

**AN ASSESSMENT OF NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER
PRESIDENT OLUSEGUN OBASANJO'S ADMINISTRATION,
1999-2007**

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RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Relations between Nigeria and other state and non-state actors in international politics from 1999 onward were based on democratic principles. The *tit-for-tat* diplomacy of late Gen. Sani Abacha, *de facto* President of Nigeria from 1993 to 1998 had greatly damaged the image of Nigeria. The government was accused of human rights abuses and was repeatedly condemned by the U.S. State Department. There were break in relationship with many countries with threats of economic sanctions from others. Apart from this, the government was characterized by an inconsistent foreign policy which made Nigeria a scorn in the comity of nations. The coming of President Olusegun Obasanjo and the various reforms which he embarked upon actually brought Nigeria out of the messy situation that Gen. Sani Abacha led the country into. For President Olusegun Obasanjo to have achieved such a feat in restoring the image of the country deserves scholarly attention. This study therefore aims to provide a critical appraisal of Obasanjo's foreign policy with emphasis on his use of expatriates in the conduct of external relations; shifting of policy to accommodate China, India and other rising powers; reintegration of Nigeria into the African Union, the United Nations and other international

organizations; and the revolution in domestic policies that favoured strategic repositioning of Nigerian economy.

This study seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- (i) Provide a detailed background to Nigeria's foreign policy under President Olusegun Obasanjo from 1999 to 2007 focusing on his achievements and shortcomings;
- (ii) Examine the impact of Obasanjo's shuttle diplomacy in re-building Nigeria's image as a regional power in Africa;
- (iii) Analyse Obasanjo's policy of partnership especially with the western powers and the implication of this partnership on Nigeria economic growth between 1999 and 2007;
- (iv) Discuss the contributions of Nigeria under the administration of President Olusegun Obasanjo to the security and peace-building in Africa; and lastly,
- (v) Provide a critique of the personality of President Olusegun Obasanjo and its influence in the implementation of Nigeria's foreign policy towards other states as well as international organizations.

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