

THE EFFECT OF NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

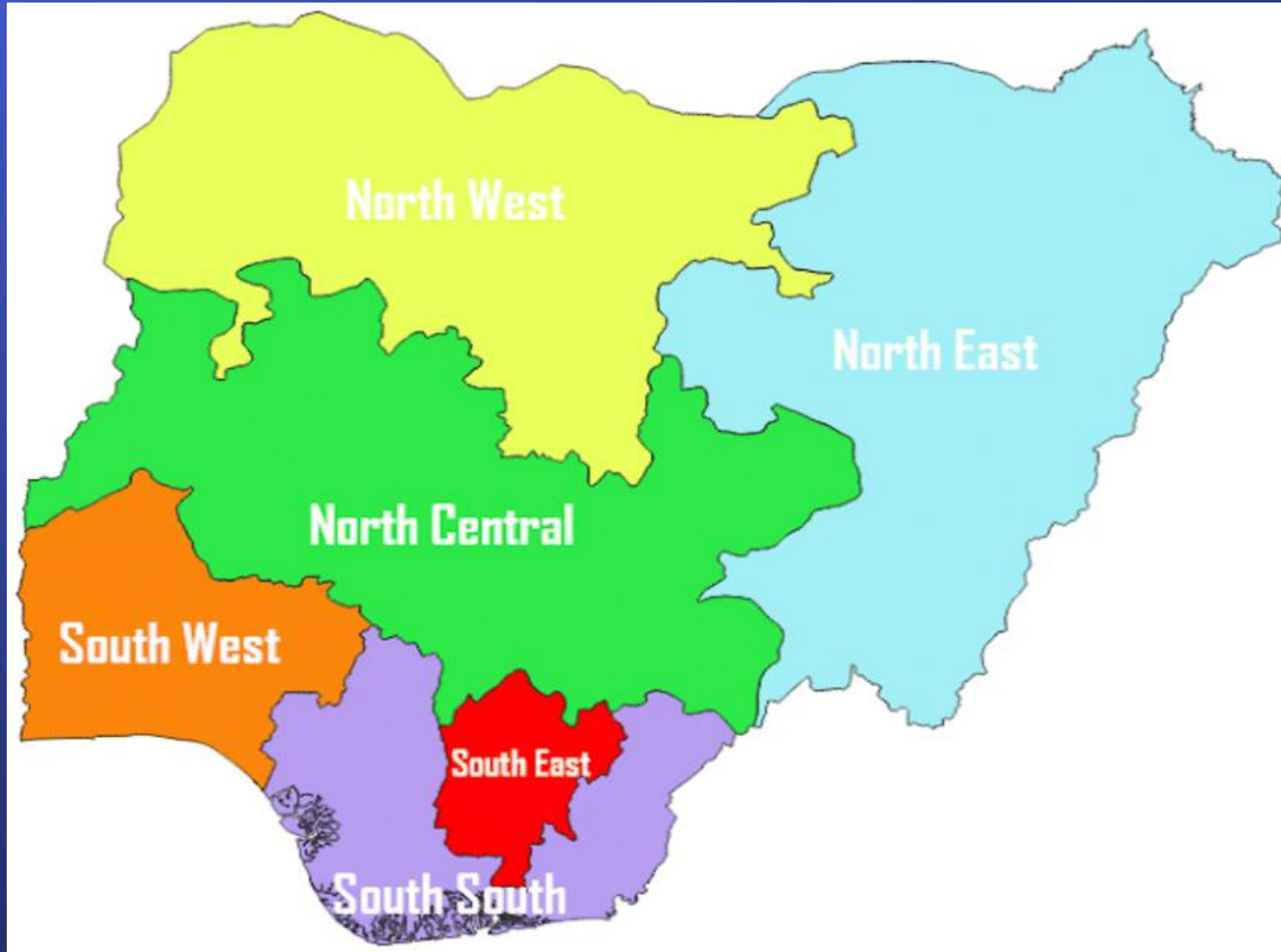
By

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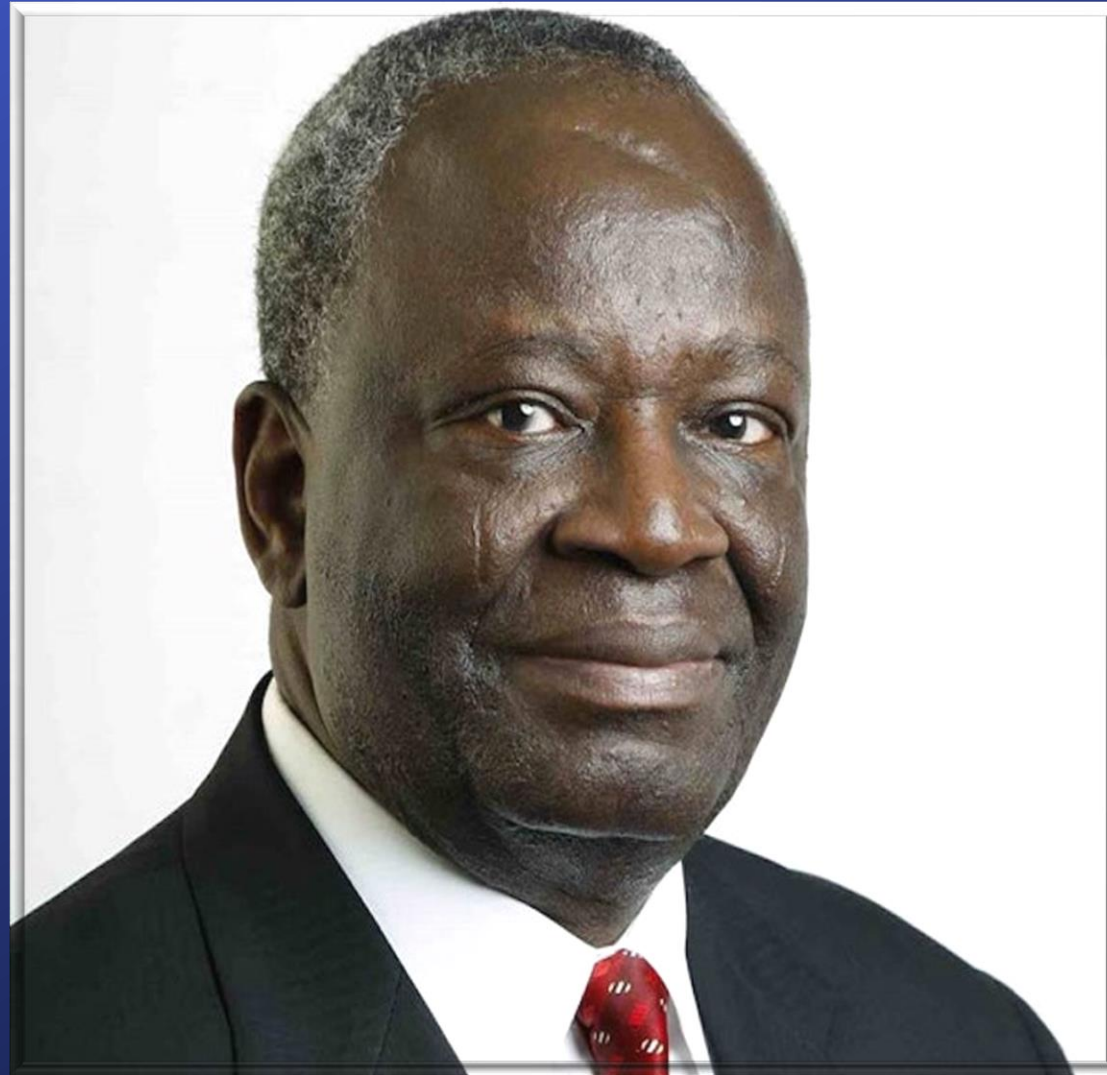
INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION (CONT)



SIX GEOPOLITICAL ZONES

INTRODUCTION (CONT)



Prof. Ibrahim A. Gambari
Nigeria's Foreign Minister in the mid-1980s

INTRODUCTION (CONT)



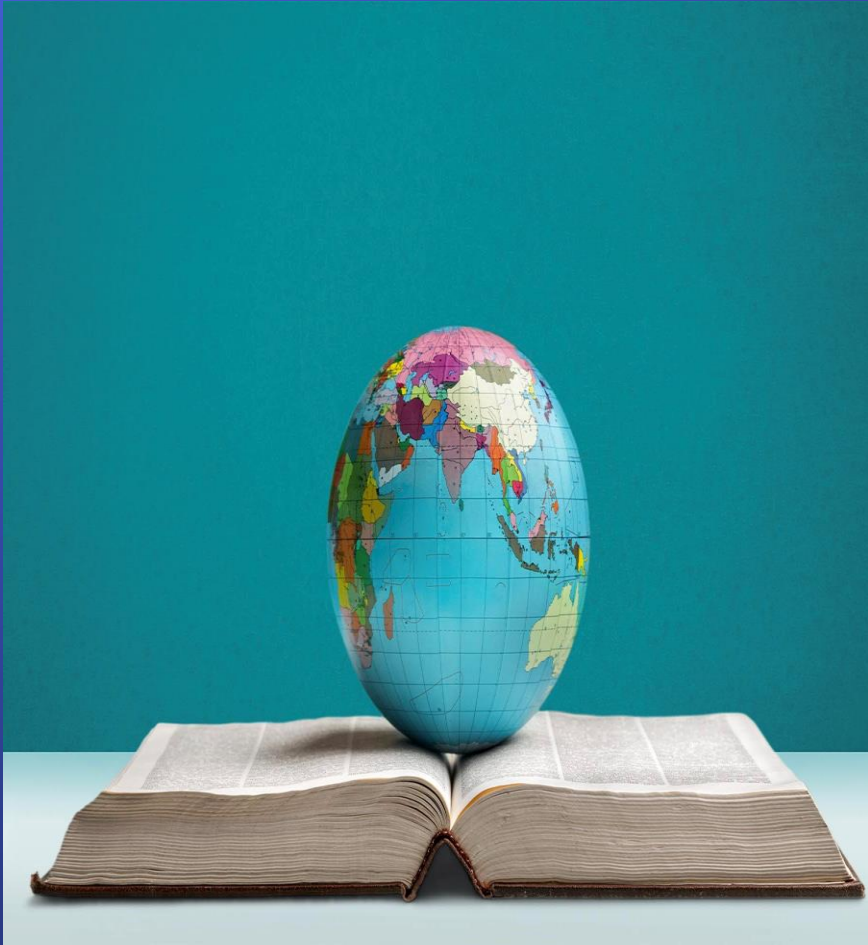
International Relations

- ❖ Foreign affairs and defence and security are interwoven and synergy between the two makes for effective national geopolitics and geostrategy.
- ❖ As it was in pre-modern state power, so it is today albeit in different forms of power projections and configuration.
- ❖ Power projection through territorial conquests in the 18th and 19th centuries and today where modern technology which has shaped territorial influence aimed at the same: the definition, articulation and projection of national interest have become the defining game book in International Relations.

CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATIONS

GEOPOLITICS

GEOPOLITICS (CONT)



Geography

- ❖ This is simply the influence of geography on politics whether local, national or international.
- ❖ By geography, we refer to the land, its resources, the terrain, its topography and the human dimension of ownership within the territorial space.
- ❖ The management and control of this geographical space is the component of politics and hence geopolitics.

GEOPOLITICS (CONT)

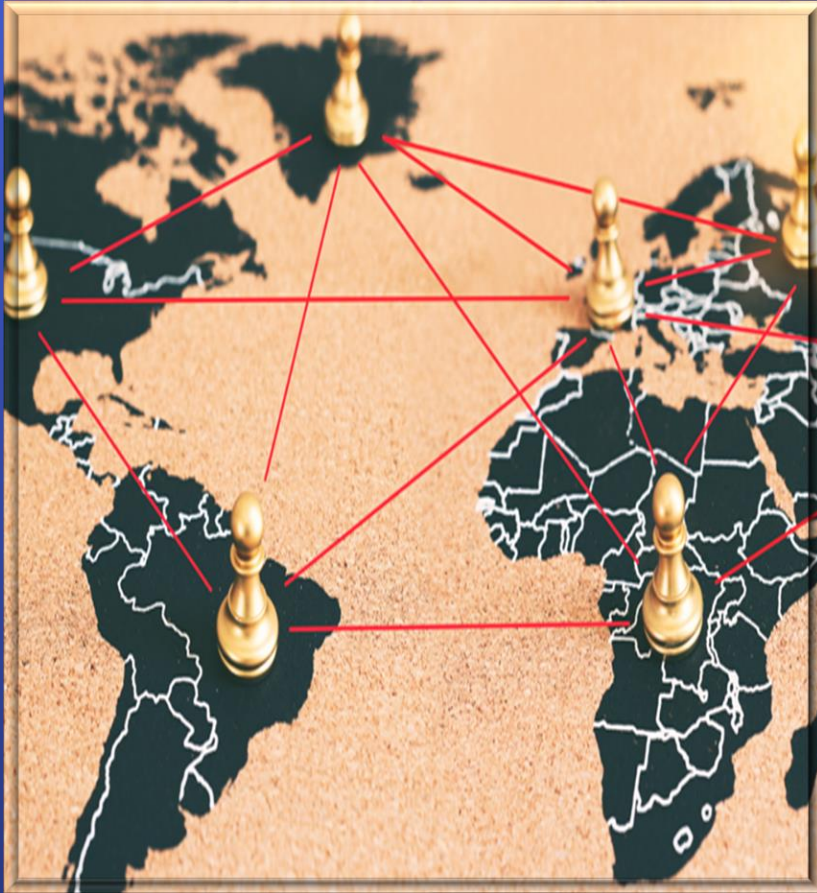


Geopolitics

- ❖ Politics is about who gets what, where, when and how.
- ❖ Those who get the most constitute the elite and the rest are the masses.
- ❖ The distribution of resources and the organization of the society within this geographical space and who has the legitimacy to control these resources are issues of geopolitics at the national, regional and global levels.

GEOSTRATEGY

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Geostrategy

- ❖ The strategic use of sea, land, weather, topography for political and military planning constitute geostrategy.
- ❖ These territorial spaces within the geostrategy contain numerous choke points like mountain passes, sea straits, rivers and gulfs to constrain movements for an attacker as well as provide security for the defender.
- ❖ Both land and sea contain economic resources of unimaginable dimension including mineral resources, means of transportation and several geostrategic properties nation-states jostle for.

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Great Britain Flag

- ❖ The location of Great Britain, detached from continental Europe necessitated mastering the sea.
- ❖ Through this sea power, imperialism developed leading to colonizing far flung territories in Africa and Asia.
- ❖ The linkage of geostrategy with geoeconomics and geotechnology namely the building of ships both for military dominance and protection of sea lanes made Great Britain a great power in world geopolitics.

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Russian Flag

- ❖ As Great Britain used sea power to reach distant places of Africa, India and Asia, landlocked Russia strove for dominance in Euroasia through land power.
- ❖ Military expeditions through the expanse of land of Persia, Mongolia, Afghanistan, Tibet into India and China became the vision of Russia.
- ❖ Railway technology increased the reach of Russia in promoting military mobilization and projection of power.

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Napoleon of France



Hitler's Germany

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Nuclear bomb

- ❖ Geostrategy as means to overcome geographical challenges developed a paradigm shift with the technology of air space.
- ❖ The invention of airplanes moved the struggle between sea power and land power to air power.
- ❖ In the Second World war, the struggle at sea, land and airspace determined the victor.
- ❖ But not until yet another paradigm was brought in the mix; the use of nuclear bomb.

GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Drones

- ❖ Geographical challenges are overcome by modern technology of digitalization, the cyber space resulting into Revolution in Military Affairs, Network-centric Warfare or Information Warfare.
- ❖ The use of drones, precision-munitions and Electronic Warfare are the future of warfare.
- ❖ The instrument for the projection of hegemonic power is still influenced by geostrategy.

NATIONAL SECURITY

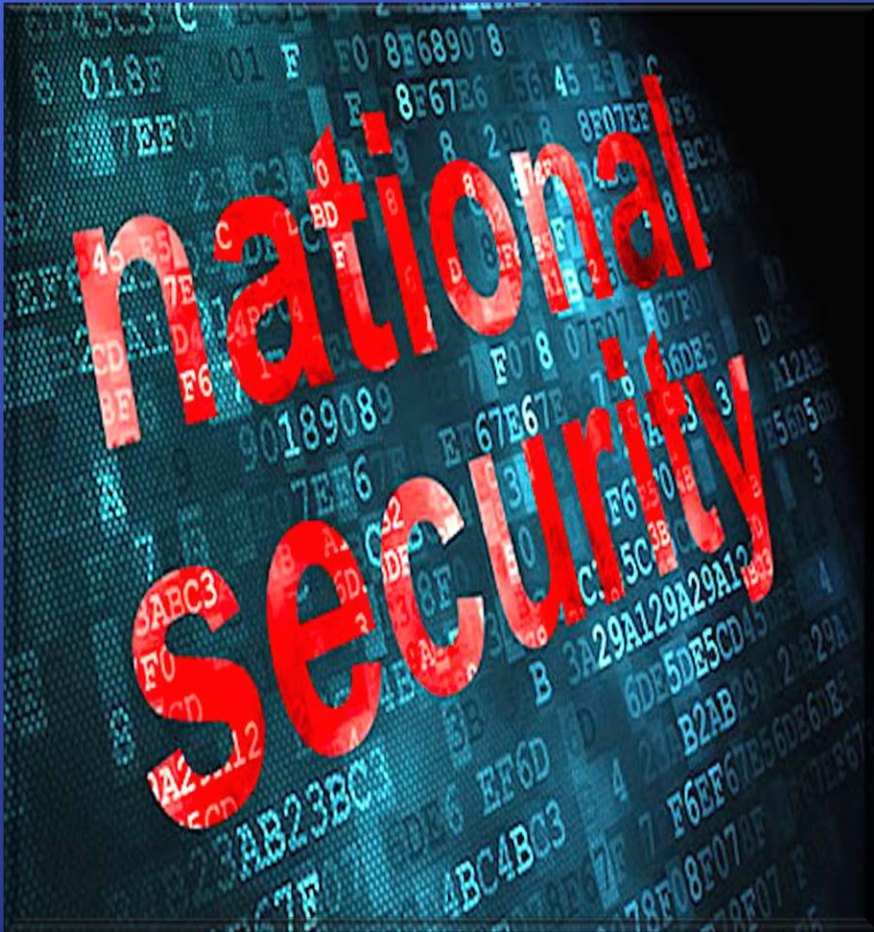
NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)



National Security

- ❖ National Security is simply the removal of fear and want from its people, the preservation of its values and culture and its territorial integrity.
- ❖ There are many dimensions of national security which include food security, health, energy, environmental, economic, community and political and personal.
- ❖ The interplay of national security and national geography produces geostrategy.

NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)



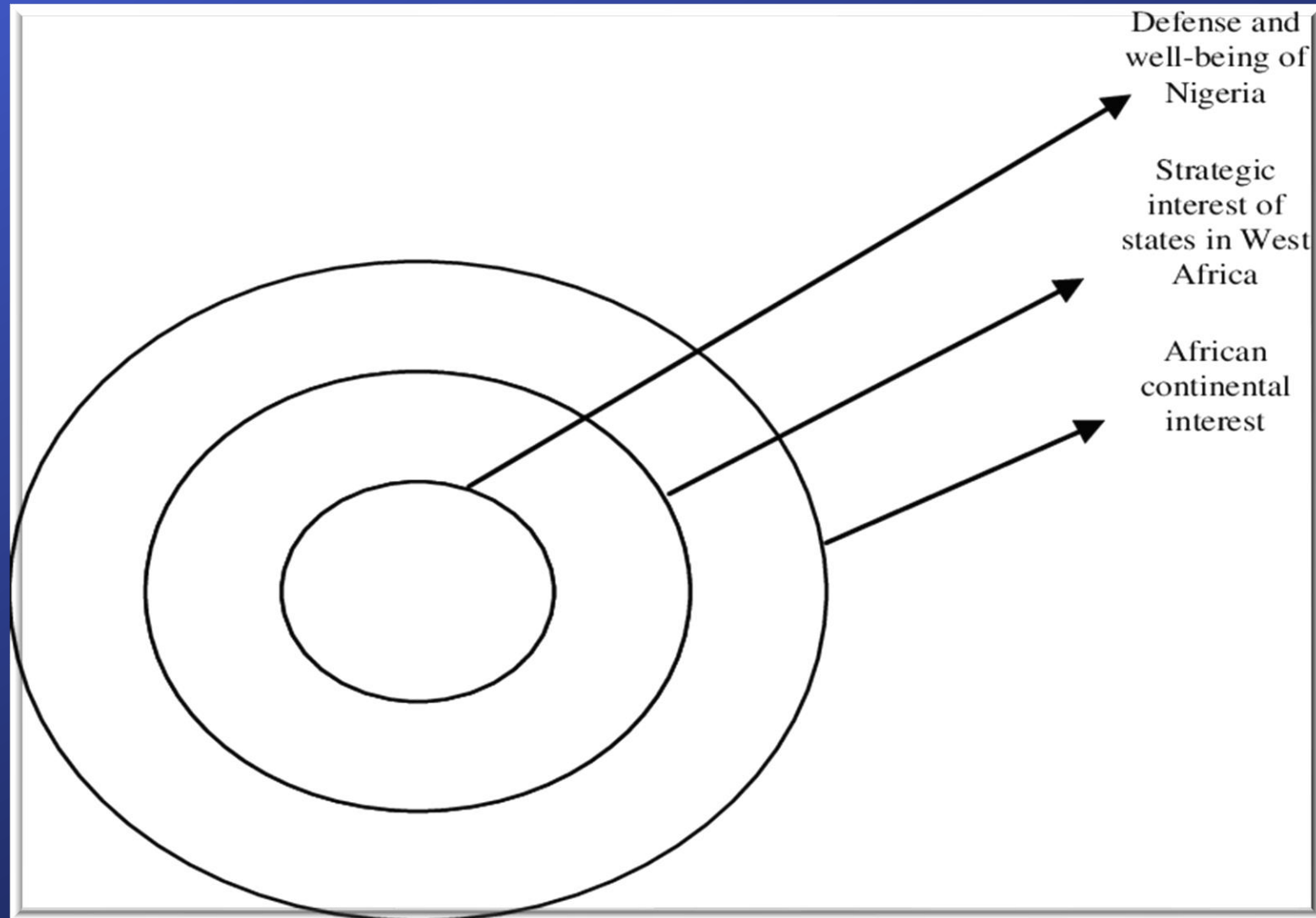
National Security

- ❖ Populators which occupy territories, their culture, history, aspirations and dynamics of society are of critical importance.
- ❖ National security aims to attain the best interests of the people in the territorial space.
- ❖ National Interest is therefore at the core of national security and strategy.

NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)

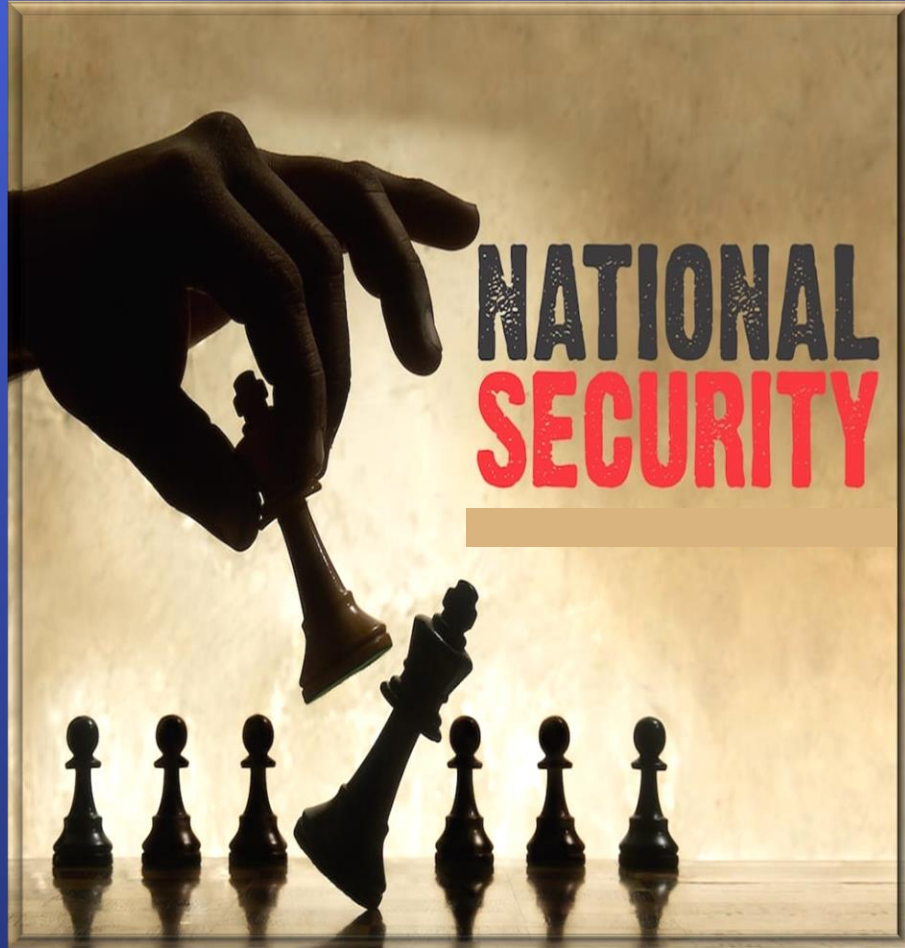
“the most important lesson of geopolitics is to not ignore the politics in the geo. If a nation cannot ensure basic needs of politics – which is a sense of justice in which who gets what, where and how, no matter what edifice you build, it will be hollow from below”.

NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)



Concept of concentric circles of foreign policy objectives and exertions and influence

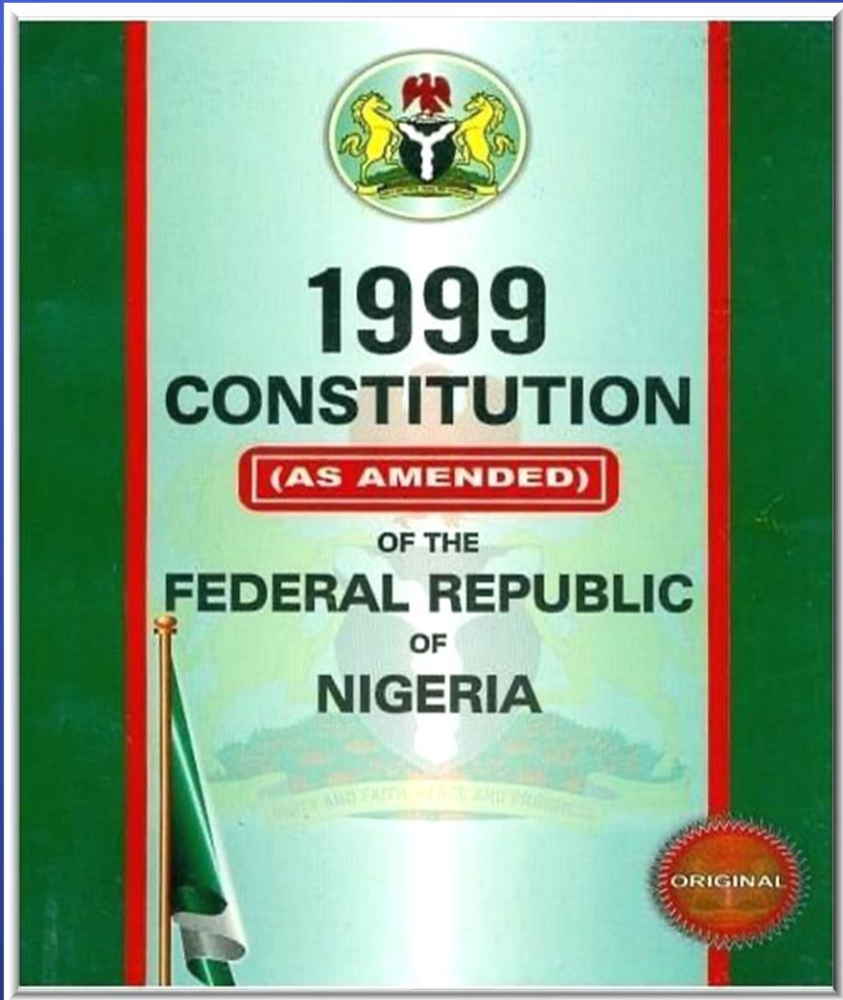
NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)



National Security

- ❖ Geopolitics, geostrategy are driven by statecraft, hence the relationship between geostrategy and national security is obvious.
- ❖ Geostrategy aims at planning and managing the nature and peculiarity of the territorial space in order to promote the well being of the people in the geographical space.
- ❖ Where there is no justice in the resource distribution of who gets what, where, when and how, along with the legitimacy of the authority doing the distribution, national security is in jeopardy.

NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)



Nigerian Constitution

- ❖ The strategic, “how” to distribute resources and the legitimacy of “who” is doing the distribution within the geographical space is the national grand strategy.
- ❖ The Constitution of the country is the grand strategy to address the justice of resource distribution
- ❖ New dimensions of national security beyond the **military dimensions include** economic, energy, environmental, actions by other nations, non-state actors, criminal gangs, multinational corporations, national disasters, political upheavals, public health like pandemics etc

NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT

NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT (CONT)



Map of Nigeria

- ❖ 250 ethnic nationalities with diverse cultures.
- ❖ The land space covers 92,761 sq km.
- ❖ Has a population of about 200 or more million people, the most populous in Africa, currently number six in the world and according to UN estimates.
- ❖ May become the third in the world after India and China by 2050.

NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT (CONT)



Map of Nigeria

❖ The key geographical features of the country include the Adamawa Plateau, Mambilla Plateau, Jos Plateau, Obudu Plateau, Rivers Niger and Benue.

❖ Has three distinct zones namely tropical rainforest in the south, the savannah in the central and dry Sahelian semi-arid climate in the North.

NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT (CONT)



Nigerian Map

- ❖ Out of 36 states of Nigeria, 9 are coastal states.
- ❖ The country is also surrounded by four (4) Francophone countries, namely Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin.
- ❖ Its two main rivers, Niger flowing from Niger and Benue from Cameroon are sources of energy and agriculture.

NIGERIA'S GEOSTRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT (CONT)



Nigerian Flag

- ❖ The border with Niger Republic in the North follows the Yobe river into Lake Chad.
- ❖ On the Western side is River Niger flowing into Nigeria and dammed at Kainji for electricity generation and forming a major inland waterway to the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ On the Western side is Benin Republic with the Yoruba and Borgu ethnic groups astride the boundary of both countries.

INTERNAL GEOSTRATEGIC POINTS

INTERNAL GEOSTRATEGIC POINTS (CONT)



River Niger



River Benue

- ❖ The rivers Niger and Benue remain the most geostrategic inland waterways of Nigeria.
- ❖ Vast acres of rural areas of forests and mountains dot across the landscape of Nigeria.

GEOPOLITICAL / GEOSTRATEGIC EFFECT ON NATIONAL SECURITY

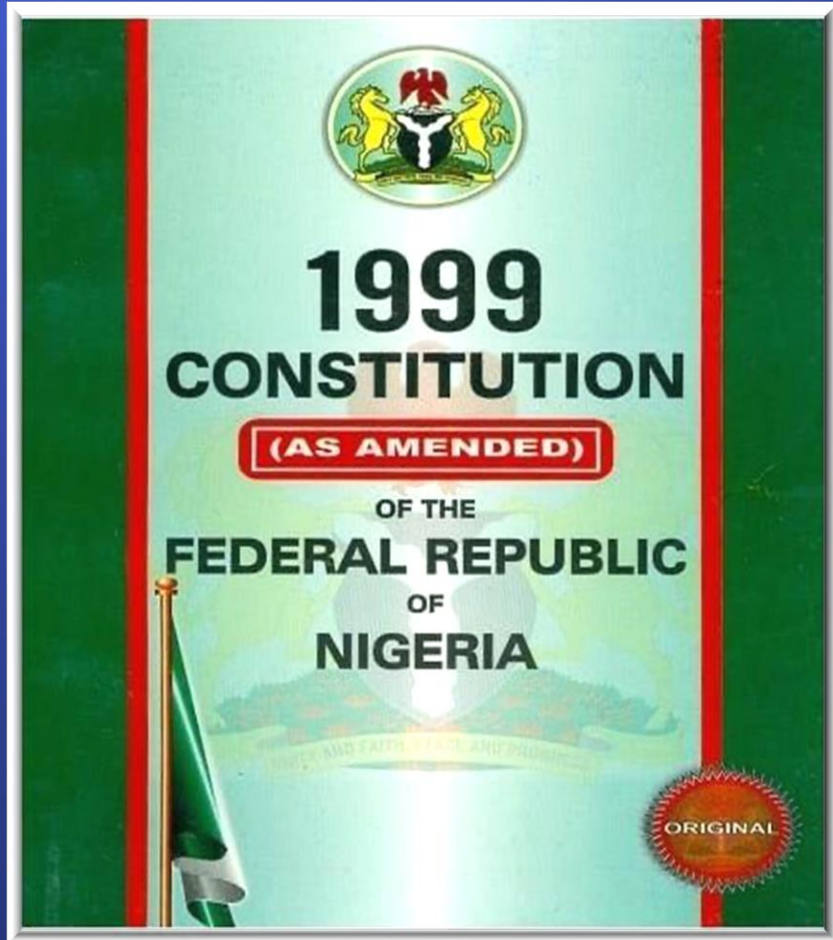
GEOPOLITICAL / GEOSTRATEGIC EFFECT ON NATIONAL SECURITY (CONT)

National Grand Strategy

Military Strategy

THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY

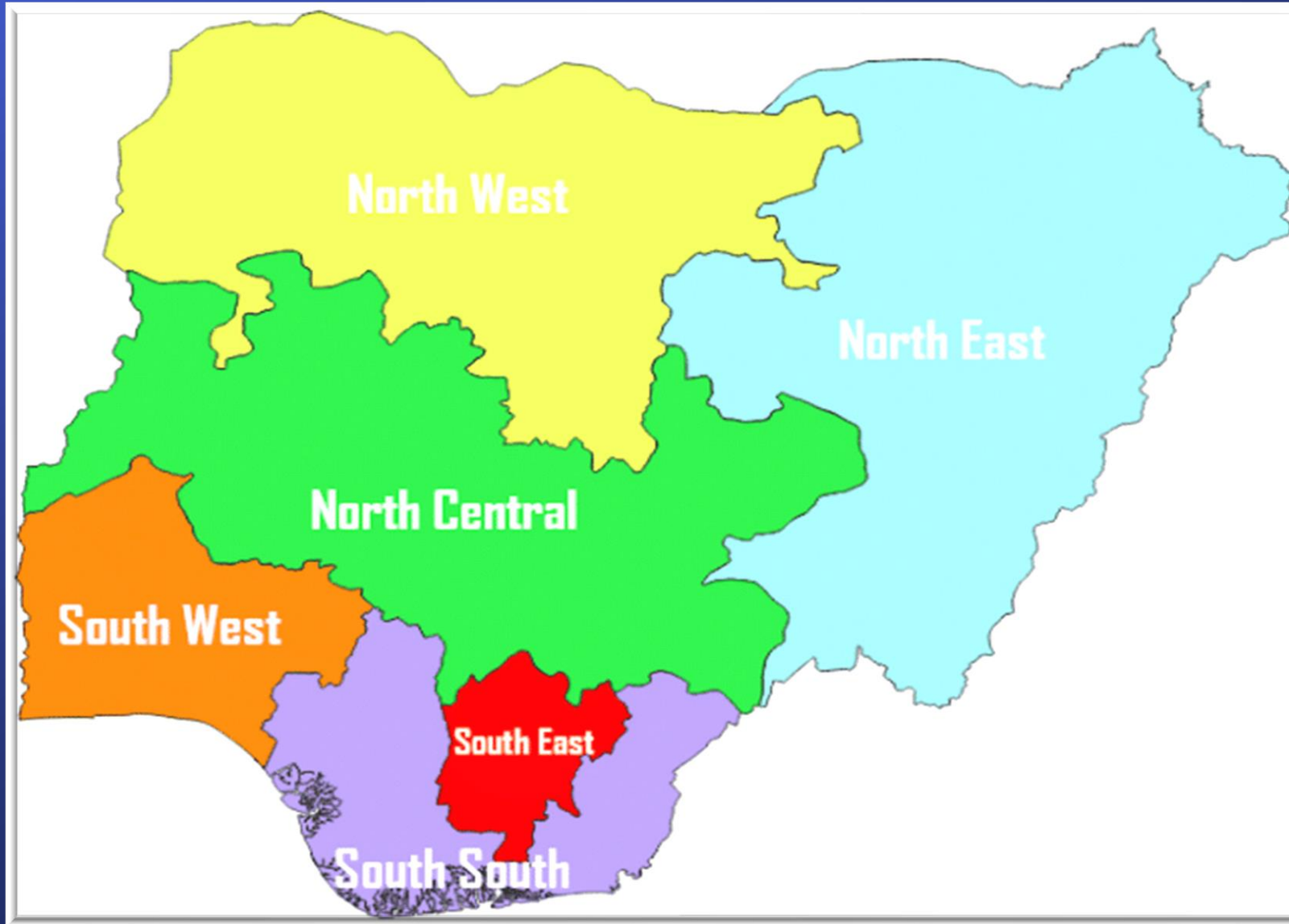
THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY (CONT)



Nigerian Constitution

- ❖ Grand strategy is the use of national resources and statecraft to secure and advance state interest.
- ❖ Through the use of sanctions, financial aid, investment and developmental policies of the state, state power is deployed as grand strategy.
- ❖ Flowing from the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the geographical space is divided into states and local governments.

THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY (CONT)



Geopolitical zones of Nigeria

THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY (CONT)

- ❖ Each geographical zone of Nigeria has its own economic strength:
 - ✓ The North West economy is based on livestock, farming and mining.
 - ✓ The North Central is basically farming and mining.
 - ✓ North East; farming, fishing, livestock, fossil fuel and mineral resources.
 - ✓ The South-West is rich in agriculture, blessed in tree crops like cocoa, rubber, oil palm and kola and commercial enterprises.
 - ✓ The South- East; rubber, food crops, mining, petroleum and manufacturing.
 - ✓ In the South- South there is crude oil, oil palm, rubber, mining.

THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY (CONT)



Sea Port

- ❖ Nigeria's major sea ports are in Lagos, Port-Harcourt and Calabar.
- ❖ Nigeria's economy is the biggest in Africa and the 39th largest economy in the world with USD 489.80 billion in 2023.
- ❖ The grand strategy for Nigeria is to ensure political stability and continuous path of economic growth through proper management of the geo-economy.

THE NATIONAL GRAND STRATEGY (CONT)



Nigerian Flag

- ❖ With a population of about 230 million, a land mass of 933,770 sq km, over 250 ethnic groups and over 500 languages, justice in resource distribution is a challenge.
- ❖ Only democratic, and a federal system of government that ensures self-governance and equitable resource control would douse tension and acrimonies, ensure peace and security and thus promote effective and sustainable political geostrategy.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)



Map showing West Africa

- ❖ After the independence of many African countries from their colonial masters, there was a need for economic independence while also promoting regional integration.
- ❖ A leading country like Nigeria, declared Africa as the centerpiece of its foreign policy.
- ❖ Nigeria in spite of not being in the frontline states of apartheid South Africa, it was made a member of a coalition group of states to dismantle apartheid in South Africa.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

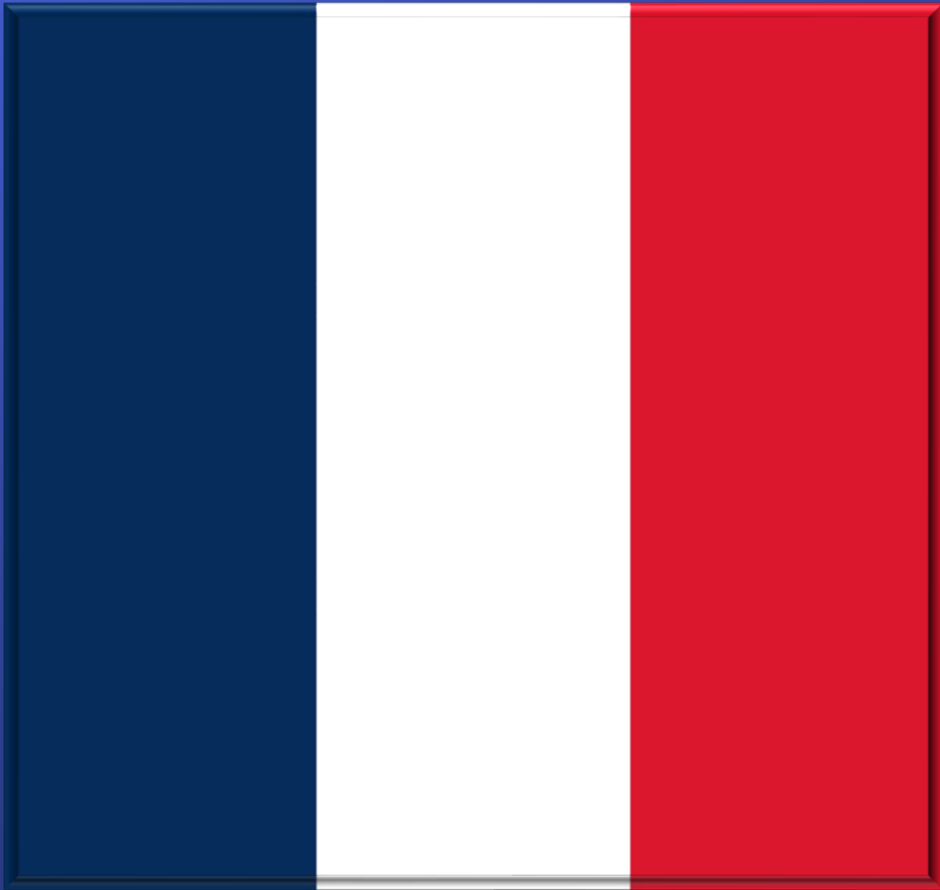


ECOWAS Logo



AU Logo

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)



Flag of France

- ❖ Nigeria is surrounded by Francophone countries of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Benin Republics.
- ❖ Being weaker states, France has continued to support and dominate their economies and their security architecture.
- ❖ The dominance of France in West Africa subregion and their policies toward those countries is inimical to Nigeria's interests.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)



Map of Nigeria

❖ Nigeria's population in the West African sub-region is about 51% of the total, its economy is about 70% and its land space is the 3rd.

❖ It is a prominent member of the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

❖ these go to show the geographical importance of Nigeria.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

First Concentric Circle

- ❖ A country's foreign policy derives its powers from its internal cohesion, culture, values and norms.
- ❖ Nigeria needs the mobilization of its endowed resources to more effectively project exerted power.
- ❖ Nigerian security architecture must first secure the nation in its diverse form.
- ❖ The challenges of ungoverned spaces, security of borders and critical national infrastructure must be addressed, just as internal law and order by the police and judiciary must be efficient and effective

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

First Concentric Circle

- ❖ The economy must be stronger for sustainable and equitable development with low unemployment rate - especially among the youth - low inflation and strong currency.
- ❖ We need to build not only strong security institutions that work for everyone, but also, we need to defend our culture and our way of life.
- ❖ We must ensure the greatest happiness to the greatest number; the surest path to national unity and national stability.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

Second Concentric Circle

- ❖ Our immediate neighbours first and by extension to ECOWAS.
- ❖ Threat to our sovereignty is most through our borders.
- ❖ We must therefore strengthen relationship with our immediate neighbours.
- ❖ Our leadership in the Lake Chad Basin Commission and the Multinational Joint Task Force in the Chad is a testimony of our leadership with our neighbours.
- ❖ In order to strengthen Nigeria's security, we must strengthen our security alliances with those countries.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

Second Concentric Circle

- ❖ Some experts have questioned security protocols with our neighbours;
 - ✓ Can Nigeria engage in hot pursuit of insurgents and criminal gangs into the territories of our neighbours, should there be incursions into Nigeria from our neighbours and can we chase them beyond our borders?
 - ✓ Should they mobilize from locations across the border, can we engage in interdiction or pre-emptive strikes? These have often happened with Cameroon in the case of Bakassi.
 - ✓ Should we allow the English-speaking Cameroon rebels foothold on our borders or interfere in their struggle for independence, knowing they share affinity with Nigeria ethnic nationalities?
 - ✓ Should we leave our borders open in the spirit of common culture and affinity across borders?

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

Third Concentric Circle



African Development Bank Logo

- ❖ This relates to our relationship with African countries.
- ❖ The strengthening of African institutions such as the African Union Commission, African Development Bank, African Import-Export Bank, the African Continental Free Trade Area and African Standby Force are of critical importance.
- ❖ Nigeria's leadership is essential in order for these institutions to effectively deliver on their respective mandates.

THE WEST AFRICAN SUB-REGIONAL DYNAMICS (CONT)

Fourth Concentric Circle

- ❖ The fourth concentric circle relates to the rest of the world.
- ❖ The main objective of the fourth concentric circle is to co-operate with the international community at large for the promotion of national interest.
- ❖ We have done so through our membership with the United Nations, the Non-Allied Movement and membership of several World bodies.
- ❖ Multipolarity has become the emerging international order in the post post-cold war order period
- ❖ Nigeria must promote its quest for permanent seat in a reformed and expanded United Nations Security Council.

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



Military Force

- ❖ It is the instrument of last resort, but also instrument looming large to project power.
- ❖ The use of military force is not an end by itself, it is a means to achieving political goals.
- ❖ Military geo-strategy must then first be based on geography, then economic strength and technological advancement.

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



bows and arrows



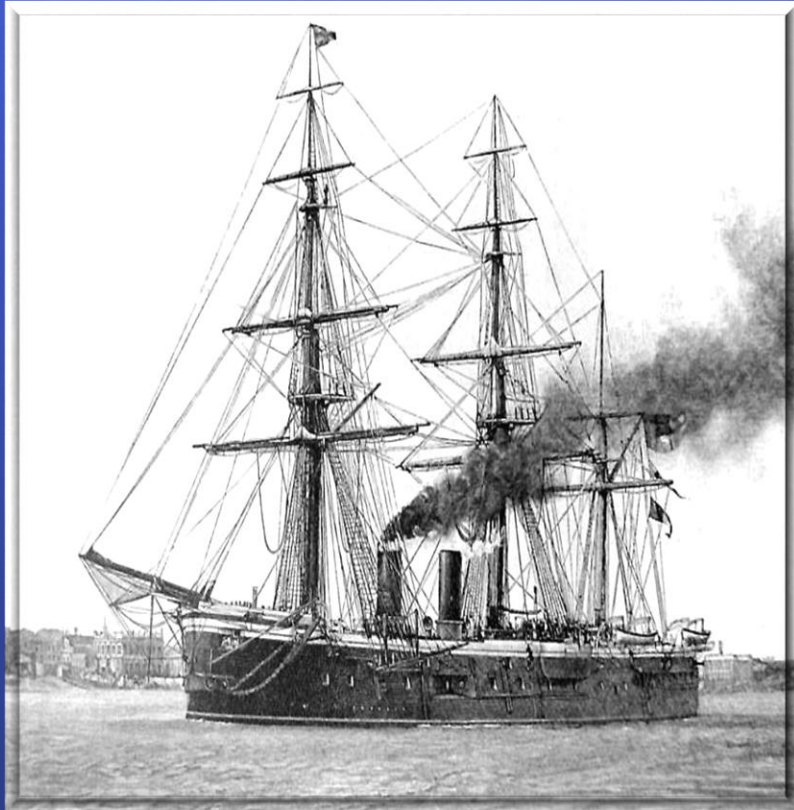
the calvary



muskets

Military campaigns in the agrarian period

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



steam engines for ships



speed with tank warfare



introduction of the aircraft

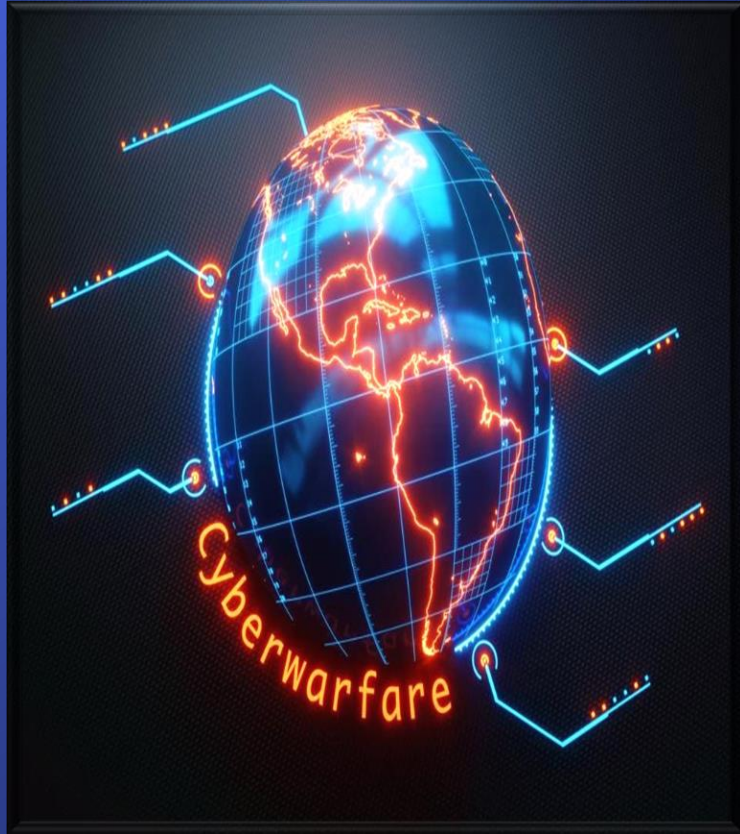
The third revolution

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



The fourth revolution (Internet)

MILITARY GEOSTRATEGY (CONT)



cyber warfare



drones



precision guided missiles

Highlights in this Revolution

THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE

THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE (CONT)



UAV

- ❖ It is industrial revolution warfare to deploy troops from Abuja to Kaduna to secure the railroad and highways.
- ❖ With a network -centric system, a command base located anywhere along the line can control the entire Area of Operational Responsibility.
- ❖ With unmanned aerial surveillance and reconnaissance vehicles linked with electronic fire platform, precision guided munitions, geographical space there will be real time response.

THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE (CONT)



Maj-Gen Buba Edward
Defence Director of Media Operations

“the attack on Bokkos and Barkin Ladi communities in Plateau State spanned about 2,315 sq km with over 350 villages mostly dispersed”

THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE (CONT)



Maj-Gen Buba Edward
Defence Director of Media Operations

“the distance between some of the villages and troops’ location is over 90 kilometers and sometimes difficult to access because of the rugged terrain which is mostly inaccessible to vehicles. Thus, affecting the reaction time to incidents”

THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SPACE (CONT)



NA Logo

- ❖ To cover all our geostrategic critical points, we need a paradigm shift.
- ❖ The Army should substantially shift its paradigm from the present to the Revolution in Military Affairs entailing adopting the Internet of Things.
- ❖ A future warfare of cyber electronic; a warfare where infantry, armour and artillery are no longer the lead but where the geostrategic battle is won by network-centric system before they move into the geographical space.

REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL DYNAMICS

REGIONAL AND CONTINENTAL DYNAMICS (CONT)



Libyan Flag

- ❖ The dynamics of Sub-Sahara Africa requires Nigeria to be both land and sea power.
- ❖ The collapse of the Libyan State and endemic conflict on that country have led to massive illegal arms inflow from the Libyan armoury into the Sahel.
- ❖ Events in the countries comprising SEN-SAD vibrates into Nigeria namely, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Libya, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Eritrea, Somalia etc, all 29 states.

CONCLUSION

**Thank you for your
Attention**