Title of Article: Religion and its Attendant Conflicts in Nigeria: A Paradox

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Abstract: Religion, ideally, is not an arena of conflict. Rather it is man’s attempt to find and maintain peaceful relations with the supernatural powers and his fellow human beings. Unfortunately, the management of religion and the organization of different bodies of believers and worshippers have given rise to conflicts in Nigeria. In particular, adherents of the universalistic religions, Islam and Christianity, together with their subdivisions, have clashed over situational supremacy, access to prestige, power and privilege, information management, most especially, in relation to the political sphere in Nigeria. This research paper therefore examines the consequent effect of these disruptions in a secular State like Nigeria, especially on peaceful co-existence, life and property, including its social, economic and political environment, all of which could have been avoided.

Key Words: Christianity, Conflict, Islam, Religion, Secular State.