Title of Article: ENTREPRENEURS OF VIOLENCE AND THE SECURITY QUESTION IN NIGERIA: THE BOKO HARAM SAGA.

Author(s): AJAYI O.O, SULEIMAN, B.M


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Abstract: This paper examines the role played by entrepreneurs of violence in Nigeria, with special focus on the Boko Haram insurgency. Since independence, the ruling elites in Nigeria have been manipulating the polity through ethno-religious sentiments for their selfish political gains. Nowadays, most conflicts usually fall along ethno-religious divisions and they are more likely to be hijacked by “entrepreneurs of violence” in countries with low and dwindling incomes. However, the situation in Northern Nigeria is more pronounced because of its relatively rigid character; a situation brought about by religious fanatics, Jihad and colonialism. Issues bothering on economic decline; over-dependence on primary commodity exports, and low per capita income which are unequally distributed, have been identified as some of the causes of rebellion in Nigeria. In addition, countries with low and declining incomes that are badly distributed create a pool of impoverished and disaffected young men who are recruited by “political entrepreneurs for violence”. In such conditions the state becomes weak, insecure and incompetent. The descriptive and analytical approach was used in gathering data from texts and academic journals. This paper recommends among others, that in order to curtail Boko Haram activities, their sponsors who give them both the financial and moral support must be identified and prosecuted besides the State strengthening its security.