



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

SIT-TIGHT SYNDROME IN POLITICAL RENEWAL IN NIGERIA

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By

MISS ABOYADE OPEYEMI

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,
in Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

June 2018

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DEDICATION

TO

My Father: Jehovah Rohi



Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment
of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

SIT-TIGHT SYNDROME IN POLITICAL RENEWAL IN NIGERIA

By

MISS ABOYADE OPEYEMI

June 2018

Chairman : Professor Zaid Ahmad, PhD
Faculty : Human Ecology

Political instability, degrading state of the Nigerian polity and a constant need to validate the legality of its democracy is a riptide to the political renewal process. This study examines the underlying factors of sit-tight syndrome and its effects to political development in Nigeria from the onset of democratic practice in the country. The study tends to answer important questions on political decay via failures of having a viable government for years. This study employs the quantitative method in providing a framework of the problem. In the analysis section, a statistical test was performed to bring more understanding on the survey done categorically to focus on the objectives of the study. This study found three major factors that formed the basis of analysis namely: (i) god fatherism, (ii) corruption and (iii) electoral process all impactful on the political renewal in Nigeria. They act as determinant factors that can affect the political renewal system in Nigeria. Finally, the study recommends that the research should be encouraged in the academia and the Nigerian government can focus on the identified loopholes to enhance political development and safeguard the future of the nation.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master Sains

SINDROM SIT-TIGHT DAN PEMBAHARWAN POLITIK DI NIGERIA

Oleh

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Ketidakstabilan politik, kemerosotan politik Nigeria, dan keperluan berterusan untuk mengesahkan undang-undang demokrasi adalah halangan kepada proses pembaharuan politik. Kajian ini meneliti faktor asas sindrom 'sit-tight' dan kesannya kepada pembangunan politik di Nigeria dari permulaan amalan demokratik di negara ini. Kajian ini cenderung untuk menjawab soalan-soalan penting mengenai kerosakan politik melalui kegagalan kerajaan menerajui pemerintahan dalam tempoh yang lama. Kajian ini menggunakan kaedah kuantitatif dalam mempamerkan struktur permasalahan. Dalam bahagian analisis, ujian statistik dilakukan untuk membawa lebih banyak pemahaman tentang kaji selidik yang dilakukan secara kategori untuk memberi tumpuan kepada objektif kajian. Kajian ini menemui tiga faktor utama yang membentuk asas analisis iaitu: (i) Godfatherism, (ii) rasuah dan (iii) proses pemilihan yang memberi kesan kepada pembaharuan politik di Nigeria. Mereka bertindak sebagai faktor penentu yang boleh menjejaskan sistem pembaharuan politik di Nigeria. Akhirnya, kajian ini menyarankan bahawa penyelidikan harus digalakkan dalam peringkat akademik dan kerajaan Nigerian boleh memberi tumpuan kepada kelemahan untuk meningkatkan pembangunan politik dan menjamin masa depan negara.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 4 April 2018 to conduct the final examination of Miss Aboyade Opeyemi on her thesis entitled "Sit-Tight Syndrome in Political Renewal in Nigeria" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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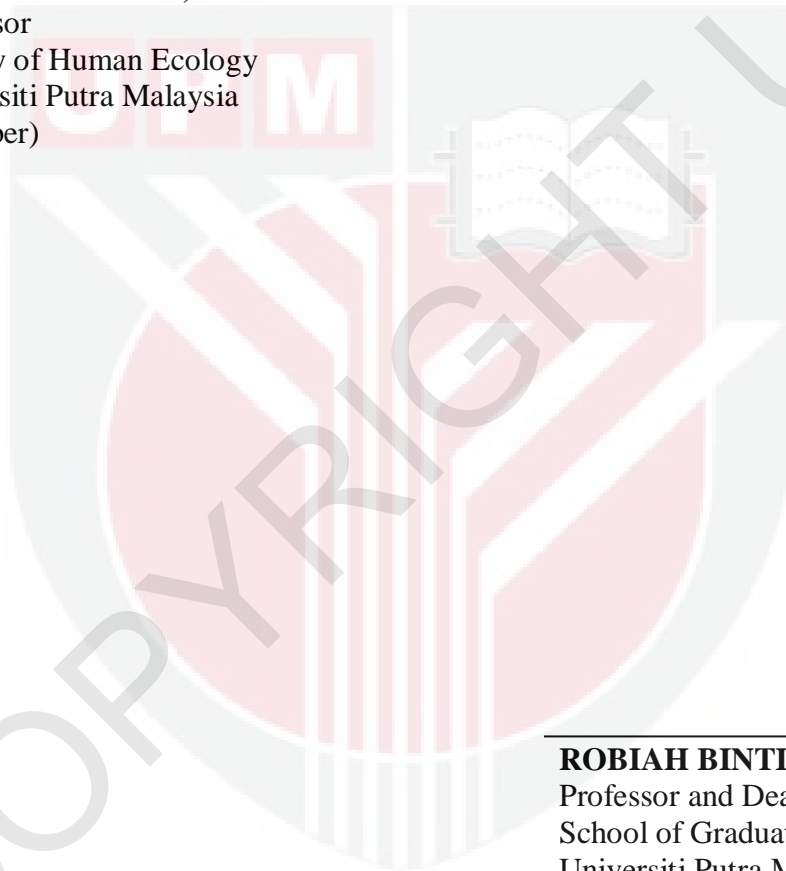
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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

The study of Sit-tight syndrome in relation to political renewal in Nigeria is focused on analysing the causative factors of the failing process of democracy which is expected to have passed its stage of infancy due to how old it has been practised. The inability to categorically state the level of political growth in Nigeria and in discovering where it should be heading to, in terms of development is a major point of focus in this study. Sit-tight in politics can be classified as a process whereby the political leader would want to stay in power for more than the tenure which is maximum of two terms; the second term is upon re-election as a leader in the country. The leaders that practice the sit-tight agenda are termed to be the greedy and the corrupt leaders according to the Nigerian citizens that are actively following up with the government leadership process in the country.

Sit-tight syndrome in Nigeria political arena have been an interesting area in the government of the country. Nigeria has been trying to abolish the sit-tight syndrome after a long fight and protest in the nation by the citizens. It is important to be able to take a cursory look at the insufficient awareness on problems brought about by the reluctance of political leaders from having an effective change in government via political renewal. This is necessary, so the country doesn't fall into a state of civil war or chaos.

God fatherism is another aspect of the Nigerian politics whereby there is a single figure man, which actually takes control of who nominates the next leader of the country and from different parties who have their own god fathers. The said god fathers most of the time solely take upon themselves the sponsorship of the election campaign for who they have nominated, once the nominated candidate becomes the country leader, the god fathers have a large share of the country money which is mostly a pledge by the nominated leader to the god fathers.

Corruption has been another area of the Nigerian system which happens after a new leader is elected into office and less of development is done in the country and more corruption is practised. Nigeria has been trying their best to eradicate the corruption in the Nigeria, but it had been a difficult task in general. The electoral process in Nigeria have been on the verge of collapsing due to rigging of elections and favouritism which makes the country end up with a wrong leader to rule the country. Electoral process is monitored presently by Independent National Commission (INEC) that takes charge of the entire electoral process and which they have also been found corrupt in the area of manipulation of election (Ayanleye, 2014). There will be shedding more light on the sit-tight syndrome, god fatherism and corruption on how it started and how the country has been trying to abolish up to date.

1.1 Background of the study

Nigeria is estimated to have a population of 140,431,790 million people based on the last census performed in 2006 by the Board of Statistics for the Nigerian Government, thereby ranking amongst the most populous countries in the world. Nigeria is gifted with large quantity of mineral deposits, including crude oil as reported by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. Being one of the continents rich and most diverse cultures, Nigeria aspires to leadership of the region. This can be attributed to its leading roles it has played in the well esteemed African Union. Nigeria has always been termed the 'big brother of Africa' and has found itself playing the role with a showmanship of acting as one of the key authorities in Africa (Adebayo, 2013).

Nigeria has been involved in significantly supporting other states economically by providing financial aids to war thorn countries, rising to military interventions in terms of continental conflicts etc. However, its potentials and aspirations remain largely unfulfilled for a variety of reasons that remain the subject of deliberation in and out of the country. Vital to this is the issue of leadership within the country and general perception among Nigerians that good leadership has eluded the country, especially around national governance and management of public office.

This has been a very challenging set-back as no one can deny the handwriting of a failing government and how essential it is to assert the necessity of a positive leadership via democracy, its determinants, capacities, prevalence and impact as well as the prospect for the sustainability of this genre of leadership. Equally important is the need to explore ways in which the example and experiences of positive leadership can be integrated into the broader Nigeria national discourse on how to address the difficulties facing the country and thus tap the opportunities which present themselves for national renaissance.

In this sense, political or other offices and their occupiers are not taken as the only focus of concern over leadership. The state (including government, politics and political parties) is not and cannot be the only determinant of a good government. There is a need to highlight also on non-state and non-partisan leadership. Also, there is a need to streamline this work to the problems as the topics are extensive and broad.

No doubt, Nigeria stands at the cross roads of its existence as a nation state. No country in the world can attain development without good leadership. Extensive academic research has been done on the essence of good leadership leading to development of a state. Politics as a means of leadership is used to analyse the impact of political leadership and how it can bring about a massive political movement for change. One of the leading characteristics of political entity is the ability to put a structure in place which would be the vehicle to utilise power in a

more organised manner, thereby shunning all forms of anarchy. A country within a retinue of bad leaders is doomed to fail and experience great levels of underdevelopment. So, the course this study will take is to have cursory look at the process of power exerting and how its impact is transformational.

The postulation by great minds like Max Weber, Karl Max, Mosca, Plato Aristotle on what politics is and supposed to be has not much changed from what was at play those years to this present day. Each society still struggles to fuse what leadership, power and politics should mean and how can the reins of power be stirred to the right lane of selflessness, and development. This is pitifully the situation in Nigeria, as a country with so much wealth in both human and natural forms has produced a string of bad leaders that have failed to maximally manage the resources that God has endowed it with.

Dike, (2006, p22.) In his work posits that the lack of accountability and dedication to the reason of been selected contributes largely to the social, political and economic problems Nigeria is experiencing presently.

This simply turns our attention to show the crisis of political leadership in Nigeria urgently needs to be overhauled (Ugwuani, 2015). One atrocity that the leadership in Nigeria has made their stock in trade is the egregious looting of public funds. Corruption is one phenomenon that has become a part and parcel of the Nigerian system, one that has aided and abetted a succession of Nigerian leaders to inflict on the masses of Nigerians, severe dimensions of poverty. Ironically, if Nigeria has been measured with other countries of the world, it has an alarming rate of poverty linked largely to severe embezzlement of resources. Several billions of dollars badly managed, embezzled, illegal money laundry over the years since independence till present.

Nigeria is a country where people have the freedom of speech and they are able to express themselves, but the issue has been, during the military regime in Nigeria, citizens were arrested for expression of their feelings toward the government and some were killed. There is a fair rule these days with the democratic process which also have its own bad effect where the greedy government keep the resources of income to themselves which have increased the measure of underdevelopment and scarcity in the country (Agbiji, 2012).

The main nationalistic theme of our leaders seeking independence was to stop the bad leadership during colonial days and grab the reins of power from the hands of the colonial masters with the main purpose of leading our nation to the Promised Land. These leaders might at the onset have good intentions, but this has changed with time. Everyone now sees political power as a lucrative vehicle to possessing the national cake. Indeed, corruption in Nigeria needs to be maximally reduced since it

is a statement of fact that corruption cannot be totally eradicated.

The above mentioned represents just a part of the center piece of the study 'sit-tight syndrome and issues of political renewal' using Covenant University as the sample ground which is intended at examining the difficulties associated with poor leadership and the hazards of corruption weighed deep on the country. The sustainable development of Nigeria is a vital desire of every well-meaning Nigerian including this researcher and as a result, this research topic was crafted with the big question of what then is the historical antecedent to the plague of the leadership problems that has befallen Nigeria?

Africa has from the era of colonisation, been burdened with its myriad of problems ranging from political insecurity, shortage, rate of debts, underdevelopment, senseless wars, corruption and the list is uncountable. Not long after independence, there has not been an African state that has not endured a progression of political mishaps coming about because of the rise and emergence of civilian and military despots. Some states have found a way of patching up their democratic process, while some have simply not recovered from the devastating blows of failed governance.

The consequences of these seething issues are open for all to see. Africa, a land all around enhanced with both natural resource and human resource, is oddly or rather still absurdly the most deprived in relations to community, financial and industrialized growth. All major conflicts that has happened on the continent have roots in long years of suppression of the people by rulers who proclaimed themselves revolutionaries, redeemers and even emperors. Eventually, these self-acclaimed 'saviours' plunged their national economies into chaos of catastrophic levels (Kambudzi, 2004).

In most African nations, the overall standards of administration are to a great extent oppressive, highly individualistic and predacious in nature; thereby the excesses of political power are widespread. A circumstance of this nature does not support responsibility in public sector on all levels of government. Truth be told, fraud turns into a noteworthy system and the social basis of personal rule. Huge amounts of resources are spent on the purchase of political clientele or on warding off, in the name of state security, real and envisioned political adversaries (Kambudzi, 2004).

The aspect of sit-tight in politics can lead to dictatorship when it becomes disadvantageous to the whole theory of democratisation. Nwankwo, (2013, p305) cited in his journal on leadership problems that the country had been bestrode with leaders who have been selfish, mediocre, opportunist, small minded who have nonstop gotten worse over time. According to him, from Alhaji Tafawa Balewa's rule to Olusegun Obasanjo's rule failed to chart a meaningful long-term achieving strategy for the country's development because of lack of conscious will to develop.

Nigeria is no different from other African countries as it has an extensive history of its own past rulers who found it difficult or almost impossible to relinquish power when due. These exasperating advancements in Nigeria could, among different components, be attached to the upsurge of debasement that had un-possibly achieved its peak in the 60's and is still well in practice during the 80's and 90's. During these periods, the development and combination of individual rulership and sit-tightism picked up expanding momentum since Africa was at that point and still: favoured with the likes of Banda, Houphouet-Boigny, Kaunda, Toure, Amin, Bokassa, Kenyatta, Mobutu, Obasanjo, Mugabe etc., who were not as it were referred to be tyrants for a while, but despots like presidents for life (Akindele, 2005).

Consequently, upon this crime from those in power, the state and its assets wound up plainly in private domains" that ought to be utilized for the advancement of the state, those fit intellectually, verbalized the reputation of these degenerate leaders in Africa. Akindele demonstrated that Mobutu, who, through sole rulership of Zaire garnered more than 40% of the GDP (Gross Domestic Product) of his country. It is additionally brought to light as he promoted himself to the rank of Field Marshall in the Uganda Armed force in addition to becoming the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor- Chancellor of Makerere University. Bokassa who raided the national treasury of Central Africa Republic and crowned himself as a Sovereign over a non-existing Realm made him become mercilessness in control, had no second-in-command or Vice president (Akindele S.T, 2005).

The said concept of the Nigerian state and the political elites that constitute the character of the Nigerian state have been ordered similar to a basic contribution to understanding the nature and the conduct of Nigerians as a rule (Owolabi, 2009). This likewise influences the partisan authority specifically as Ajetumobi (1991) presents those networks have not been supported in the chronicled distortions of both the post - provincial and the pioneer states looking at the basic pedestal of the so called political elites, office holders and on-screen characters can without much of a stretch be caught on.

The looting of funds and electoral violence which creates the mentality to politics, the phobia of gaining position, which is the pre-control of interests of the governmental issues for survival and individual security, the disorder of sit tight and the political killings and deaths which is inside the class and the citizens of the nation, has turned into the stage wherein looking for worldview articulation in the initiative that appear to look for clarification in Machiavelli political idea, (Owolabi, 2009). Interestingly, Mr Shehu Sani (2008), a Kaduna-based Nigerian civil rights Activist wrote in his book titled "Civilian Dictators of Africa" that former Senegalese president Abdou Diouf was adept at manipulating the political process to sit tight in power but little did he [Shehu Sani, the Nigerian author] know at the time of writing his scholarly book that Mr Abdoulaye Wade who came to power in the year 2000 and stood out within other controllers of the political framework of his country with the ambition of spending his entire life in political office.

The sit-tight nature of African autocrats did not begin today. Liberia's Tubman, Ghana had Kwame Nkrumah, Hastings Kamuzu Banda of Malawi and Siaka Probyn Stevens of Sierra Leone are there for all to see. By a movement of changes to the 1847 constitution of Liberia, President William Tubman could run Liberia for a long time, from 1943 to 1971, when he kicked the bucket in office. Tubman's expanding oppression gave the establishment to the 1980 disturbed Pro Sergeant Samuel Doe's Armed Force Recovery Board of rebels that butchered Tubman's successor, President William Tolbert.

Sit-tightism, the aversion of incumbent administration to permit popularity based models controlling the rule or by outright stealing of votes, has been a typical component in Nigeria. Once more, political gatherings have remained ethnically based, joined by clientelism, brutality and extending debasement. In elections approaches and manifestoes don't make a difference, yet ethnicity is the platform for selection (Wantchekon, 2003). The structure and operations of political parties were tenaciously featured as degenerate and gatherings were viewed as organizations that hampered the development of a culture of straightforward and delegate majority rule government in Nigeria. The unbridled utilization of cash to secure discretionary achievement and the marvel of godfatherism and sit-tightism deny the general population of the free chance to choose delegates that will genuinely do their order (Olarinmoye, 2008).

Forty years which is the average age for candidates, is classified as one perspective that is observed in Nigeria which compares favourably with the political office-holders in cutting edge Western vote based systems. However, office longevity in Western countries does not necessarily lead to abusive styles of continuity in political offices. Different from most African states elsewhere longer tenures in holding the political offices is not common or can be said to be simply banished (Kifordu, H. A. 2010). Importantly, longer tenures have created an implication on the youth, who are considered the most likely promoters of accountability.

Most youths that are politically inclined have been set to meet the requirements by law to be able to participate in political offices; they were gradually faded off overtime (Kifordu, H. A. 2010). The exclusions strategically boosted the elite politically in autonomy which had weak oversight, this means that the process of the sit-tightism, which is practically related to the method of recycle and causes continuity in power and roles have caused a hindrance to the internal and external accountabilities. This boosted the grip of the elites over control of accountability processes and which had effect within the administration, regulator for corruption agencies, which is the senate and lawmaker section of government and the public (Kifordu, H. A. 2010).

Extended rule of the offices also causes weakening to the omissions basically on the kind of decisions or actions taken due to its myopic views on prevalent issues. This is due to the institutions accountability and is controlled by individuals having an

exclusive interest in government, processes and the results that have been linked, to the process of elections and the protecting of fundamental rights been side-tracked away from right process and representation (Adejumobi, S 2015).

1.2 Statement of the problem

This case study research will take an in-depth look at the population of Covenant University as a case study in order to gain a better perception of the country's incessant tackling of political instability which can be linked to god fatherism, corruption and electoral process that has become serious political challenges in the country. No doubt there have been debates, arguments, different perceptions of the subject which might differ when exposed to various external elements and what it means to our political realities. Sit tight syndrome, god fatherism, corruption and electoral process are the four major factors in Nigerian politics and have been a big battle in eradicating them. There have been discoveries about these issues in Nigeria that different philosophers have been trying to look for a way to make sure such practices are totally eradicated in the country.

The sit tight syndrome in relation to the political renewal in Nigeria is a process that affects the electoral system in the country that is detrimental to the quality of election in all ways. Sit tight syndrome have been the result of the why there is corruption, god fatherism and corrupt electoral process in Nigeria, these factors have paved a way for the leaders to be able to try to implement a way to bring about a sit tight syndrome in the country. The political practice of sit tight syndrome have a great way on influencing the political leaders in Nigeria, whereby they bid to be re-elected into office and can achieve their aims in the area of corruption. All of this deters the main objective of change and need for a revamp in the political system.

Alternation of leaders at election periods does not culminate into genuine democracy in this case will investigate what it means in Nigeria like any country, however it has become one of the principle measures for gauging the achievement or failure of a representative government. Authorities on power like Huntington posits that the consensus on transfer of power between one national leader and another based on the votes of the citizenry remains the most defining element of competitive democracy. The sit-tight syndrome as a challenge on Nigeria's polity: borders on the reluctance of incumbent office holder to relinquish power when due, the profound unease about the practice of democratic practice. It stands to reason that leaders who see nothing wrong in changing the rules or at least making attempts to do so in advancement of individual desire, would have no apprehensions about messing with the constituent procedure for elections if that is the only way that could guarantee their constitutional stay in power Adetula, (2008).

Political development has been on slow path due to many impediments such as corruption, tenure elongation, ethnicity, incumbency politics, electoral fraud, violence, bribery, war, god-fatherism amongst many Lewis, (2003). This is like a boiling cauldron of uncountable pressures that continuously spills at the edges and scalds the citizens at all levels. Meanwhile vote based system has not begun well in Nigeria since democracy has been embraced, adapted and conformed to. Democracy in Nigeria is identical with Marxian democracy where Karl Marx's disciples consider vote based system to be the administration by the minority, the privileged minority then control administration and utilize control for the change of the living conditions of their supporters and sycophants (Okoye, 2012). They are in this manner continuously endeavouring to procure and solidify the methods of gaining control at the cost of the majority. Democracy to them does not serve the intrigued of the masses. These oppressors simply seize state control to plunder government treasury. To a degree, popular government in a nation like Nigeria is not distant from this presumption. The sort of vote based system practiced in Nigeria falls short of the resulting ethics as articulated and constructed (Ojo, 2016). Alternative choices were also created by the masses which ought to have the capacity to translate the kind of political philosophy, gathering or intrigue which suits their wants.

Okoye, J. C (2012) posits that meetings between citizens and political leaders ought not to be far the pressing concerns, to discuss their grievances and talk about it with those concerned who are in power and can bring about the needed changes. Government ought to maintain a strategic distance from making vague decisions without putting the interest of the people whom they tend to serve first. The main decisions made which ought to be destitute of absolutism, imperialism and 'sit-tight' leadership/tenure prolongation. Regular renewal of leaders and also paving way for fresh ideas that can be implemented should be considered. Electoral awareness programs should be of the utmost priority for candidates so as to garner opinions of those they intend to serve (Okoye, 2012).

Political socialization ought to moreover be taught in the electorates to maintain a strategic distance from anti-democratic electoral practices (Okoye, 2012).

Political stability, whether in democracy or quasi democracy, could not be pursued for its own sake. In the circumstances of developing countries, what was more important is a good government that responds positively to the demands and expectations of the people Fagbadebo, (2007).

To Osaghae (1994), only a government that performs well can be stable, if what sustains it in power is voluntary support or consent of the citizens. Generally speaking, therefore, the reasons why people may be interested in politics or why they may decide to support, oppose, or be passive to the business of government, in trial democracies as we have in transiting societies, are tied to the stakes or returns they expect from it. As of now, there is so much failing in this regard (Fagbadebo, 2007).

Most recognizable factors of corruption are the responsibility for initiation of previous attempts in the administration which still manifest across the current polity (Agbaje, 2014). African democracies are still ridden by electoral fraud, political self-aggrandizement, state-facilitated socioeconomic corruption, poverty-induced social polarization and bitterness.

Public leadership essentially implies individuals from the general population through their built-up framework have depended on their leaders the trust and responsibility of managing public affairs both political and administrative discharging their duties impartially and faithfully with public concerns in mind (Agbaje, 2014). Prevalence of the Sit-Tight Syndrome has increased the epileptic nature of political renewal in Africa thereby bringing about the demise of democracy in Africa. This African abuse or malaise within the continent where "presidency for life" is a legacy bequeathed by post-independence leaders is not alien to other countries of the world. Examples can be cited as the Arab uprising in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Tunisia, and Thailand etc.

The Politics of Aristotle 258 argues that "a man should not hold the same office twice" and that "the tenure of all offices, or of as many as possible, should be brief". Endeavors at democratization in Africa have by and large not made the level of progress that would offer reason to be hopeful about the prospects for popular government in Africa in the future. Efforts at transition to democracy have been prematurely ended at basic stages (Kambudzi, 2004).

Be that as it may, the more typical item, which in reality has turned into the pattern, is for transitions to be controlled into digging in the occupant. At the end of the day, political renewals in Africa are being exaggerated to subvert the bona fide and broad yearning of popularity based elections in Africa (Adesida, 2004). Ginsburg, (2010), depicts examples where constitutional leaders try to use the laid down law to elongate and hold on to power.

The main problem that affects having a good government and growth in Africa is the issue of sit-tight leaders in office which means leader that refuses to leave the office for other to take over (Ozohu-Suleiman, 2016). Most African leaders have worked on the amendments of their countries constitutions, they have formed the constitutions that will empower them to remain in power for life and those who continuously commit electoral fraud to hold on their political posts for whatever length of time that they wish.

Table 1 : African Leaders Who had stayed long in power (Author Compilation)

AFRICAN PRESIDENTS	COUNTRY	DURATION	YEAR
Yakubu Gowon	Nigeria	10	1966-1975
Felix Houphouët Boigny	Cote D'Ivoire	34	1960-1993
William Tubman	Liberia	28	1944-1971
Olusegun Obasanjo	Nigeria	13	1976-1979 1999-2007
Ibrahim Babangida	Nigeria	8	1985-1993
Sékou Touré	Guinea	26	1958-1984
Abdel Gamel Nasser	Egypt	16	1956-1970
Mobutu Sese Seko	Zaire	32	1965-1997
Sir Dauda Jawara	Gambia	29	1970-1994
Lebua Jonathan	Lesotho	20	1965-1986
Leopold Senghor	Senegal	20	1960-1980
Julius Nyerere	Tanzania	22	1963-1985
Robert Mugabe	Zimbabwe	26	1987-2017
Jose Eduardo Dos Santos	Angola	34	1979-2017
Blaise Compaore	Burkina Faso	26	1987-2014
Yoweri Museveni	Uganda	27	1986-2016

There was an observation made by Eregha, (2007) that Felix Houphouët Boigny of Cote D'Ivoire died in office after 34 years as President, also, of Liberian president, William Tubman after 28 years, Sékou Toure of Guinea after 26years, Abdel Gamel Nasser of Egypt ruled for 16years, Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya and Sir Seretse Khama of Botswana after were in government for 15years, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, Sir Dauda Jawara of the Gambia, Lebua Jonathan of Lesotho, Hamani Diori of Niger and Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana also had a record of ruling the countries for 32, 29, 20, 14 and 10 years respectively until they were overthrown by military coups or the armed revolts and Kamauzu Banda of Malawi and Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia for 29 and 27 years respectively and then voted out in a free multi-party democratic election (Eregha, 2007).

Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia was dismissed after 32years in office on the ground of senility certified by a group of medical doctors. Julius Nyerere of Tanzania voluntarily retired after 27 years in office as did Leopold Senghor of Senegal after 21 years. Gnassing-be Eyadema of Togo. The Omar bongo of Gabon, Muammar and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe-are presently in in power while Muammar Gadhafi was overthrown and killed on the 20th of October 2011, while the rest of the country presidents ruled for 31,31 and 28 years respectively.

There was a proclamation from Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia, Kamauzu Banda of Malawi and Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa of the Central African Republic that they will be in power for life until a forceful change either via coup or other means takes place (Zezeza, 2014). The move towards and entrenchment of one -party polity and

military coups in a few African nations not long after, paved way for “sit-tightism” in respect to those in power, thereby restricting political participation of youths in politics. This however created a very noticeable age gap in those who ruled and those who were been ruled.

Democracy which relies on constitutionalism is said to be the rule of law, practising free and fair elections at intervals and the sanctity of the ballot box, must be a common goal in the continent of Africa Kieh Jr, (2009). The people must have the right education on whom to elect, election should not be practiced using race as a factor for election, religion or such other narrow considerations but must be done on the basis of self-integrity and also the commitment which leads to the wellbeing of the people and the overall development of their countries. This study has been created to stand as a point of reference for future research on the essence of youth participation in political renewal.

In the works cited above, there was an argument for political term limits the reasoning for the term limitation which affects the early democratic system practised which was an idea of government power rotation. The ancient Greek viewed Democracy as the requirement for the citizens to have the experience of ruling and also being ruled which is in turn, this principle was found out to be the best which have a strict limitation on tenure in public office, which helps to maximize the number of citizens that could govern (Olaiya, 2014).

A major effect of this is the aggravating recourse which leads to violence which was said to be the only way for people to be able to express themselves and the confirmation of identities as there was closure to other options. Africa had been going through this process in the recent times, which turned to be the continent of the dictators, and emergent secessionists with the practical failure of the state in countries like Mali, Lybia, Egypt, Somalia, Guinea Bissau and recent coup d'états (Adesida, 2004). In Nigeria, Niger, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Madagascar and presently Burundi, elected leaders have attempted to stage a ‘coup from within’ embarking on personal consolidation at the expense of democratic consolidation. While 34 African countries have two-term limit provisions in their constitutions, only 20 percent of these term limits have been complied with.

The conditions which lead to the rule of personalization, authorization and the politics of exclusion that precipitated collapse and violent protest movements are still very much around (Kambudzi, 2004). The African candidates being refused due to regimes which has not been genuinely democratized engaged in a broad base power-sharing arrangement. This however does not give one cause for optimism that the conditions that bred war-lordism disintegrative tendencies and actual state collapse will get better (Kambudzi, 2004).

The internal changing aspects of power-sharing in Africa democratization, which have given the continent an improvement and giving a good leadership process, is practiced in more countries in Africa (Cheeseman, N, 2011). Democratization is a process which is different from the military rule in Africa as a whole; most countries in Africa are moving from the dictatorial rule to democratic rule and have a great change in the country policies.

1.3 Research Questions

1. What is the relationship of sit-tight syndrome to renewal of politics?
2. What are the factors that encourage syndrome on the political renewal system in Nigeria?
3. What are the effects sit-tight syndrome political renewal?

1.4 Aims and objectives

1. To identify the relationship of Sit-tight syndrome and political renewal on Nigerian politics.
2. To analyze the relationship of the causative factors to sit-tight syndrome that facilitate the tending collapse of political renewal.
3. To evaluate the effect of sit-tight syndrome on Nigerian politics.

1.5 Importance of study

This study is essential as there is a stringent need to have more academic research on problems of political renewal. The history of bad governance in Nigeria has made it necessary to study more and throw more light on the country's political terrain. Political change is paramount when the present one is affecting all aspects of the people's wellbeing.

There is no improvement on major sectors of the country, education, aviation, finance, health, power and energy, and security. Nigerians need a change from the normal slogan of the political terrain as a class room where any failure from a leader is acceptable as there is room for the political leader to repeat the class. There is an urgent need for the people to be enlightened on what makes a political leader have a stronghold on his/her political office by not wanting to relinquish power after the stipulated constitutional term.

This study would throw more light on causative factors to sit-tight syndrome. It is necessary to not shy away from addressing the rotten roots of politics in Nigeria as it would help the people to know what is exactly in place. The sit-tight syndrome is a defined problem which finds root from the following factors mentioned below.

These factors will form the basis of this research work and throwing more light to the path of Nigerian political redemption, which are:-

- God-fatherism
- Corruption
- Nigerian electoral process
- Sit-tight syndrome

In the first part of 2015, the leaders of Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Burundi, and Rwanda have communicated their goal through their followers to forgo or manipulate term restrictions keeping in mind the end goal to look for extra terms of office. The people however, give their support to those in power who respect the constitutional stipulations for electoral renewal rather than those who don't (Dulani, 2015).

Constitutional tinkering by presidents who do not want to leave power has become a recurrent trigger for political tension and violence in many African countries. There is an offer of intermittent guarantee in term limit of individual change, and in this manner, improve the likelihood of change of party in government. This is imperative, as political renewal is a critical element of a democratic nation. "When term limits are found in a presidential system, they stand as a means to block all intentions of monopolising power, where a leader effectively becomes 'a leader for life' or a king.

Liberal democracy is a crisis in many African countries which evolved with time based on the level of participation of the citizens in the elective procedure that has waned, largely because there is limitation in real choice which makes the people feel a sense of powerlessness that overrides the power of satisfaction which they feel (Agbaje, 2004). Countries that are regarded as developing based on economic grounds, particularly in Africa, has had elections that are saddled with pressure, clashes, emergencies and extortion to such an extent that it is hard to utilize them as a gauge of the general population's decision, (Agbaje, 2006).

Agbaje E.B.A (2004) posits that the elation of the subsequent influx of democratization in Africa is quickly subsiding. The recent past icons who directed the civil society in the battles for popularity based restoration have been changed into the pictures of those against whom they battled. They have expected tyrannical stances; they control decisions and incline in the direction of sit-tight administrations. Basically, races are quick turning into a sad remnant of popular government (Agbaje, 2006).

1.6 Scope of Study

The research study will cover aspects of Nigerian political terrain from the fourth republic till date. The fourth republic is essential as this is the period of Nigeria's proclaimed transition to democracy. Efforts to address electoral processes and political corruption, influx of god-fatherism year in year out has been exhausting thereby increasing the lack of faith in democracy (Kinnan, R. S. 2011). Thus the scope of study lies within the boundary of democracy, its process, problems and practicable theories. Since the study is designed to identify and investigate the prevailing problems of political renewal. The perceptions however used in this study will border on those who can vote and be voted for.

1.7 Limitation of study

The strains faced in this study were mostly in determining the approach to use in the gathering of primary data. Usually, a detriment in interviews is that respondents might not be willing to divulge information on record, or may not be objective in all cases and there may be memory lapse or distortion or exaggeration of facts (Afigbo, 1990). There was a limitation using the qualitative approach as getting respondents views on sensitive political matters, hit a snag. The level of distrust in the political sector makes people quite wary in airing their views like through interviews. The limitations of not getting redundant or unreliable analysis with data collected have to be highly employed at every step to ensure the study is still at the angle of achieving its objectives.

With regards to the limitations of the study, the financial requirements for executing this research are daunting. This is due to the multiplicity of materials to be garnered and cost of transporting the researcher to vital areas where information will be sourced. Since the study is planned to identify and examine the prevailing problems of political renewal, the quantitative approach is being adapted method to be used. Another limitation to getting this work done is time related. Since this study involves such grand and weighty issues, it will not take a short time to get it done. The physical and mental demands of putting together a voluminous work like this are also very important challenges. Also, the objectivity of the researcher is very vital.

1.8 Organization of study

This research is arranged into 5 chapters. Chapter one consists of background of study, statement of problem, research questions and objectives of study, significance of study, scope of the study and limitations of study. Chapter two is the literature review which explains the theoretical framework that reviews relevant literatures relevant to the study.

Chapter three is on the method of data collection and preparation of analysing all data collected to maintain a steady assessment of the issues and problems which have been identified in chapter two as determinants of political renewal in Nigeria. Chapter four mainly covers the analysis of all data collected and bringing to a reasonable and academic conclusion, the findings of the research taken. Chapter five consists of summary, conclusion and recommendation of further study, contributions to the study of knowledge and conclusion.



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