

# DEMOCRACY AND ELECTORAL OUTCOMES: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NIGERIA AND IVORY COAST ELECTIONS

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## Abstract

*An election is an integral and essential part of democracy, which means that without an election, the concept democracy is impossible and without international accepted democratic process of election, a geopolitical environment cannot be termed democratic system. The quality of such system has to be inclined with the rule of law, freedom of speech and association, free and fair democratic election exercise and some other human necessity that make life livable for every individual residing in such environment. However, most West African states have been confronted with electoral violence and political instability, which has always been caused by electoral malpractices or unjust electoral process. This study will examine the mechanism put in place by International and regional bodies like United Nation, African Union and ECOWAS in relation to the twin concepts, and how it aid lasting solution to the electoral crisis in Nigeria and Ivory Coast, through comparative analysis.*

**Keywords:** *Democracy, Election, Nigeria, Ivory Coast (Cote d'Ivoire), United Nation and Regional Bodies (African Union and ECOWAS)*

## Introduction

An election is a major component of democracy, while it (Democracy) is the bedrock of any social-political society, which makes that society a livable place for the citizen and others. Without a proper election, democracy cannot be identified. And in the absence of democratic rules, the essential livelihood of an individual residing in such geopolitical society will be interrupted or threatened. This has been one of the greatest confrontations most nations in the continent (Africa) have been facing in one way or the other, particularly western part. In other for democracy to be practiced the way it should, ELECTION has to be conducted in an appropriate way and manner (free and fair), which will allow a smooth transition of power and office, that will create amicable passage for the rightful elect to take charge in the corridor of power in such post. Historically, most West African state has been facing differences in democratic settings which have always been created due to the improper or unjust electoral process. From this point of view, scholars and authors in time past have asked salient questions that, on what stand the Africans leaders institute their own democratic system. What attitude are they (Leaders) showing toward this concept? The traditional explanation of African political system shows that most individuals create there political ideology based on their political foundation, which they meet on the ground, or in some cases try to look for a solution to their present societal situation (Mattes and Bratton, 2007).

Furthermore, election and political participation in Africa, according to some analysts, mostly don't put rare fact into consideration, such as an individual may decide to go in line with a particular political tenure or ideology, due to the fact that this individual knows more about their content and possible outcome of such tenure. From the above explanation, it is established that democracy cannot survive without the full participation of the citizen, and by probing this fact, an analytical consideration has to be put in place whereby two political society will be considered, by looking into their electoral system, to establish fact that, is democracy truly in play or a mirage in this societies.

The research will be analytical, the conceptualized approach which will expatiate on why democracy and election in Africa have been experiencing violence and why the democratic process should be giving a prior consideration in the electoral process. In other to achieve this, I will base my argument on previous scholars write up, which negate the fact that democracy can only survive in Africa if colonial interest is at a minimal level. Their influence should not overshadow the real agenda of these states. A typical example is the case of Ivory Coast and some other francophone countries whereby the French has a major say in their democratic process and sometimes decide on the political party to be in power. The same goes to Nigeria and some other Anglophone state too. In some cases, the colonial masters are not directly involved but in one way or the other their opinion count. With the above explanation, the nature of democracy and election process which both countries have been applying and why it has been resulting to electoral crisis, political uphill and democratic

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instability. The analysis will be directed to 2011 and 2015 presidential election in Nigeria and 2010 and 2015 presidential election in Ivory Coast which brings a new face of democratic process to both countries respectively, also at this period, both countries experience election malpractice according to some international electoral observers, but to some extent there is still some element of democratic process which gives room for transition of power in Nigeria while it lead to civil war in Ivory Coast.

## Literature Review

### Democracy

Countless authors, scholars, writer, politician, and other practitioners in the field of politic, government and related fields have to shield more light on the definition of democracy. According to (Hollyer et al, 2011), using the concept of Dahl's describe democracy as a conceptual framework that has to be free in the dissemination of information within a system, and must be coupled with the element of transparency in other to actualized its purpose. From this point of view, the election process has to be giving more priority and maintain democratic process in organizing it, which will create an avenue to manage the political challenges and crisis that may come up before, during and after the election. From another point of view, democracy should have some element of sovereignty. From this perspective, democracy can also be described as the system that comprehends in a way that is governed by some group of individuals who take charge of the political affair, of a sovereignty society. The concept of democracy has been long used, which can be traced back to the days of the classical age. But it gains more attention after the wake of the cold war whereby sovereignty nations and society started calling for free flow information, freedom of speech, freedom of association, democratic election processes and so many more human rights to participate in the modern day government (Coppedge, et al, 2011). Furthermore, in a combination of all these ideas, as it was used co-note supremacy. A geopolitical society, in respectful of the size should attain some amount of self-freedom to decide on what they want and do not. This will amount to achieving the true concept of democracy. Another good example of democracy can be deduce from the definition of (Urbinati, 2010), which state that the conceptual framework cannot be avoided in political discussion, because through it lots of issues truncate into an object which the general society will able to determine the worth of such object and make it the matter of public notice and open societal opinion. To buttress Urbinati explanation, in relation to this research work, the democratic process is the key to good governance and this can only be successful through a process of participation by every individual particularly citizenry. Hence, in defining democracy, and its process in a geopolitical society that has once

experience undemocratic system in time past, can best describe the way in which power changes hand during 2015 general election Nigeria and lead to abuse of rule of law during 2010 presidential election in Ivory Coast.

### Election

It is the primary and systematic way which gives a mandate to an individual or group of people who which to contest for a political post that require competitive screening or consensus by the general public. After the process (election) candidate that emerges with the majority vote, automatically attain autonomy to lead, or as a representative of that state or constituency. Furthermore, an election is a methodology, also avenue that usher new regime informs of changes that can happen to a society. It is also an intricate arrangement of exercise which is made out of various factors that demonstrate and relies upon one another. In addition, we can also see an election as a system of formulating actions of aggregate choice that happens in a surge of associated precursor and consequent conduct. In further explanation, election process includes the interest of the general society in the anticipation of how to choose their own head (Leader) and the way they will be part of the administration (Iyayi, 2004). The exercise (Election), is not only based on the activities of that particular date or period, but it makes up of an important aspect of the process, which simply mean that the exercise is a pre-process and post process. To make this exercise more meaningful and official, enactment and writing documents inform of constitutional backup will be require to formulate this exercise, by taking note of political party's names, re-bursting political parties, production of election documents, manpower, machineries and so many other items that will be needed for the success of the exercise.

In continuation of the importance of an election, we can equally say that elections are the process that institute democracy in a geopolitical society, which logically means that, the absence of election is the absence of democracy and other way round. An election is that machinery that makes governmental administration successful. From the qualitative explanation of how the election is important in a geopolitical environment, it simply says that election is a cognizant aspect of a democratic, economic and continuation process of a state or country. So talking about the election process and how it contributes to the success of democracy, the concept should be considered viable to some developing nation and post-crisis society where it will be of great opportunity for such society to truncate into the crisis-free environment if it's properly managed and make the social democratic process barely adequate. To summarize my explanation, an election process did not only stand for the successful implementation of democracy, but it also makes a political post more challenging and competitive for the participants.

### Theoretical Argument

To be honest, it's a fact that can't be thrown away when talking about comparative analysis of democracy and election outcome in Nigeria and Ivory Coast, it may sound not too important, unless it's been stage on the wider perspective of theoretical explanation, in other to give a clear understanding of the main discussion. Furthermore, this will help in a broad way, to give direction in a wider measure on how to indicate the firmness and inadequateness of determining and structuring a democratic electoral process in the near future. This will give us an opportunity to come up with a related decision which can be used in a broader scope. Despite those theories that gives us understanding to circumstances, there is no objection to this fact that theoretical ideal models are most adamant to bend and divide in their definition to translate the electoral crisis tormenting the continent.

Some theories of democracy are without compromise, excessively adamant to explain and plan activities for a democratic election, but are in the standard of putting the preventive measure to the crisis before and after electoral exercise within and beyond a region. Furthermore, in other to analytically explain the electoral outcome of both countries, prior consideration will be giving to rationalist theory. This theory perception is understood that the foundation is seen in social economic of a geopolitical society, with an experimental system in a sociological way. Researchers in time past have attempt to carve a theory to defend the idea that most human acts are basically rational in a natural form, which indicate that human will give absolute consideration of an action outcome, either positive/negative, beneficiary or not before venturing to it.

According to (Downs, 1957, in Geys, 2006), itemize conditions that an individual (voter) should attain before he or she can be considered as a rationalist, which goes thus:

1. Voters may not easily settle on a particular choice when stood with a scope of options (Candidate). They can pick between various options, depending on whom they need to be a leader. The psyche of this group (voters) isn't settled, not realizing what they really need.
2. Virtually every voter will rank all candidate they are faced with in other to select the most needed, superiorly needed and how authentic they are to each other.
3. Voters in some cases decline to a wide range, this is because they estranged to the point were by they think no political party stands for thought or will.
4. Voters will dependably pick among conceivable candidate, which is in the position of their most needed.
5. Voters most times come to a point of no choice than to make their final decision on a particular candidate. This occurs when they are challenged with options of the same idea (Geys, 2006).

To further discuss democracy and election outcome, (Alexander, et al, 2012) from the point of argument emphasis on effective democracy index (EDI), which was based on the fact that EDI is a viable mechanism to demonstrate a link between modernization, social-cultural perspective and democratic system of sovereignty society. A typical example is the rule of law, economic stability, civil society and so many more. In other, for this research analysis to be more analytical the EDIs will be part of variables that will be considered for a detailed explanation. Talking about democracy, the right that makes it an institutional property is one factor that defines it (democracy). Property in this aspect is termed "concept", that differentiate qualities, some qualities are with the condition, also this condition may not include in the qualities of a particular conceptual meaning, but in some case, it is useful to elaborate more on the practice of such properties. Furthermore, talking about democratic right, for it to be meaningful, it should contain an element of laws, not just any laws, but the qualitative rule of law. the law in this aspect is not only saying to know the do and don'ts of law enforcement agency alone, but the reason is also simple, knowing this alone is not what define democracy in the modern day system, and cannot be trash when itemizing attribute that makes up democracy. But still, the rule of law is one aspect that makes democratic right quality in modern day politics. In other for this right to be more of effective, the activeness of the rule of law has to come in place by enforcement, to complement the effective democracy index (EDI) in discussing democracy and election outcome in Africa. Models of an election in the region will also be considered as well because of one structural factor that political parties put into consideration before presenting a candidate for a particular post. (Adams et al, 2011) elaborate more on "Spatial model" a design that includes valence attribute of a contestant in the structure of aspiring for an electoral post. When talking about contestant valence, it simply means policy component which instigate voter's outcome, i.e. campaign strategies, identification, boldness, ethical principles and a state of commitment to the national interest. The explanation obviously shows that election merit and demerit is linked to contestant valence, which can impact policy standpoint.

Furthermore, the analysis will be structured in line with the extant model, which will differentiate valence attitude, which some citizen mostly admire in a winning candidate. Along the line, criteria's like names known and the way candidate carry out his/her manifesto are sometime germane with strategic valence, but some attribute like boldness, honesty, pragmatism, and commitment to nation building is also in line with character valence. Looking at the dichotomy betwixt strategic and character aspect of valence will establish how important spatial model is. From the expression of this model, it indicated the concept was established to challenge the incumbent.

This was the typical example of 2010 and 2015 election in Ivory Coast and Nigeria respectively that came to limelight due to intrinsic interest in character valence of the eventual winner at those elections. This theoretical explanation shows that elections outcome can be used to challenge the incumbent government results.

The above analysis is a structure on character-based valence, which has an advantage over the incumbent policy, with an upper hand in both district and regional angel. Furthermore, the candidate that did not have the goodwill character against the incumbent will have to go miles far away and has to do with the present priorities. To think that a candidate naturally gives kudos to the attitude of the election successor will sound impossible to many, but from this analysis and previous scholars write up, it is clear that no one will want to go against the notion that, voters priority are mostly on the esteemed character of a candidate that aspire or aspiring a post. In fact, lots of authors and writer in the past argue to support the notion that electors priority are mostly on a candidate attitudinal quality, in which I called "character valence", also their priority is not limited to the candidate quality alone as well as the course of actions the candidate will adopt or carry out. For this reason, a candidate can be viewed differently and they relatively differ from the electors, this is not because of their worth, but the right motive that this candidate can manage a post or position giving to him or her. So, relating this to a spatial model of attaining a post, it can be presupposed that a candidate admires to be holding a post always. Why in other models of the above explanation believes in the outcome of their policy, which they hope will serve as a legacy after they descend from the post.

Significantly, the essential aspect that should be observed in the above discussion is that election result in Africa is mostly contested by the opposition parties claiming some irregularity and election malpractice. To recapitulate, election outcome in Africa which mostly lead to the crisis should always be giving prior attention to know the root cause and give time to all parties involved to air their sides of the exercise, in other to establish a structure that will tackle the foundational issue. In the case of Ivory Coast, citizenship identification and ethnicity is the root cause of election crisis. While in the case of Nigeria, both ethnicity and political parties' rotational agenda.

## OVERVIEW OF NIGERIA AND IVORY COAST

### NIGERIA

Nigeria is a country with an unfortunate amalgamation history, due to the formulation system by the then British colonial masters (Halliru, 2012). Presently in population density, it almost 190 million inhabitants and from this details, Nigeria is seen as the most populated country in Africa, and according to

(world meter) ranking, Nigeria is occupying 7th position in the world populated country. Nigeria was put together as a colony in the year 1914, which was term amalgamation era. It is also one of the largest Oil producing countries (OECD, 2002). Nigeria was pronounced as an independent state in 1960, from the British colonial masters, ethical crisis plunge the country into coup d'état in 1966, coupled with three years civil war, that erupted from the eastern part (Igbo) for the agitation of BIAFRA Nation. Almost eight coup d'état occurred between 1966- 1993, amounting to 16 years of military invasion in Nigeria democratic rule, until 1999 when the fourth republic started (Owolabi & Folasayo, 2009).

Due to political instability in Nigeria, ethnic and religious crisis has become a day to day activities, from one region to other. Along the line, the issue of terrorism creped in, and until today in Nigeria, the solution has not been met. The oil production that should benefit the general populace of Nigeria, has only been enjoyed by a few people, who are also in charge of the wealth of the country. Nigeria, is a country where rich get richer and the poor get poorer, people living in abject poverty and below 1\$ per day (country watch, 2018).

Nigeria democratic process is a conceptualized framework of the governmental system, which took after the United States of America pattern of government. The U.S.A. democratic system is among the developed democracies of the planet, and if I may say number one in the world. But in the case of Nigeria, it's said categorically that among the developing nations of the world, Nigeria democracy is befitting. In Nigeria, elections outcome has always been an issue, which in time past, usually usher in the military to take over the affairs of the government. But as it may be, 1993 general election (June 12) was a year the country first experience free and fair election and Moshood Kashimawo Abiola (MKO), was declared winner for the presidential seat, Gen. Ibrahim Babangida Gbadamosi who was then military head of state annulled the result and install an interim government in the person of Ernest Shonekan, who only stayed in power for one month before another military personnel in the person of Late Gen. Sani Abacha, took over power. During the cause of the annulment and transitions, the country was experiencing civil unrest and military marginalization, which also truncate into the loss of property and lives (Ifukor, 2010).

Between the periods of 1993-1999, the country was governed by the military heads. Until May 29, 1999, when power was hand over back to a democratic system of government. After the first and second regime of the fourth republic, that end in May 2007, usher in another new transition era, but with the same political party. The main point of my discussion will be drawn from the two later elections, which brought a new face of democracy to the country. Elections of this two period in Nigeria was a historical event, 2011 serves as a preparation period and 2015 was the

balancing period (Omodia, 2012). The reason was that power change hand from one political party to another. Looking at Nigeria geopolitical structure as a federal system during 2011 preparation for the general election, which the country comprises of 36 states, aside from the capital, with 774 local council, 8,800 areas for voting registration and 111,119 voting centers, which includes all Senate and state districts across the federation (Jega and Hillier, 2012), indicate the country was fully preparing for a democratic electoral exercise, which also affirms element of democracy.

To sum up 2015 election hyped electoral system in Nigeria and was a progressive step that confronts challenges of time past, which has always been an obstacle to the true democratic process of the election the country and again equally consolidate the foundation that was established in 2011 election exercise. From the look of things, Nigeria electoral body is trying all they could to get to the pinnacle of an advanced system in the electoral process, with time I so much believe Nigeria electoral system will achieve the height of the developed world in all aspect of the democratic process. In other for this to be attained, stakeholders need to be in good relationship with the government and its representative, particularly in the aspect of the electoral process, because election process is a key aspect of a countries developmental plan.

#### **IVORY COAST (Côte d'Ivoire)**

This country, used to be one of the leading coffee planting nations in Africa, this geopolitical society is also identified as Cote d'Ivoire, was once viewed as an icon of solidarity among Africa nations in the continent. In 2002, Ivory Coast truncated into crisis-ridden territory after revolutionaries group from the northern part of the country agitated to take control by staging a coup d'état. At this period, it's a new face of a challenge for a nation that as once been regarded as an icon of peace and stability. After the unsuccessful 2002 coup attempt, Ivory Coast has engulfed with diversity among the citizenry, some give support to the south and others north. The strategy to do away ammunition from northern rebel and Gbagbo loyal military was unfruitful. The United Nation force and the French army was given the mandate to carry out this strategic duty, given a complain feedback that insufficient equipment was the reason behind their unfruitfulness.

Transition structure was initiated, immediately, Gbagbo five years term laps in 2005, but due to the Ivorite policy Gbagbo contest again and won, which keep him in power till 2010. Peace Accord signed in 2007 was another hope for the rebel side that, there will be a shift of power in the political arena of the country in the near future. Ivory Coast Electoral system is another sensitive aspect, 30 years after their independent, was a battle for veracious democratic practice, in spite of the country being a sovereignty state, the so call electoral democratic process was not

democratically practiced, due to election strategy and party participation. At this period there is only two major political party that functions in the country despite the multiparty practice, which is Parti Democratique de la Cote D Ivoire (PDCI) and Rassemblement Democratique Africain (RDA). Late president Felix Houphouet-Boigny was the pioneer of one of the political party PDCI as of this time and the major reason of coming about the party was to kick against the French colonial rule in Ivory Coast then. During his leadership, he contested for president six-time and won all at a stretch between the spaces of 30 years 1960 - 1993 (Roberts et al, 2016). Moreso, the process was not competitive enough to prove how democratic the country is, because, during this period, there was no other political party to challenge him.

Another cognizant aspect was migration, at some appoint, Ivory Coast opens wide their border to some neighboring countries like Burkina Faso and Mali to migrate into their system, and allowed them to claim citizenship. The inflow of migrant as of 1970 has contributed a quarter to Ivorian population (Nugent, 2004:180, in Robert et al 2016).

As the journey of democratic dispensation continues, the democratic authoritarian leader then, late Felix Houphouet-Boigny remains in power till his death in 1993. Immediately after his demise, his vice "Henri Konan Bédié" took over power, which he later contested in 1995 and won. He was later sent out of office in 1999. Furthermore, before Bédié was thrown out of office, he implemented a policy that emphasizes on ethnicity, even to the point of working in government offices, which stated that once you are not a bonafide citizen, that indicate your both parent are Ivorian, you are not entitled to hold a government post. The Ivorite policy was so adamant, to a point that affected the present President (Alassane), who was working with the International Monetary Fund then. Alassane want to contest for the president position back in 2000, but because of the Ivorite policy he was disqualified and nailed that he (Alassane) was not full-blooded Ivorian, indicating that one of his parents was from Burkina Faso and the revised constitution done in 2000 stipulated that for any contestant, in respect the level of post his contestant for, such contestant both parent must come from Ivory Coast. This policy of ethnicity spring civil war in the country from 2002 to 2007 (Mbaku & Initiative, 2015).

Dual round of election occurred in 2010, but in the end it was totally disastrous, but the International body gives recognition to the opponent of Gbagbo, in the person of Alassane. Laurent Gbagbo was arrested and charged for war against Humanity in the international world court. Gbagbo prosecution did not end the Ivory Coast crisis. In 2012 seven UN soldier was killed, displeased Ivorian military strike in 2014 and 2017 indicated that the country is prone to political instability in the near future (Country watch, 2018).

### Analysis

Scholastic research and history write up, shows that the political elite that struggles for independent as of this time did it for selfish interest, not for the liberation of their people. A good example is the case of late president Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Ivory Coast, who pioneers their dependency in 1960, and also became the first president and also remain in power till his death in 1993. During his era there was no true multi-party electoral participation, in such a scenario, it's less a democratic dictatorship, which –hides under the pretense of being a democratic leader.

In the case of Nigeria, it was Coup d'état, that crippled the initial concept of democratic participation that was agitated at the early stage of dependency. Three years after the independent, the young and inexperienced country plaque into political instability by a coup. Few years after, the civil war emerge in 1966, research shows that ethnic marginalization in the armed force unit was one major reason for the war out broke. The problem of ethnicity, religion and regional marginalization can be seen in these two countries, also peculiar to most other African countries, if not to the entire continent. The idea of the colonial era in most West African countries, if not all, fairly chose governments representatives via electorate system as most countries do in another part of the globe, this is significant new to the prelude of the political surface in Africa (Kacowicz, 1997: 375 in Pernice, 2013). But the concept of democracy has been sermonized, trusting the fact that its only form of true governmental system that is reliable to human relations, and crisis management. In another way, dictatorship is an idea of a government that engineer crisis in divers of ways (IPA, 2003). Toward the later part of the cold war, the developed world preached the concept of democracy to Africa, equally advice that this concept is the only way forward in the continent (Mitchell, 2011). From this point view, it is understood that, most country that did not allow proper electoral democratic system in their country's i.e. (Ivory Coast) during Gbagbo refusal to accept election result and (Nigeria) during the Abacha era, make the international body to suspend their financial contribution (aid) to this countries until international conduct of electoral process take shape. This gives us the sense of reasoning that, for any crisis-prone society to live to expectation, after the crisis, a rightful mechanism must be put in place (Hanlon, 2005).

### Mechanism

It is understood that mechanism can be an arrangement of the analogical idea that will aid the concept of resolution in any situation. A typical example is this research, which along the line itemize contribution of international and regional bodies like UN, AU, and ECOWAS, which create machinery that will resolute crisis before and after the election. In the

part of United Nation (UN), a subunit called United Nation Development Project (UNDP) came about an agenda to promote mutual discussion between all stakeholders, from the electorate (political parties) to electoral, NGOs, civil societies and institutions (government and private), which is targeted to establish peace or avert election crisis and its associated occurrence and for everyone involved to concur with outcome of the election in good faith (Amaka, 2014). Furthermore, codes of conduct introduced by the UNDP informs of enactments that gives room for all stakeholders involved in the exercise (election) to have access to a government source. UNDP activities also truncate to supervision, verification, sequence, and accountability, harmonizing and assisting of external/internal bystander (Von Borzyskowski, 2015).

The regional bodies have a similar structure of mechanism with the international body, but with slight dichotomy. African Union and Economic Community of West Africa State try to lay more emphasis on the political formation or composition of each country, in other to create atmosphere whereby citizens will be free to vote and be voted for in respect of geographical locations, political party or post eyeing for as long it all guided by the rule of law and the spirit of democracy is embedded in the whole process (Hammar, 2009:52 in Mapuva, 2013). The political formations of these countries, institute self-reliance electoral management body (EMB) that will oversee a free and fair exercise. Their part EMBs is very important throughout and beyond the exercise. For these bodies to be more effective and respected by all participant, geopolitical constitution backup is introduced (Makumbe, 2009: 156 in Mapuva, 2013). Furthermore, to summarize the mechanism on a global scale, the interpretation of eight democratic theorems embedded in article 25 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Right (ICCPR) of 1966 is a good standing point of explanation on how to achieve the international accepted process of democratic election exercise (López-Pintor, 2010).

The above analytical expression simple tells us that a democratic system is the only reliable form of government that is able for general participation. It's the acceptable form of government, quoted by International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB), as part of the obligatory that can aid developmental structure of any geopolitical society (Kaufmann & Kraay, 2008). It further illustrates that any geopolitical environment that is accountable, continuation in an internationally accepted democratic system, run corruption free society and encouraging of personal business enterprise to their citizen under normal rule of law, can be identified has been responsible and up doing nation.

However, from this point, it indicate that Nigeria and Ivorian crisis are basically ethical which has been in existence from the independent period and over the years it has degenerated into political and economic crisis.

Ivory Coast crisis, that later regenerated from 1999 coup d'état caught the citizen and global community unexpected, but political unrest and other crisis rocking the country were not unexpected. Tracking the situation back to the early days of the country independent, until the mid-90s when seen as a nation experiencing turmoil and political instability, contributed wholly by division, violent clashes and overbearing leaderships, which make the country political structure to some irregularities in the hand of Late Felix Houphouët-Boigny, that paddle the whole affairs of the country and remain in the corridor of power for more than three decades. All this later contribute to democracy uphill in Ivory Coast. Aldo the late president (Houphouët-Boigny) did all he could during his leadership, to make the country as one entity in spite of diversity of different ethnic group, he stick with the nation promise before independent to leave as one family and believe in one cause as a nation, which makes other countries identify Ivory Coast as "le miracle ivoirien" meaning the miracle Ivory Coast as of that period.

From advent, Nigeria as a country has once experienced political stability, until 1966 when the armed force took over power from civilian and which also went along the civil war. The following emergencies were event combined of political, ethnic and religious estrangement that plunge Nigeria into ungovernable society for a length of years. Also, the impacts of the common war made clash exhaustion in the prompt post-common war time. There was no genuine risk to peace aside from the political turf where the military oligarchs occupied with the power session of upsets d'état and counter overthrow d'état. Furthermore, democracy in Nigeria has been faced with all sort of obstacle which poses the nation to a democratic messed right from the first coup de teat in 1966, up till the fourth republic in 1999 when the country starts experiencing a beat of democratic practices till date. In other to actualize this aspect, the 2015 general election was a landslide in the realm of democracy, where by-election exercise in Nigeria for the first time in history, after about sixteen years (16) of single political party dominance in the center of affairs was voted out.

One major factor that contributed to the downfall of the ruling party (PDP) was the fractionalization that

struck the party and this action pave way for party loyalist from local and state level to migrate to another political party (Omotola and Nyuykonge, 2015). It was what major opposition party see as an added advantage for them to an alliance with other smaller political parties to come up with a mega one that could face People's Democratic Party. The final aspect of exit for the leading party (PDP) was the case of insecurity that Nigeria was faced with, which even amount to reason why the independent electoral commission of Nigeria (INEC) reschedule the exercise date from February 14 to March 28, 2015 (suberu, 2007; Ibrahim and Ibeanu, 2009, in Onapajo, 2014). The 2015 election was a remarkable event in Nigeria, after the country return to the democratic process in 1999 and equally mark the fifth of such exercise in Nigeria.

### Conclusion

Finally, looking at the case of Nigeria and the Ivory Coast, it's clearly stated that both countries have a particular issue that has denied them of a proper democratic system. From their historical background, we realized that both countries got independent in the same year, from different colonist, but belong to the same geopolitical region. From an observation, democratic instability in both countries has some element of immaturity at the stage of agitating for self-autonomy. What the research has attempted to bring out is to institute a fact that democracy and election outcome in both countries (Nigeria and Ivory Coast) were not properly manage, in other for proper true democracy to survive in both society. This facts was establish by drawing attention from selected elections in Nigeria i.e. 2003 and 2015 and Ivory Coast 2000 and 2010 general election respectively. Furthermore, the study could briefly explain why then president of Ivory Coast Laurent Gbagbo refused to accept defeat in the 2010 election, but in the case of Goodluck Jonathan in 2015 general election in Nigeria conceded defeat even before the final announcement. From the analytical explanation of the twin concept in this research, indicate the level of democratic advancement of each country in question.

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