

MASS MEDIA AND DEMOCRATIC CONSOLIDATION IN NIGERIA: THE FOURTH REPUBLIC IN PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The mass media is central to democracy and democratic consolidation as modern democracy is actuated, in part, by the watchful eyes of the fourth estate of the realm. In Nigeria, there has been a consistent attempt at strengthening the nation's democratic ethos in much of the post-independence era. This paper scrutinizes the mass media and democratic consolidation in Africa's most populous state. It examines the Fourth Republic with special reference to the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. Adopting secondary data and conceptual themes within historical comparative methodology, the paper queries the position that political leaders have been conscientious in the quest for democratic consolidation. It argues that prolonged military rule in Nigeria has desecrated core democratic principles. The paper concludes that if Nigeria's democracy is to be effectively consolidated, the nation's critical political institutions must allow the media to play their role without let or hindrance.

Keywords: Democratization, Democratic consolidation, democracy, mass media, Nigeria.