

ETHNICITY, FEDERALISM AND STATE CREATION IN NIGERIA: EXPLORING POLITICAL ECONOMY AS A THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Dele Adetoye, PhD. & Mike Opeyemi Omilusi, PhD

Department of Political Science

Ekiti State University

Ado Ekiti, **NIGERIA**

ABSTRACT

Studies of Political Development, Ethnicity, Federalism, and Social Groups or Classes usually meet with thematic confusion in respect to which theoretical framework, models, framework of analysis or paradigms, should be adopted. For scholars in this field, many factors affect or determine their choices of an approach. These factors include but not limited to orientation, training, and perceptions of disciplinary goals, among other things. In this study, an attempt is made to indicate the relevance of political economy as a framework of analysis on the politics of state creation in Nigeria, federalism, the role of the communal elite/class formation, primitive accumulation, ethnicity, socioeconomic development etc. The study concludes that the issues highlighted above are subsumable under and can be captured in a political economy theoretical scaffold, as a tool of scientific analysis, methodology or framework of analysis with its capacity to explain political, economic and social development within a society as a part of a whole process. This is what this study attempts to demonstrate.

Keywords: Theoretical Framework, Political Development, Ethnicity, Communal Elite/Class, Federalism, State Creation, Primitive Accumulation.