

## Natural Resources and Resource Control as a Mechanism for Peace-Building in Problematic Federal States: Nigeria as a Prototype

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The Nigerian state after 50 years is deeply entrenched in multifarious problems characterized of praetorian polity. It is a state founded on faulty foundation of geographical amalgamation for ease of administration by the British colonial powers and remains desperately divided and deepened in internecine conflict on virtually every conceivable issue. Nigeria as a geographical expression on paper is more real than Nigeria in the minds or consciousness of the people. In other words, indigene ship takes precedence over citizenship, a situation whereby everybody is more attached to his tribe or race hence, it is illogical to talk of Nigerian nation, and so everything works in that manner: leadership, judiciary, institution name it. The rallying point of all these is corruption, greed, looting, regional hegemony, tribal domination, oppression of the minority, devastating underdevelopment, gross impunity and complete lack of leadership compounded by mono-cultural dependence on petroleum oil. And so, the slump in oil price in 2015 completely threw the country out of balance into depression, making the people wailing for restructuring, resource control and real federalism which they hope can effectively address the restiveness and restlessness of the nation. It is by addressing these myriads of problems and engage peace-building mechanism that the rationale of stepping up Natural resource exploration and exploitation by each state or region as applicable in true federalism can become a reality. Thus, this paper engaging historical, comparative and institutional methodology is positing from the standpoint of the role of natural resources in bringing lasting peace to Nigeria federation on the premise that Nigerian leadership jettison their primordial, selfish and self-centered sentiments and allow true federalism to take firm root in Nigeria where every state or region or people as the case may be, is allowed to take charge of its natural resources for autonomous and authentic development. This is the only veritable option for a true federalism and sustainable development