

The Deficiency of Distribution Rules in Nigeria

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1. The Present Nigerian Society

- Small ethnic conflicts are chronically rising in Nigeria.
 - ✓ Now a catastrophe like Biafra war is unlikely to happen.
- Ethnic factors become a little less obvious but stay still influential.
 - ✓ Ethnic parties are prohibited.
 - ✓ Ethnic minority can be a president like the incumbent.
 - ✓ When you try to pursue an economic, social or political interest in Nigeria, an ethnic ties is the most reliable as a measure.
- Is it impossible to overcome those small but frequent ethnic conflicts?

2. Integration and Consociation

- Multi ethnic societies have two different strategies to approach a political stability.
- Integration
try to establish an authority of neutral-looking rules under which diverse people are more likely to behave as a member of the whole society.
- Consociation
first secure each group's solidarity and next pursue a whole state's will-formation through group leaders' negotiation.

3. The Improvement of Nigerian Politics

- Dividing states and securing the federal character have improved Nigerian Politics in a way.
- Smaller units are convenient for making a flexible coordination, while bigger units are not useful and likely to oppress dissents within them.
- Owing to this reformation, smaller ethnic groups can have their own states (consociation), and a large ethnic unit that once contained many subgroups become fluid and changeable (closer to integration).

4. Problems still remained

- The improved coordination has mitigated an ethnic antagonism a little, especially in that fatal clashes have been prevented, and ethnic majority has come to sway political influence less overtly.
- However, distributive rules for various resources are not well established. There are few authoritative general rules. In particular, a valid decision making process is not properly build within a minority unit.
- Therefore, minorities within minorities think of seceding from the present group and having their own state. And if it is permitted, it becomes endless.

- Since there are few authoritative general rules, people cannot help using ethnic symbols in pursuing their own economic, social and political interests.
- Even if the conflicts originally rise from non-ethnic causes, it soon assumes an ethnic character.

5. Examples whose roots are not necessarily ethnic

- Northern area
Riots of Boko Haram, the Islamic extremists ▪ ▪ ▪ caused by economic disparity, and generation gap.
- Middle area
antagonism between farmers and pastoralists ▪ ▪ ▪ how to distribute land use rights among different occupations.
- Southern area
indigenous people often rebel and kidnap. ▪ ▪ ▪ how to distribute resources (=oil income) between the center and the local governments.

- They have something to do with ethnic relations but there are many other reasons.
- More generalized distribution rules could have been established and their authorities should have been more confirmed.
- Ethnic groups should keep an eye on the deviation and deterioration of rules but must not control them. Criticisms from an ethnic perspective sometimes based on self-interests and make society unstable.

6. Conclusion

- Generalized distribution rules and security for group differences are both needed.
- The balance between them is important and therefore, the mixture of integration and consociation is required to realize it.
- Nigeria after dividing states still loses this balance. Ethnic factors are still influential and distribution rules are not fully established.

- Making small units means a flexible coordination between them and Nigeria has succeeded in a way. However, we should also have pursued a flexible coordination within them.
- When states were once divided into smaller pieces and ethnic interests came to be more easily coordinated, it also gave a wider chance for coordination of non-ethnic interests. It should have led to an establishment of generalized rules. But it was almost neglected.