



MANAGING PRESSURE POINTS IN MOMENTS OF POLITICAL HICCUPS: THE ROLE OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

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I: INTRODUCTION

- THE PROBLEM

WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE OCCURRENCE OF THE WARS AND SOCIO-POLITICAL STRIFE THAT DOT THE AFRICAN LANDSCAPE?



I: INTRODUCTION (Cont'd)

- **MY THESIS: THE MYRIAD CAUSES OF INSTABILITY IN AFRICA ARE ROOTED IN 'NATION-BUILDING', BUT CENTRAL TO THEM IS THAT ORDINARILY OCCURRING POLITICAL HICCUPS ARE ALLOWED TO FESTER AND SNOWBALL INTO PROTRACTED CONFLICTS**



I: INTRODUCTION (Cont'd)

- **THE SOLUTION: SUSTAIN AND DEEPEN AFRICAN DEMOCRACIES BY EARLY IDENTIFICATION AND ALLEVIATION OF POLITICAL PRESSURE POINTS**
- **COMPARATIVE EVIDENCE**
- **1). Missed Opportunities: Congo, Nigeria in 1960s and Rwanda in 1990s**
- **2). Teachable Moments: Apartheid South Africa, MDGs, Taylor's Liberia and Abacha's Nigeria**



II: DEMOCRACY AND NATION-BUILDING IN AFRICA

- **‘DEMOCRACY’ AND ‘NATION-BUILDING’: THE AFRICAN CONTEXT**
 - **‘A MAN OF THE PEOPLE’: CULTURE OR ECONOMICS IN DETERMINING THE SURVIVAL OF DEMOCRACY**
 - **DEMOCRACY AS A SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND INVESTMENT--**
- Winston Churchill got it right!**



II: DEMOCRACY AND NATION-BUILDING (Cont'd)

- **THE CONSTITUTIVE FACTOR: ‘*E Pluribus Unum*’!** Max Weber, Anthony Marx and the challenge of nation-building
- **HIGH TRANSACTION COSTS**
- **TELEFISHBOWL: Making sausage in the age of ‘international society’ and media!**



III: EXPLAINING CONFLICTS IN AFRICA

- **1. ENDOGENOUS FACTORS**
- **a). Ethno-Religious Cleavages: The Berlin Map and the Burden of *Uti Possidetis***
- **b). The ‘Economy of Affection’ and its Political Correlates (PwA)**
- **c). The Primacy of Politics over Efficiency of Government**



III: EXPLAINING CONFLICTS IN AFRICA (Cont'd)

- **d). Generalized Disrespect for Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law**
- **e). Profiteering and other Negative Incentives**
- **f). Pervasive absence of a Social Safety Net**
- **g). Administrative over-centralization**



III: EXPLAINING CONFLICTS IN AFRICA (Cont'd)

- **2. EXOGENOUS FACTORS**
- **a). Predatory Geo-politics**
- **b). Benign Neglect by Major Powers**
- **c). Condescending Paternalism**
- **d). Inconsistent and half-hearted International Interventions**
- **e). Lopsided Global economic system**



IV: TOWARDS A SOLUTION

- **1. IDENTIFYING POLITICAL HICCUPS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**
 - **i). Electoral Arrangements and Disputes**
 - **ii). Unconstitutional Change of Power**
 - **iii). Suppression of the media, civil society groups and political opponents**



IV: TOWARDS A SOLUTION (Cont'd)

- **iv). Outbreak of 'Low Intensity Conflicts'**
- **v). Dispute among key political actors, even when they are 'personal'**
- **vi). Dispute over the interpretation and implementation of negotiated (peace) agreements**



IV: TOWARDS A SOLUTION (Cont'd)

- **vii). Sudden drop in government revenue and the resulting observable scarcity of essential commodities**
- **viii). Sudden loss of civility in the public discourses of political actors and their allies**



IV: TOWARDS A SOLUTION (Cont'd)

- **2. QUICK INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF OBSERVABLE POLITICAL HICCUPS THROUGH:**
 - **i). Deterrent Presence**
 - **ii). Empathy**
 - **iii). Mediation**
 - **iv). Conciliation**



V: LESSONS FROM HISTORY

- **1. MISSED OPPORTUNITIES**
- **A). International Complicity in Lumumba's Congo and its aftermath**
- **B). The Domino Effect of International Non-response to the collapse of Nigeria's First Republic and the 'Pogrom' that followed**
- **C). Watching the Rwandan Genocide**



V: LESSONS FROM HISTORY (Cont'd)

- **2. TEACHABLE MOMENTS**
- **A). The global coalition against apartheid South Africa and the movement for the Global Compact**
- **B). International action against General Abacha's impunity in Nigeria, and the 'forceful' removal of Charles Taylor from Liberia**



VI: CONCLUSIONS

- **DEMOCRACY IS AN ANTIDOTE TO 'FAILED STATES' IN AFRICA**
- **SUSTAINING DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA REQUIRES MORE THAN INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL**
- **NATION-BUILDING IS A CONTINUOUS (AND NOT ALWAYS A PLEASANT) SOCIAL EXPERIMENT**