

of the federal republic of Nigeria in October 1, 1963. It was in 1963 that Nigeria became a federal republic. That was also when the British crown was removed from Nigeria. In 1964, the mid-west was created. Note that if the balance of power favours the central government, the constitution would be classified as quasi-federal (machinery towards unitary) but if the regional governments control the most important powers, the constitution is classified as confederal. However, the constitutional structure itself is not enough to explain the prospects for successful federations. Consider the pol-parties and attitude of people. Both the independence constitution of 1960 and the republic constitution of 1963 as modeled on the 1954 constitution gave exclusive powers in the areas of fiscal and monetary policy, air and rail transportation, custom, immigration, foreign affairs and defense to the federal government (Ola & Tonwe, 2009).

Most important was the state of emergency which the federal government could employ to exercise control over-region in case of war, public emergency or subversion. The regions did not have power to initiate amendments; rather their role was limited to considering the amendment proposed at the federal level. From the above, it is clear that the federation was one in which the centre was more powerful than the component units. The problem was compounded by the fact that each of these regions with the exception of the Midwest which was created in 1963/4 was dominated by major ethnic groups. This made the game of politics played with scant regard for rules. Another factor that worked against the success of the federation is the attitude of the Nigerians. This could be called ethnic politics which the politicians were engaged in. This situation explains the problem of operating a democratic governmental system in a setting where democratic values are not yet firmly established.

In a nutshell between 1963 -1966 the Nigeria federal system was in a mess. It was a period when politicians embarked on political games who gets what, when and how ethnically to the detriment of the federation. It was this unwholesome situation that gave rise to the crises which Nigeria experienced between 1966 and 1970 (the period of civil war called Biafran war). In January 1966 the military took over power and the head of the military Ironsi suspended the federal constitution and embarked on plan to turn Nigeria into a unitary state (Ola & Tonwe, 2009). The above development resulted in the killing of many soldiers and equally affected regional governments, The North argued that the coup was an Igbo coup even though it was not.

In July 1966, there was a counter coup which brought Gowon into power. His administration brought the country back to military federation. Under this administration twelve (12) states were created. Hence we had a federal state with twelve states under the military. Under this administration, twelve 12 states were create. Hence, we had a federal State with twelve states under the military. Under this administration too, the eastern region attempted to secede from the federation. These centripetal forces affected the federation, even resulted into a civil war between the federal government and a selected region (Biafra war) which lasted between 1967 -1969 when peace was restored. The 1979 constitution recognized Nigeria as a federal state with three (3)

orders of government. This was when local government became a third tier of government in Nigeria. Note that the local government becoming a tier of government contrary to K.C Wheare's definition or conceptualization of a federal state.

By 1985, the military took over power again from Shargari and we began to have another military federalism for another couple of years before power was handed over to civilians by Shonekon after the demise of Abacha. All these put together, there is a clear indication that Nigeria did not take the root that America took to federalism though there are areas of similarities in terms of principles. Afigbo in kunle, Adgun, Rotimi, and George (2004) divided the evolution of Nigeria federalism into three epochs:

1. The period of "informal federation" (1900-1946)
2. The period of formal federation" (1946-1966)
3. The second phase of "formal federation" (1967-date).

Sagay (2003) argues that the federation of Nigeria began as a Unitarian colonial state but disaggregated into three and later four regions. In 1967 the regions were abrogated and twelve states created in their place. The number of states increased to nineteen in 1979 and to twenty-one in 1987 and today thirty-one states. In additions, in 1990, there were 449 LGAs and today we have about 774 LGAS. He argued that Nigeria has recorded "civilian federalism" and "military federalism" as each has given Nigeria federalism different shapes and structures. These in turn have impacted on the practice of federalism in the country.

Features of Nigeria Federalism

1. Written constitution that define the spheres of authority of the levels of government. The const is supplement
2. It has three levels of government federal, state and local government
3. The federal government precedes over matters in the exclusive list, share responsibility with the state in the concurrent and prevails over the states responsibility in the local government
4. It has an umpire a federal growth that resolves conflict between the levels of government
5. It has a bicameral legislative at the a natural levels membership on equal representation
6. Federal system is named in the constitution
7. Representation is based on number in the house of national assembly
8. It is in principle a democratic state
9. It is a presidential federal system
10. It does not grant self rule to minority
11. The state and federal impose taxes
12. The state has limited powers

(3) Swiz Federation

Switzerland has about 7,000,000 people. It became a federation in 1848. However, before it became a federal State, it was a confederation state of 26 cantons. By implication it used to be called Swiz confederation, but now it is called Swiz federation (Morgan, 2013). Before we forge ahead, it will be sage for us to always compare even as we study. Switzerland was a multinational state (Australia, Germany, and France) which its purpose of coming together to form confederation