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An Assessment of the United States-Nigeria Bilateral Relations on Security and Sustainable Economic Development (2015-2025)

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Abstract

At Independence, the British influence and interest in Nigeria was overwhelmingly active as to allow for any role for Americans since U.S and Britain were (and are still) close allies; hence, there was no strong desire to change the status quo. In the immediate post-independent of Nigeria, U.S came third after Britain and Germany in the areas of trade, aid, and technical assistance. The Nigeria-U.S relation began to improve as cooperation on foreign policy goals on regional peacekeeping, security, and economic growth improves despite the persistent structural weaknesses in transportation network, electricity power supply, sanitation, and infrastructure decay etc. The Nigeria economy among other African countries grew briskly for the decade ending in 2013. This study interrogated U.S bilateral Relation with Nigeria on security and Sustainable Economic development (2015–2025). Employed a qualitative research methodology which anchors on secondary sources like; official documents on U.S and Nigeria relations, textbooks, journal articles, documentary and internet sources, etc. The study is guided by the National Interest Theory; hence, some inherent setbacks militates against effective and efficient bilateral relations of these two countries such like: corrupt practices and bad leadership on the part of Nigeria government, insecurity, economic mis-management, human right abuses, among others; thus, the study centers and focus on Security, and sustainable Economic development. By extension, recommends a relationship that will boost the country's security and economy to a greater height, while the Nigeria leadership should consider matters of National Interest as priority in her foreign policy posture to actualize her desired objectives when dealing with matters of National interest with the developed countries.

Introduction

The power of external relations was the last substantive legislative and executive powers bequeathed to Nigeria government constitutionally by the British government. The responsibility vested upon Nigeria to handle her foreign policy decisions and her external relations is not an easy task and do demand a lot of practical experiences and pragmatic approach in handling such responsibility (Ugwu, 1986). This led Nigeria to attract the attention of the U.S to offer an idea on how the country can maintain a stable and newly independent democratic state, thereby encouraging the sustenance of America's objectives and policy in Africa. Nigeria and U.S relations took off immediately Nigeria got her independence in 1960 from Britain. It is at this point we took as the background of our study. This is without prejudice to the limited relationship that existed before 1960 in the area of trade, and Aid Saliu and Aremu, (2005). In the immediate post-independent of Nigeria state, U.S was a close ally after Britain and Germany in the areas of trade, aid and technical assistance to see to Nigeria economic growth and development. U.S–Nigeria relation kept on improving as their cooperation on foreign policy objectives on regional peacekeeping, security and economic growth improves tremendously. Despite the structural weaknesses in areas like; transportation network, power supply, sanitation, and infrastructure, etc. This relationship was cordial and fruitful to both countries throughout the years of the military regime to the present-day democratic administrations. From the beginning of the Nigeria fourth Republic (1999) to present Nigeria - U.S cooperation continue to exist base unequal relations, as the country's economy within the decade ending in 2013 grew briskly. the emergency of the new government in 2015 led the country to experienced its first recession between 2016 and 2017; thus, there was rebounding of this ugly economic situation in 2018, amidst a steep decline of the global Covid-19 pandemic. But in 2022 there was a sharp economic improvement throughout the period of pre-pandemic production. Within this period, World Bank Projects Report (2020), revealed that Nigeria economy grew by an average of 2.9%. while the population growth rate of the country was at 2.4%, (World Bank Human Capital Index report 2020). Between 2023 and 2025, the country faces human development challenges, ranked 150 out of 157 countries. Presently, Nigeria is battling on how to curb corruption, poverty, and social service delivery caused by public mistrust of leadership. Nigeria in recent years has experienced different kinds of insecurity caused by terrorism, inter-communal conflicts, criminal banditry, kidnapping, maritime piracy; human rights abuses and ineffective rule of law, etc. Meanwhile, the election of Bola Ahmed Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress (APC) as the President of Nigeria on February 25, 2023 followed the end of the two-term tenure of the late former President Muhammadu Buhari (2015–2023). Throughout these, U.S remained firmly in supporting Nigeria institutions in her socio-economic and security advancement and sustainability. In December 2022 U.S-Africa Leaders' Summit in Washington D.C, President Buhari's participation attendance proves his commitment in the Nigeria - U. S relations. By while, the U.S Vice President Kamala Harris meeting with the Vice President of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo to discuss a shared global challenges, energy access climate goals, security challenges, and the need for free and fair elections on September 2022 was said to be a good step in a right direction, coupled with the U.S Secretary of State Antony Blinken visit to Nigeria in November 2021 to discussed the need for U.S cooperation on Global Health Security, expanding energy access, economic growth, and revitalization of democracy shows the country's socio-economic and security development and sustainability in this 21st century. According to Bureau of African Affairs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Nigeria Cooperation Security White Paper, (2024) U.S and Nigeria Bi-National Commission (BNC) provided a key forum for high-level discussions since 2010' thus, the recent BNC meeting which was held on February 3, 2020 was in Washington D.C. Thus, the meeting focused on key areas of mutual interest, such like, good governance, anti-corruption efforts, trade, investment, development, food security, security and counter-terrorism efforts, etc. Bureau of

African Affairs, Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Nigeria Cooperation Security White Paper, (2024) also revealed that the USAID Agency, and the U.S Government were ready in 2024 to works with Nigerian on the improvement on her agriculture, health, education, and good governance etc. It was on the similar ground that Saliu and Aremu, (2005) earlier on opined that U.S bilateral relations with Nigeria since the re-enthronement of democratic rule on May 29 1999 has not exhibited any profound change in the area of security and economy. As Saliu and Aremu (2005) remarked, the relationship has remained frosty and unstable, despite the fact that the political terrain has transited from military autocracy to civilian democratic governance which U.S always promote, but the co-operation in some areas still remain shallow, fragile, and unstable; thus, it has not been base on any known clear-cut doctrinal strategy. Even if there is any change as often cited with excitement as evidence of closer and friendly relations, as America will always pronounced, it is merely peripheral and confined to the realm of photo-diplomacy that characterized with official state visits, rather than a serious commitment, (Saliu and Aremu 2005). The U.S relations with Nigeria is comparatively less strategic for its national purposes in contrast to her interest. Accordingly, Nigeria and U.S have their interests and objectives to pursue and to achieve which is their reason for their relationship and cooperation. To Nigeria, the essential interest and goal in her relationship with the U.S centers on Trade,, political stability, Military training, Regional security, Technology on oil and gas, etc. while that of U.S interest and objective in Nigeria centers on; Commerce, fight against drug trafficking, advance fee fraud, Oil and gas exploration, and to fight terrorism, etc. in effect, whether this friendly ties have produced any tangible results or not, it still remain debatable. Thus, the U.S assistance to Nigeria, and, to other African countries is for the U.S interest, for the country will not assist, intervene and relate with any country where they don't have their interest to be protected. However, this paper states that U.S relations with Nigeria, is for the American interest despite her campaign and praise singing on how America has been assisting Nigeria in her political, security, and sustainable economic development, etc. the paper's objective centers in assessing the impact of the U.S Aid assistance to Nigeria on her security and sustainable economic development within the period under study. It is on that ground the paper poses an epistemic gap, and clearly requires further interrogation on the driving forces that gave rise to these two countries relations. The paper also makes two significance interventions to that effect. First it brings into the lime light the impact of the U.S Aid assistance on Nigeria security, and sustainable economic development. secondly, it gears toward looking at the major factors behind the Nigeria–U. S relation within the period under study, while the rest of the paper will be presented under the following headings; Conceptual clarification, Theoretical framework of analysis, Methodology, and conclusion

Conceptually; Bilateral Relations in this context refers to political, economic, and socio-cultural cooperation between a sovereign state and other countries. Through bilateral relations states can develop their political system and economy sustainability. When states recognize other sovereign states, they establish a diplomatic relation, and exchange diplomatic agents such like, the ambassadors and the high commissioners to facilitate, dialogues, cooperate and coordinate in carrying out their diplomatic functions. **The concept, Security** as the name implies here refer to a state of being protected from danger, safe, and threat, etc. It goes with the safety of a state or organization against criminal activity like, terrorism, theft, or espionage. It also goes with the procedures followed, or measures taken to ensure the security of a state or organization. It refers to a state of feeling safe, stable and free from fear or anxiety, attack, danger, and doubt, etc. **Security** is a state of safety or certainty. It means an act of protection of a person, building, organization or country against threat like, crime or attacks by another country, etc. **The word Economy** here refers to an area of the production, distribution, trade, and consumption of goods and services. It is a means a social domain that emphasize the practices, discourses, and material expression associated with the production, and management of resources (Wikipedia; https//en.wikipedia.ng.) **The concept Economic development** in this context refers to ways, means, and process of improving a nation's economic well-being, and quality of life that involves structural changes, wealth creation, and better living standards, through better education, infrastructure development, jobs and opportunities, moving beyond just income growth to include social progress, and resource allocation for broad prosperity. Economic development is about creating wealth that benefits everyone, enhancing living conditions, attracting skilled workers, and fostering sustainable economic growth for the entire society. **The term Foreign Policy** here refers to a coordinated application of the elements of national power for the promotion of National Interest as defined by the ruling class in relations with states and other International Actors. It is a practical substantiation of grand strategy and the external expression of domestic policy, and the main object of foreign policy analysis. Meanwhile, the nature of this study gave room for the employment of a theoretical framework that will enable us to understand the theoretical analytic component of the study.

Theoretical framework of analysis

The paper employed National Interest Theory as its theoretical framework of analysis. The theory was propounded by Fred Sondermann (1977), in his book titled "the concept of National Interest" here Sondermann describe the underlying rationale for the behavior of states, and statesmen in a threatening International environment to capture the systematic idea of preserving and protecting one's values against others. National Interest Theory sees National Interest as a focus around which the complex and diverse issues of foreign policy

could be organized (Morgenthau 2003). It is a concept by which the behaviors of states, and their governments could be understood. When we talk about National Interest, we speak of values held by the political elites, and the governing members of a sovereign state. National Interests are the most essential values, and aspirations which a country holds in extreme importance and such interests could be strategic, economic, socio-political or religious ideas for which a country would be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice in order to protect it. Morgenthau (2003) noted that the objective of foreign policy must be defined, and situate in terms of National Interest because **'Interest'** is the perennial standard by which political actions must be judged. According to Morgenthau (2003) National Interest must be defined in terms of power, and power as a concept, cannot be separated from National Interest because, power is the principal instrument for the realization of National Interest. These interests are protected within the national boundaries. It is classified into three namely; Primary, Secondary and General interest. Going by this theory with regard to U.S - Nigeria relation on security and sustainable economic development, both countries have their interest which they hold in high esteem. John Chase observed that, there are some aspects of the U.S National Interest which guided the development of her foreign policy, likewise Nigeria. America sees Nigeria as her largest trading partner in Africa, and the second largest market for American products in the continent; hence, over 300 American companies operate in different spheres of the Nigerian economy. American private investments in Nigeria centered on oil sector and telecommunication. American Multi-National oil Companies have great stakes in the economic growth, environmental well-being, and political stability of Nigeria, especially in the Niger-Delta Region.

Methodology

The methodology employed for this study focuses on the research design, methods of data collection, and data analysis techniques. The paper is designed and structured to evaluate the impact of the U.S bilateral relations with Nigeria on Security and Sustainable Economic Development (2015–2025). The paper employed a qualitative approach in gathering direct opinions of the respondents which will help to get detailed information through the use of qualitative instruments which quantitative approach is limited to. Kothari (2004) state that research design is like a plan, a roadmap, blueprint strategy of investigation conceived for the collection, measurement, and analysis of data to obtain answers to research questions. It is the structuring of investigation aimed at identifying variables, and their relationship with one another (Kothari 2004). research design according to Asika, (1991) is use for the purpose of obtaining data to enable the researcher test hypotheses, or answer research questions It is a logical drawing of inferences from investigation of causal interactions between or among variables that are spelt out for examination. It is a course of action that guides the researcher in the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data, (Asika, 1991). Legee and Francis (1974) noted that as logic, each research design is like a blue print that tells us how to reach plausible answers to research problems. They maintain that we may ask three questions viz-:

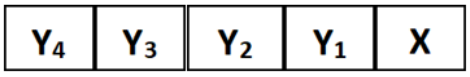
- Will the design provide plausible answers at the desired level of explanation and in a highly sensitive way?
- Does it allow for the plausible rival hypothesis?
- Is the design practical and ethical?

These points to the fact that research design serves as a useful guide in our efforts to generate data for the study. we adopt the Ex-Post Facto Research Design, because of our inability to control the independent variable. This is because the study is not an experimental research. Kerlinger (1977), opined that ex-post facto research is a systematic empirical inquiry in which the scientist does not have direct control of independent variables because their manifestations have already occurred or they are inherently, and cannot be manipulated as inferences about relations among variables are made without direct intervention from concomitant variation of independent, and dependent variables. Ex- post facto research design is adopted in this paper to look into how an independent variable (groups with certain qualities that already exist prior to a study affects a dependent variable. This entails particular traits of a participant that cannot be manipulated. It focuses on how actions that have already occurred can predict certain causes, and test hypotheses to locate a cause-and-effect relationship between the independent, and dependent variables. In ex-post facto research, **X** (independent variable) is observed, and **Y** (dependent variable) or series of Ys are also observed either before, after, or concomitant to the observation of **X.** Because this study is not an experimental research, the independent variable cannot be controlled. Absence of control in the ex-post facto research means that the researcher must take things as they are and try to disentangle them (Kerlinger, 1977).

X-Refers to the experimental treatment (Independent Variable), that is, the U.S relations with Nigeria

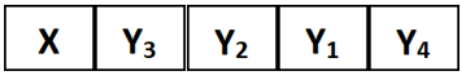
Y- Refers to an observation on the dependent variable, that is, the degree of the impact of the U.S relations with Nigeria on security and economic development and sustainability. Since we want to examine the impact of the U.S relation on Nigeria security and economic

development, we now observed **X** (the independent variable) and series of the effect on Ys (the dependent variables). Thus we have a single-case ex-post facto research design as stated below:



Independent Variable

Dependent Variable



Independent Variable

Dependent Variable

Looking at our analysis above, the logic of adopting the single case ex-post facto research design in this study and in the test of the hypothesis, the independent variable, (U.S) and dependent variable, (Nigeria security and economic sustainability) are observed simultaneously as the effects of the (**X**) on (**Ys)** have occurred before the beginning of this study. Thus, the before and after observations of the administration was carried out in a random yardstick to test the hypothesis. In concluding our investigation we observed that:-

1. Our first observation was the Nigeria security dependent on U.S Aid assistance
2. Our second observation was the Nigeria economic sustainability and development

is dependent on U.S within the period under study (2015–2025)

Methods of Data Collection

Here, the study relied on qualitative research methods which involves the use of documentary sources which anchors on secondary sources like, textbooks, journal articles, documentary materials and official reports from the government of the two countries and internet sources materials etc.

Legee and Francis (1974) observed that:

The quality of data is extricable tied to methods and techniques used for generating data. As a model used in social sciences and other related discipline, qualitative research method is very attractive in that, it involves collecting information in depth but from a relatively small number of cases

Burnham et al (2004) observed that:

Analytic induction is often used by qualitative researchers in their efforts to generalize about social behavior. Thus, concepts are developed intuitively from the data, and then defined, refined, and their implications deduced from the data

Data used in this paper was collected from secondary sources which anchored on documentary method used to obtain in-depth information and concept clarification so as to facilitate instrument designed (Nwabugwu, 2006). We adopted documentary method because it is useful when the task is to glean, illuminate, interpret and extract valuable information to draw inference from the available evidence so as to reach a conclusion. Documentary method is well-suited for contextual analysis because it is able to gain access to institutional and organizational issues and structure and a way of resolving them. It can lead to the discovery of the unexpected phenomenon. The adoption of this method of data collection becomes imperative since the study made use of documentary data generation from secondary sources. Secondary sources of data refer to as a set of data gathered or authored by another person, usually data from the available data, achieves, either in the form of document or survey results and code books (Ikeagwu, 1998; Asika, 2006). The advantages of secondary sources of data include that of economy etc. Again, the information of this sort is collected periodically

thereby making the establishment of trend over time possible. More so, it is the obvious fact that the gathering of information from such sources does not require the co-operation of the individual about whom information is being sought (Selltiz et al, 1977).

Data Analysis

The paper adopted logical content framework of analysis. The documents and information utilized in this paper were systematically analyzed to avoid distortion of facts and events as a result of wrong interpretations. Qualitative data were also analyzed for empirically correct inference and logical assertions. Logical content analysis according to White (1990), enable the researcher to scrutinize the contents of a document in order to quantify the message it relates. Hence, the application of logical content analysis which involves a systematic analysis of the contents of documents was appropriated in our analytical methodological requirements. Secondly, we attempted to capture the driving force behind the U.S-Nigeria relations as it anchored on Nigeria security and sustainable economic development. To complement the descriptive and analytical methodology, a qualitative testing of the hypotheses highlighted in the paper was employed. In carrying out our data analysis, we adopted the qualitative-descriptive method in analyzing the generated data. Documents and information utilized in this paper were systematically analyzed to avoid wrong analysis and interpretation as demonstrated on the logical data analysis below;

Logical Data Frame work of Analysis (LDF)

S/ No	Research Question	Hypothesis	Variable (x)	Main Indicators of Variables	Source of Data Collection	Method of Data Collection/Analysis
1	What are the reasons for the Nigeria-U.S bilateral Relations (2015–2025)?	There are reasons for the Nigeria & U.S Relations	**X (Independent)** Nigeria-U.S bilateral Relations (2015–2025)?	* Nigeria-U.S bilateral relation centers on Trade, Petroleum, Acquisition of Cyberspace Technology, National Aeronautic Space Administration, Satellite Laser Ranging Project (SLR), Co-operative International Global Positioning System, Network, and CIGNET * U.S was Nigeria's largest foreign investor in the year 2021 with the FDI centered in oil, mining and wholesale trade sector. While, *Nigeria depends on America for most of her Machinery and spare-parts * In 2022, the Nigeria and U.S two-way trade in goods totaled over $8.1 billion and at $3.4 billion. * Nigeria is the second largest U.S export destination in Sub-Saharan Africa. *U. S exports to Nigeria include vehicles, wheat, machinery, fuels, and plastics. * Nigeria is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act * U.S goods exported to Nigeria in 2019 was about $3.2bn, * U.S imported goods from Nigeria in 2019 was $464m and *Nigeria own from U.S was $2.1bn	Documentary/Secondary Sources; *Nigeria-U.S Official government reports *Texts. *Journal articles *internet materials, etc.	* qualitative, Documentary / secondary sources: *Content Analysis
			Y **(**Dependent **)** *Security, *economic development *political/ democratic stability, * trade etc.	* In 2019, U.S gave about $1.2m military aid defense to Nigeria * in2020 U.S gave about $1.2m military aids to Nigeria *In 2020 U.S gave about $1.2b economic aid to Nigeria * In 2022. U.S gave about $84.2b aid to	documentary/Secondary Sources from; *Texts, -*Official Document from govt. reports, & Online/internet source materials, etc.	

S/No	Research Question	Hypothesis	Variable (x)	Main Indicators of Variables	Source of Data Collection	Method of Data Collection/Analysis
				Nigeria *Between 2016 and 2023, U.S gave Nigeria about $5 million as Military, Education, and Training aid in sub-Sahara Africa.		

An Assessment and Analysis of the U. S Aid assistance to Nigeria, and Its impact on Security and Sustainable Economic Development (2015–2025)

In Assessing the Nigeria-U.S bilateral relation, and its impact on Security and sustainable economic development (2015–2025) this paper revealed that the U.S-Nigeria relation appeared to be unequal bilateral relationship in the sense that it has not made much impact when it comes to Nigeria sustainable economic development and security stability within the period under study and beyond. Though, U.S has been rendering some aids assistance to Nigeria in various ways and areas of need but the impact has not been as expected, as it has not made much positive impact on the areas it was made for.

The findings of this paper revealed that the U.S bilateral relation with Nigeria since the re-enthronement of democratic rule on May 29 1999 has not exhibited any profound change in the area of security, and economic sustainability of Nigeria, as the relationship has remained frosty and unstable even though the political terrain has transited from military autocracy to civilian government which America promote; yet, bilateral co-operation in certain areas still remain shallow, fragile, and unstable (Saliu and Aremu, 2005).

U.S-Nigeria relations has not been making much positive impact, and as such, it is not based on any known clear-cut doctrinal strategy, there has been no substantive, and qualitative change in this bilateral tie since Nigeria fourth Republic. If there are any changes as often cited with excitement, as signs of closer and friendly ties as U.S always do, it is merely peripheral and confined only to the realm of photo-diplomacy, that characterized official state visits rather than a serious long-term strategic commitment.

Nigeria's importance to U.S lies on its nuisance value which U.S would like to prevent in order to secure safe environment for Euro-America Trans-National Co-operation, and extended penetration. U.S assistance to Nigeria has been for the U.S interest rather than Nigeria interest. To U.S, its relationship with Nigeria is comparatively less strategic for its national purposes in contrast to Nigeria's interest.

An Assessment /Analysis of U.S Aid Assistance to Nigeria on Economic Sustainability (2015–2025)

U.S as revealed by our research finding, is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria, with her Foreign Direct Investment concentrates largely in the Petroleum, Mining and wholesale trade sectors. In 2022, the two-way trade in goods between the U.S and Nigeria totaled over $8.1 billion and at $3.4 billion. Nigeria on the other hand is the second largest U.S export destination in Sub-Saharan Africa. U.S exports to Nigeria include vehicles, wheat, machinery, fuels, and plastics. Many U.S-based film and entertainment companies are active in Nigeria, and Nigeria is eligible for preferential trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). U.S aid to Nigeria focuses on expanding access to commercial, financial, and microfinance services. Over 300 American companies operate in different spheres of the Nigeria economy, milking the country's wealth and mineral resources through their Multi-National Companies like; Chevron, Mobil, and Texaco in the pretense that they are helping and always ready to assist Nigeria in her economic advancement and security sustainability. This paper revealed that, the U.S interest and investment in Nigeria is mainly on oil, telecommunication sectors, economic modernization and advancement; thus, the U.S campaign on Nigeria economic advancement is for the U.S interest, why because, the modernization of the Nigeria economy will constitute the largest market place in Africa for American companies, as U.S has the largest investment in Nigeria. The findings of this paper revealed that America is not ready to transfer her new technology and skill to Nigeria, nor ready to reinvest her capital or interest in Nigeria for the transformation and development of Nigeria economy. The findings revealed that America is good in the exchange of primary commodities for industrial goods, and creating room for Nigeria to ask for foreign loan and grants, as it was the case in the first two decades of the country's independence. it would be naïve and irresponsible for Nigeria leaders to say they want to recruit U.S for West African Regional Integration Scheme, or to rely on a Joint U.S-Nigeria Economic Partnership Committee co-chaired by high-level US-Nigeria government officials to co-ordinate Nigeria's National Economic Policies, and draw up a truly National Action Plan for the transformation of the Nigerian economy to an independent and

industrialized one. in the contrary, the mutuality of interest of US and Nigeria rest on the preservation of the structural conditions where the US is the dominant industrial power and Nigeria an important raw-material provider and subordinate ally. The nature and extent of U.S relations with Nigeria would seem to suggest that Nigeria is not so important and strategic to the U.S and U.S relation with Nigeria cannot contribute any meaningful thing for the development of Nigeria economy. Nigeria's importance to the US lies on its nuisance value which the U.S would like to prevent in order to secure safe environment for Euro-America Transnational Co-operation and extended penetration. Meanwhile, the American oil Trans-National Companies have done and still doing or causing serious environmental crimes in the Niger-Delta Area of Nigeria for the past six decades, and this cannot be tolerated by America in their country. whether these friendly ties have produced any tangible results in terms of stable, predictable, and dependable bilateral relations between the two countries, it still remains debatable as this practice undermines the concept of National Interest.

An Assessment /Analysis of the U.S. Aid Assistance to Nigeria on Security (2015–2025)

On the U.S. security assistance and aid to Nigeria within the period under study, the study revealed that, the U.S interest is just to strengthen the capacity of Nigeria's security forces, and institutions to respond effectively to any security threats that may affect the U.S investment in Nigeria, while the U.S claims to be protecting civilian populace from being harmed and as well promoting human rights. The U.S. Government works to protect Americans from terrorism, and this create opportunity for trade and investment, and gives a more stable and prosperous country that is a partner in advancing our global priorities. U.S government gives supports and assistance to Nigeria government in her efforts to strengthen democratic institutions, promote good governance, and counter corruption, and to improve security while, addressing factors that drive conflicts, and providing life-saving assistance to those affected by terrorism attack. U.S government security assistance and aid to Nigeria always plays a double deal. For instance, on the 25th December 2025, the U.S President Donald Trump ordered the U.S Army to launch an airstrike on the ISIS militant group that have been killing the innocent Christians in the north-west region of Nigeria. Contrarily, President Donald Trump in his statement, in response to an interview on Forbes Breaking News, (December 25, 2025) said and I quote:

"I ordered a massive strike on the terrorists that killed our three great patriots last week" President Trump further maintained that the attacks were aimed at militants that killed two of their soldiers and an interpreter who President Trump described as brave patriots. According to Trump, the strike was swift and decisive, adding that it was carried out to ensure accountability, and to prevent further attacks on American personnel. From Trump's statement, one can understand and see that, the airstrike was not mainly carried out on the ISIS group because of the killings of the Christians in that region but because of the killing of the three U.S soldiers, meaning that, America government doesn't intervene where their interest is not at stake or at risk, rather where and when their interest, investment and lives of their personnel are at risk or at stake etc.

An Assessment /Analysis of the U.S. Aid Assistance to Nigeria on political stability (2015–2025)

Political/democratic Stability; is one of the reasons for the United States-Nigeria relation. Though this is out of our focus of study but will make reasonable meaning and add more impact on our study. The findings of this paper revealed that, the promotion of a vibrant democratic and political stability of Nigeria is the single most valuable interest of the US because, America valued Nigeria as a basis for conflict resolution, political stability, and security sustainability which are required to strengthen America's capital investment in the country.

An Assessment /Analysis of the U.S Aid Assistance to Nigeria on Trade (2015–2025)

On trade cooperation and assistance, America sees Nigeria as its largest trading partner in Africa and the second largest market for American products in the continent. U.S International Trade Administration Report (2021) revealed that U.S was Nigeria's largest foreign investor in the year 2021 with the FDI centered in oil, mining and wholesale trade sector. Nigeria depends on America for most of her Machinery and spare-parts, and this shows that Nigeria is often at the mercy of the American interest. The U.S interest and objective in her bilateral trade and economic relations with Nigeria is not defined by altruism. Thus, Nigeria's importance to U.S lies on its nuisance value which U.S would like to prevent in order to secure safe environment for Euro-America Trans-National Co-operation, and extended penetration. Under Nigeria - U. S bilateral relation, protectionism has over the years reduced the size of International market available to

Nigeria in the area of manufacturing. At this situation, Nigeria has no choice but to continue to concentrate on the exportation of primary commodities. Nigeria is basically a price taker for both her export and import which are dictated by U.S and other western countries. In effect, the value received by Nigeria per unit of her export has always been lower compared to the value paid per unit of her imports from U.S and other countries. Consequently, in order to pay for a given quantity of import, Nigeria has to export more of her primary resources. However, the Nigeria - U.S bilateral relation centers on Trade, Petroleum, Acquisition of Cyberspace Technology, National Aeronautic Space Administration (NASA), Satellite Laser Ranging Project (SLR), Co-operative International Global Positioning System (GPS) Network, and CIGNET for the accuracy of all GPs measurement etc.

Based on the paper's findings, we conclude that, despite all assistance given to Nigeria by the U.S in various arrears of her needs, none made meaningful impact as expected, in advancing and sustaining Nigeria security and economic development within the period under study (2015–2025), and beyond. Having stated and analyze the impact of the U.S Aid assistance to Nigeria let us look at the reasons for the maintenance and sustenance of these two countries bilateral relation since Nigeria independence

Reasons for the U.S -Nigeria bilateral relation (2015–2025)

Among the factors that motivated and sustained the U.S-Nigeria bilateral relation within the period under study, and beyond include;

- **Security Assistance;** the paper findings revealed that one of the major factors that encouraged U.S relations with Nigeria is Regional security, and this is an issue that is very crucial to U.S as it value the leadership role of Nigeria in the management of Regional Security in Africa, mainly in the ECOWAS Sub-Region. The U.S reason for this interest is that when a Regional Institution under Nigeria's leadership like the African Union (AU) or Sub-Regional Institutions like the ECOWAS is in conflict or war, the U.S government will be relieved of some pressure to be directly involved in settling such Regional crisis, like the one we do witness in Somalia, Rwanda, Liberia, Sierra Leon, and other African countries. Secondly, Regional Security and stability facilitates the course of democracy and sustainable economic development across the region. Because of the U.S economic investment and political interest in those countries U.S decides to assist ECOMOG financially and logistically in the management of Regional security in Africa. here, U.S government established a standing partnership with the Nigeria military, and volunteered to be educating, advising, and training Nigeria military on how to handle military equipment like, the A-29 Super Tucano jet fighter which U.S sold to Nigeria to use in fighting the Boko Haram insurgence. U.S. security assistance to Nigeria is to strengthen the capacity of Nigeria's security forces and institutions to respond effectively to any security threats that may affect the U.S investment in Nigeria, but here, America always claims to be protecting the Nigeria civilian populace from being harmed, and as well promoting human rights.
- Though U.S has been assisting Nigeria in eliminating its Gas flaring hazard and promised to reduce Green House Gas Mission by 2030. In 2017 U.S contributed about $650 million on Nigeria security assistance and $1.8 Billion in foreign military sales. U.S assisted Nigeria in securing air travel and land border against terrorist travel, combat terrorism financing, and counter violence extremism. U.S has been working with Nigeria through regional, and multi-lateral like; ECOWAS, Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF), Global Coalition to defeat Daesh/ISIS and African Union. U.S Joint Forces increases its cooperation on Maritime and border security, Military professionalization, counter terrorism against Boko Haram and ISIS-West Africa, on defense and by strengthening the governance on the security sector.
- On military aids, U.S in 2020 gave Nigeria about $1.2 million. In the International outrage that followed the Chibok School girls kidnapped in Northern Nigeria in April 2014, though this is out of the focus of the study, but then American President Obama announced on May 6, 2014 that America was going to provide some security assistance to Nigeria (Crawford, 2015). Hence, an inter-disciplinary team to assist the Nigeria military was sent by the then American President, and this team comprises 38 members with two Federal Bureau of Investigation Hostage Specialists, and some military intelligence analysts; about 80 American troops were deployed, while fifty U.S team acquired commercial satellite imagery and flew manned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance flights over Nigeria.
- In 2021, the mission to rescue the chibok girls could not succeed due to lack of trust on the Nigerians by the U.S Army who saw an element of corruption, disloyalty and human right abuses by the Nigeria personnel (New York Times Report, 2021).
- Between 2016 and 2023 fiscal year, U.S provides Nigeria with about $5 million for International Military Education, and Training Allocations in sub-Sahara Africa.
- Between 2016 and 2020 fiscal year, U.S government under President Donald Trump gave Nigeria about $1.8 million from her foreign military financing to support Nigeria maritime security, military professionalization and counter-terrorism.

- In 2017 U.S sold her 12A-29 Super Tucano Aircraft that worth about $497 million to Nigeria in support of the Nigeria military operations in fighting the Boko Haram insurgence and ISIS West Africa. In addition to Special Training on International Humanitarian Law, an Air to Ground Integration (AGI) Program designed to provide institutional and technical training to the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN) in order to avoid the risk of civilian harm incidents.
- Between 2018 and 2022 fiscal year, U.S government under Donald Trump exported over $53 million worth of defense article to Nigeria through the Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) Process, and these articles include; Fire control equipment, Laser imaging and guidance equipment, Firearms and related Articles, and Guns and armament.
- On the AGI Program, U.S obliged about $941,000 in Peacekeeping Operations Funds (PKO). Since 2021 U.S government under the leadership of President Donald Trump has been rendering advisory services to the AEN to enhance accountability and justice by developing systems and practices on civilian harm mitigation. Meanwhile, The U.S Government Report under the leadership of President Donald Trump (2022) revealed that Nigeria is a major destination for U.S Foreign Aid; hence, in 2021 Nigeria was said to be on top ten recipients by volume.
- Between 2012 and 2021 the U.S's Annual Aid obligations to Nigeria ranged between $624 million, and in 2020 is $1.11 million Aid and it was dispersed in the humanitarian sector in the latter case especially under the leadership of President Donald Trump's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief which designates Nigeria as one of the 15 priority recipients (U.S Government Report (2022). In 2017, the Department of Defense donated Demining and Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) equipment to Nigeria and provides Mine Action Training for Nigeria's EOD teams at the Nigerian school of Military Engineering.
- Nigeria participated in Multiple Bilateral and Multilateral Military Exercise with the U.S and this include; African Lion, Flint-Lock, and Oban Game Express (U.S Security Cooperation with Nigeria; Fact Sheet Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Jan. 20 2025). in 2023, Nigeria's Network of American Spaces reached over 56000 participants through approximately 2000 programs focused on civic engagement. Women's participation in politics stems education, entrepreneurship, and youth development. Over 17000 Nigerians are currently studying in U.S whose mission in Nigeria is to advance about 80000 Nigeria students in 2023 and to help to secure about $30 million in scholarship through its Opportunity Funds Program. On the 25th December 2025, the U.S army under the leadership of President Donald Trump in collaboration, support and cooperation of the Nigeria leadership, President Ahmed Tinubu launched an airstrike on the ISIS militant terrorist group in the north western region of Nigeria for attacking and killing innocent Christians in that region, (https//phonex-brows.com?d = 375164511084666984110). Similar attack was equally launched against the banditry in the northern part of Nigeria early this 2026, going by the U.S military order under the leadership of President Donald Trump
- **Economic development and Sustainability;** this is another major factor behind the U.S-Nigeria bilateral relation within the period under study; here, the study revealed that a notable feature of U.S-Nigeria relation has been the stability of their bilateral economic cooperation which has proved resilient on diplomatic and political raptures. Here, America sees Nigeria as its largest trading partner in Africa and the second largest market for American products in the continent. Presently, about 300 American companies operate in different spheres of the Nigerian economy. American private investments in Nigeria centered on oil and telecommunication, and U.S is the largest foreign investor in Nigeria. American Multi-National oil companies have great stakes in the Nigeria economic growth, environmental well-being, political stability, and security, especially in the Niger-Delta Region. U.S has been supporting Nigeria on her economic growth through private sector and government supportive initiative like; the West African Trade and Development Agency, and the Foreign Commercial Service, the highest humanitarian donor in Nigeria, though this is for the American interest.
- U.S in 2015 provided about $1.45bn to Nigeria, rendering financial and material assistance to about two million conflict affected households in the Northern part of Nigeria,

*U.S has been partner with Nigeria in improving its government capacity, strengthening its democratic processes and institution, encouraging freedom of information, enforce accountability, ensure credible and transparent elections, strengthening civil society advocacy, reinforcing the role of local peace committees to resolve conflict, encourage transparency and service delivery, and promise to stand by Nigeria and work towards a more inclusive, peaceful and prosperous state (**https//-ng.us embassy/govt. reflection-on-61-years-of us-nig-engagement)** U.S. Mission Nigeria. 2021. "Celebrating 61 Years of U.S.-Nigeria Relations." U.S. Embassy and Consulate in Nigeria. October 1, 2021. https://ng.usembassy.gov/celebrating-61-years-of-u-s-nigeria-relations/.U.S. Mission

- **Political/Democratic Stability;** is one of the reasons for the US-Nigeria relations; though they are not among our focus of study but for analytical purposes and its importance in these two countries relationship, we decide to carry them along in this study. The study revealed that the promotion of a vibrant democratic Nigeria is the single most valuable interest of the US in Nigeria because, America valued Nigeria as a basis for conflict resolution, and political/security sustainability which are required to strengthen

America's capital investment in Nigeria. The apparent congruence and mutuality of interest of the U.S and Nigeria in democracy and the free market are the basis of maintaining dominance.

- In the 2023 General election in Nigeria, U.S supported over 44 civil society organization to provide civic and voter education to 68 million Nigerians. They also collaborate with civil society armed forces, Law enforcement and judiciary in confronting the security challenges that stand on the way of economic growth, democracy, and human rights. Here, U.S provides technical assistance, trains law enforcement personnel, and judiciary professionals to address banditry, kidnapping, counter-narcotics, cyber-crime, protecting intellectual property right, and trafficking in person and gender-based violence.
- U.S Law enforcement program under the leadership of President Donald Trump focuses on building the capacity of civilian security actors, mainly the Nigeria police force, Nigeria Drug Law Enforcement Agency, and Nigeria Customs. Thus, U.S appreciates Nigeria's leadership in the Region, standing firm for the integrity of democratic nations in West Africa, as Nigeria was among the first to condemn the coup in Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso and the recent one that took place in Madagascar on the 14th day of October 2025 and the attempted coups in Gabon and Benin Republic.
- **Trade Relations;** Trade cooperation is one of the motivating factors behind the U.S relations with Nigeria within the period under study though, it is not among our focus of study but will make more meaning to the study. This study revealed that, a country like Nigeria that depends on America for most of her machinery and spare-parts is often at the mercy of the U.S interest; thus, U.S objective in her trade and economic relation with Nigeria is not defined by altruism, as Nigeria's importance to U.S lies on its nuisance value which U.S would like to prevent in order to secure safe environment for Euro-America Trans-National Co-operation and extended penetration. Nigeria is the second largest trading partner in Africa with two-way trade that exceeds $10.6bn in 2022. U.S Foreign Investment in Nigeria is over $5.6 Billion in 2022. U.S mission in Nigeria collaborated with Public and Private Sector Partners' Capacity Building Programs for young Nigerians in creative industries. Since 2017 over 500 film makers have participated in workshops led by U.S film makers in collaboration with the department of States, American film showcases global media makers ECA Programs.
- U.S mission in Nigeria has contributed to the development of the creative ecosystem by supporting various films, theater and Arts festivals like, the African International Film Festival, African Creative Market, Abuja Open House, Ake Arts and Book Festivals, etc. Nigeria and U.S enjoy a strong bilateral cooperation on cultural heritage protection and preservation and signed a bilateral cultural property agreement in January 2022.
- Nigeria is one of the two countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with a similar agreement with the U.S that has received over $1.3milliom for 15 projects from the U.S Ambassador's Fund for cultural preservation (the U.S and Nigeria partnering for prosperity fact sheet, January 23, 2024). World Bank Report (2022) opined that in 2019, U.S was the third largest market for Nigeria exports after China and India at an annual value of $4.7 Billion (9.9%) of the total Nigeria exports.
- As at last century, Nigeria exports to U.S was dominated by fuel which accounted for about 97% of the exports to the U.S. World Bank Report (2022) observed that in 2019, Nigeria imported good from the U.S worth $3.2bn being the U.S's second largest export destination in sub-Saharan African (U.S International Trade Administration Report 2021) this resulted in a historically modest U.S trade deficit of $1.4 Billion (U.S Trade Representative Report 2022) giving $1.7 Billion, a surplus in trade services; thus, U.S had an overall trade surplus with Nigeria. Accordingly, U.S Trade Representative Report (2022) observed that in 2019, the stock of U.S Foreign Direct Investment in Nigeria worth $5.5 Billion, which is about 21.5% increase from the previous year, while, Nigeria FDI in U.S is about $105 million.
- U.S International Trade Administration Report (2021) revealed that U.S was Nigeria's largest foreign investor in the year 2021 with the FDI centered on oil, mining and wholesale trade sector, etc. These two countries bilateral relation later extend to health, and Drug trafficking/Advance fee fraud, among others, thus, as observed, U.S doesn't intervene, support, render assistance where their interest, investment and lives of their personnel are not at stake etc.

Conclusion

The U.S Partnership with Nigeria is built on shared interests and values, strong people-to-people ties, a secure democratic, healthy, and prosperous Nigeria. U.S and Nigeria enjoy a deep and enduring partnership that spans to more than six decades. U.S Bilateral relation with Nigeria is based on advancing shared interests on security cooperation, global health security, development and humanitarian response, economic growth, democracy and respect for human rights. U.S provided about $1.2bn in fiscal year 2022 to Nigeria under the leadership of President Donald Trump in support of her security stability, economic development, education, democracy, health, energy, climate, and humanitarian relief. The findings of this paper revealed that African countries and their governments who believe that without U.S no African country will survive, will now see the reason behind American Aid giving and assistance. From this study, the

whole world will know that America do not go where they will not gain, and will not intervene where their interest and investments are not at stake. However, this study recommends committed relationship that will enable Nigeria to realize her security stability, economic development sustainability, and by extension, her political/democratic stability in this 21st century

Declarations

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Author Contribution

The author solely conceptualized and designed the study, conducted the literature review, gathered and analyzed the data, and interpreted the findings. The author was also responsible for drafting, revising, and finalizing the manuscript. All intellectual input, methodological decisions, and conclusions presented in this research are entirely the responsibility of the author.

Data availability:

The study relies exclusively on historical and documentary sources obtained from publicly accessible archives, policy documents, and scholarly publications. All materials analyzed are fully referenced within the article.

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