Title of Article: Youth at Crossroads: The Challenges of Social Change in Nigeria

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Abstract: Economic backwardness remains the most defining feature of several developing economies globally. The major precursor of this development is represented in colonial experience and in other external infiltrations, which directly or indirectly alter the socio-structural arrangement of the affected nations. Chronologically, local and external interventions aimed at correcting the imbalance in Nigeria and in several other African countries for instance have not yielded the expected results due to some factors, which were not only internally endemic but also externally induced. The erosion of Nigeria’s cultural values occasioned by global pressure introduced through capitalism and its affiliates; democracy, borderless economy and ICT revolution became incompatible with local realities and negatively plunged the country into divers’ socio-economic crisis. The economic crisis, which became fully manifest from the late 70’s in Nigeria, generated monumental socio-cultural consequences for the citizenry. When examined, the prevalence of acute poverty, crime, malnutrition, moral confusion, value erosion and environmental degradation does not only impact the lives of the adult population but also more significantly affects the identity and well-being of the youth. The growing rate of youth disillusionment or hopelessness accounts for high participation in crime and an engagement in several other social vices. It is within this framework that this paper examines the impact of social change on Nigeria’s youth and adapts Lea and Young’s deprivation model to capture youth disorder in the studied area. Finally, the paper concludes by proffering solutions that are far enriching to checkmate the current trend.