

POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC: A REFLECTION OF TRIUMPVIRATE SCHOLARS POLITICAL THOUGHTS

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Abstract

Politics is the operation of the state where individuals strive to share power or strive to influence the institution of power. Politics can be said to involve the management of conflicts among various interested groups. The demand of different leaders and citizens will definitely differ about how resources ought to be shared and used. Thus politics deals with who gets what when and how. Politics is concerned with political activities of man in the society. Politics according to V.I Lenin is who does what to whom. While the great Chinese revolutionist Mao-tse-tung sees politics as war without bloodshed. Politics is inclusive of all government activities by political forces while political forces are affected invariably by activities of the government. Usman Dan Fodio led a revolution which resulted in the creation of Sokoto caliphate. The revolution was intellectual and it was determined to establish the Sharia law which will install upright and just rulers. The triumvirate scholars were the product of Sokoto caliphate which was based on classical Sunni Islamic political theory. The Islamic political thought was authored by the theoreticians and ideologists of the jihad movement of the Sokoto caliphate. They contributed greatly in scholarship and revolutionary activities in Nigeria. They produced literary works to promote and defend the masses from the despotic and unjust rulers of the pre-jihad Hausa kingdoms. Their policies on governance centred on piety, justice, exposure and indifferent to governmental positions i.e. leadership should not be bestowed upon anyone that aspire for it. They gave the qualities and principles of a leader. In order to evaluate the ideologies of these scholars and how it relates to contemporary governmental issues with reference to the challenges facing the Nigerian leadership where the oppressive and insensitive nature of the ruling class have caused a decline in good governance.

Keywords: Leadership, Governance, Fourth Republic, Triumvirate,