

Title of Article: Nigeria and Africa in the 21st Century

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Abstract: The study critically appraises the redeemer posture of Nigeria in Africa's plethora of dire straits in the 21st century. Like the United States once regarded it a manifest destiny to protect and exercise influence over its "backyard" in the Western Hemisphere, so does Nigeria assume a role of salvaging Africa and repositioning it, which has manifested in its Afrocentric or Africa-centered policy. The continent's problems include a debilitating economic strangulation, civil wars, religious conflict, poverty, bad government, HIV-AIDS, underdevelopment, which continually plague the continent. Hence, a supposed promise land encounters dashed hopes because it is lost in multifaceted crises. However, Nigeria's competence to be the "Giant" redeemer of Africa that it claims to be, is drastically impaired or eroded by a number of forces within the internal context. The paper, considers the social, political, international, and historical forces in the coloring and shaping of Nigeria's foreign policy that make it imperative to assume a forerunner in African situation; and also seeks reasons for the "Giant's" wasted opportunities to redeem Africa, and finds answers to these.