are bad or bent, not only are people more likely to go at each other, they are also more likely to go at each other over and over again conflict becomes a repetitive trap.

**Statement of Research Problem:**
Violent conflict is not only becoming a threat to human society but a pointer to more dangerous and diver-stating future  for countries and  the world at large , the increasing spate of violent conflicts across the globe which has resulted in killings of thousands , destruction of properties worth billions of naira and displacement of people making them refuges in other regions is not only an issue of concern but an issue that calls for more pro-active actions from all and sundry to bring the situation under control and to make life meaningful for all. Over two decades Nigeria as a nation has been under tumult, occasioned by the activities of insurgents, terrorists and other criminal groups engaged in banditry, kidnapping, cattle resulting among others, it will be unfair to say that government has not done enough in term of taking measures or strategies towards resolving the crises and to pave way for peace, progress and tranquility. Over the years it appears these established societal institutions are not only failing in the performance of their assigned responsibilities but they are also deteriorating and decaying and this has led to increasing rate of

violent conflicts in the social system with its multiplier effect on the society, lawlessness, and destruction of properties and killing of thousands of people.

**Aim and Objectives:**
The aim of this research work is bring to limelight the decay and failure of institutions in performing their socially assigned responsibilities and role in the society. There is no doubt in that societal institutions have specific roles to play in maintaining the social system and enhancing social cohesion and harmony.
1. To assess the role and functions of social institutions and organizations in enhancing social cohesion.
2. To view if social institutions and organizations are living up-to-date in the discharge of their established roles and responsibilities.
3. To examine the factors hindering or limiting social institutions and organizations from performing their assigned roles and responsibilities.
4. To seek ways and measures towards improving the roles and functions of social institutions and organizations in enhancing social order and harmony.

**Research Questions**:
1. What are the roles and functions of social institutions and organizations in enhancing social cohesion and social stability?
2. Are social institutions and organizations living up to expectation in the discharge of their responsibilities?
3. What are the factors hindering or limiting social institutions from performing their assigned roles and responsibilities?
4. What measures need to be taken towards improving the roles and functions of social institutions and organizations in enhancing social order and harmony?

**Method of Data collection**:
This research work employed field survey in the collection of data, through the instrumentality of questionnaire and interview to elicit relevant information from respondents in the area of study. Structured questionnaire was designed in line with the stated objectives of the research which is aimed at assessing the roles and functions of social institutions and organizations in maintaining social cohesion and harmony.

**Significance or Importance of the Study**:
This research work is of varied importance, especially given the prevalence of high rate of violence conflicts, kidnapping, banditry, terrorism, insurgency and lawlessness in our society. The research which aimed to highlight the decadence of social institutions and organizations as been the main reasons for the violence further elucidated on the level of decay of different institutions and organizations and the factors responsible for this decay. The research work also seek ways and measures to enhance the functioning and operations of social organizations and institutions, the research work will be useful to government as it has provided suggestions and recommendations on how to strengthen the performance of social institutions and organizations for a better and harmonious society.

**Literature review:**

The proliferation of violent activities by violent extremist groups such as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunnah Lida'awati wal-Jihad, also known as Boko Haram, has increasingly destabilized the security situation in Nigeria and threatens to contribute to further violent activity in the North-East region. The nation has long suffered from the deadly actions of Boko Haram, a locally rooted terrorist organization operating in the country's northeast region, and the Islamic State of West Africa, a local offshoot of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (Marrone et al., 2020). Due to the country's high level of youth unemployment, poverty and illiteracy, the tendencies of violent extremism have risen high over the years. Religious fanatical movements and irresponsible statements by political and religious leaders have also been a significant source of unrest.

The nature and character as well as the mission of Boko Haram terrorist group and the extent of destructions of lives and property over the past few years were brightly exemplified by (Egiegba Agbiboa, 2013). According to Agbiboa, judging from the activities of the terrorist group their aim is to wrest control and take power from Nigerian government and establish their own Islamic state based on the Sharia law.

In line Daniel Egiegba Agbiboa (2013b), Onah (2014) posited that Boko Haram as an insurgent group could be traced to earlier Islamic fundamentalists such as Maitassine in the 80s as well as resulting from the country's political system entrenched in ethnicity, poverty and corruption. According to him, it is the political system in Nigeria that has brought about the present realities of corruption, poverty, and underdevelopment throughout the country. Religion has only served, especially in Northern Nigeria, to ignite these realities into a violent flame. He argues that if these systemic deficiencies which exist in most places are not checked, religious disturbances such as the Boko Haram violence would continue to exist. Such violence has benefited fundamentalist entrepreneurs or groups. However, such violence most often provokes the government into counter-violence. The cycle of violence and counter-violence then enables the government to keep the people in check, even without addressing their demands, and enables it to dominate and exploit society without hindrance. He argues that what government must do to tackle this systemic violence is to use a combination of poverty reduction strategies, anti-corruption drives, development efforts, law enforcement and military engagement (where necessary), and dialogue to try and bring about lasting peace, particularly in the North East and Nigeria in general.

In assessing the menace of Boko Haram jihadist group with its use of terror and bombings at strategic installations within Nigeria and the Chad Basin, it seems the effort of the federal government of Nigeria seem not to have yielded any reprieve since the terror acts are continuing unabated. Faluyi et al. (2019), using the systems and state fragility theoretical framework of analysis, it shows that the Nigerian weak state aided the emergence of the group and has also sustained it through its weak state. Faluyi et al (2019) argues that weak policies and weak institutions have caused poverty and inequality, unprotected border, and political instability, and to combat the Boko Haram scourge will mean addressing these issues.
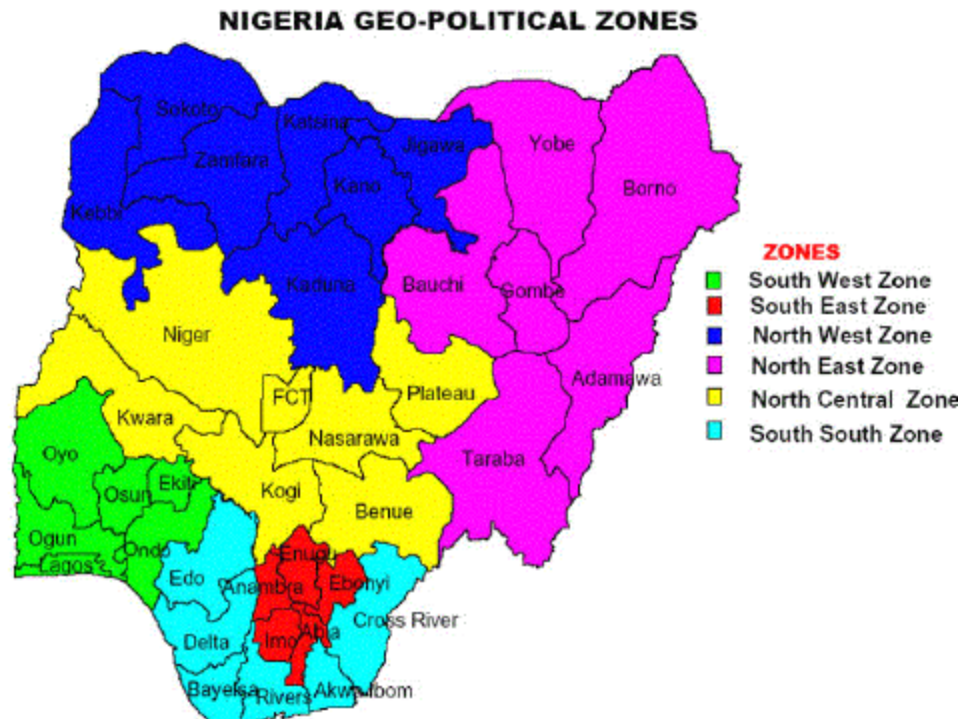
**Theoretical Framework of Analysis:**

Theoretical Framework of Analysis**:** Are explanation for issues and subject matters of discussion which give solid bases for argument and analysis of any subject under examination and in most cases must have been used or employed by researchers and intellectuals in researches. In this paper structural functionalism theory is employed. Structural functionalism is a sociological theory that

views society as a complex system where each part (like institutions, relationships, and roles) contributes to the overall stability and functioning of the whole. It's a macro-level perspective that focuses on how different parts of society are interconnected and work together to maintain order and solidarity. Structural functionalism sees society as a system, similar to a human body, where each part has a specific function and works together with other parts to maintain the system's overall health and stability. Institutions (like family, education, economy), social structures (like class, gender, race), and social roles are all interconnected and interdependent Structural functionalists analyze the functions (intended and unintended consequences) of social structures and institutions, as well as the potential for dysfunctions (negative consequences that disrupt the system's equilibrium).

**Scope and Limitation of the Study:**

The scope of this research is the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a population of about 250 million people according to Nigeria National Population Commission report of 2006, it has about three hundred ethnic groups spread across the six geo-political regions and made up of thirty-six states and the federal capital Abuja.



*Source : google*

**Findings of this research work:**

This research work is centered on exploring the level of decay in our societal institutions beginning from the family as the basic foundation of society where lies the fundamental responsibility of child bearing, rearing and upbringing to inculcating the right values and etiquette into the children and adults. The collapse of community, clans and lineages as well as collapse of social institutions, organizations and religious bodies, proliferation of religion sects and doctrines, cultism, religious fanaticism. In the wider scope is the collapse of state institutions such as civil service, police,

military, government departments and ministries, agencies and extra-governmental departments as well as the collapse of international organizations such as United Nations, Africa Union, ECOWAS, and other sub-regional organizations which had hitherto play prominent roles in social cohesion, stability and peace.

It is important to briefly elucidate on some of this institutions and to illustrate how they have collapsed or failed in the discharge of their responsibilities and how it has affected the larger social system as exemplified in rising spate of violent conflicts and near collapse of the social system. The family system whose responsibility is child bearing, rearing and upbringing has failed grossly in carrying out its roles and responsibilities and therefore has led to the loss of family values, lack of respect for constituted authorities, moral decadence, poor upbringing, high level of immorality, fornication, adultery, divorce, single parenting, scattered family, homosexuality, lesbianism and all sort of unwarranted social vices, domestic and gender based violence which are unchecked and has metamorphosed to large scale violence , killings , sexual assaults and suicide among others, all these can be attributed to collapse of the family system, which has hitherto been held in very high esteem in the building of a virile and strong society where love, unity and progress once existed and rein. Therefore, the family system must as a matter of urgency be revived, strengthened and re-energized to play its fundamental role if society must be at peace with herself.

Similarly, Family lineage, clans and extended family are no longer of relevance in modern time, their roles and responsibilities has been abrogated as they no longer serve as building blocks for the society their roles and responsibilities has been taken over by social organizations such as clubs, associations and party joints among others. Unless such social blocks are revived and strengthened it will be difficult if not impossible to reduce the growing level of violent conflicts in our social life and the society at large.

Closely related to the above is the level of decay in the state institutions such as the Judiciary which is supposed to be the last hope of the common man. The parliament (National, State Assembly and the Local Government Councils, the Police, Ministries, Government

Departments, Agencies ,Boards and Parastatals as well as other security institutions such as the Military, Civil Defense, Immigration, Custom among others are fully organized and having the necessary tools, equipment and Professionalism to maintain law and order as well as prevent occurrence of conflicts. The military institution which is supposed to protect people's life and property as well as protecting the territorial integrity of the nation, have been engaged in internal rivalry of supremacy among themselves , lack of modern equipment and technology, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) necessary to enable them track and forestall breakdown of law and order and to prevent violent conflicts. It is important to say that Nigerian military has over the years been known to be well trained and disciplined so much that they have been involved in Peace keeping operation within West Africa sub-region and beyond. In fact Nigerian military was engaged in the fights in Liberia, Somalia, Darfur and many other African countries where peace keeping operation were undertaken.

In fact, Nigeria military took part in the Second World War (WW II) (1945), a war between America and Japan as triggered by the bombing of Port-Habe and the subsequent bombing of Hiroshima Nagasaki (America largest Sea Port and the capital of Japan). These are illustrations of the position and place of Nigeria military in conflict prevention and the maintenance of law and order unfortunately the power and strength of Nigerian military seems to have been over weight with the outbreak of insurgence and terrorist activities in the 90s and 2000 Boko-Haram Insurgents and Terrorist groups, because the military seems incapable of addressing the issues coupled with increasing rate of banditry, kidnapping, cattle, rustling and armed robbery. There is the urgent need

to restructure and provide the military with modern equipment, (ICT), and to train and retrain the military to cope with modern warfare and challenges. Other military and para-military institutions are in no way different from the military in term of organization, professionalism and logistics, it therefore requires holistic effort in resuscitating and professionalizing the military and other paramilitary organizations if we must achieve a peaceful society where violent conflict will be non-existing.

Government departments and institutions are not spared in the decay as many of them are either redundant or obsolete in the performance of their roles and responsibilities, either in the provision of social services, welfare or provision of basic needs of life such as water, electricity, health care facilities among others. It can be argued that in the 80s and 90s government institutions have over the years lived up to expectation in the discharge of their responsibilities and provision of goods and services for the population, unfortunately however, this seems to have gone to the trash as many government departments are unable to carry out their roles and responsibilities in meeting the necessary provision for citizens either as a result of inadequate funds, mismanagement or corruption and embezzlement, this has led to agitations by different group and societies and subsequently eruption of conflicts. Civil servants and the civil service: are entangled in this decay, civil service rules have been abandoned, high level of indiscipline, gross misconduct, corruption and embezzlement, fund diversion and misappropriation, direct stealing of government funds are the order of the day.

Religious organizations are not in any way left out from the decadence in our social life, ideally religious institutions are supposed to lead the way in moral inculcation, value building, uprightness and Peaceful co-existence, unfortunately, they have turned to business venture and political vendors, while some have turned to religious fanatics and avenue to exploit the masses in the name of preaching and winning souls for the hereafter.

Worst more is the educational system which is the bedrock of teaching, learning, knowledge and skill acquisition. This system has over the years become a shadow of itself as opposed to what it used to be in early 1970,80s 90s and 2000 respectively, statistics from ministry of education and the Bureau of statistics shows falling standard in education with high degree of out of school children, poor funding of education and high rate of school failures and drop outs, which consequently affects the entire system, a survey of schools around the country indicates closure of schools colleges and dilapidated structures of school building with no possible hope of reviving them for future use. This point to a very dark future for the up- coming generations and yet unborn. Similarly, examination malpractice by examination bodies, schools as well as the students have made educational qualifications questionable and thus, merit as bases of appointment doubtful.

Except and unless something urgent is done to revive the educational system we may be toying a pact of possible anarchy and war, because the easiest way to destroy a nation is to destroy its educational system it is the easiest way to destroy a nation and Nigeria is no doubt heading toward that situation in the very near future if something drastic is not done to forestall it.

Traditional institutions: There is no doubt in that traditional institutions such as the Emirate Council, Oyo Mesi, the Igbo Village Clannish Segmented Administrative system, have all played significant roles in peace building and the maintenance of law and order in different parts of Nigerian society right from precolonial, colonial and post-colonial periods, However, with the advent of modern local administration (Modern Local Government Administration) which changed the hitherto structure, power, functions and role of traditional rulers and traditional institutions, they therefore become symbol of authority without power to perform their hitherto

functions and responsibilities of maintenance of law and order while modern local government become toothless bulldog incapable of doing anything meaningful.

The Judiciary which is the last hope of the common man is expected to be truly independent to play her role as the protector of human rights and ensuring justice unfortunately, the judicial system in Nigeria is bedeviled with high level corruption and political interference by those in the helm of affairs, justice is only for the rich why the poor suffers in silence amidst intimidation and frustration from the power that be. The court system is polarized from the lower level (Area Courts) to the highest level Supreme courts with unending adjournment of cases which are often thrown into the trash at the end of the day.

The Parliament (National Assembly) Senate and House of Representatives at the Federal level and State House of Assemblies at the State level and Local Government Councils at the Local Government levels have become mere rubber stamp in the hand of the Executive Arm of Government, with little or no relevance in the process of initiating, debating and enacting laws and orders necessary for the administration of the state. In fact, instead of the National Assembly (Senate and House of Representative) to engage in meaningful deliberation that will improve and better the lives of citizen they are always engaged in political wrangling, Budget paddling, sexual harassment and intimidation such as the one between the Senate President Hon. Godswill Akpabio and Senator Natasha representing Kogi Central Senatorial District, an issue of national embarrassments and disgrace, which should have warranted the Senate President to voluntarily step down and protect his integrity but choose to go to court and intimidate Natasha, because they have the cake and the knife and can change the tone and direction of the game, (He who blows the piper dictate the tone of the piper and the steps of the dance) But least they forget that the Heavenly Father, Almighty God dictates and determine the direction of all things including their creation, existence and death), least they forget also Senator Ikwueremadu lavishing in UK prison, this should serve as lesson for them if really they know and fear God.

Closely related to this is the case of Ordinary President, Mallam Ahmed Isa, whose where about is unknown for sometimes now after his talk on the issue of victimization of Senator Natasha over alleged sexual harassment by Senate President, Godswill Akpabio, in effect Nigeria current 10th National Assembly can be said to be the worst since the country return to civil rule in 1979. There is no doubt that something urgent needed to be done to safe the declining image and reputation of Nigeria 10th National Assembly, most importantly the Upper House (Senate) under the leadership of Senator Godswill Akpabio, whose image as well as the House (Senate) over which he presides is highly denting.

The Police: Plays a very important role in maintenance of law and order in any nation. In fact the main reason for establishing the police is for maintenance of internal security, law and order and for protecting lives and property of citizen preventing conflicts through ensure peaceful co-existence among citizen and promoting quick dispensation of justice, Nigeria Police Force (NPF) have no doubt doubled as stated in the past and had to a long extent ensured the maintenance of law and order while protecting the citizenry, it is however, disturbing to note that over the last few decades the Nigeria Police Force has not only failed in discharging its responsibilities of maintaining law and order, it has also become instrument of harassment, intimidation and sabotage through collaborating with criminal elements within the system such as armed robbers, kidnappers and bandits cases of police involvement and supplying arms to criminal element are abound in different places across the country with some lingering in courts and prisons.

Other societal institutions are by no means left out of the decay, as many have not only derailed from their constitutionally assigned responsibility but engages in dirty activities and games such

as embezzlement of public funds diversion and high level corruption and stealing of public funds, institution such as National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Media houses, Political parties, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO s), Civil Society Organizations, Community Development Associations and even private organizations are not left out in the decay of institution as a cause for violent conflicts, this institutions need to be revive and made more functional and responsive in enhancing peaceful coexistence in society.

It suffices to say, instead of the police institution to protect people's life and property as well as help in the maintenance of law and order, it has become an institution for aiding and abetting crime and criminal activities. Urgent measure is required to reposition Nigeria Police force if it must continue to play her role of maintaining law and order as well as protecting people's life and property. This can be done through training and retraining of the personnel to improve on their professionalism, providing and equipping them with modern equipment and facilities, logistics and improving their condition of service, (Salaries, remunerations and allowances). Other para-military agencies and organizations must be revived and made functional and responsive to national calls and emergencies as at when required and needed

In summary, it should be noted that corruption and increase in levels of violent conflicts in Nigeria can be attributed to decay of societal institutions beginning from the family which is the basic societal institution to communal, state, national and international institutions. In this respect International organizations, such as United Nations, (UN) African Union (AU) Economic Community of African State (ECOWAS) as by no means left out as they have derailed from their constitutional established functions to other less important functions and have been hijacked by few World Leaders such as President Triumph of America, France, Britain and China among others. The chapters of these organizations have been remodeled or fine-tuned to suit the interest of global capital in the name of globalization and the search for global capital. It is high time these organizations are restructured, made more democratic and open and the excesses of some leader checkmated before it's too late, President Triumph of America should be made to know that he is the President of America and not World President as he portrait now. United Nations (UN0 should be more pro-active and responsible

**Inter-Security Agency Rivalry**:   One of the significant and notable area of institutional decay is between and among the military institutions, this is a recent and current issue and development in our body polity, where members of the military see themselves as rivals competing among themselves for supremacy, seniority and giving conflicting instruction from higher level to the lower level among the file and ranks, thereby creating ill feelings, mistrust, disloyalty and unguided utterances which are sometimes provoking and intimidating leading physical assault , killings and destruction of property among the members of the armed forces, Army, Police, Custom, Immigration, Civil Defense among others, this certainly absurd and different from what used to be known of the military in those days where the principle of Esprit de Corp  plays and over rules all other divides among them, given them a sense of belonging unity of purpose and of direction to unanimously face war and challenges at all time and in which ever capacity without minding whose ox is at stake. This in no doubt shows decay and death of professionalism in the military and para-military.

Closely related to this is the high level of corruption and embezzlement among high ranking officers within the military and Para-military organizations even to the highest offices such as National Security Adviser, Chief of Staff, (Army, Navy, Air force), Inspector General of Police, (IGP), Military Heads of Brigades, Garrisons and diversion of funds meant for procuring Arms

and other equipment by Military high ranking Chiefs such as General Salim Bashir Magashi, Minister of Defense 2019-2023, Mansur Mohammed Dan Ali 2015- 2019. Mohammed Rabiu Kwankwaso 1999-2015, Mohammed Badaru Abubakar 2023 - till date. and National Security Advisers. Ibrahim Dasuki, Patrick Owoeye Azizah and Nuhu Ribadu among others.

**Contribution to Knowledge:**
The essence of carrying out any research work is to see how it contributes to knowledge and advance the frontier of learning and understanding, in this respect this research work provides useful and insight into the level of institutional decay in Nigeria from the family level to the national and international levels such as UN, AU, and ECOWAS among others, the issue of institutional failure or degeneration of societal institutions is not a new phenomenon it has been an age long discuss. Beginning from the failure of the League of Nations the first International organization formed to ensure peace and security after the first World War WWI, it was the failure of the League of Nation that led to the Second World War WWII in 1945 and to whose credit the peace and harmony in the world today can be partly attributed, Therefore, it is imperative to say that societal institutions and organizations must not just be set up just for the purpose of setting them up they must be seen to be functional and playing the role they are established to play particularly in the maintenance of law and order, justice and fairness, security of lives and properties and enhancing social cohesion and harmony.

Inferably this research work highlights the necessity to revive and strengthen social institutions such as family, lineage, clan, religious bodies and organizations, the police, military, judiciary, educational system, government institutions and agencies (ministries and extra-ministerial departments, regional and international organizations such as United Nation(UN), Africa Union (AU) and ECOWAS among others

There is the need to make these organizations awake and alive to their responsibilities in term of peace building, provision of security, harmony and entrenching justice among people and nations, it can be argued that eruption of violent conflicts has their roots in injustices, lack of fair play, discrimination, denial and outright humiliation and frustration by one powerful group over the other. There is the need to address social issues such as basic needs of life, food, clothing, shelter, health care provisions and services and to as well alienate poverty, reduce level of unemployment. Hunger and starvation which are the root cause of violent conflicts in most societies especially in third world countries. Africa, Asia and Latin America among others.

This research emphasizes the need to ensure the justice prevails on most issues within the domestic and international system. The clamor for revenge and retaliation by one individual on another or by one group over and other or by states over another state or worst more by one nation over another such as Russian and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine are all outcry of injustices, lack of fair play and struggle of scarce resources or outcry of marginalization and political intimidation by one country over the other.

**Recommendations:**
1. There is the need to revive and strengthen social institutions such as the family, lineage, clan, religious bodies and organizations, the police, military, judiciary, educational system, government institutions and agencies (ministries and extra-ministerial departments, regional and international organizations such as United Nation(UN), Africa Union (AU) and ECOWAS among others

2. Urgent measure is required in repositioning Nigeria Police force, if it must continue to play her role of maintaining law and order as well as protecting people's life and property.

3. The Judiciary which is the last hope of the common man is expected to be truly independent to play her role as the protector of human rights and ensuring justice and fair play in the society and the polity.

4. The principle of Esprit de Corp, which plays and over rules all other divides among the military, given them sense of belonging, unity of purpose and direction to unanimously face war and challenges at all-time can be said to have been eroded. It is important to acknowledge the fact that Nigeria military unanimously fought and won Nigeria civil war in 1967 -1970 and also partake in peace keeping operations in West- Africa countries and beyond, there is no doubt that the same military can still win the current insurgent, terrorist, banditry, kidnapping , armed robbery and other criminal activities, the current waves of violent conflicts no doubt shows decay and death of professionalism in the military and para-military organization as they can be said to lack the capability to deal with the situation or to bring the crisis under control.

5. Traditional institutions: traditional institutions such as the Emirate Council, Oyo Mesi, the Igbo Village Clannish Segmented Administrative system, have all played significant roles in peace building and the maintenance of law and order and need to be strengthened.

6. There is the urgent need to revive the educational system through adequate funding and provision of adequate infrastructural facilities, that will make teaching and learning possible and desirable.

7. The need to provide the military modern equipment and technology, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities necessary to enable them track and forestall breakdown of law and order and to prevent violent conflicts.

8. Institutions such as Mass Mobilization for Social Justice and Economic Recovery (MAMSER) which is now reoffered to as National Orientation Agency (NOA) whose mandate is social orientation, value building and moral resuscitation in the citizenry and the entire social system should be urgently revived and made to play her roles and be more functional. The Maas media need to be revitalized and made more effective in value re-orientation and cultural heritage programs as it were in those days, rooted in our values and ethical ways of life.

**Conclusion:**

In essence, It can be argued that virtually all our social institutions and organizations are either decaying or are already decayed, beginning from the family level which is the basic institution responsible for child bearing and upbringing, lineage system, clan, community associa tions, educational institutions, (Teachers and learners), religious institutions and bodies, Police, Military, and Para-military, (Custom Service, Civil Defense, Immigration) among others, Judiciary, Mass Media, Traditional Institutions and Rulers, Civil Service, Govern mental Institutions and Departments, Agencies, Boards and Parastatals, National Youth Service Corps (NYSC), Public and Private institutions and organizations among others need re-orientation if we must imbibed the right values, attitudes and ethics that will enhance a harmonious society where fairness, justice and equity can be guaranteed only then can we have a peaceful and harmonious society, devoid of violent conflicts.

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