

POL201

NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS



Course video is available on our app

Series 1: Foundations of Nigerian Federalism

Series Outline

1.1 Conceptual Foundations of Federalism

- 1.1.1 Definition and Meaning of Federalism
- 1.1.2 Theoretical Perspectives on Federalism
- 1.1.3 Characteristics of Federal Systems

1.2 Historical Evolution of Federalism in Nigeria

- 1.2.1 Colonial Background and Constitutional Developments
- 1.2.2 Adoption of Federalism in Nigeria
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1.3 Rationale for Federalism in Nigeria

- 1.3.1 Diversity and Ethnic Pluralism
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- 1.3.3 Administrative Efficiency and Resource Management

1.4 Challenges and Prospects of Nigerian Federalism

- 1.4.1 Strengths of the Federal Arrangement
- 1.4.2 Weaknesses and Persistent Challenges
- 1.4.3 Prospects for Strengthening Federalism in Nigeria

Introduction

Federalism has become a defining feature of Nigeria's political system, shaping the way power is shared and exercised across different levels of government. In a country marked by ethnic diversity, cultural plurality, and historical complexities, the federal arrangement provides a framework for managing differences while promoting unity. This Series introduces you to the foundations of Nigerian federalism, helping you to appreciate its origins, rationale, and challenges within the broader context of Nigerian politics.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the knowledge and analytical skills needed to examine the conceptual basis, historical evolution, and practical implications of federalism in Nigeria. By the end of the Series, you will be able to critically assess why federalism was adopted, how it has developed, and the prospects for its future.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the conceptual foundations of federalism, including its meaning, theoretical perspectives, and defining characteristics. Next, we will examine the historical evolution of federalism in Nigeria, tracing its colonial roots and constitutional milestones. Following that, we will analyse the rationale for adopting federalism in Nigeria,



focusing on diversity, political stability, and administrative efficiency. Finally, we will wrap up by evaluating the challenges and prospects of Nigerian federalism, highlighting both its strengths and persistent weaknesses.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 1.1** define federalism and identify its key characteristics,
- **SLO 1.2** explain major theoretical perspectives on federalism,
- **SLO 1.3** analyse the historical evolution of federalism in Nigeria,
- **SLO 1.4** evaluate the rationale for adopting federalism in Nigeria, and
- **SLO 1.5** assess the challenges and prospects of Nigerian federalism.

1.1 Conceptual Foundations of Federalism

1.1.1 Definition and meaning of federalism

The term **federalism** refers to a system of government in which power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent units such as states or regions. In this arrangement, both levels of government derive their authority from the constitution and operate independently within their spheres. Federalism is designed to balance unity with diversity, allowing different groups to coexist under one political framework.

Fill in the blank: Federalism is a system of government in which power is divided between a _____ authority and constituent units.



FEDERALISM

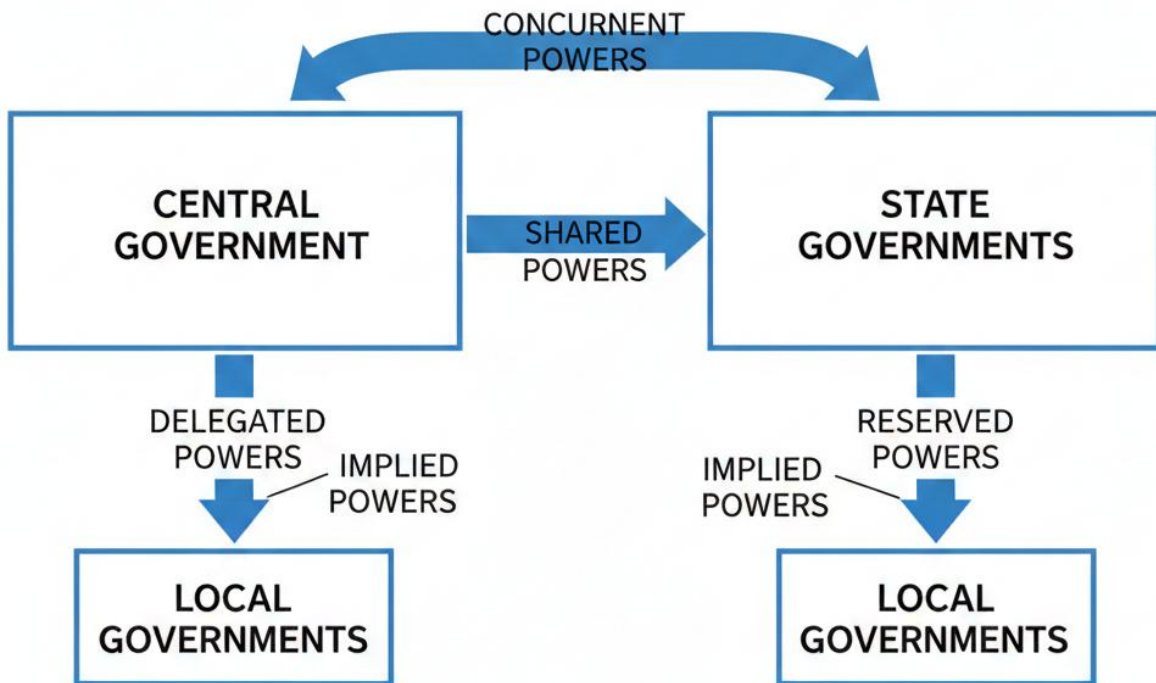


Figure 1.1 Structure of a federal system

Diagram showing the structure of federalism with central and state governments Caption: Figure 1.1 Structure of a federal system

1.1.2 Theoretical perspectives on federalism

Several theories explain the foundations of federalism. The **dual federalism** theory views the central and state governments as distinct entities with separate responsibilities, often compared to a layer cake. The **cooperative federalism** theory, on the other hand, emphasises collaboration between levels of government, likened to a marble cake. Another perspective is **fiscal federalism**, which focuses on the financial relationships between the tiers of government.

Fill in the blank: The theory that compares federalism to a marble cake is known as _____ federalism.



Box 1.1: Key Theories of Federalism

Federalism is not a static concept; it has evolved through different stages and interpretations.

- **Dual Federalism ("Layer Cake"):**

Suggests that the federal and state governments operate in entirely separate policy domains

- **Cooperative Federalism ("Marble Cake"):**

Positing that the federal and state governments work together to solve complex problems, mingled, and the boundaries... blurred.

- **Fiscal Federalism:**

Financial relationship uses grants-in-aid (money given to states) to influence state policies

Caption: Box 1.1 Key theories of federalism Summary of dual federalism, cooperative federalism, and fiscal federalism

1.1.3 Characteristics of federal systems

A federal system is distinguished by certain features. First, there is a **written constitution**, which clearly defines the powers of each level of government. Second, there is **supremacy of the constitution**, meaning that both central and state governments must act within constitutional limits. Third, there is **independence of the judiciary**, which serves as an arbiter in disputes between levels of government. Finally, there is **division of powers**, ensuring that responsibilities are allocated to prevent overlap and conflict.



Fill in the blank: In a federal system, disputes between levels of government are resolved by an independent _____.

Characteristic	Description
Written Constitution	Formal document outlining power distribution and limits
Written Constitution	Federal laws and constitution take over state laws when conflicts arise
Supremacy of Federal Law	A court system to interpret the constitution and resistent
Independent Judiciary	resolve disputation and resolve disputes between levels of government
Division of Powers	Specific governemenal powers are to central and regional authorities

Table 1.1 Characteristics of Federal Systems

Caption: Table 1.1 Characteristics of federal systems Table listing constitution, supremacy, judiciary, and division of powers with short explanations

Pilot questions 1.1

1. Which term describes a system where power is constitutionally divided between central and state governments?
2. Which theory of federalism is often compared to a marble cake?
3. Name one characteristic of a federal system that ensures fairness in resolving disputes.



4. What document defines the powers of each level of government in a federal system?
5. Which theory of federalism focuses on financial relations between tiers of government?

1.2 Historical Evolution of Federalism in Nigeria

1.2.1 Colonial background and constitutional developments

The roots of Nigerian federalism can be traced to the colonial period. The British colonial administration introduced constitutional frameworks that gradually decentralised authority. The **Clifford Constitution of 1922** was the first to allow limited representation, though it did not establish federalism. Later, the **Richards Constitution of 1946** recognised Nigeria's diversity by creating regional councils, laying the foundation for federal structures. The **Macpherson Constitution of 1951** expanded regional autonomy, while the **Lyttleton Constitution of 1954** formally introduced federalism by dividing powers between the central and regional governments.

Fill in the blank: The Constitution that formally introduced federalism in Nigeria was the _____ Constitution of 1954.



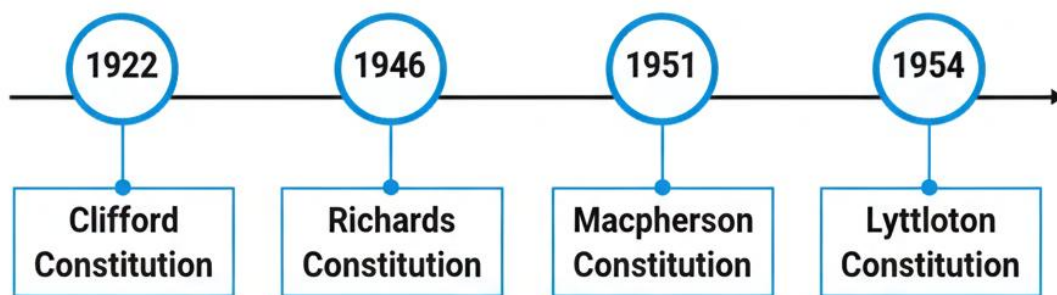


Figure 1.2 Milestones in Nigeria's constitutional development

Diagram showing Nigeria's constitutional evolution from 1922 to 1954
Caption: Figure 1.2
Milestones in Nigeria's constitutional development

1.2.2 Adoption of federalism in Nigeria

Nigeria adopted federalism officially in 1954, making it one of the earliest African countries to embrace this system. The adoption was influenced by the country's vast ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity. Federalism was seen as a mechanism to manage differences while maintaining national unity. Each region was granted autonomy in certain matters, while the central government retained authority over issues of national importance such as defence and foreign policy.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria adopted federalism in the year _____.



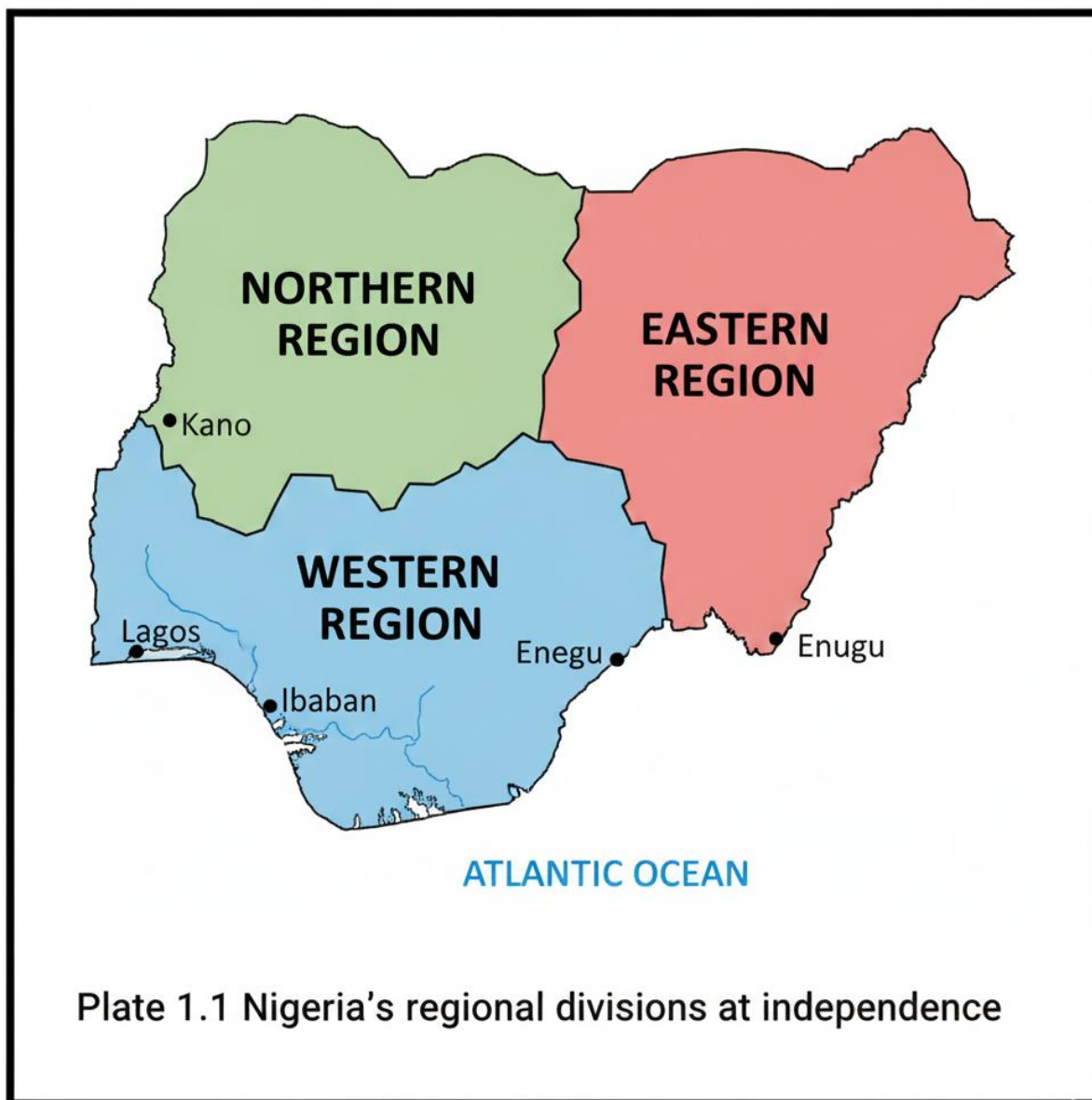


Image of Nigeria's map showing regions at independence Caption: Plate 1.1 Nigeria's regional divisions at independence

1.2.3 Key milestones in Nigeria's federal experience

Since independence in 1960, Nigeria's federal system has undergone several transformations. The creation of new states from the original three regions was a major milestone, aimed at reducing ethnic tensions and promoting balanced development. The military era also reshaped federalism by centralising power, though subsequent democratic governments attempted to restore balance. The 1999 Constitution reaffirmed Nigeria's federal character, establishing 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's current federal structure consists of _____ states and the Federal Capital Territory.

Year/Era	Event/Significance
1960	Independence; adoption of a federal constitution with three regions
1967	State Creation; transition from 3 to 4, then 12, 21, 30, and eventually 36 states, increasing central power
1966-1999 (Military Rule)	Military Military Centralisation ; suspension of federalism in practice, decrees concentrated power in central military governments
1999	1999 Constitution; return to democratic federalism with 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory

Table 1.2 Milestones in Nigeria's federal experience

Caption: Table 1.2 Milestones in Nigeria's federal experience Table listing independence (1960), state creation (1967 onwards), military centralisation, 1999 Constitution

Pilot questions 1.2

1. Which Constitution first recognised Nigeria's diversity by creating regional councils?
2. In what year did Nigeria officially adopt federalism?
3. Which Constitution formally introduced federalism in Nigeria?



4. How many states currently make up Nigeria's federal structure?
5. What was one major reason for the creation of new states after independence?

1.3 Rationale for Federalism in Nigeria

1.3.1 Diversity and ethnic pluralism

Nigeria is home to hundreds of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures. The adoption of **federalism** was largely motivated by the need to manage this diversity. Federalism allows different groups to retain a sense of identity while participating in a unified political system. By granting autonomy to regions or states, federalism reduces the likelihood of domination by any single group and promotes inclusiveness.

Fill in the blank: Federalism helps Nigeria manage its vast _____ diversity by granting autonomy to regions.



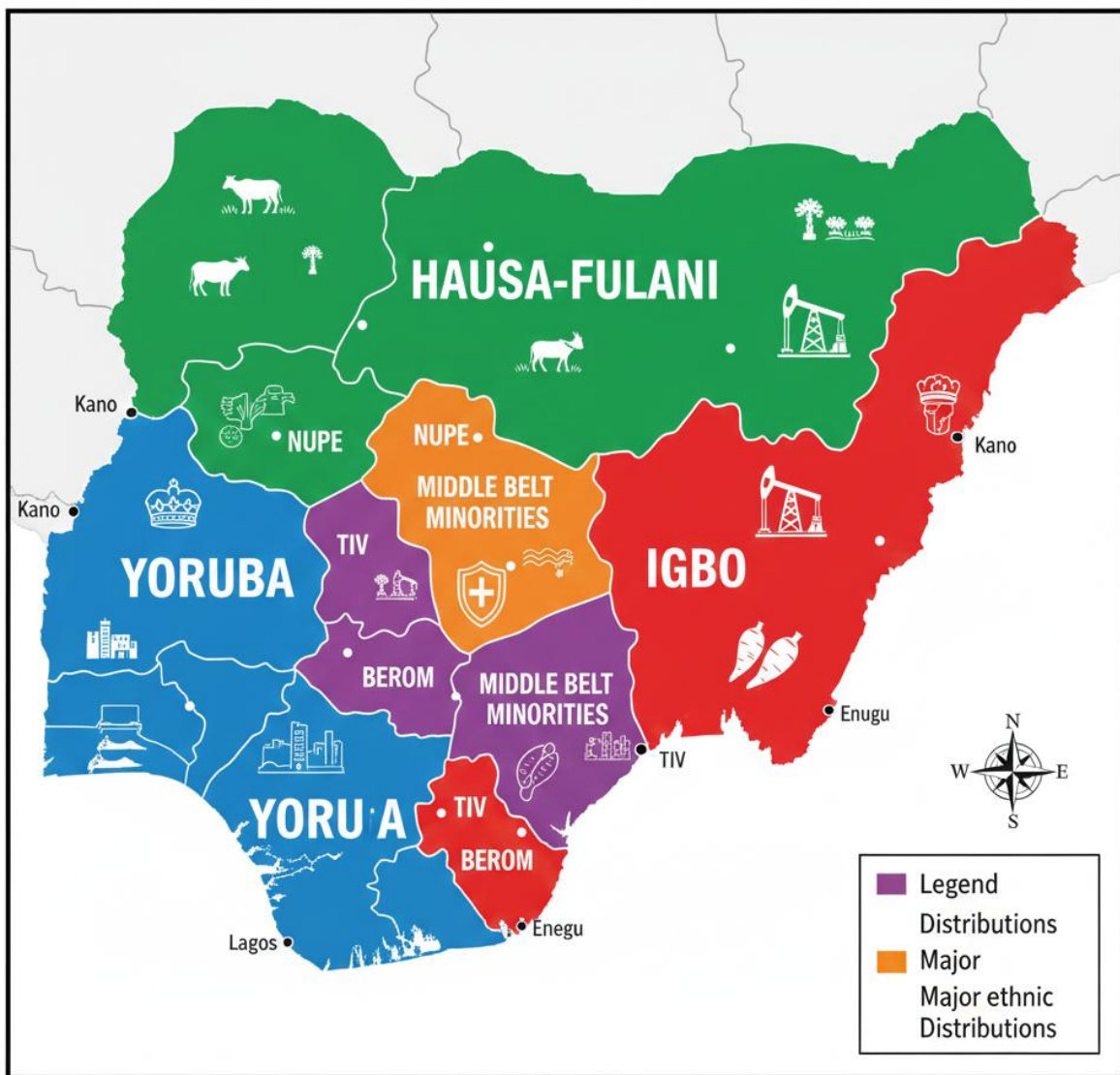


Plate 1.2 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria

Image showing Nigeria's major ethnic groups across regions Caption: Plate 1.2 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria

1.3.2 Political stability and nation building

Another rationale for federalism in Nigeria is the pursuit of political stability. By distributing power across different levels of government, federalism reduces tensions that may arise from centralised authority. It provides a framework for **nation building**, where diverse groups can cooperate under a common constitution. This arrangement helps to prevent conflict and encourages dialogue among regions.

Fill in the blank: Federalism contributes to political _____ by distributing power across different levels of government.



FEDERALISM: A TOOL FOR STABILITY

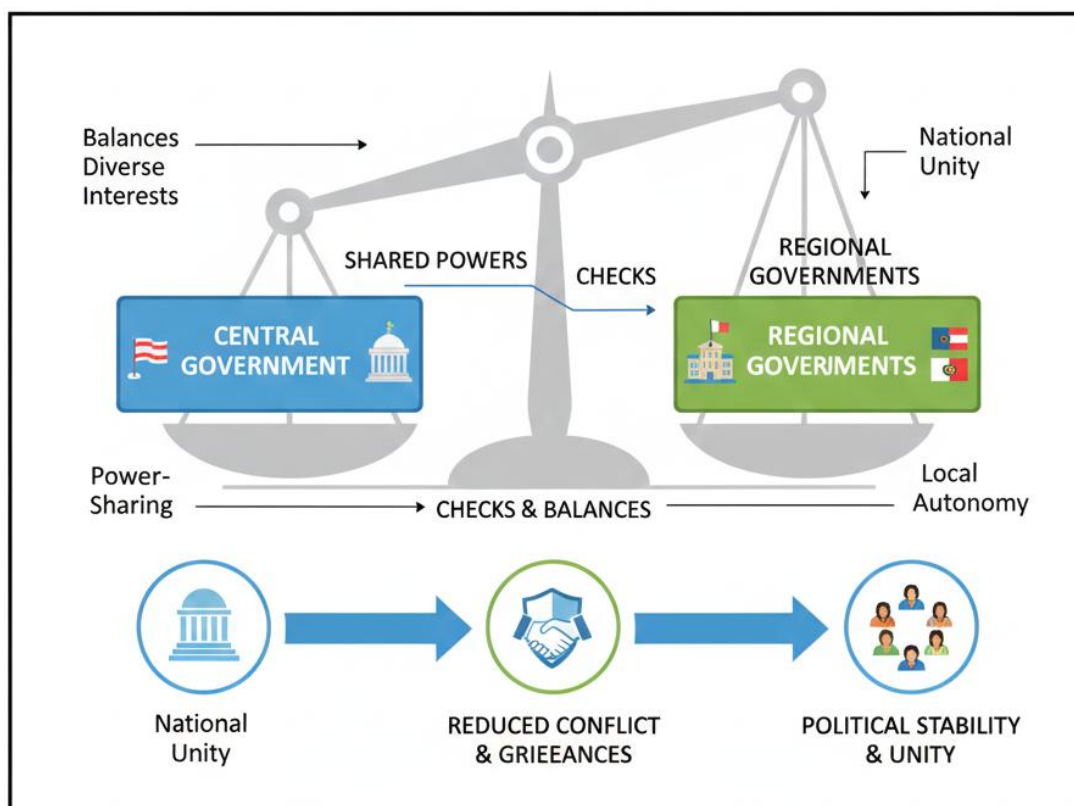


Figure 1.3 Federalism as a tool for stability

Diagram showing how federalism supports stability through shared governance Caption: Figure 1.3 Federalism as a tool for stability

1.3.3 Administrative efficiency and resource management

Federalism also enhances **administrative efficiency**, as responsibilities are divided between central and state governments. This division ensures that local issues are managed closer to the people, while national matters are handled centrally. In addition, federalism supports better **resource management**, allowing states to focus on their unique needs and priorities. This arrangement promotes development across different regions and prevents overburdening the central government.



Fill in the blank: Federalism enhances administrative _____ by dividing responsibilities between central and state governments.

	Explanation
Diversity Management	Accommodates multiple ethnic, religious, & cultural groups through regional representation
Political Stability	Balances power, reduces conflict, & provides platform for dialogue among different groups
Administrative Efficiency	Decentralizes governance, bringing decision-making closer to local communities
Resource Management	Allows for equitable distribution & management of natural resources, such as oil, across regions

Table 1.3 Benefits of federalism in Nigeria

Caption: Table 1.3 Benefits of federalism in Nigeria Table listing diversity management, political stability, administrative efficiency, and resource management

Pilot questions 1.3

1. What is one major reason Nigeria adopted federalism to manage its ethnic diversity?
2. How does federalism contribute to political stability in Nigeria?
3. Which term describes the process of building unity among diverse groups under federalism?



4. What is one way federalism enhances administrative efficiency?
5. How does federalism support resource management across Nigeria's regions?

1.4 Challenges and Prospects of Nigerian Federalism

1.4.1 Strengths of the federal arrangement

Nigeria's federal system has several strengths. It provides a framework for managing diversity, ensuring that different ethnic and cultural groups have space to express their identity. Federalism also promotes political participation by bringing governance closer to the people. In addition, it supports balanced development, as states can focus on their unique priorities while contributing to national progress.

Fill in the blank: Federalism promotes political _____ by bringing governance closer to the people.



Box 1.2: Strengths of Nigerian Federalism

Nigerian federalism offers several key benefits that contribute to the nation's progress:

- **Diversity Management:** Accommodates multiple ethnic, religious, and cultural groups by providing regional representation and ensuring no single group dominates.
- **Political Participation:** Increases citizen engagement by bringing governance closer to the people through state and local governments.
- **Balanced Development:** Promotes equitable distribution of resources and infrastructure development across different regions, reducing disparities.

Box 1.2: Strengths of Nigerian Federalism

Caption: Box 1.2 Strengths of Nigerian federalism List of strengths: diversity management, political participation, balanced development

1.4.2 Weaknesses and persistent challenges

Despite its strengths, Nigerian federalism faces persistent challenges. One major issue is the **over-centralisation of power**, especially during military regimes, which weakened state autonomy. Another challenge is the **politicisation of critical issues** such as census, elections, and resource allocation, often leading to disputes among regions. Ethnic rivalry and uneven development also undermine the effectiveness of federalism. These weaknesses highlight the need for reforms to strengthen the system.



Fill in the blank: One major weakness of Nigerian federalism is the _____ of power during military regimes.

[Insert figure placeholder here] Diagram showing challenges of Nigerian federalism (centralisation, politicisation, rivalry, uneven development) Caption: Figure 1.4 Challenges of Nigerian federalism AI prompt suggestion: “Generate a diagram showing challenges of Nigerian federalism with four labelled arrows” Search string: “challenges of Nigerian federalism diagram OER”

1.4.3 Prospects for strengthening federalism in Nigeria

Looking ahead, Nigerian federalism has prospects for improvement. Strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring fair resource distribution, and promoting inclusive governance can enhance the system. Greater respect for constitutional provisions and judicial independence will also help balance power between the central and state governments. If reforms are pursued, federalism can continue to serve as a viable framework for unity and development in Nigeria.

Fill in the blank: Strengthening _____ institutions is one way to improve Nigerian federalism.



Table 1.4 Prospects for Nigerian Federalism

Proposed Reform	Explanation
Strengthening Democratic Institutions	Enhancing The capacity and independence of electoral bodies, legislatures, and ensure creations and accountable governance at all levels
Fair Resource Distribution	Reviewing the revenue allocation formula to equitable distribution of oil revenues, reducing economic disparities and agitations states and regions
Promoting Governance Inclusive Governance	Reviewing The revenue repatriation formula to ensure marginalized groups, women, and youths in government appointments and decision-making processes across federal, state, state, and local administrations
Judicial Independence	Safeguarding the autonomy of the judiciary to interpret constitution impartially, resolve intergovernmental disputes, and uphold the rule of law without executive or legislative interference

Table 1.4 Prospects for Nigerian Federalism

Caption: Table 1.4 Prospects for Nigerian federalism Table listing reforms: democratic institutions, fair resource distribution, inclusive governance, judicial independence

Pilot questions 1.4

1. What is one strength of Nigerian federalism that supports balanced development?
2. Which issue has often been politicised, leading to disputes among regions?
3. What is one major weakness of Nigerian federalism during military regimes?
4. Name one reform that could strengthen Nigerian federalism.



5. How can judicial independence contribute to a stronger federal system?

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundations of Nigerian federalism, highlighting its importance in managing diversity and promoting unity within the country. We began by examining the conceptual meaning of federalism, its theoretical perspectives, and the defining characteristics of federal systems. We then traced the historical evolution of federalism in Nigeria, from colonial constitutional developments to its formal adoption in 1954 and subsequent milestones. Following that, we explored the rationale for federalism, focusing on diversity, political stability, and administrative efficiency. Finally, we assessed the strengths, weaknesses, and prospects of Nigerian federalism, considering reforms that could strengthen the system.

By engaging with these discussions, you should now be able to define federalism and identify its characteristics, explain theoretical perspectives, analyse Nigeria's historical federal experience, evaluate the rationale for adopting federalism, and assess both the challenges and prospects of the system. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes and provide you with a strong foundation for understanding Nigerian politics.

Glossary of Terms

- **Administrative efficiency:** The ability of government structures to manage responsibilities effectively by dividing tasks between central and state levels.
- **Cooperative federalism:** A theory of federalism that emphasises collaboration between central and state governments, often compared to a marble cake.
- **Dual federalism:** A theory of federalism that views central and state governments as distinct entities with separate responsibilities, often compared to a layer cake.
- **Federalism:** A system of government in which power is constitutionally divided between a central authority and constituent units such as states or regions.
- **Fiscal federalism:** A perspective that focuses on the financial relationships between different levels of government.
- **Judiciary:** The branch of government responsible for interpreting laws and resolving disputes, serving as an independent arbiter in a federal system.
- **Nation building:** The process of fostering unity and cooperation among diverse groups within a country.
- **Supremacy of the constitution:** The principle that the constitution is the highest law, binding both central and state governments.
- **Written constitution:** A formal document that defines the powers and responsibilities of different levels of government in a federal system.

Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions



1. Which Constitution formally introduced federalism in Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 1.3)
2. Federalism is a system of government in which power is divided between a central authority and _____. (Linked to SLO 1.1)
3. Which theory of federalism is often compared to a marble cake? (Linked to SLO 1.2)
4. How many states currently make up Nigeria's federal structure? (Linked to SLO 1.3)
5. Which principle ensures that both central and state governments act within constitutional limits? (Linked to SLO 1.1)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain one way federalism contributes to political stability in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 1.4)
7. Identify one major weakness of Nigerian federalism during military regimes. (Linked to SLO 1.5)
8. State one reform that could strengthen Nigerian federalism. (Linked to SLO 1.5)

Long-answer questions

9. Analyse the historical evolution of federalism in Nigeria, highlighting key constitutional milestones. (Linked to SLO 1.3)
10. Evaluate the rationale for adopting federalism in Nigeria, considering diversity, political stability, and administrative efficiency. (Linked to SLO 1.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective questions

1. Lyttleton Constitution of 1954
2. Constituent units (states or regions)
3. Cooperative federalism
4. 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory
5. Supremacy of the constitution

Short-answer questions

6. Federalism distributes power across levels of government, reducing tensions and preventing domination by one group.
7. Over-centralisation of power.
8. Strengthening democratic institutions.

Long-answer questions

9. **Basic response:** Federalism in Nigeria evolved through colonial constitutions, beginning with the Clifford Constitution (1922), Richards Constitution (1946), Macpherson Constitution



(1951), and culminating in the Lyttleton Constitution (1954), which formally introduced federalism. **Value-added response:** Beyond these milestones, Nigeria's federalism was shaped by independence in 1960, subsequent state creation to manage ethnic tensions, military centralisation, and the 1999 Constitution, which reaffirmed federalism with 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

10. **Basic response:** Federalism was adopted to manage Nigeria's ethnic diversity, promote political stability, and enhance administrative efficiency. **Value-added response:** In addition, federalism was seen as a mechanism for resource management and balanced development, ensuring inclusiveness and reducing the risk of conflict among diverse groups.

References and Attributions [Series 1]

- Constitutional milestones referenced: Clifford Constitution (1922), Richards Constitution (1946), Macpherson Constitution (1951), Lyttleton Constitution (1954), Independence (1960), 1999 Constitution.
- Figures, Plates, Tables, and Boxes:
 - Figure 1.1 Structure of a federal system: AI-generated diagram prompt "Generate a simple diagram showing federalism with central government and state governments connected by arrows."
 - Box 1.1 Key theories of federalism: AI-generated text box prompt "Create a text box summarising three theories of federalism: dual, cooperative, fiscal."
 - Table 1.1 Characteristics of federal systems: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing four characteristics of federal systems with brief descriptions."
 - Figure 1.2 Milestones in Nigeria's constitutional development: AI-generated timeline prompt "Create a timeline diagram showing Clifford 1922, Richards 1946, Macpherson 1951, Lyttleton 1954."
 - Plate 1.1 Nigeria's regional divisions at independence: AI-generated map prompt "Generate a map of Nigeria showing three regions at independence: North, West, East."
 - Table 1.2 Milestones in Nigeria's federal experience: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table summarising milestones in Nigeria's federal system from 1960 to 1999."
 - Plate 1.2 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria: AI-generated map prompt "Generate a map of Nigeria showing major ethnic groups and their regional distribution."
 - Figure 1.3 Federalism as a tool for stability: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing federalism reducing conflict by balancing central and regional powers."
 - Table 1.3 Benefits of federalism in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing four rationales for federalism in Nigeria with short explanations."



- Box 1.2 Strengths of Nigerian federalism: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising strengths of Nigerian federalism.”
- Figure 1.4 Challenges of Nigerian federalism: AI-generated diagram prompt “Generate a diagram showing challenges of Nigerian federalism with four labelled arrows.”
- Table 1.4 Prospects for Nigerian federalism: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing prospects for strengthening Nigerian federalism with short explanations.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Part 1.1

1. Federalism
2. Cooperative federalism
3. Judiciary
4. Written constitution
5. Fiscal federalism

Part 1.2

1. Richards Constitution of 1946
2. 1954
3. Lyttleton Constitution
4. 36 states
5. To reduce ethnic tensions and promote balanced development

Part 1.3

1. To manage ethnic diversity
2. By distributing power across levels of government
3. Nation building
4. By dividing responsibilities between central and state governments
5. By allowing states to focus on their unique needs

Part 1.4

1. Balanced development
2. Census
3. Over-centralisation of power



4. Strengthening democratic institutions
5. By balancing power and resolving disputes fairly



Series 2: Division of Powers in the Nigerian State

Series Outline

2.1 Constitutional basis of division of powers

- 2.1.1 Supremacy of the constitution
- 2.1.2 Exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists
- 2.1.3 Role of the judiciary in interpreting powers

2.2 Powers of the federal government

- 2.2.1 Legislative powers of the National Assembly
- 2.2.2 Executive powers of the President and federal institutions
- 2.2.3 Judicial powers of federal courts

2.3 Powers of the state governments

- 2.3.1 Legislative powers of state assemblies
- 2.3.2 Executive powers of governors and state institutions
- 2.3.3 Judicial powers of state courts

2.4 Local government powers and autonomy

- 2.4.1 Constitutional recognition of local governments
- 2.4.2 Functions and responsibilities of local councils
- 2.4.3 Challenges to local government autonomy

2.5 Intergovernmental relations and conflicts

- 2.5.1 Areas of cooperation between tiers of government
- 2.5.2 Sources of conflict in power division
- 2.5.3 Mechanisms for resolving disputes

Introduction

The division of powers is a central feature of Nigeria's federal system. It determines how authority is shared among the federal, state, and local governments, ensuring that each tier operates within its constitutional boundaries. This arrangement is vital for maintaining balance, preventing abuse of power, and promoting effective governance. In a diverse country like Nigeria, the division of powers provides a framework for cooperation while also serving as a safeguard against domination by any single level of government.



The aim of this Series is to help you examine the constitutional basis of power division in Nigeria, understand the specific powers of federal, state, and local governments, and analyse how intergovernmental relations shape the functioning of the Nigerian state.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the constitutional foundation of power division, including the supremacy of the constitution and the role of the judiciary. Next, we will examine the powers of the federal government, followed by the powers of the state governments. Afterwards, we will consider the functions and autonomy of local governments. Finally, we will wrap up by analysing intergovernmental relations, highlighting areas of cooperation, sources of conflict, and mechanisms for resolving disputes.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 2.1** explain the constitutional basis of power division in Nigeria,
- **SLO 2.2** analyse the powers of the federal government,
- **SLO 2.3** describe the powers of the state governments,
- **SLO 2.4** evaluate the functions and autonomy of local governments, and
- **SLO 2.5** assess intergovernmental relations, including cooperation, conflicts, and dispute resolution mechanisms.

2.1 Constitutional Basis of Division of Powers

2.1.1 Supremacy of the constitution

The **constitution** is the supreme law of Nigeria, meaning that all levels of government must act within its provisions. It establishes the framework for governance and clearly defines the powers of the federal, state, and local governments. The supremacy of the constitution ensures that no tier of government can act outside its authority, and any action inconsistent with the constitution is deemed invalid. This principle safeguards the rule of law and promotes accountability.

Fill in the blank: The _____ is the supreme law of Nigeria, binding all levels of government.



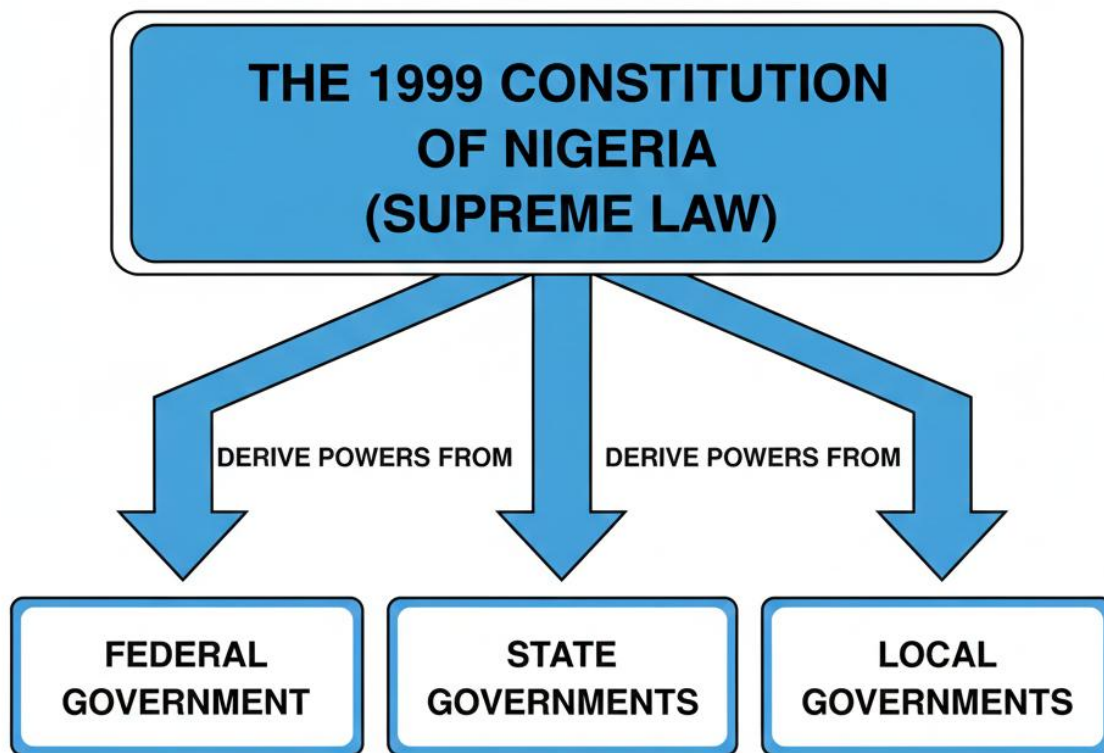


Figure 2.1 Supremacy of the constitution in Nigeria

Diagram showing the constitution at the top with arrows pointing to federal, state, and local governments Caption: Figure 2.1 Supremacy of the constitution in Nigeria

2.1.2 Exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists

The Nigerian constitution divides powers into three categories. The **exclusive list** contains matters such as defence, foreign policy, and currency, which only the federal government can legislate on. The **concurrent list** includes areas like education and health, where both federal and state governments can make laws. The **residual list** refers to matters not mentioned in the constitution, which fall under the jurisdiction of state governments. This division ensures clarity and prevents overlap in responsibilities.



Fill in the blank: Matters such as defence and foreign policy belong to the _____ list in Nigeria's constitution.

Table 2.1
Division of Powers in Nigeria

Type of Power	Definition	Examples (Nigerian Constitution)
Powers exercisable only by Federal Government		Defense, Currency, Foreign Affairs, Mines & Minerals, Airways, Railways, Police
Concurrent List	Powers shared by both Federal & State Governments	Education, Health, Housing, Roads, Taxation, Environment, Social Welfare
Powers belonging to State Governments (not Concurrent lists)	Exclusive to the State Government	Local Government, Culture, Tourism
Residual List (Matters not in the lists)	Local Government, Chiefly Matters	Culture, Traditional Laws

Caption: Table 2.1 Division of powers in Nigeria Table showing examples of exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists

2.1.3 Role of the judiciary in interpreting powers

The **judiciary** plays a crucial role in interpreting the constitution and resolving disputes between different levels of government. When conflicts arise over the scope of powers, courts provide authoritative interpretations to ensure compliance with constitutional provisions. The



independence of the judiciary is essential for maintaining balance in the federal system, as it prevents any tier of government from exceeding its authority.

Fill in the blank: The judiciary ensures compliance with constitutional provisions by resolving _____ between levels of government.

Table 2.1 Division of Powers in Nigeria

Type of Power	Definition	Examples (Nigerian Constitution)
Exclusive List	Powers exercisable only by Federal Government	Defense, Currency, Foreign Affairs, Mines & Minerals, Aviation, Railways, Police
Concurrent List	Powers shared by both Federal & State Governments	Education, Health, Housing, Roads, Environment, Social Social Welfare
Residual List	Powers belonging to State Governments (not Concurrent List)	Local Government, Chieftaincy Matters, Culture, Tourism Traditional Laws

Caption: Box 2.1 Role of the judiciary in federalism Summary of judiciary's functions: interpretation, dispute resolution, safeguarding constitutional supremacy

Pilot questions 2.1

1. What is the supreme law of Nigeria that binds all levels of government?
2. Which list includes matters such as defence and foreign policy?



3. Which list allows both federal and state governments to legislate on the same matters?
4. What term describes matters not mentioned in the constitution, reserved for state governments?
5. What is one key role of the judiciary in Nigeria's federal system?

2.2 Powers of the Federal Government

2.2.1 Legislative powers of the National Assembly

The **National Assembly** is the federal legislature of Nigeria, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives. It exercises legislative powers over matters listed in the exclusive and concurrent lists of the constitution. These include defence, foreign policy, currency, and national security. The National Assembly also has the authority to make laws that apply across the entire federation, ensuring uniformity in critical areas.

Fill in the blank: The National Assembly consists of the Senate and the _____ of Representatives.



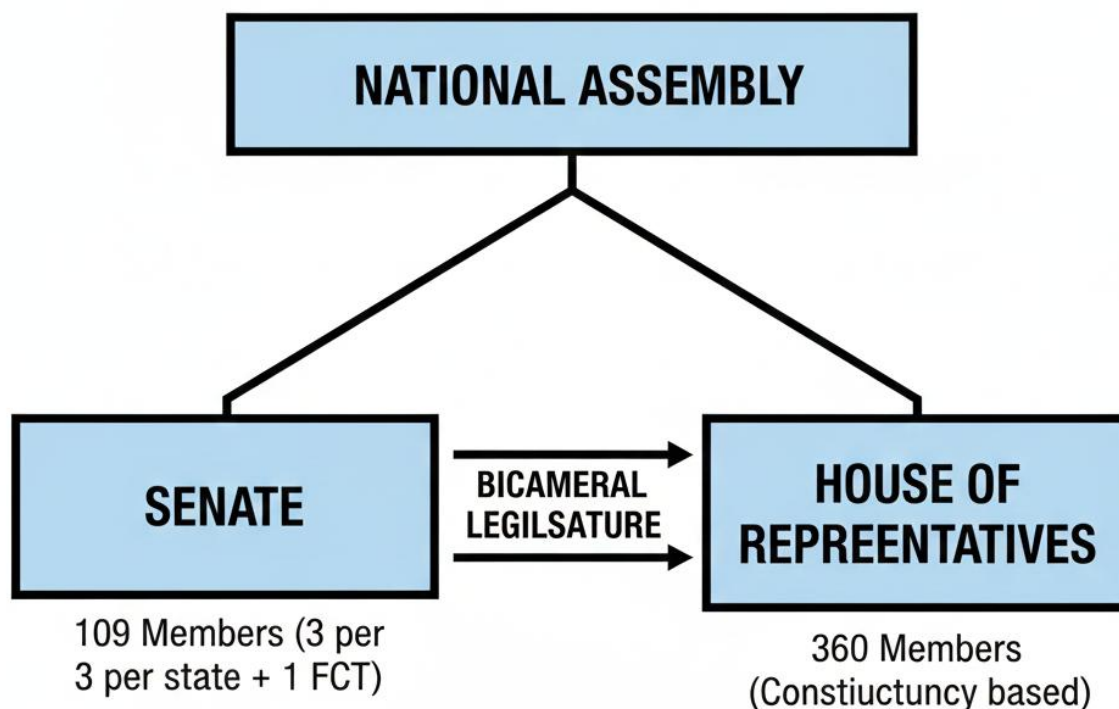


Figure 2.2 Structure of the National Assembly

Diagram showing the structure of the National Assembly with Senate and House of Representatives Caption: Figure 2.2 Structure of the National Assembly

2.2.2 Executive powers of the President and federal institutions

The **President of Nigeria** is the head of the federal executive and exercises powers over national matters. These include implementing laws passed by the National Assembly, directing foreign policy, and overseeing defence and security. Federal institutions such as ministries, agencies, and commissions support the President in carrying out these responsibilities. The executive ensures that national policies are coordinated and implemented effectively across the federation.

Fill in the blank: The President of Nigeria is the head of the federal _____.





Plate 2.1 The Nigerian Presidential Villa

Image of the Nigerian Presidential Villa (Aso Rock) Caption: Plate 2.1 The Nigerian Presidential Villa

2.2.3 Judicial powers of federal courts

The **federal judiciary** interprets laws and ensures justice at the national level. Federal courts, including the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, have jurisdiction over constitutional matters, disputes between states, and cases involving the federal government. The judiciary safeguards the supremacy of the constitution and protects citizens' rights. Its independence is crucial for maintaining balance among the tiers of government.

Fill in the blank: The highest court in Nigeria is the _____ Court.



Box 2.2: Federal Judiciary Functions

The Nigerian federal judiciary plays a crucial role in upholding the rule of law and the constitution.

- **Interpreting Laws:** Clarifying the meaning and application of national laws and constitutional provisions.
- **Resolving Disputes:** Adjudicating conflicts between different levels of government, states, or individuals.
- **Safeguarding Constitutional Supremacy:** Ensuring that all government actions comply with the 1999 Constitution.
- **Protecting Rights**
- **Protecting Rights:** Enforcing the fundamental human rights of citizens.

Box 2.2 Federal judiciary functions

Caption: Box 2.2 Federal judiciary functions Summary of functions: interpreting laws, resolving disputes, safeguarding constitutional supremacy, protecting rights

Pilot questions 2.2

1. What are the two chambers of the National Assembly?
2. Who is the head of the federal executive in Nigeria?
3. Name one matter under the legislative powers of the National Assembly.
4. Which federal institution supports the President in implementing policies?
5. What is the highest court in Nigeria?



2.3 Powers of the State Governments

2.3.1 Legislative powers of state assemblies

The **state assemblies** are the legislative bodies at the state level. They make laws on matters contained in the concurrent and residual lists of the constitution. Examples include education, agriculture, and local infrastructure. State assemblies ensure that governance reflects the needs of their people by tailoring laws to suit local circumstances.

Fill in the blank: State assemblies legislate on matters contained in the concurrent and _____ lists.



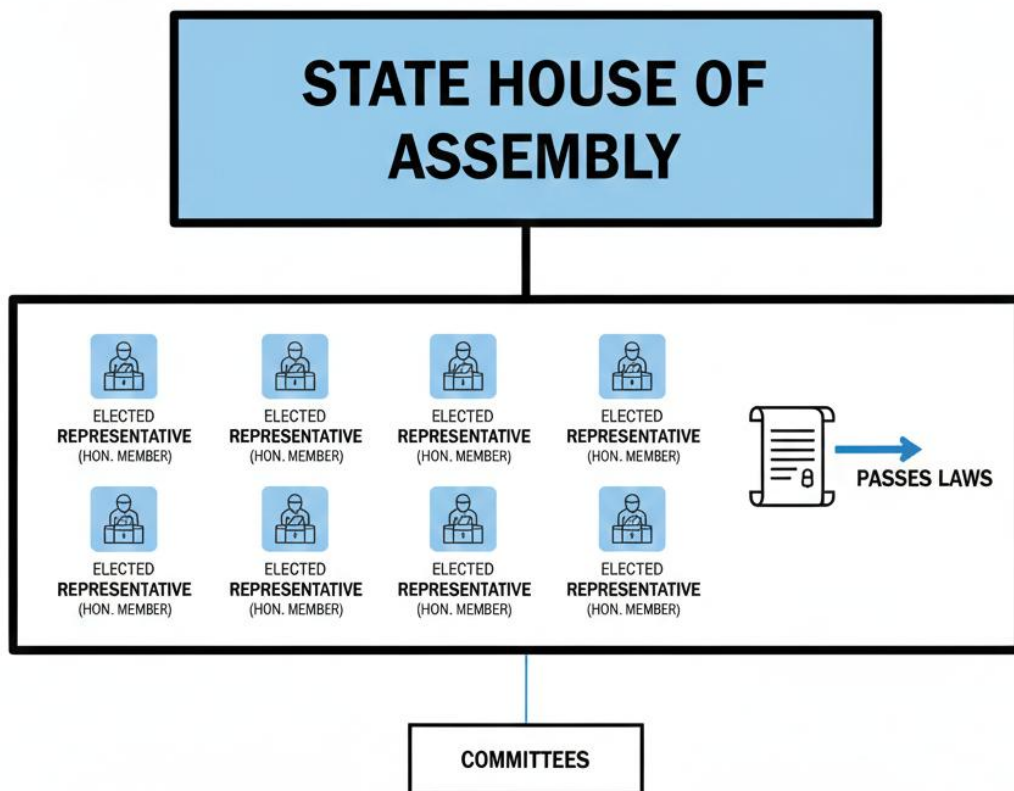


Figure 2.3 Structure of a state assembly

Diagram showing the structure of a state assembly with elected representatives Caption: Figure 2.3 Structure of a state assembly

2.3.2 Executive powers of governors and state institutions

The **Governor** is the head of the executive branch at the state level. Governors implement laws passed by the state assembly and oversee state institutions such as ministries and agencies. They are responsible for policies on education, health, agriculture, and local development. Governors also represent their states in intergovernmental relations, ensuring that state interests are protected.

Fill in the blank: The head of the executive branch at the state level in Nigeria is the _____.





Plate 2.2 A Nigerian state government house

Image of a Nigerian state government house Caption: Plate 2.2 A Nigerian state government house

2.3.3 Judicial powers of state courts

The **state judiciary** interprets laws made by the state assembly and resolves disputes within the state. State courts handle civil and criminal cases under state jurisdiction. They also ensure that state laws comply with the constitution. The independence of the judiciary at the state level is vital for justice and fairness in governance.

Fill in the blank: State courts ensure that laws made by the state assembly comply with the _____.



Box 2.3 Functions of State Judiciary

The Nigerian state judiciary plays a vital role in the administration of justice at the national level.

- **Interpreting State Laws:**
 - Clarifying the meaning and application of state-level constitutional provisions.
 - Adjudicating the meaning and application of state-level legislation and constitutional provisions.
- **Resolving Disputes:**
 - Adjudicating civil and criminal cases, as well as conflicts between individuals, organizations, or state government entities.
- **Ensuring Compliance with the Constitution:**
 - Upholding the supremacy of both Nigerian Constitution and relevant state laws.

Box 2.3 Functions of state judiciary

Caption: Box 2.3 Functions of state judiciary Summary of functions: interpreting state laws, resolving disputes, ensuring compliance with the constitution

Pilot questions 2.3

1. On which lists do state assemblies legislate?
2. Who is the head of the executive branch at the state level?
3. Name one area of responsibility for state governors.
4. What is one function of the state judiciary?



5. Why is judicial independence important at the state level?

2.4 Local Government Powers and Autonomy

2.4.1 Constitutional recognition of local governments

The **local government** is recognised by the Nigerian constitution as the third tier of government. It is established to bring governance closer to the people and to ensure that grassroots communities are directly involved in decision-making. The constitution provides for elected local councils, giving them legitimacy and authority to manage local affairs. This recognition underscores the importance of local governments in promoting participation and inclusiveness.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian constitution recognises local government as the _____ tier of government.



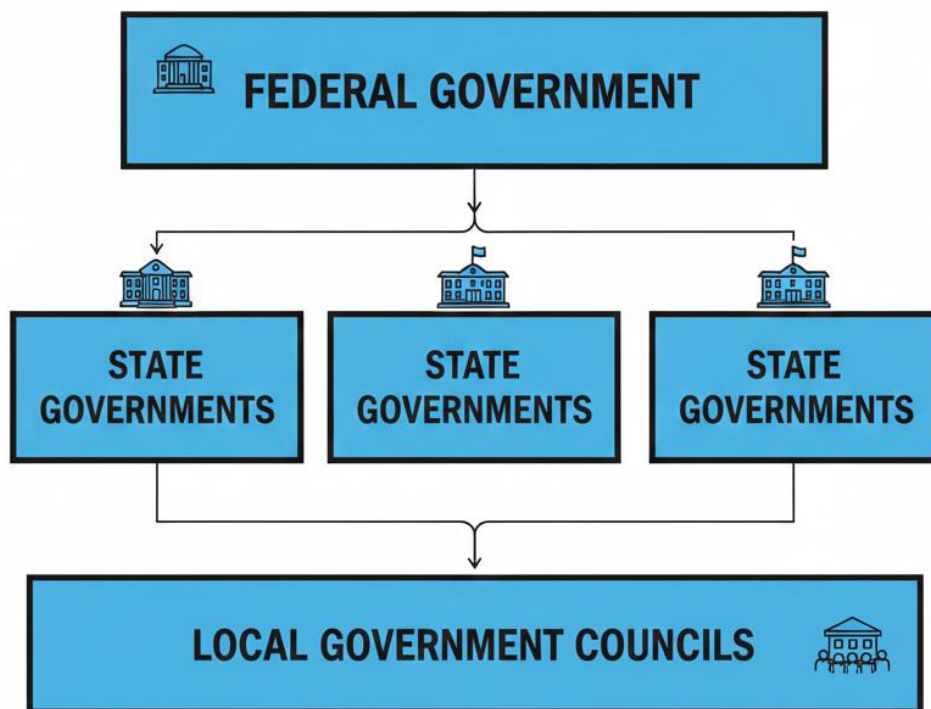


Figure 2.4 The three tiers of government in Nigeria

Diagram showing three tiers of government: federal, state, and local
Caption: Figure 2.4 The three tiers of government in Nigeria

2.4.2 Functions and responsibilities of local councils

Local councils are responsible for providing basic services and infrastructure at the grassroots level. Their functions include maintaining markets, roads, and sanitation, as well as supporting primary education and healthcare. Local governments also play a role in mobilising community participation and ensuring that development projects reflect local needs. By focusing on these responsibilities, local councils serve as vital agents of development.

Fill in the blank: Local councils are responsible for providing basic services such as _____ and sanitation.



Table 2.2 Functions of Local Councils in Nigeria

Responsibility	Explanation
Markets and Motor Parks	Provide and manage local markets and transport facilities
Maintenance of Local Roads	Construct and maintain unpaved and feeder within the community
Sanitation and Waste Management	Responsible for local waste collection and public hygiene
Primary Education	Shared responsibility for primary school infrastructure and administration
Primary Healthcare	Operate local clinics and immunization programs
Community Mobilisation	Engage residents in local development projects and initiatives

Table 2.2 Functions of local councils in Nigeria

Caption: Table 2.2 Functions of local councils in Nigeria Table listing responsibilities: markets, roads, sanitation, primary education, healthcare, community mobilisation

2.4.3 Challenges to local government autonomy

Despite constitutional recognition, local governments face significant challenges to their autonomy. One major issue is the **interference of state governments**, which often control local finances and decision-making. Another challenge is inadequate funding, which limits the ability of local councils to deliver services effectively. Corruption and weak institutional capacity also undermine local governance. Addressing these challenges is crucial for strengthening grassroots democracy and development.



Fill in the blank: One major challenge to local government autonomy in Nigeria is the _____ of state governments.

Box 2.4 Challenges to Local Government Autonomy

Local Government Autonomy in Nigeria has several obstacles that hinder its effectiveness and ability to deliver services at the grassroots level.

- **State Interference:** Unwanted control by state governments, including in finances and personnel, reduces local decision-making power.
- **Inadequate Funding:** Limited financial resources and dependence on state allocations cripple service delivery and development projects
- **Corruption**
- **Corruption:** Mismanagement of funds and corrupt practices within local government divert resources meant for community development
- **Weak Institutions:** Lack of skilled personnel, poor administrative capacity, insufficient legal framework governance

Box 2.4 Challenges to local government Autonomy

Caption: Box 2.4 Challenges to local government autonomy Summary of challenges: state interference, inadequate funding, corruption, weak institutions

Pilot questions 2.4

1. Which tier of government is recognised by the constitution as closest to the people?
2. Name one basic service provided by local councils.
3. What is one major challenge to local government autonomy in Nigeria?



4. Why is constitutional recognition important for local governments?
5. How does inadequate funding affect local councils?

2.5 Intergovernmental Relations and Conflicts

2.5.1 Areas of cooperation between tiers of government

Intergovernmental relations in Nigeria involve cooperation among federal, state, and local governments. These areas of cooperation include joint efforts in education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and security. For example, while the federal government may provide funding and policy direction, state and local governments implement programmes at the grassroots level. Such collaboration ensures that national goals are achieved while meeting local needs.

Fill in the blank: Intergovernmental relations involve cooperation among federal, state, and _____ governments.



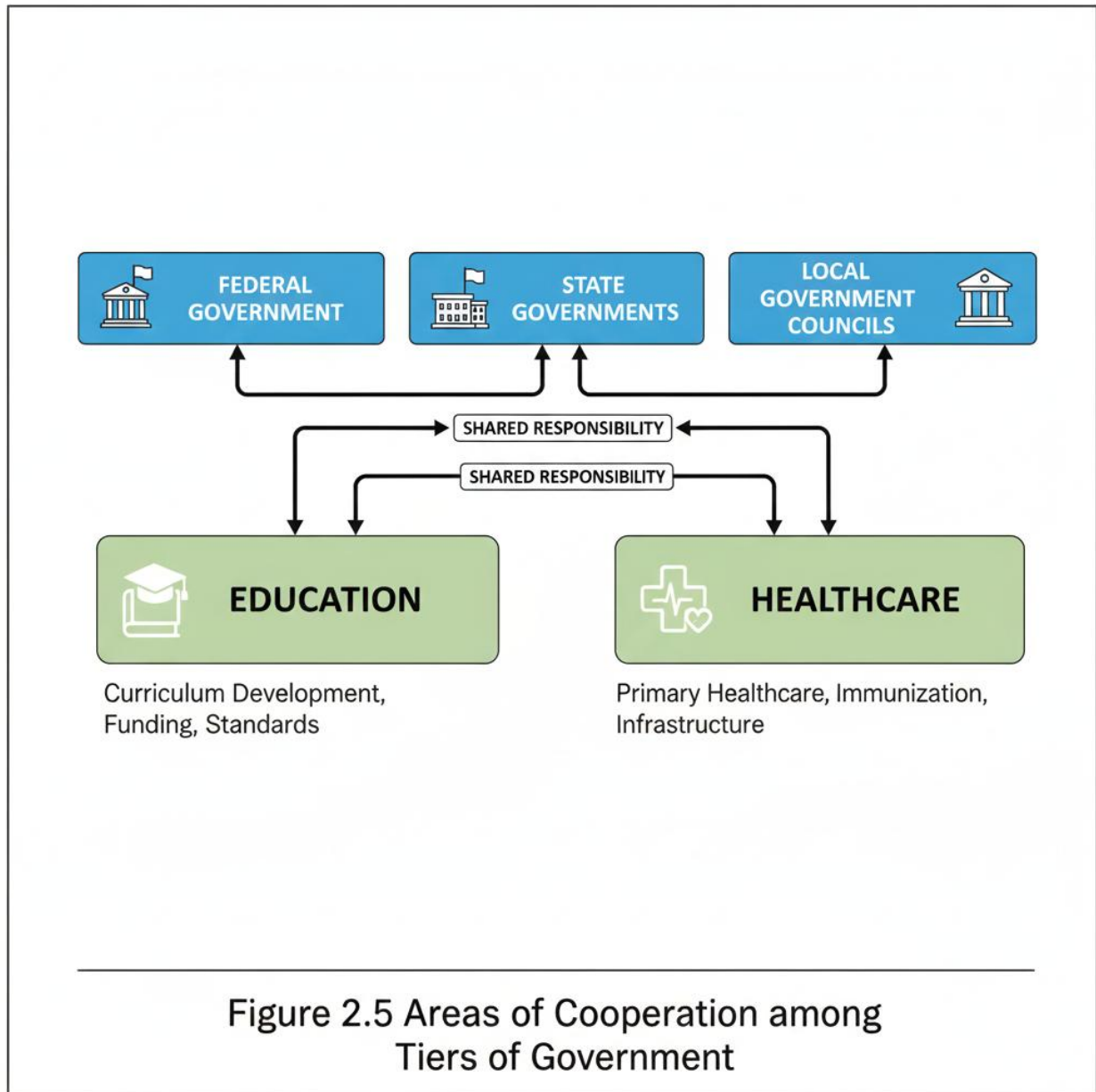


Diagram showing cooperation among three tiers of government in education and healthcare
Caption: Figure 2.5 Areas of cooperation among tiers of government

2.5.2 Sources of conflict in power division

Despite cooperation, conflicts often arise among the tiers of government. One major source of conflict is the **overlap of responsibilities** in the concurrent list, leading to disputes over who has authority. Another source is the **allocation of resources**, particularly revenue sharing, which often generates tension between federal and state governments. Political rivalry and differences in policy priorities also contribute to intergovernmental conflicts.

Fill in the blank: One major source of conflict in Nigeria's federal system is the _____ of responsibilities in the concurrent list.



Box 2.5 Sources of Intergovernmental Conflict

Intergovernmental conflicts in Nigeria arise from various factors, hindering effective collaboration between the federal, state, and local governments.

- **Overlapping Responsibilities:** Jurisdictional ambiguities and concurrent powers can lead to disputes over service delivery and regulatory authority.
- **Resource Allocation:** Disagreements over the distribution of revenues and control of natural resources often create tensions.
- **Political Allocation:**
- **Political Rivalry:** Differing political affiliations and ambitions among leaders at various levels in healthcare, and security can be a result of conflicts.

Box 2.5 Sources of intergovernmental conflict

Caption: Box 2.5 Sources of intergovernmental conflict Summary of sources: overlapping responsibilities, resource allocation, political rivalry, policy differences

2.5.3 Mechanisms for resolving disputes

To manage conflicts, Nigeria relies on several mechanisms. The **judiciary** plays a central role in interpreting the constitution and resolving disputes between tiers of government. In addition, political negotiation and dialogue are often used to reach compromises. Institutions such as the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) also help to regulate resource distribution. These mechanisms are essential for maintaining balance and ensuring that conflicts do not undermine national unity.



Fill in the blank: The judiciary resolves disputes between tiers of government by interpreting the _____.

Table 2.3 Mechanisms for Intergovernmental Disputes		
	Definition	
Judiciary Adjudication	The Supreme Court appellate courts have power the constitution between federal state governments	The Supreme Court and other appellate courts powers to interpret constitution and laws, and resolve disputes between the federal and state governments.
Political and Legislative Bargaining	Governors' Forum, National Assembly committees, and other-engage in political discussions to discussions to reach consensus and compromise solutions	Governors' Forum, National States and Consultative Councils Platforms like National Council of States and the Governors provide avenues for dialogue and policy matters and areas of conflict
Fiscal Allocation Committees	Conferences and Consultative Committees	The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) periodically recommends formulas for distributing revenues among the government, aiming to reduce fiscal tensions

Table 2.3 Mechanisms for resolving Intergovernmental Disputes

Caption: Table 2.3 Mechanisms for resolving intergovernmental disputes Table listing judiciary, political negotiation, dialogue, and fiscal commissions with short explanations

Pilot questions 2.5

1. Which three tiers of government cooperate in intergovernmental relations?
2. Name one area of cooperation among tiers of government.
3. What is one major source of conflict in Nigeria's federal system?



4. Which institution plays a central role in resolving disputes between tiers of government?
5. Name one mechanism, apart from the judiciary, used to manage intergovernmental conflicts.

Series Summary

This Series has examined how powers are divided among the federal, state, and local governments in Nigeria. We began by exploring the constitutional basis of power division, including the supremacy of the constitution, the exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists, and the role of the judiciary. We then analysed the powers of the federal government, focusing on the legislative, executive, and judicial functions. Following that, we described the powers of the state governments, highlighting their legislative, executive, and judicial responsibilities. Afterwards, we evaluated the functions and autonomy of local governments, noting both their constitutional recognition and the challenges they face. Finally, we assessed intergovernmental relations, considering areas of cooperation, sources of conflict, and mechanisms for resolving disputes.

By engaging with these discussions, you should now be able to explain the constitutional basis of power division, analyse the powers of the federal government, describe the powers of the state governments, evaluate the autonomy of local governments, and assess intergovernmental relations. These abilities directly align with the Series Learning Outcomes and provide you with a clear understanding of how Nigeria's federal system operates.

Glossary of Terms

- **Concurrent list:** Matters on which both federal and state governments can legislate, such as education and health.
- **Constitution:** The supreme law of Nigeria that defines the powers and responsibilities of all tiers of government.
- **Exclusive list:** Matters reserved for the federal government alone, including defence, foreign policy, and currency.
- **Governor:** The head of the executive branch at the state level.
- **Judiciary:** The branch of government responsible for interpreting laws and resolving disputes.
- **Local government:** The third tier of government in Nigeria, responsible for grassroots administration and services.
- **National Assembly:** The federal legislature of Nigeria, consisting of the Senate and House of Representatives.
- **Residual list:** Matters not mentioned in the constitution, reserved for state governments.
- **Supremacy of the constitution:** The principle that the constitution is binding on all levels of government.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]



Objective questions

1. Which list includes matters such as defence and foreign policy? (Linked to SLO 2.1)
2. The National Assembly consists of the Senate and the _____. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
3. Who is the head of the executive branch at the state level? (Linked to SLO 2.3)
4. Local government is recognised as the _____ tier of government. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
5. Which institution plays a central role in resolving disputes between tiers of government? (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Short-answer questions

6. Explain one function of the National Assembly. (Linked to SLO 2.2)
7. Identify one responsibility of local councils. (Linked to SLO 2.4)
8. State one source of conflict in Nigeria's federal system. (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Long-answer questions

9. Analyse the constitutional basis of power division in Nigeria, highlighting the exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists. (Linked to SLO 2.1)
10. Evaluate the challenges to local government autonomy in Nigeria and suggest possible reforms. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective questions

1. Exclusive list
2. House of Representatives
3. Governor
4. Third
5. Judiciary

Short-answer questions

6. The National Assembly makes laws on matters in the exclusive and concurrent lists.
7. Local councils provide services such as markets, roads, sanitation, education, and healthcare.
8. Overlap of responsibilities in the concurrent list.

Long-answer questions

9. **Basic response:** The Nigerian constitution divides powers into exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists. Exclusive matters are reserved for the federal government, concurrent matters are shared by federal and state governments, and residual matters are reserved for states. **Value-**



added response: This division ensures clarity in governance, prevents overlap, and allows each tier of government to focus on its responsibilities. The judiciary interprets these lists to resolve disputes.

10. **Basic response:** Challenges to local government autonomy include state interference, inadequate funding, corruption, and weak institutions. **Value-added response:** Reforms such as strengthening financial independence, improving institutional capacity, and enforcing constitutional provisions could enhance local government autonomy and grassroots democracy.

References and Attributions [Series 2]

- Constitutional references: Nigerian Constitution (1999), provisions on exclusive, concurrent, and residual lists.
- Figures, Plates, Tables, and Boxes:
 - Figure 2.1 Supremacy of the constitution in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing the Nigerian constitution at the top with arrows pointing to federal, state, and local governments.”
 - Table 2.1 Division of powers in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing examples of exclusive, concurrent, and residual powers in Nigeria’s constitution.”
 - Box 2.1 Role of the judiciary in federalism: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the role of the judiciary in Nigeria’s federal system.”
 - Figure 2.2 Structure of the National Assembly: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s National Assembly divided into Senate and House of Representatives.”
 - Plate 2.1 The Nigerian Presidential Villa: AI-generated image prompt “Generate an image of the Nigerian Presidential Villa (Aso Rock) in Abuja.”
 - Box 2.2 Federal judiciary functions: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the functions of Nigeria’s federal judiciary.”
 - Figure 2.3 Structure of a state assembly: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s state assembly with elected representatives passing laws.”
 - Plate 2.2 A Nigerian state government house: AI-generated image prompt “Generate an image of a Nigerian state government house building.”
 - Box 2.3 Functions of state judiciary: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the functions of Nigeria’s state judiciary.”
 - Figure 2.4 The three tiers of government in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s three tiers of government: federal, state, local.”



- Table 2.2 Functions of local councils in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing functions of local councils in Nigeria with short explanations.”
- Box 2.4 Challenges to local government autonomy: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising challenges to local government autonomy in Nigeria.”
- Figure 2.5 Areas of cooperation among tiers of government: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s federal, state, and local governments cooperating in education and healthcare.”
- Box 2.5 Sources of intergovernmental conflict: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising sources of intergovernmental conflict in Nigeria.”
- Table 2.3 Mechanisms for resolving intergovernmental disputes: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing mechanisms for resolving intergovernmental disputes in Nigeria with explanations.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Part 2.1

1. Constitution
2. Exclusive list
3. Concurrent list
4. Residual list
5. Resolving disputes

Part 2.2

1. Senate and House of Representatives
2. President
3. Defence
4. Federal ministries and agencies
5. Supreme Court

Part 2.3

1. Concurrent and residual lists
2. Governor
3. Education or health
4. Interpreting state laws



5. To ensure fairness and justice

Part 2.4

1. Local government
2. Roads or sanitation
3. State interference
4. Legitimacy and authority
5. Limits service delivery

Part 2.5

1. Federal, state, and local governments
2. Education or healthcare
3. Overlap of responsibilities
4. Judiciary
5. Political negotiation or fiscal commissions



Series 3: Fiscal Relations Among Government Tiers

Series Outlines

3.1 Constitutional framework for fiscal relations

- 3.1.1 Revenue allocation principles in the constitution
- 3.1.2 Fiscal federalism and its meaning
- 3.1.3 Role of the judiciary in fiscal disputes

3.2 Revenue sources of the federal government

- 3.2.1 Oil and gas revenues
- 3.2.2 Customs duties and taxation
- 3.2.3 Other federal revenue streams

3.3 Revenue sources of state and local governments

- 3.3.1 Internally generated revenue (IGR)
- 3.3.2 State taxation and levies
- 3.3.3 Local government revenue sources

3.4 Revenue allocation and sharing formula

- 3.4.1 Vertical allocation among federal, state, and local governments
- 3.4.2 Horizontal allocation among states
- 3.4.3 Role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC)

3.5 Challenges and prospects of fiscal relations in Nigeria

- 3.5.1 Issues of resource control and equity
- 3.5.2 Problems of fiscal imbalance and dependency
- 3.5.3 Prospects for reforming fiscal federalism

Introduction

Fiscal relations are at the heart of Nigeria's federal system, as they determine how resources are generated, allocated, and utilised across the three tiers of government. In a country with vast natural resources and diverse needs, the way revenues are shared has significant implications for governance, development, and equity. Understanding fiscal relations helps us appreciate the financial dynamics that sustain federalism and the challenges that arise from resource distribution.



The aim of this Series is to equip you with knowledge of the constitutional framework for fiscal relations, the revenue sources of each tier of government, the allocation and sharing formula, and the challenges and prospects of fiscal federalism in Nigeria.

We shall commence this Series by examining the constitutional framework for fiscal relations, including revenue allocation principles and the role of the judiciary. Next, we will explore the revenue sources of the federal government, followed by those of the state and local governments. Afterwards, we will analyse the revenue allocation and sharing formula, highlighting vertical and horizontal distribution as well as the role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission. Finally, we will conclude by evaluating the challenges and prospects of fiscal relations in Nigeria, focusing on issues of resource control, fiscal imbalance, and possible reforms.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 3.1** explain the constitutional framework for fiscal relations in Nigeria,
- **SLO 3.2** identify and analyse the revenue sources of the federal government,
- **SLO 3.3** describe the revenue sources of state and local governments,
- **SLO 3.4** evaluate Nigeria's revenue allocation and sharing formula, and
- **SLO 3.5** assess the challenges and prospects of fiscal relations in Nigeria.

3.1 Constitutional Framework for Fiscal Relations

3.1.1 Revenue allocation principles in the constitution

The Nigerian **constitution** provides the legal foundation for fiscal relations among the three tiers of government. It establishes principles for revenue allocation to ensure fairness, equity, and national development. These principles include **derivation**, which allows states to benefit from resources produced within their boundaries, and **fiscal equalisation**, which seeks to reduce disparities among states. The constitution also mandates periodic review of revenue allocation formulas to reflect changing national priorities.

Fill in the blank: The principle that allows states to benefit from resources produced within their boundaries is called _____.



Table 3.1 Revenue Allocation Principles in Nigeria		
Principle	Definition	Application in Nigeria
Derivation	Based of the proportion revenue revenue generated in state	The Supreme Court other appellate courts interpret constitution ahead federal state governments.
Fiscal Equalisation	Reduce disparities of public service provision Horizontal and vertical relevance	13% of mineral revenue is returned by source states Horizontal and vertical distribute to contribute to states to conflict
Periodic Review Revenue Allocation is reviewed periodically by RMAFC	To ensure fair and equitable distribution of revenue	The Revenue Allocation Commission and States and reviewed to review periodically by RMAFC

Table 3.1 Mechanisms for Revenue Allocation Principles in Nigeria

Caption: Table 3.1 Revenue allocation principles in Nigeria Table listing derivation, fiscal equalisation, and periodic review with short explanations

3.1.2 Fiscal federalism and its meaning

Fiscal federalism refers to the financial relationships between different levels of government in a federal system. It involves the distribution of revenue-raising powers and expenditure responsibilities among federal, state, and local governments. In Nigeria, fiscal federalism ensures that each tier of government has access to resources needed to perform its functions. However, debates often arise over resource control, especially in oil-producing regions, highlighting the tensions inherent in fiscal federalism.



Fill in the blank: Fiscal federalism refers to the financial relationships between different _____ of government in a federal system.

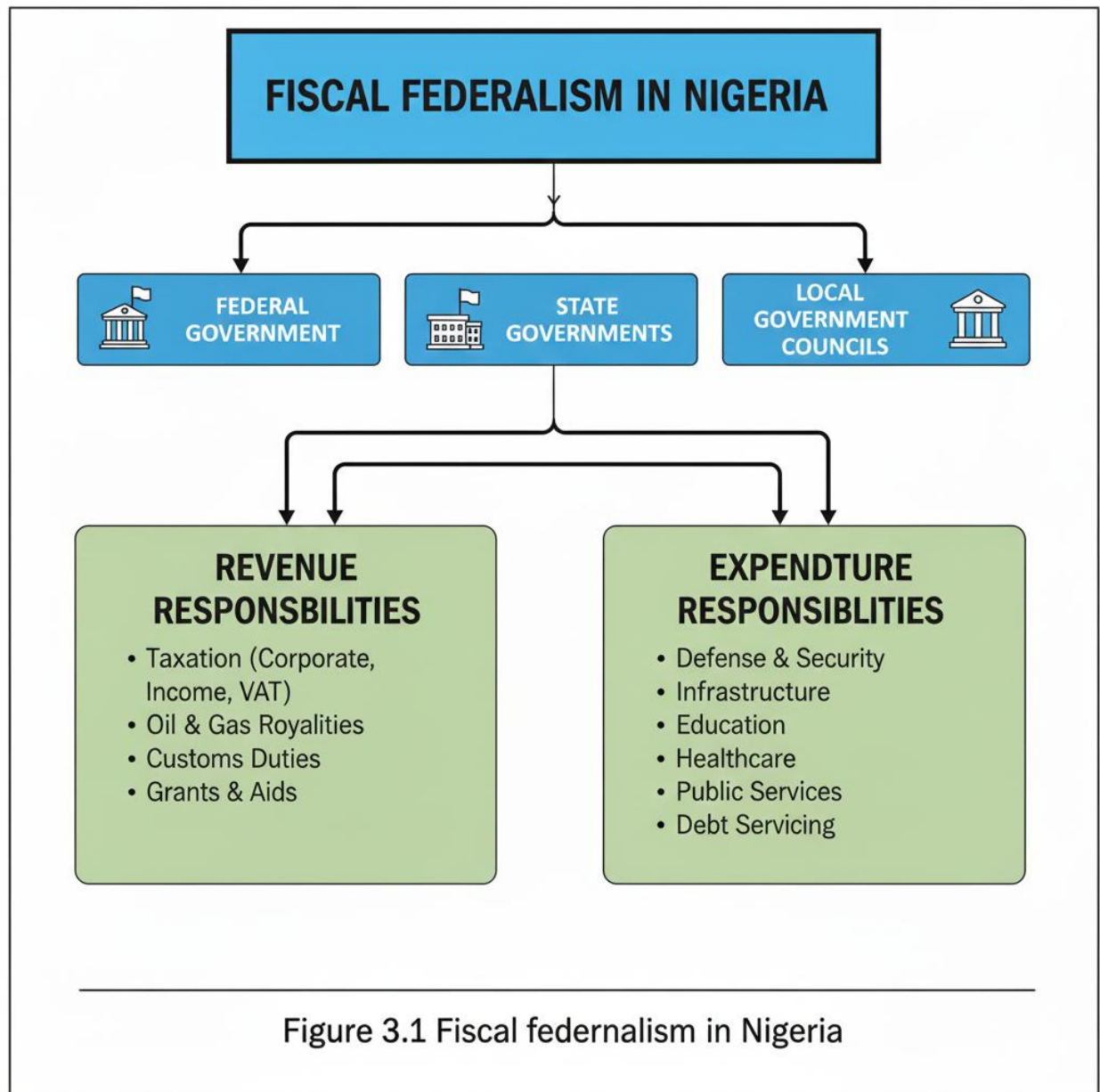


Diagram showing fiscal federalism with arrows linking federal, state, and local governments to revenue and expenditure responsibilities Caption: Figure 3.1 Fiscal federalism in Nigeria

3.1.3 Role of the judiciary in fiscal disputes

The **judiciary** plays a vital role in resolving fiscal disputes between tiers of government. When disagreements arise over revenue allocation or resource control, courts interpret constitutional provisions to provide clarity. For example, the Supreme Court has ruled on cases involving the



sharing of oil revenues and the financial autonomy of local governments. Judicial independence ensures that fiscal relations are guided by law rather than political interests.

Fill in the blank: The judiciary resolves fiscal disputes by interpreting _____ provisions.

Box 3.1 Role of the Judiciary in Fiscal Relations

The **Nigerian judiciary** plays a **crucial role** in managing fiscal relations and resolving financial disputes within the federal system.

- **Interpreting Constitutional Provisions:** Clarifies an application of constitutional clauses related to revenue allocation, taxation, and financial powers.
- **Resolving Fiscal Disputes:**
 - Adjudicates conflicts between federal, state, and local governments over financial matters, finances and resource control.
- **Safeguarding Fairness:** Ensures that revenue formulas and financial practices comply with legal frameworks and promote equitable distribution.

Box 3.1 Role of the judiciary in fiscal relations

Caption: Box 3.1 Role of the judiciary in fiscal relations Summary of judiciary's functions: interpreting constitutional provisions, resolving disputes, safeguarding fairness in revenue allocation

Pilot questions 3.1

1. Which principle allows states to benefit from resources produced within their boundaries?



2. What term describes the financial relationships between different levels of government in a federal system?
3. Which institution resolves disputes over revenue allocation in Nigeria?
4. Name one principle of revenue allocation in the Nigerian constitution.
5. Why is judicial independence important in fiscal relations?

3.2 Revenue Sources of the Federal Government

3.2.1 Oil and gas revenues

Nigeria's federal government derives a significant portion of its revenue from **oil and gas**. These revenues come from petroleum profits tax, royalties, and sales of crude oil. Oil and gas revenues are central to the Nigerian economy, accounting for the majority of foreign exchange earnings and government income. However, dependence on oil has made the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in global prices.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's federal government earns a significant portion of its revenue from _____ and gas.



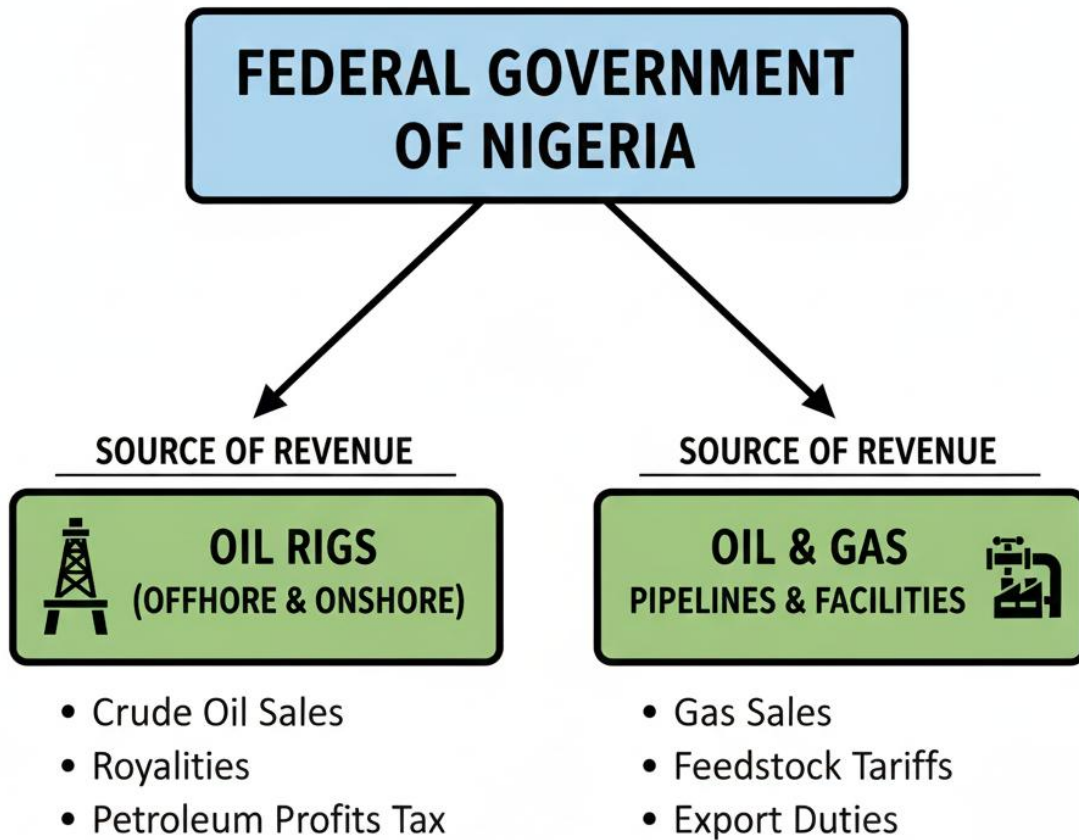


Figure 3.2 Oil and gas revenues in Nigeria

Diagram showing oil rigs and pipelines as sources of federal revenue Caption: Figure 3.2 Oil and gas revenues in Nigeria

3.2.2 Customs duties and taxation

Another major source of federal revenue is **customs duties and taxation**. Customs duties are collected on imported goods, while taxation includes corporate income tax, value-added tax (VAT), and excise duties. These sources provide steady income for the federal government and help diversify revenue beyond oil. Effective tax administration is essential for ensuring compliance and maximising revenue collection.

Fill in the blank: Customs duties are collected on _____ goods entering Nigeria.



Table 3.2 Federal Taxation and Customs Duties in Nigeria	
Tax/Duty	Explanation
Corporate Company Income Tax (CIT)	Tax on profits of registered companies.
Value Added Tax (VAT)	Consumption tax on goods and services.
Excise Duties	Tax on locally manufactured goods (e.g, tobacco, alcohol).
Customs Duties	Tariffs on imported and exported goods.

Table 3.2 Federal taxation and customs duties

Caption: Table 3.2 Federal taxation and customs duties Table listing corporate tax, VAT, excise duties, and customs duties with short explanations

3.2.3 Other federal revenue streams

In addition to oil and taxation, the federal government earns revenue from other sources. These include **licensing fees**, **stamp duties**, and **proceeds from government-owned enterprises**. The federal government also receives revenue from international trade agreements and foreign aid. While smaller compared to oil and taxation, these streams contribute to the overall fiscal capacity of the federal government.

Fill in the blank: Stamp duties and licensing fees are examples of _____ revenue streams for the federal government.



Box 3.2 Other Federal Revenue Streams

In addition oil & gas, taxation, and customs duties, the Nigerian Federal Government generates revenue from various other sources:

- **Licensing Fees:** Permits for various activities (e.g., telecommunications, mining, broadcasting).
- **Licensing Fees:** Permits for various activities
- **Stamp Duties** Fees on legal documents and financial transactions.
- **Government Enterprises:** Profits/revenues from commercial entities (e., ports, railways).
- **International Trade:** Tariffs on imports/exports beyond standard customs duties.
- **Foreign Aid & Loans:** Financial assistance and borrowing from international bodies.

Box 3.2 Other federal revenue streams

Caption: Box 3.2 Other federal revenue streams Summary of licensing fees, stamp duties, government enterprises, international trade, and foreign aid

Pilot questions 3.2

1. What is Nigeria's most significant source of federal revenue?
2. Customs duties are collected on what type of goods?
3. Name one type of federal taxation apart from customs duties.
4. Give one example of other federal revenue streams.



5. Why is dependence on oil revenues considered risky for Nigeria's economy?

3.3 Revenue Sources of State and Local Governments

3.3.1 Internally generated revenue (IGR)

Internally generated revenue (IGR) refers to income raised by states and local governments within their jurisdictions. Common sources include market fees, motor park levies, and business permits. IGR is crucial because it reduces dependence on federal allocations and allows states and local councils to fund local projects. However, many states struggle with low IGR due to weak tax administration and limited economic activity.

Fill in the blank: Internally generated revenue reduces dependence on _____ allocations.



Table 3.3 Examples of Internally Generated Revenue

Revenue Source	Explanation
Market Fees and Levies	Charges collected from traders and stalls in local markets.
Motor Park Leves	Fees from commercial vehicles for parking and loading.
Business Premises Permits Permits	Annual licenses for operating businesses within bu jurdisrction.
Service Charges/Rates	Fees for public utilities, waste management, and property rates.

Table 3.3 Examples of internily generated revenue

Caption: Table 3.3 Examples of internally generated revenue Table listing market fees, motor park levies, business permits, and service charges with short explanations

3.3.2 State taxation and levies

States have authority to impose certain **taxes and levies** under the residual list. These include personal income tax (administered by state boards of internal revenue), property tax, and entertainment levies. State taxation provides a steady source of income and reflects the principle of fiscal federalism, where states manage their own financial affairs. Effective tax collection is essential for improving state finances and reducing reliance on federal transfers.

Fill in the blank: Personal income tax is administered by state boards of _____ revenue.



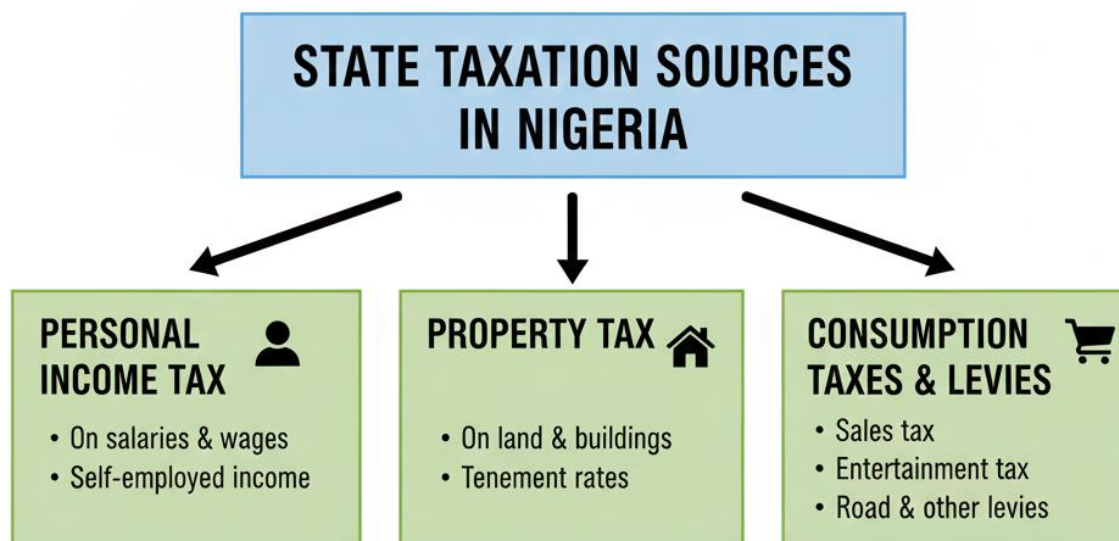


Figure 3.3 State taxation sources in Nigeria

Diagram showing state taxation sources such as personal income tax, property tax, and levies
Caption: Figure 3.3 State taxation sources in Nigeria

3.3.3 Local government revenue sources

Local governments also generate revenue through **local taxes and fees**. These include tenement rates, shop and kiosk rents, and motor park charges. Local councils may also collect licensing fees for bicycles, carts, and small businesses. These sources are intended to support grassroots development, but in practice, local governments often face challenges such as poor compliance, corruption, and interference from state governments.

Fill in the blank: Local governments collect tenement rates and shop rents as part of their _____ sources.



Box 3.3 Local Government Revenue Sources

In addition grants from federal and state governments in Nigeria generate revenue from various sources to fund their operations:

- **Tenement Rates:** Property taxes collected from owners in the local government area.
- **Tenement Rates:** Property taxes collected from owners of buildings and land within the local government area.
- **Shop & Kiosk Rents:** Rental income from market stalls, shops, and kiosks managed by the government.
- **Motor Park Charges & Levies:** from commercial vehicle operators and unloading at designated motor parks.
- **Licensing & Permit Fees:** Charges for various permits and licenses, including business premises permits, hawkers permits, and marriage licenses.

Box 3.3 Government Revenue Sources

Caption: Box 3.3 Local government revenue sources Summary of tenement rates, shop rents, motor park charges, and licensing fees

Pilot questions 3.3

1. What does IGR stand for in the context of state and local government finance?
2. Name one example of internally generated revenue.
3. Which institution administers personal income tax at the state level?
4. Give one example of local government revenue sources.



5. Why do many states struggle with low IGR?

3.4 Revenue Allocation and Sharing Formula

3.4.1 Vertical allocation among federal, state, and local governments

Vertical allocation refers to the distribution of revenue among the three tiers of government: federal, state, and local. The federal government typically receives the largest share to manage national responsibilities such as defence, foreign policy, and infrastructure. States receive a portion to fund education, healthcare, and development projects, while local governments are allocated funds to provide grassroots services. This vertical distribution ensures that each tier has resources to perform its constitutional functions.

Fill in the blank: Vertical allocation distributes revenue among federal, state, and _____ governments.



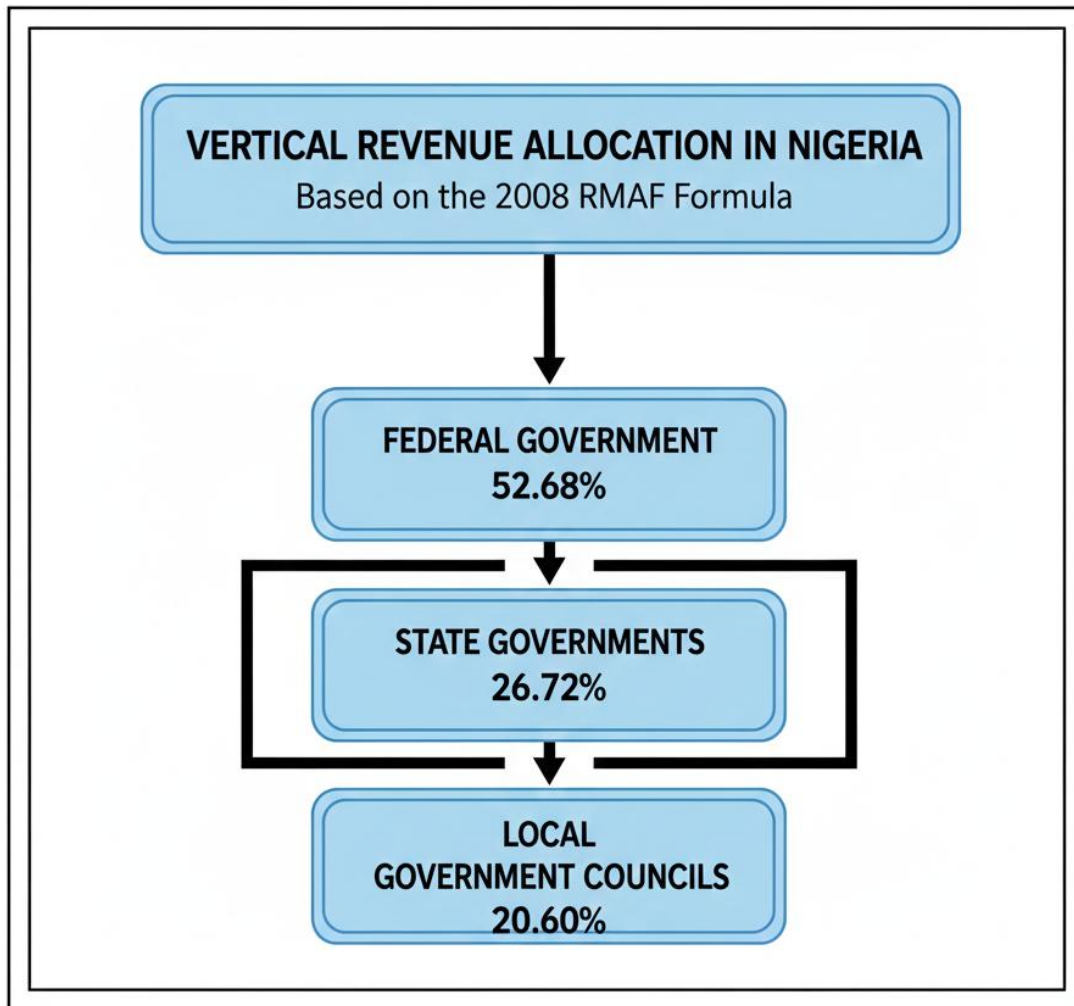


Figure 3.4 Vertical allocation of revenue in Nigeria

Diagram showing vertical allocation with percentages for federal, state, and local governments
Caption: Figure 3.4 Vertical allocation of revenue in Nigeria

3.4.2 Horizontal allocation among states

Horizontal allocation refers to the distribution of revenue among the states of the federation. This allocation is based on principles such as population, equality of states, landmass, and internally generated revenue. The aim is to ensure fairness and reduce disparities among states. For example, states with larger populations may receive more funds to meet their needs, while equality of states ensures that every state receives a minimum share.

Fill in the blank: Horizontal allocation distributes revenue among the _____ of the federation.



Table 3.4 Principles of Horizontal Allocation in Nigeria

Principle	Description	Weighting (Based on 2008 RMAFC Formula)
Population	Based on the number of people in each state	30%
Equality of States	Provides an equal share to each state to ensure basic service provision	40%
Landmass/Terrain	Accounts for the geogrphical size and difficult provision	40%
Landmass/Terrain	Accounts for the geogphical diffcult terain of each state	10%
Interrally Generated Revenue (IGR)	Incentivizes states to boost their independent revenue collection efforts	20%

Table 3.4 Principles of Horizontal Allocation in Nigeria

Caption: Table 3.4 Principles of horizontal allocation Table listing population, equality of states, landmass, and internally generated revenue with short explanations

3.4.3 Role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC)

The **Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC)** is the body responsible for monitoring and reviewing revenue allocation in Nigeria. It advises the government on fiscal matters, develops allocation formulas, and ensures that distribution reflects constitutional principles. The RMAFC plays a crucial role in balancing competing interests and promoting equity among the tiers of government.



Fill in the blank: The body responsible for monitoring and reviewing revenue allocation in Nigeria is the _____.

Box 3.4 Role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC)

The Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) is a key constitutional body in Nigeria responsible for managing the country's fiscal federalism.

- **Monitoring Revenue Allocation:** Ensures adherence to the constitutional and legal provisions in revenue distribution.
- **Advising Government:** Provides the President and National Assemblies with advice on revenue matters.
- **Developing Formulas:**
- **Periodic reviews** and proposes new revenue allocation formulas.
- **Promoting Equity:** Works to ensure equitable distribution of revenue among the federal, state, and local governments

Box 3.4 Role of the RMAFC

Caption: Box 3.4 Role of the RMAFC Summary of functions: monitoring revenue allocation, advising government, developing formulas, promoting equity

Pilot questions 3.4

1. What does vertical allocation distribute revenue among?
2. Name one principle used in horizontal allocation among states.
3. Which body is responsible for monitoring and reviewing revenue allocation in Nigeria?



4. Why does the federal government receive the largest share in vertical allocation?
5. How does horizontal allocation aim to reduce disparities among states?

3.5 Challenges and Prospects of Fiscal Relations in Nigeria

3.5.1 Issues of resource control and equity

One of the most persistent challenges in Nigeria's fiscal relations is the debate over **resource control**. Oil-producing states argue that they should retain a larger share of revenues generated from their resources, while non-oil states emphasise the need for equitable distribution to support national development. This tension highlights the difficulty of balancing local interests with national unity.

Fill in the blank: Oil-producing states often demand greater _____ over revenues generated from their resources.



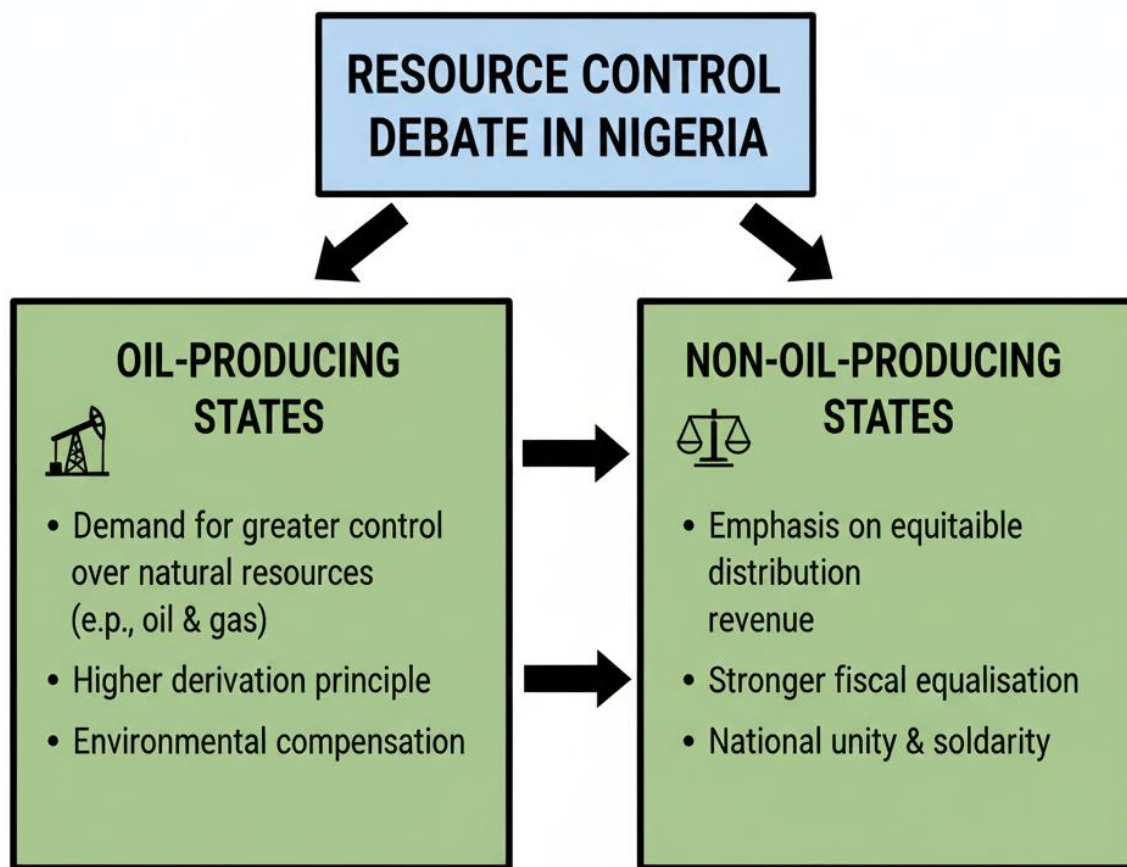


Figure 3.5 Resource control debate in Nigeria

] Diagram showing oil-producing states versus non-oil states in resource control debate
Caption: Figure 3.5 Resource control debate in Nigeria

3.5.2 Problems of fiscal imbalance and dependency

Nigeria's fiscal system suffers from **fiscal imbalance**, where the federal government controls most revenue sources while states and local governments depend heavily on federal allocations. This dependency limits the financial autonomy of lower tiers and weakens grassroots development. Fiscal imbalance also discourages states from developing their own revenue sources, creating a cycle of dependency.

Fill in the blank: Fiscal imbalance occurs when the federal government controls most _____ sources.



Table 3.5 Problems of Fiscal Imbalance in Nigeria

Problem	Explanation
Over-centralisation of Revenue	Excessive concentration of revenue at federal level, leading to dependency of sub-national governments
Dependency of States & LGAs	Sub-national governments rely heavily on federal allocations, hindering their fiscal autonomy and independent planning
Weak Grassroots Development	Insufficient funding for local governments results in poor service delivery and stunted development at the community level
Poor Incentives for IGR revenue due to the structure at this potential	States lack motivation to generate internal revenue of federal hand-outs, leading to untapped revenue potential

Table 3.5 Problems of fiscal Imbalance in Nigeria

Caption: Table 3.5 Problems of fiscal imbalance Table listing over-centralisation of revenue, dependency of states, weak grassroots development, and poor incentives for IGR

3.5.3 Prospects for reforming fiscal federalism

Despite these challenges, there are prospects for reforming Nigeria's fiscal federalism. Strengthening **internally generated revenue (IGR)** at state and local levels can reduce dependency on federal allocations. Transparent and equitable revenue-sharing formulas can also promote fairness and reduce conflict. In addition, reforms that enhance accountability and reduce corruption will improve fiscal relations and support sustainable development.

Fill in the blank: Strengthening _____ at state and local levels can reduce dependency on federal allocations.



Box 3.5 Prospects for Reforming Fiscal Federalism

Reforming Nigeria's fiscal federalism is crucial for sustainable development and equitable distribution.

Key prospects for reform include:

- **Strengthening IGR:** Empowering states/LGAS to generate more equitable and transparent revenue allocation.
- **Promoting Accountability:** Enhancing transparency and fiscal responsibility across all government tiers.
- **Reducing Corruption:** Implementing strict financial controls.

Box 3.5 Prospects for reforming fiscal Federalism

Caption: Box 3.5 Prospects for reforming fiscal federalism Summary of reforms: strengthening IGR, equitable sharing formulas, accountability, reducing corruption

Pilot questions 3.5

1. What is one major issue in Nigeria's fiscal relations involving oil-producing states?
2. What term describes the situation where the federal government controls most revenue sources?
3. Why does fiscal imbalance weaken grassroots development?
4. Name one reform that could strengthen fiscal federalism in Nigeria.



5. How can accountability improve fiscal relations?

Series Summary

This Series explored how fiscal relations shape Nigeria's federal system. We began by examining the constitutional framework for fiscal relations, including principles of revenue allocation, fiscal federalism, and the judiciary's role in resolving disputes. We then analysed the revenue sources of the federal government, focusing on oil and gas, customs duties, taxation, and other streams. Following that, we described the revenue sources of state and local governments, highlighting internally generated revenue, state taxation, and local council fees. Afterwards, we studied the revenue allocation and sharing formula, distinguishing between vertical allocation among tiers of government and horizontal allocation among states, as well as the role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC). Finally, we assessed the challenges and prospects of fiscal relations in Nigeria, including issues of resource control, fiscal imbalance, and reforms to strengthen fiscal federalism.

By engaging with these discussions, you should now be able to explain the constitutional framework for fiscal relations, identify revenue sources of each tier of government, evaluate allocation formulas, and assess the challenges and prospects of fiscal federalism in Nigeria.

Glossary of Terms

- **Derivation principle:** Revenue allocation principle allowing states to benefit from resources produced within their boundaries.
- **Fiscal federalism:** Financial relationships between different levels of government in a federal system.
- **Internally generated revenue (IGR):** Income raised by states and local governments within their jurisdictions.
- **Vertical allocation:** Distribution of revenue among federal, state, and local governments.
- **Horizontal allocation:** Distribution of revenue among states based on principles such as population and equality.
- **RMAFC:** Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, responsible for monitoring and reviewing revenue allocation.
- **Fiscal imbalance:** Situation where the federal government controls most revenue sources, creating dependency for states and local governments.
- **Resource control:** Demand by oil-producing states to retain a larger share of revenues generated from their resources.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Which principle allows states to benefit from resources produced within their boundaries? (Linked to SLO 3.1)



2. Nigeria's federal government earns most of its revenue from _____. (Linked to SLO 3.2)
3. What does IGR stand for? (Linked to SLO 3.3)
4. Vertical allocation distributes revenue among federal, state, and _____ governments. (Linked to SLO 3.4)
5. Which body monitors and reviews revenue allocation in Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Short-answer questions

6. Identify one source of federal taxation. (Linked to SLO 3.2)
7. Give one example of local government revenue sources. (Linked to SLO 3.3)
8. State one principle used in horizontal allocation among states. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Long-answer questions

9. Analyse the constitutional framework for fiscal relations in Nigeria, highlighting key principles. (Linked to SLO 3.1)
10. Evaluate the challenges of fiscal imbalance in Nigeria and suggest possible reforms. (Linked to SLO 3.5)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective questions

1. Derivation principle
2. Oil and gas
3. Internally generated revenue
4. Local
5. RMAFC

Short-answer questions

6. Corporate income tax or VAT
7. Tenement rates or shop rents
8. Population or equality of states

Long-answer questions

9. **Basic response:** The constitutional framework for fiscal relations includes principles such as derivation, fiscal equalisation, and periodic review. **Value-added response:** These principles ensure fairness, balance local and national interests, and are enforced through judicial interpretation.

10. **Basic response:** Fiscal imbalance occurs because the federal government controls most revenue sources, leaving states dependent. **Value-added response:** Reforms such as



strengthening IGR, equitable sharing formulas, and accountability measures can reduce dependency and improve fiscal federalism.

References and Attributions [Series 3]

- Constitutional references: Nigerian Constitution (1999), provisions on revenue allocation and fiscal relations.
- Figures, Tables, and Boxes:
 - Table 3.1 Revenue allocation principles in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing Nigeria’s revenue allocation principles: derivation, fiscal equalisation, periodic review.”
 - Figure 3.1 Fiscal federalism in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing fiscal federalism with federal, state, and local governments linked to revenue and expenditure responsibilities.”
 - Box 3.1 Role of the judiciary in fiscal relations: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the role of the judiciary in Nigeria’s fiscal relations.”
 - Figure 3.2 Oil and gas revenues in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing oil rigs and pipelines labelled as sources of Nigeria’s federal revenue.”
 - Table 3.2 Federal taxation and customs duties: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing Nigeria’s federal taxation sources and customs duties with explanations.”
 - Box 3.2 Other federal revenue streams: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising other federal revenue streams in Nigeria.”
 - Table 3.3 Examples of internally generated revenue: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing examples of internally generated revenue for Nigerian states and local governments.”
 - Figure 3.3 State taxation sources in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s state taxation sources: personal income tax, property tax, entertainment levies.”
 - Box 3.3 Local government revenue sources: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising local government revenue sources in Nigeria.”
 - Figure 3.4 Vertical allocation of revenue in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing vertical allocation of revenue among federal, state, and local governments in Nigeria.”
 - Table 3.4 Principles of horizontal allocation: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing principles of horizontal allocation among Nigerian states with explanations.”



- Box 3.4 Role of the RMAFC: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the role of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission in Nigeria.”
- Figure 3.5 Resource control debate in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing oil-producing states demanding resource control versus non-oil states emphasising equity.”
- Table 3.5 Problems of fiscal imbalance: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing problems of fiscal imbalance in Nigeria with short explanations.”
- Box 3.5 Prospects for reforming fiscal federalism: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising prospects for reforming fiscal federalism in Nigeria.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 3]

Part 3.1

1. Derivation principle
2. Fiscal federalism
3. Judiciary
4. Fiscal equalisation
5. To safeguard fairness in revenue allocation

Part 3.2

1. Oil and gas
2. Imported goods
3. Corporate tax or VAT
4. Stamp duties or licensing fees
5. Vulnerability to global price fluctuations

Part 3.3

1. Internally generated revenue
2. Market fees or motor park levies
3. State boards of internal revenue
4. Tenement rates or shop rents
5. Weak tax administration and limited economic activity

Part 3.4

1. Federal, state, and local governments



2. Population or equality of states
3. RMAFC
4. To manage national responsibilities like defence and foreign policy
5. By ensuring fairness and reducing disparities

Part 3.5

1. Resource control
2. Fiscal imbalance
3. It limits financial autonomy and weakens grassroots development
4. Strengthening IGR or equitable sharing formulas
5. Accountability reduces corruption and promotes fairness



Series 4: Critical Issues in Nigerian Politics

Series Outline

4.1 Electoral system and democratic challenges

- 4.1.1 Evolution of Nigeria's electoral system
- 4.1.2 Electoral malpractice and reforms
- 4.1.3 Role of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

4.2 Corruption and governance

- 4.2.1 Nature and forms of corruption in Nigeria
- 4.2.2 Anti-corruption agencies and their effectiveness
- 4.2.3 Impact of corruption on governance and development

4.3 Ethnicity, religion, and identity politics

- 4.3.1 Ethnic diversity and political mobilisation
- 4.3.2 Religion and political influence
- 4.3.3 Identity politics and national integration

4.4 Security challenges and political stability

- 4.4.1 Insurgency and terrorism (e.g., Boko Haram)
- 4.4.2 Communal conflicts and banditry
- 4.4.3 Security sector reforms and governance

4.5 Prospects for democratic consolidation

- 4.5.1 Strengthening institutions and rule of law
- 4.5.2 Promoting inclusive governance
- 4.5.3 Enhancing citizen participation and accountability

Introduction

Nigeria's political landscape is shaped by a range of critical issues that influence governance, stability, and democratic development. These issues include the functioning of the electoral system, the pervasive challenge of corruption, the role of ethnicity and religion in political mobilisation, persistent security threats, and the broader struggle for democratic consolidation. Understanding these challenges is essential for analysing Nigeria's political dynamics and for identifying pathways toward stronger institutions and inclusive governance.



The aim of this Series is to help you critically examine the major issues confronting Nigerian politics, evaluate their impact on governance and development, and explore prospects for democratic consolidation.

We shall commence this Series by analysing Nigeria's electoral system and democratic challenges, including the role of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Next, we will examine corruption and governance, focusing on its forms, anti-corruption agencies, and impact. Afterwards, we will explore ethnicity, religion, and identity politics, assessing their influence on national integration. We will then consider Nigeria's security challenges and their implications for political stability. Finally, we will conclude by evaluating prospects for democratic consolidation, highlighting reforms to strengthen institutions, promote inclusiveness, and enhance citizen participation.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 4.1** explain Nigeria's electoral system and identify key democratic challenges,
- **SLO 4.2** analyse the nature and impact of corruption on governance,
- **SLO 4.3** evaluate the role of ethnicity, religion, and identity politics in Nigeria,
- **SLO 4.4** assess the impact of security challenges on political stability, and
- **SLO 4.5** discuss prospects for democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

4.1 Electoral System and Democratic Challenges

4.1.1 Evolution of Nigeria's electoral system

Nigeria's electoral system has evolved through different political eras, from colonial administration to independence, military rule, and the current democratic dispensation. Each phase introduced reforms and challenges. For example, the transition to the Fourth Republic in 1999 marked a significant milestone, establishing multiparty democracy and regular elections. However, issues of credibility and transparency have persisted.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's transition to the _____ Republic in 1999 marked the beginning of multiparty democracy.



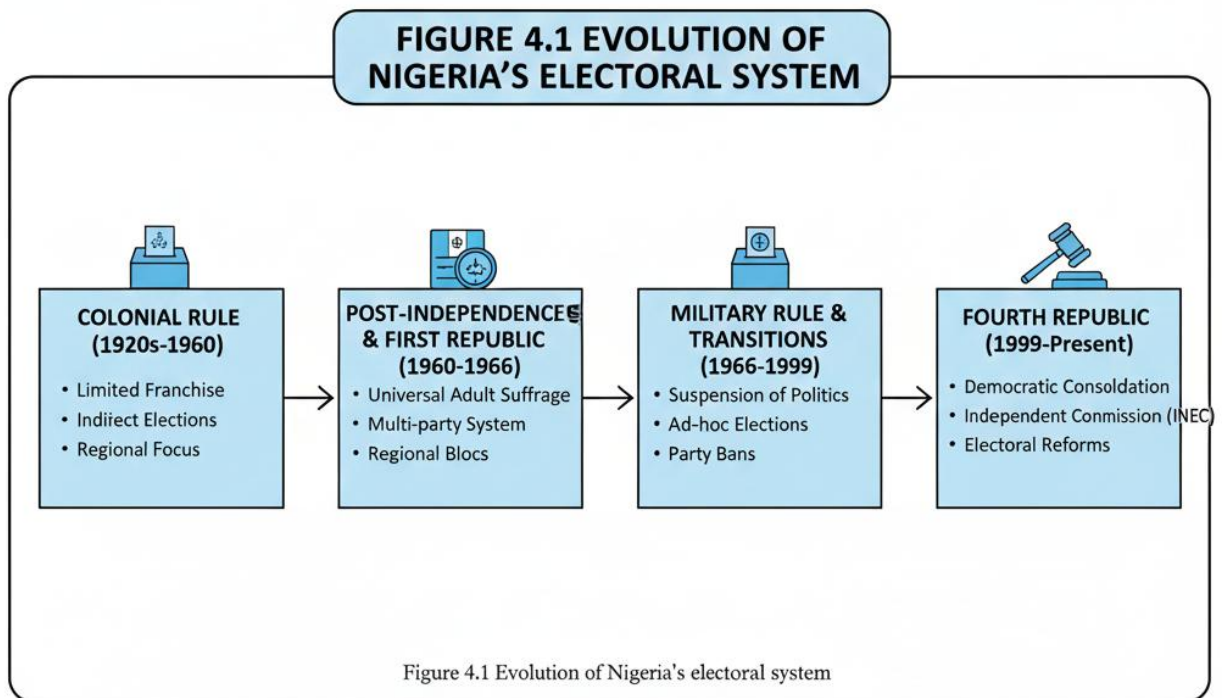


Diagram showing Nigeria's electoral evolution: colonial → independence → military rule → Fourth Republic
Caption: Figure 4.1 Evolution of Nigeria's electoral system

4.1.2 Electoral malpractice and reforms

Electoral malpractice remains a major challenge in Nigeria. Common issues include vote buying, ballot box snatching, intimidation of voters, and manipulation of results. These practices undermine the legitimacy of elections and weaken democracy. Reforms such as the introduction of electronic voting, biometric registration, and improved monitoring by civil society groups aim to strengthen electoral integrity.

Fill in the blank: One common electoral malpractice in Nigeria is _____ buying.



[Insert box placeholder here] Caption: Box 4.1 Electoral malpractice and reforms Summary of malpractice: vote buying, ballot box snatching, intimidation, manipulation Summary of reforms: electronic voting, biometric registration, civil society monitoring AI prompt suggestion: “Create a text box summarising electoral malpractice and reforms in Nigeria” Search string: “Nigeria electoral malpractice reforms OER”

4.1.3 Role of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

The **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** is responsible for conducting elections in Nigeria. Its functions include voter registration, monitoring political parties, organising elections, and announcing results. INEC plays a central role in ensuring free and fair elections, though it faces challenges such as logistical difficulties, political pressure, and limited resources. Strengthening INEC’s independence and capacity is vital for democratic consolidation.

Fill in the blank: The body responsible for conducting elections in Nigeria is the _____.



Functions of the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) in Nigeria

Function	Explanation
1. Voter Registration	Compiles and maintains national register of eligible voters, ensuring inclusivity and accuracy
2. Monitoring Political Parties	Oversees the formation, registration, and activities of political parties, ensuring compliance with electoral laws
3. Organizing & Conducting Elections	Plans, manages, and supervises all federal and state elections, including presidential, parliamentary, and gubernatorial contests
4. Announcing Results & Election Education	Declares election results and educates voters and stakeholders on the electoral process

Table 4.1 Functions of INEC in Nigeria

Caption: Table 4.1 Functions of INEC Table listing voter registration, monitoring parties, organising elections, announcing results

Pilot questions 4.1

1. Nigeria's transition to which Republic in 1999 marked the beginning of multiparty democracy?
2. Name one common electoral malpractice in Nigeria.
3. What reform has been introduced to strengthen electoral integrity?
4. Which body is responsible for conducting elections in Nigeria?



5. Why is strengthening INEC's independence important for democracy?

4.2 Corruption and Governance

4.2.1 Nature and forms of corruption in Nigeria

Corruption in Nigeria manifests in various forms, including bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, and abuse of office. It undermines governance by diverting public resources, eroding trust in institutions, and weakening the rule of law. Corruption occurs at all levels of government and in both public and private sectors, making it one of the most pervasive challenges in Nigerian politics.

Fill in the blank: One common form of corruption in Nigeria is _____, where officials divert public funds for personal use.



Box 4.2 Forms of Corruption in Nigeria

Corruption is a persistent challenge in Nigeria, undermining good governance and development. It manifests in various forms across different sectors:

- **Embezzlement:** Theft of public money, or services
- **Bribery:** Offering or accepting funds or assets by services to exchange or favours or preferential entrusted to their management.
- **Nepotism & Cronyism:** Favoring relatives, friends, or associates in appointments, contracts, or resource allocation.
- **Abuse of Office:** Using official position for personal gain or unfairly disadvantage others.

Box 4.2 Forms of corruption in Nigeria

Caption: Box 4.2 Forms of corruption in Nigeria Summary of forms: bribery, embezzlement, nepotism, abuse of office

4.2.2 Anti-corruption agencies and their effectiveness

Nigeria has established several **anti-corruption agencies** to combat corruption. Key institutions include the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), and the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB). These agencies investigate, prosecute, and sanction corrupt practices. While they have recorded successes, their effectiveness is often limited by political interference, inadequate funding, and weak enforcement mechanisms.

Fill in the blank: The EFCC is one of Nigeria's major _____ agencies.



Table 4.2 Anti-Corruption Agencies in Nigeria

Agency	Established Functions	
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)	2002	Investgates & proscues financial crimes (e..l, fraud, fraud, money laundring
Independent Corrupt Practaces and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPP)	2000	Receives & investigates corruption reports, educates public
Code of Condat Bureau (CCB 1979 (revitaliized 1999)	1979	Promotes public service ethics, verifys assets of public officials

Table 4.2 Anti-Corruption agencies in Nigeria

Caption: Table 4.2 Anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria Table listing EFCC, ICPC, and CCB with their functions

4.2.3 Impact of corruption on governance and development

Corruption has severe consequences for governance and development in Nigeria. It leads to poor service delivery, inadequate infrastructure, and mismanagement of public funds. Corruption also discourages foreign investment and undermines democratic institutions. Ultimately, it perpetuates poverty and inequality, making it harder for Nigeria to achieve sustainable development.



Fill in the blank: Corruption discourages _____ investment and undermines democratic institutions.

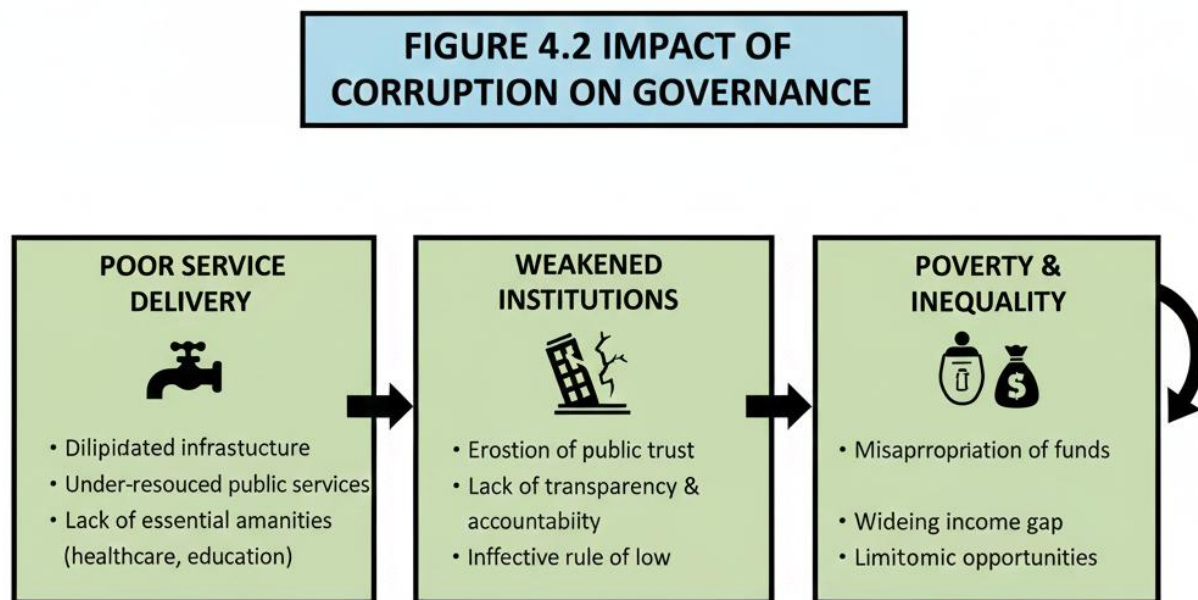


Figure 4.2 Impact of corruption on governance

Diagram showing corruption's impact: poor service delivery → weak institutions → poverty and inequality
Caption: Figure 4.2 Impact of corruption on governance

Pilot questions 4.2

1. Name one common form of corruption in Nigeria.
2. Which agency is responsible for investigating financial crimes in Nigeria?
3. What is one limitation of anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria?



4. How does corruption affect service delivery?
5. Why does corruption discourage foreign investment?

4.3 Ethnicity, Religion, and Identity Politics

4.3.1 Ethnic diversity and political mobilisation

Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups, with the three largest being Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo. Ethnic diversity has often shaped political mobilisation, as parties and leaders appeal to ethnic identities to gain support. While this can strengthen representation, it also risks deepening divisions and undermining national unity.

Fill in the blank: The three largest ethnic groups in Nigeria are Hausa-Fulani, _____, and Igbo.



FIGURE 4.3 ETHNIC DIVERSITY IN NIGERIA

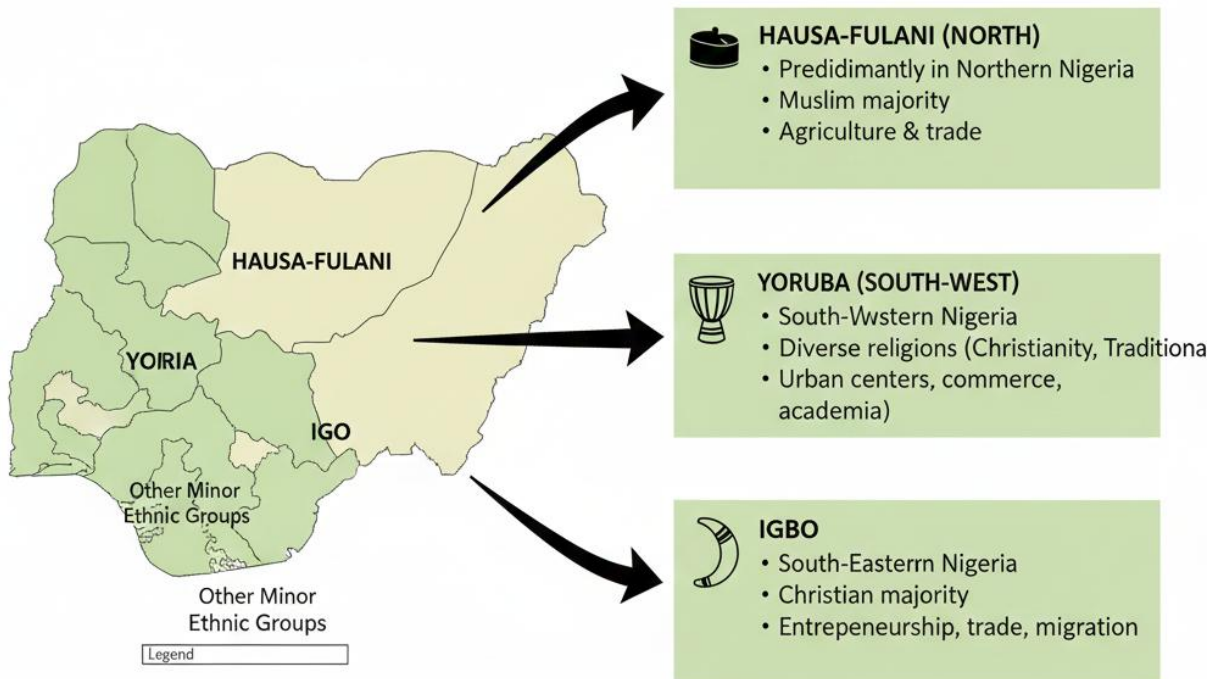


Figure 4.3 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria

Diagram showing Nigeria's major ethnic groups and their geographical distribution Caption: Figure 4.3 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria

4.3.2 Religion and political influence

Religion plays a significant role in Nigerian politics. The country is almost evenly divided between Islam and Christianity, with traditional beliefs also present. Religious leaders often influence political decisions and voter behaviour. While religion can promote moral values, it can also be exploited to create divisions and fuel conflict.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria is almost evenly divided between _____ and Christianity.



Box 4.3 Religion and Politics in Nigeria

Religion is a significant factor in Nigerian politics, shaping social influence political discourse and impact voter behavior. Its role is multifaceted:

- **Shaping Voter Behaviour:** Religious identity often influences electoral choices and party affiliations.
- **Influence Leaders:** Religious leaders and institutions can sway political decisions and public opinion.
- **Promote Values & Ethics:** Religion can serve as a moral compass, advocating for good governance and social justice.
- **Causing Divisions & Tensions:** Differences in religious beliefs have sometimes led to political conflicts and unrest.

Box 4.3 Religion and politics in Nigeria

Caption: Box 4.3 Religion and politics in Nigeria Summary of religion's influence: shaping voter behaviour, influencing leaders, promoting values, but also causing divisions

4.3.3 Identity politics and national integration

Identity politics refers to the use of ethnic, religious, or regional identities to advance political agendas. In Nigeria, identity politics has often led to tensions, marginalisation, and calls for restructuring. However, efforts at national integration—such as federal character principle, unity schools, and national service (NYSC)—aim to promote inclusiveness and reduce divisions.

Fill in the blank: The federal _____ principle is designed to promote inclusiveness and national integration in Nigeria.



Table 4.3 Measures for National Integration in Nigeria

Measure	Explanation
Federal Character Principle	Ensures equitable representation of all states and ethnic groups in government appointments, public services, and federal institutions.
Unity Schools (Federal Government Colleges)	Secondary schools established nationwide with students of different backgrounds to promote interaction and unity.
National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)	Mandatory one-year program for Nigerian graduates to serve in states other than their own, fostering national cohesion.
Inter-Ethnic & Religious Dialogue	Initiatives and platforms for different ethnic and religious groups to engage in peaceful discussion, understanding, and conflict resolution.

Table 4.3 Measures for national integration in Nigeria

Caption: Table 4.3 Measures for national integration in Nigeria Table listing federal character principle, unity schools, NYSC, and inter-ethnic dialogue with short explanations

Pilot questions 4.3

1. Name the three largest ethnic groups in Nigeria.
2. Nigeria is almost evenly divided between which two major religions?
3. What term describes the use of ethnic or religious identities to advance political agendas?
4. Give one example of a measure for national integration in Nigeria.
5. Why can identity politics be a challenge to national unity?



4.4 Security Challenges and Political Stability

4.4.1 Insurgency and terrorism (e.g., Boko Haram)

Nigeria has faced significant security threats from insurgent groups such as **Boko Haram** and its splinter factions. These groups have carried out attacks in the northeast, targeting civilians, schools, and government institutions. Insurgency undermines political stability by displacing populations, disrupting governance, and creating humanitarian crises.

Fill in the blank: The insurgent group that has carried out attacks in Nigeria's northeast is called _____.



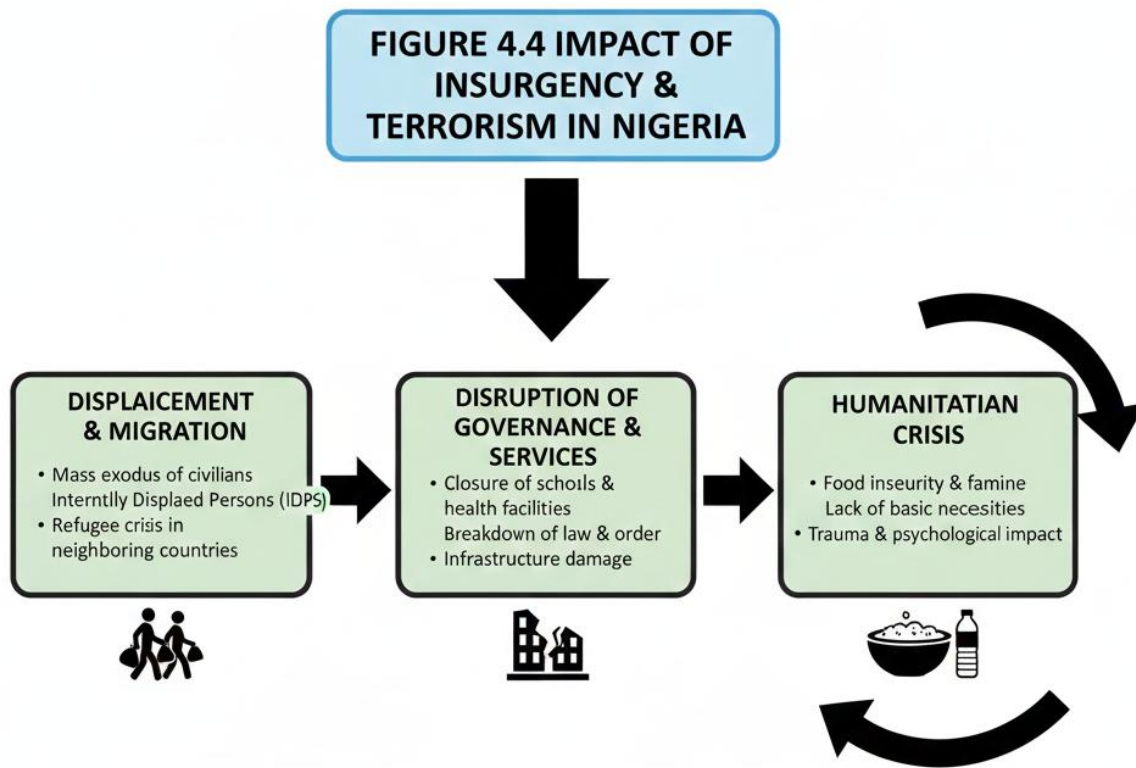


Figure 4.4 Insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria

Diagram showing insurgency's impact: displacement → disruption of governance → humanitarian crisis
Caption: Figure 4.4 Insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria

4.4.2 Communal conflicts and banditry

Apart from insurgency, Nigeria faces **communal conflicts** and **banditry**, especially in the north-central and northwest regions. Communal conflicts often arise from disputes over land, resources, or ethnic differences, while banditry involves armed groups engaging in kidnapping, cattle rustling, and attacks on villages. These conflicts weaken state authority and erode citizens' trust in government.



Fill in the blank: Armed groups engaging in kidnapping and cattle rustling are often referred to as _____.

Box 4.4 Communal Conflicts and Banditry

Communal conflicts and banditry are significant security challenges in Nigeria, particularly in the North-West and North-Central regions. They arise from various complex factors:

Causes of Communal Conflicts:

- Land Disputes:
- Ethnic & Religious Differences:
- Resource Competition:

Characteristics of Banditry:

- Cattle Rustling:
- Village Raids & Attacks:

Box 4.4 Communal Conflicts and Banditry

Caption: Box 4.4 Communal conflicts and banditry Summary of causes: land disputes, ethnic differences, resource competition Summary of banditry: kidnapping, cattle rustling, village attacks

4.4.3 Security sector reforms and governance

Addressing Nigeria's security challenges requires **security sector reforms**. These reforms include improving training and equipment for security forces, enhancing intelligence gathering,



and promoting accountability in law enforcement. Governance reforms such as tackling corruption and strengthening institutions also play a role in improving security. Effective reforms can restore public confidence and contribute to political stability.

Fill in the blank: Improving training and equipment for security forces is part of _____ sector reforms.

Table 4.4 Security Sector Reforms in Nigeria

Reform Area	Explanation	Objective
Training & Equipment	Improving the capacity, skills, amdern equipment of armed fore forces and police	Professionalized Security Forces
Intelligence Gathering & Sharing	Enhancing collaboration among security agencies to gather and timely information	Proactive Threat Response
Accaunability & Human Rights	Establishing oversight mechanisms and enforcing humatt standards within security agencies	Trust & Legitmaity
Governance & Insttutional Reforms	Strengthening civilian oversight, transparency and the legal framework for security operations	Effective Security Goverance

Table 4.4 Security sector reforms in Nigeria

Caption: Table 4.4 Security sector reforms in Nigeria Table listing training and equipment, intelligence gathering, accountability, governance reforms with short explanations

Pilot questions 4.4

1. Which insurgent group has carried out attacks in Nigeria's northeast?



2. Name one cause of communal conflicts in Nigeria.
3. What term describes armed groups engaging in kidnapping and cattle rustling?
4. Give one example of a security sector reform.
5. Why are governance reforms important for improving security?

4.5 Prospects for Democratic Consolidation

4.5.1 Strengthening institutions and rule of law

Democratic consolidation in Nigeria depends on strong institutions and respect for the **rule of law**. Independent judiciary, credible electoral bodies, and effective legislatures are essential for sustaining democracy. Strengthening institutions ensures that governance is not dependent on individuals but on systems that uphold accountability and fairness.

Fill in the blank: Democratic consolidation depends on strong institutions and respect for the _____ of law.



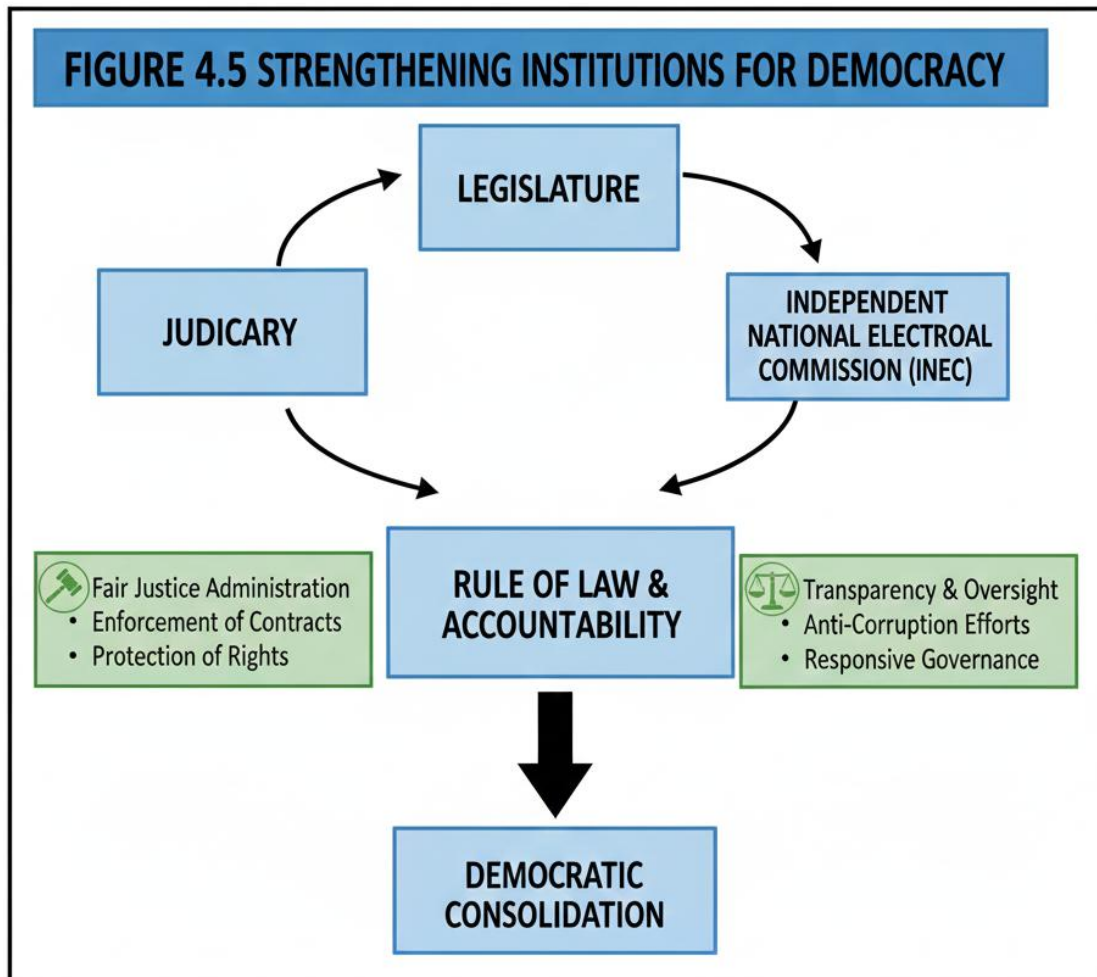


Figure 4.5 Strengthening institutions for democracy in Nigeria

showing institutions (judiciary, legislature, INEC) linked to rule of law and accountability
Caption: Figure 4.5 Strengthening institutions for democracy

4.5.2 Promoting inclusive governance

Inclusive governance ensures that all groups—regardless of ethnicity, religion, or gender—participate in decision-making. Policies such as the federal character principle, affirmative action, and decentralisation promote inclusiveness. Inclusive governance reduces marginalisation, fosters unity, and strengthens democratic legitimacy.

Fill in the blank: Inclusive governance reduces marginalisation and strengthens _____ legitimacy.



Box 4.5 Inclusive Governance in Nigeria

Inclusive governance in Nigeria aims to ensure that all segments of population have a voice and participate in decision-making processes. Key measures include:

- **Federal Character Principle:** Ensures equitable representation of all ethnic groups in government appointments, public services, and federal institutions.
- **Affirmative Action & Quotas** to promote inclusion of underrepresented groups, such as women, youth, people with disabilities.
- **Decentralisation of Power:** Devolution of responsibilities to state and local governments, fostering grassroots participation.
- **Gender Inclusion:** Initiatives to increase women's participation in politics and public life.

Box 4.5 Inclusive governance in Nigeria

Caption: Box 4.5 Inclusive governance in Nigeria Summary of measures: federal character principle, affirmative action, decentralisation, gender inclusion

4.5.3 Enhancing citizen participation and accountability

Citizen participation is vital for democratic consolidation. Active involvement in elections, civic education, and public debates strengthens democracy. Accountability mechanisms such as freedom of information laws, civil society monitoring, and media oversight ensure that leaders remain answerable to the people. Together, participation and accountability build trust and deepen democratic culture.

Fill in the blank: Accountability mechanisms ensure that leaders remain _____ to the people.



Table 4.5 Citizen Participation and Accountability Measures in Nigeria

Measure	Explanation
Elections & Voting	Regular democratic elections allow citizens to choose representatives hold them accountable responsibilities, and the political then engagement
Civic Education	Programs to inform citizens about rights, political process, engagement
Public Debates & Consultations	Platforms for citizens to voice opinions, participate to policy discussions and interact to the leaders
Freedom of Information Laws	Legal frameworks enabling to access government information, promoting transparency
Civil Society Monitoring	Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and observe and report on governance processes
Media Oversight	Independent monitoring and reporting activities and corruption

Table 4.5 Citizen participation and accountability measures in Nigeria

Caption: Table 4.5 Citizen participation and accountability measures Table listing elections, civic education, public debates, freedom of information laws, civil society monitoring, media oversight

Pilot questions 4.5

1. What does democratic consolidation depend on?
2. Name one measure that promotes inclusive governance in Nigeria.
3. Why is citizen participation important for democracy?
4. Give one accountability mechanism that strengthens democracy.



5. How does strengthening institutions help democratic consolidation?

Series Summary

This Series examined the major challenges shaping Nigeria's political landscape. We began with the electoral system, tracing its evolution and highlighting democratic challenges such as electoral malpractice and the role of INEC. We then analysed corruption and governance, exploring its forms, the role of anti-corruption agencies, and its impact on development. Next, we discussed ethnicity, religion, and identity politics, showing how they influence mobilisation and national integration. We also assessed Nigeria's security challenges, including insurgency, communal conflicts, and the need for security sector reforms. Finally, we considered prospects for democratic consolidation, focusing on strengthening institutions, promoting inclusive governance, and enhancing citizen participation and accountability.

By engaging with these discussions, you should now be able to explain Nigeria's electoral system, analyse corruption and governance, evaluate the role of ethnicity and religion in politics, assess security challenges, and discuss prospects for democratic consolidation.

Glossary of Terms

- **Electoral malpractice:** Illegal or unethical practices during elections, such as vote buying or ballot box snatching.
- **INEC:** Independent National Electoral Commission, responsible for conducting elections in Nigeria.
- **Corruption:** Abuse of public office for personal gain, including bribery and embezzlement.
- **EFCC:** Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Nigeria's main anti-corruption agency.
- **Identity politics:** Use of ethnic, religious, or regional identities to advance political agendas.
- **Federal character principle:** Constitutional measure to promote inclusiveness and national integration.
- **Insurgency:** Armed rebellion against the state, such as Boko Haram in Nigeria's northeast.
- **Banditry:** Armed groups engaging in kidnapping, cattle rustling, and attacks on communities.
- **Democratic consolidation:** Process of strengthening democracy through institutions, inclusiveness, and accountability.

Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. Nigeria's transition to which Republic in 1999 marked the beginning of multiparty democracy? (Linked to SLO 4.1)



2. One common electoral malpractice in Nigeria is _____ buying. (Linked to SLO 4.1)
3. Which agency investigates financial crimes in Nigeria? (Linked to SLO 4.2)
4. Nigeria is almost evenly divided between Islam and _____. (Linked to SLO 4.3)
5. Which insurgent group has carried out attacks in Nigeria's northeast? (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Short-answer questions

6. Identify one form of corruption in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 4.2)
7. Give one example of a measure for national integration. (Linked to SLO 4.3)
8. State one cause of communal conflicts in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Long-answer questions

9. Analyse the role of ethnicity and religion in Nigerian politics, highlighting their impact on national integration. (Linked to SLO 4.3)
10. Evaluate Nigeria's security challenges and suggest reforms for democratic consolidation. (Linked to SLO 4.4 & 4.5)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective questions

1. Fourth Republic
2. Vote buying
3. EFCC
4. Christianity
5. Boko Haram

Short-answer questions

6. Embezzlement or bribery
7. Federal character principle or NYSC
8. Land disputes or ethnic differences

Long-answer questions

9. **Basic response:** Ethnicity and religion influence political mobilisation and voter behaviour in Nigeria. **Value-added response:** While they strengthen representation, they also deepen divisions. Measures such as federal character principle and unity schools aim to promote integration.
10. **Basic response:** Nigeria faces insurgency, communal conflicts, and banditry. **Value-added response:** Reforms such as improving security forces, enhancing intelligence, and promoting accountability can strengthen stability and democratic consolidation.



References and Attributions [Series 4]

- Constitutional references: Nigerian Constitution (1999), provisions on federal character, elections, and governance.
- Figures, Tables, and Boxes:
 - Figure 4.1 Evolution of Nigeria's electoral system: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing Nigeria's electoral evolution from colonial rule to Fourth Republic."
 - Box 4.1 Electoral malpractice and reforms: AI-generated text box prompt "Create a text box summarising electoral malpractice and reforms in Nigeria."
 - Table 4.1 Functions of INEC: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing functions of the Independent National Electoral Commission in Nigeria."
 - Box 4.2 Forms of corruption in Nigeria: AI-generated text box prompt "Create a text box summarising forms of corruption in Nigeria."
 - Table 4.2 Anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing Nigeria's anti-corruption agencies and their functions."
 - Figure 4.2 Impact of corruption on governance: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing corruption's impact on governance: poor service delivery, weak institutions, poverty."
 - Figure 4.3 Ethnic diversity in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing Nigeria's major ethnic groups and their geographical distribution."
 - Box 4.3 Religion and politics in Nigeria: AI-generated text box prompt "Create a text box summarising the role of religion in Nigerian politics."
 - Table 4.3 Measures for national integration in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing measures for national integration in Nigeria with explanations."
 - Figure 4.4 Insurgency and terrorism in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing Boko Haram insurgency's impact: displacement, disruption of governance, humanitarian crisis."
 - Box 4.4 Communal conflicts and banditry: AI-generated text box prompt "Create a text box summarising communal conflicts and banditry in Nigeria."
 - Table 4.4 Security sector reforms in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt "Generate a table listing security sector reforms in Nigeria with explanations."
 - Figure 4.5 Strengthening institutions for democracy: AI-generated diagram prompt "Create a diagram showing Nigerian institutions (judiciary, legislature, INEC) linked to rule of law and accountability."



- Box 4.5 Inclusive governance in Nigeria: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising measures for inclusive governance in Nigeria.”
- Table 4.5 Citizen participation and accountability measures: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing citizen participation and accountability measures in Nigeria with explanations.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 4]

Part 4.1

1. Fourth Republic
2. Vote buying
3. Electronic voting or biometric registration
4. INEC
5. To ensure free and fair elections

Part 4.2

1. Embezzlement
2. EFCC
3. Political interference or inadequate funding
4. It leads to poor service delivery
5. It creates uncertainty and discourages investment

Part 4.3

1. Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo
2. Islam and Christianity
3. Identity politics
4. Federal character principle or NYSC
5. It deepens divisions and marginalisation

Part 4.4

1. Boko Haram
2. Land disputes or resource competition
3. Bandits
4. Training and equipment for security forces
5. Governance reforms tackle corruption and strengthen institutions



Part 4.5

1. Strong institutions and rule of law
2. Federal character principle or affirmative action
3. It strengthens democracy and builds trust
4. Freedom of information laws or civil society monitoring
5. Institutions uphold accountability and fairness



Series 5: Ethnicity, Representation, and Nation Building

Series Outline

5.1 Ethnicity and political development in Nigeria

- 5.1.1 Historical roots of ethnic diversity
- 5.1.2 Ethnicity and political mobilisation
- 5.1.3 Ethnic conflicts and their impact on governance

5.2 Representation and inclusiveness in governance

- 5.2.1 Federal character principle and its application
- 5.2.2 Minority rights and political participation
- 5.2.3 Challenges of equitable representation

5.3 Nation building and integration strategies

- 5.3.1 National identity and unity efforts
- 5.3.2 Institutions promoting integration (e.g., NYSC, unity schools)
- 5.3.3 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria

5.4 Prospects for strengthening national cohesion

- 5.4.1 Policy reforms for inclusiveness
- 5.4.2 Role of civil society and media
- 5.4.3 Enhancing citizen participation in nation building

Introduction

Nigeria's political development has been profoundly shaped by its ethnic diversity and the challenges of representation. With over 250 ethnic groups, the country faces the task of balancing inclusiveness with national unity. Ethnicity often influences political mobilisation, representation, and governance, while efforts at nation building seek to foster integration and cohesion. Understanding how ethnicity and representation interact with nation building is crucial for analysing Nigeria's political stability and democratic growth.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with knowledge of the historical roots of ethnic diversity, the mechanisms of representation and inclusiveness in governance, and the strategies for nation building and integration. It also explores the prospects for strengthening national cohesion through reforms, civil society, and citizen participation.

We shall commence this Series by examining ethnicity and political development in Nigeria, including its historical roots, mobilisation, and conflicts. Next, we will analyse representation



and inclusiveness in governance, focusing on the federal character principle, minority rights, and challenges of equitable representation. Afterwards, we will explore nation building and integration strategies, highlighting institutions such as NYSC and unity schools. Finally, we will conclude by evaluating prospects for strengthening national cohesion, including policy reforms, civil society roles, and citizen participation.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- **SLO 5.1** explain the historical roots of ethnic diversity and its impact on political development in Nigeria,
- **SLO 5.2** analyse mechanisms of representation and inclusiveness in governance,
- **SLO 5.3** evaluate strategies for nation building and integration in Nigeria, and
- **SLO 5.4** discuss prospects for strengthening national cohesion through reforms, civil society, and citizen participation.

5.1 Ethnicity and Political Development in Nigeria

5.1.1 Historical roots of ethnic diversity

Nigeria's ethnic diversity has deep historical roots. The country is home to over 250 ethnic groups, with the Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo being the largest. Colonial policies such as indirect rule reinforced ethnic divisions by governing through traditional rulers. Post-independence politics further entrenched ethnicity as parties and leaders mobilised support along ethnic lines.

Fill in the blank: Colonial policies such as _____ rule reinforced ethnic divisions in Nigeria.



FIGURE 5.1 HISTORICAL ROOTS OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY

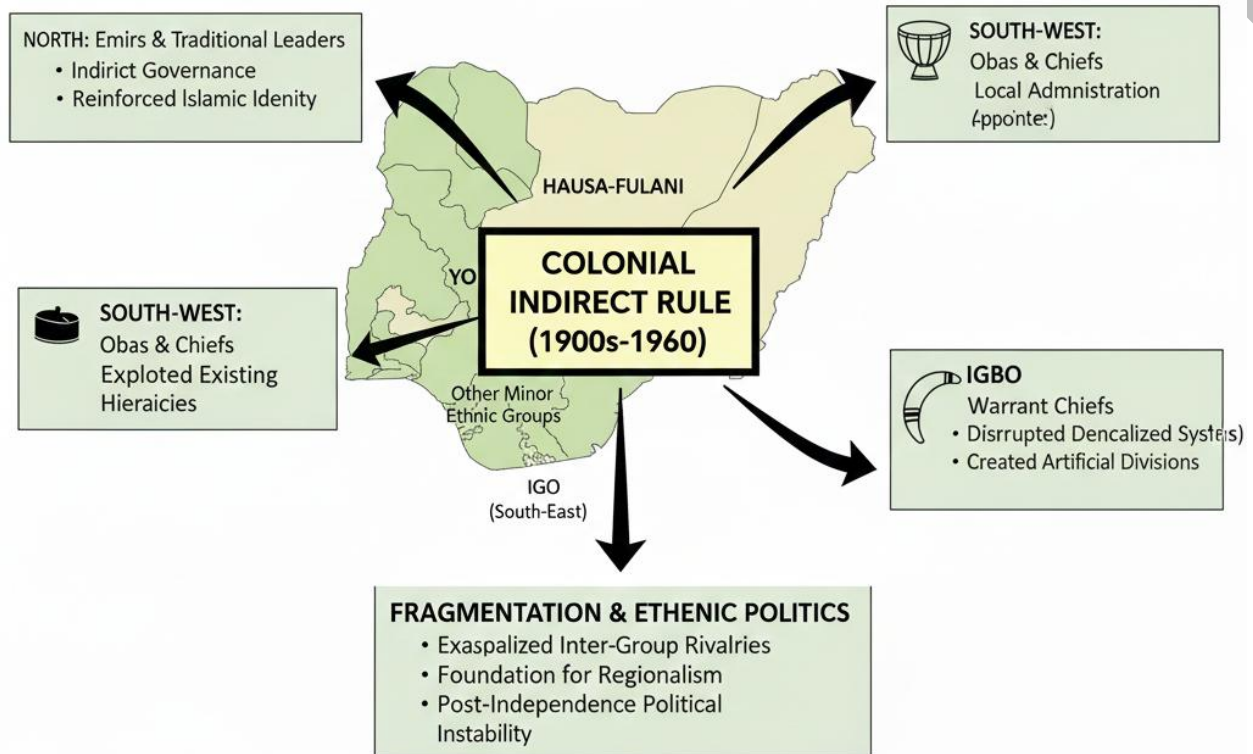


Figure 5.1 Historical roots of ethnic diversity in Nigeria

Diagram showing Nigeria's major ethnic groups and colonial indirect rule reinforcing divisions
Caption: Figure 5.1 Historical roots of ethnic diversity

5.1.2 Ethnicity and political mobilisation

Ethnicity has been a powerful tool for political mobilisation in Nigeria. Political parties often appeal to ethnic identities to gain support, and voting patterns frequently reflect ethnic loyalties. While ethnic mobilisation can strengthen representation, it also risks deepening divisions and undermining national unity.

Fill in the blank: Political parties in Nigeria often appeal to _____ identities to gain support.



Box 5.1 Ethenity and Political Moblisation

In Nigeria, ethenity is powerful force in **political moblisation**, often influencing voter behavior and party dynamics. This can lead both both advantages and risks for the political landscape:

- **Party Appeals & Identity Politics:** Political parties often craft messages and select candidates based bethenic idenity to gain support
- **Ethno-Regional Voting Pattern:** Voters frequently align parties dominated by their ethnic group or region, region, leading to bloc voting
- **Demands for Representation:** Ethnic groups equitable represetion in appointments and resource distribution.
- **Risks of Division & Conflict:** **Excessive ethnic moblizaion** can inter-group tensions, fuel goin, fuel political instablity, and hinder national unity

Box 5.1 Ethenity and political moblisation

Caption: Box 5.1 Ethnicity and political mobilisation Summary of ethnic mobilisation: party appeals, voting patterns, representation, risks of division

5.1.3 Ethnic conflicts and their impact on governance

Ethnic conflicts have posed serious challenges to Nigeria's governance. Disputes over resources, political representation, and cultural recognition have led to tensions and violence. These conflicts weaken state authority, disrupt development, and erode trust in government institutions. Addressing ethnic conflicts requires dialogue, equitable policies, and inclusive governance.



Fill in the blank: Ethnic conflicts weaken state authority and erode trust in _____ institutions.

Table 5.1 Impact of Ethnic Conflicts on Governance

Table 5.1 Impact of ethnic conflicts on governance

Impact	Explanation
Weakened State Authority	Erosion of government control, parallel power structures, and increased lawlessness in affected regions.
Disrupted Development & Services	Destruction of infrastructure, displacement of populations, and interruption of essential public services (education, healthcare).
Erosion of Trust & Social Cohesion	Breakdown of inter-community relations, loss of faith in government institutions, and increased suspicion.
Cycles of Violence & Instability	Recurrent clashes, reprisal attacks, and prolonged insecurity hindering peace and progress.

Caption: Table 5.1 Impact of ethnic conflicts on governance Table listing weakened state authority, disrupted development, erosion of trust, and violence with short explanations

Pilot questions 5.1

1. Colonial policies such as what reinforced ethnic divisions in Nigeria?
2. Name the three largest ethnic groups in Nigeria.
3. Political parties often appeal to what identities to gain support?
4. Give one impact of ethnic conflicts on governance.



5. Why does ethnic mobilisation pose risks to national unity?

5.2 Representation and Inclusiveness in Governance

5.2.1 Federal character principle and its application

The **federal character principle** was introduced to ensure equitable representation of Nigeria's diverse groups in public institutions. It requires that appointments and resource distribution reflect the country's ethnic and regional diversity. While it promotes inclusiveness, critics argue that it sometimes prioritises identity over merit, leading to inefficiency.

Fill in the blank: The federal _____ principle ensures equitable representation of Nigeria's diverse groups in public institutions.



FIGURE 5.2 FEDERAL CHARACTER PRINCIPLE IN NIGERIA

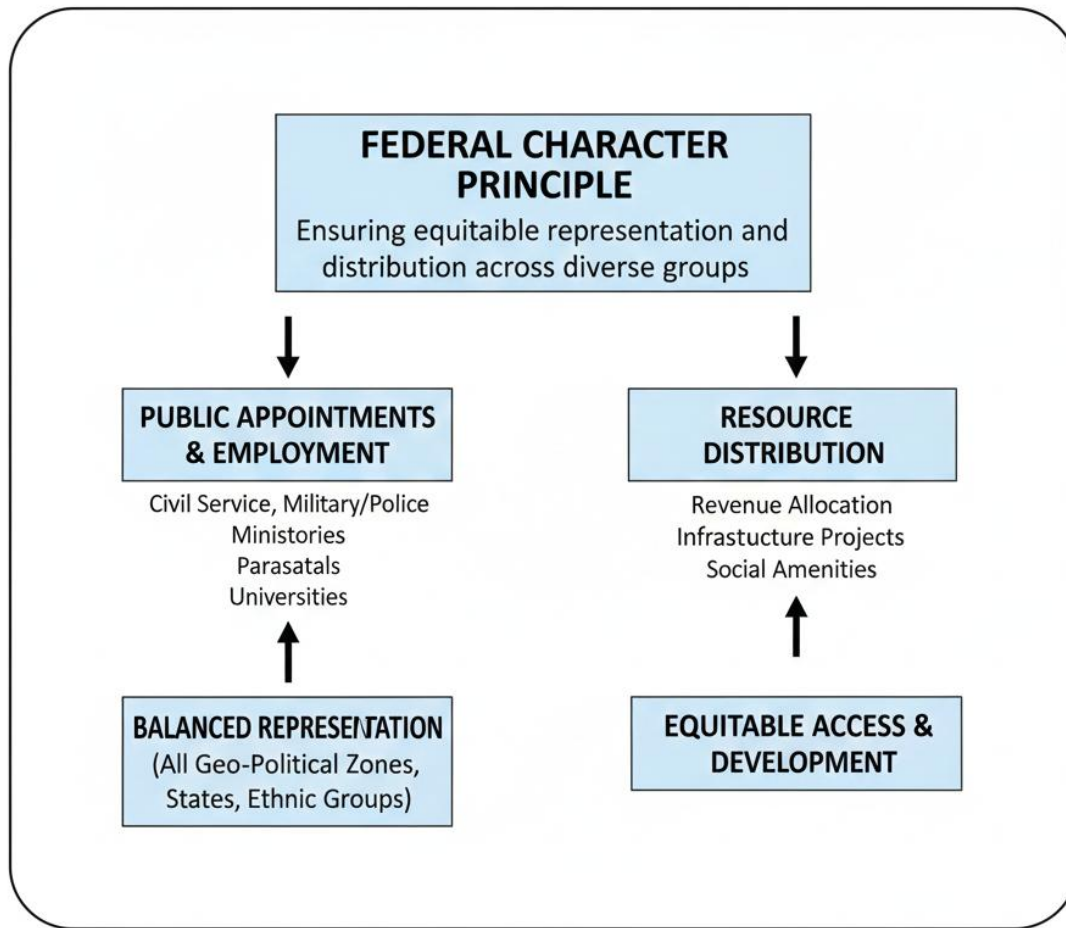


Figure 5.2 Federal character principle in Nigeria

Diagram showing federal character principle applied to appointments and resource distribution across regions Caption: Figure 5.2 Federal character principle in Nigeria

5.2.2 Minority rights and political participation

Nigeria's political system recognises the importance of protecting **minority rights**. Mechanisms such as reserved positions, affirmative action, and inclusive policies aim to ensure that minority groups are not marginalised. Political participation by minorities strengthens democracy and promotes national unity.

Fill in the blank: Affirmative action is a mechanism designed to protect _____ rights in Nigeria.



Box 5.2 Minority Rights and Political Participation

Ensuring the inclusion and representation of Nigeria's political landscape is crucial for severance. Several minority rights equitability landscape:

- **Reserved Appeals & Identity Politics:** Political alignment of governance. Several to protect minority rights and facilitate the participation.
- **Reserved Political Positions:** Creation of parliamentary seats or local government roles or seats, align government groups for minority ethnic groups, address ethnic group or region, region leads bloc voting
- **Inclusive Policy-Making**
 - Consultation with minority in education on policies, employment, and political appointments to ensure historical efforts perspectives are considered.
- **Minority Representation in Governance:** Appointment of individuals from governmental bodies, commissions, and advisory roles.

Box 4.5 Inclusive governance in Nigeria

Caption: Box 5.2 Minority rights and political participation Summary of mechanisms: reserved positions, affirmative action, inclusive policies, minority representation in governance

5.2.3 Challenges of equitable representation

Despite these mechanisms, Nigeria still faces challenges in achieving equitable representation. Issues include political dominance by majority groups, tokenism in appointments, and corruption undermining fairness. These challenges weaken inclusiveness and fuel grievances among marginalised communities. Addressing them requires stronger institutions, transparency, and genuine commitment to equity.

Fill in the blank: Tokenism in appointments undermines genuine _____ in governance.



Table 5.2 Challenges of Equitable Representation in Nigeria

Table 5.2 Challenges of equitable representation

Challenge	Explanation	Impact on Governance
Political Dominance	Entrenched power of major ethnic/regional groups leading marginalisation of smaller groups	Reduced political voice, alienation, and inequality
Tokenism & Symbolic Appointments	Appointment of individuals from underrepresented groups to satisfy quotas without real power or influence	Lack genuine inclusion, frustration, and continued disparities
Corruption & Nepotism	Bias and favoritism in appointments and resource allocation based on personal connections rather than merit	Inefficient governance, public distrust, and resource misallocation
Weak Institutions & Enforcement	Lack of capacity, independence, and political will to implement and enforce equitable policies	Persistent imbalances, legal loopholes, and delayed justice

Table 5.2 Challenges of equitable representation in Nigeria

Caption: Table 5.2 Challenges of equitable representation Table listing political dominance, tokenism, corruption, weak institutions with short

Pilot questions 5.2

1. What principle ensures equitable representation of Nigeria's diverse groups in public institutions?
2. Name one mechanism designed to protect minority rights in Nigeria.
3. What is one challenge of equitable representation in Nigeria?
4. Why is minority political participation important for democracy?



5. How does corruption undermine equitable representation?

5.3 Nation Building and Integration Strategies

5.3.1 National identity and unity efforts

Nigeria has made several efforts to promote **national identity and unity** despite its ethnic and religious diversity. Initiatives such as adopting a national anthem, flag, and pledge aim to foster a sense of belonging among citizens. National identity campaigns encourage Nigerians to see themselves first as members of one nation before ethnic or regional affiliations.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's national _____ and pledge are symbols designed to promote unity and identity.



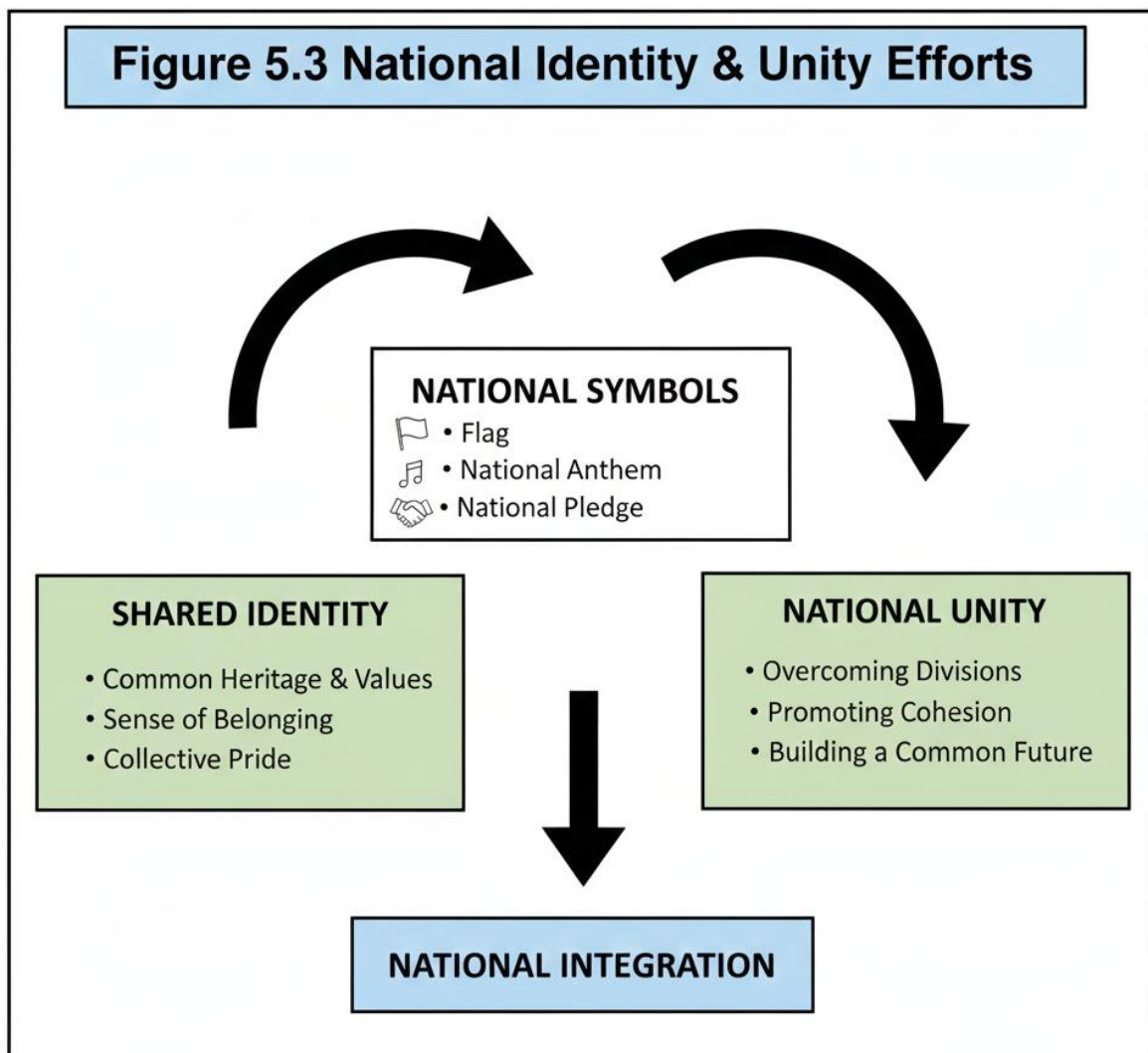


Figure 5.3 National identity and unity efforts in Nigeria

Diagram showing national symbols (flag, anthem, pledge) linked to unity and identity Caption: Figure 5.3 National identity and unity efforts

5.3.2 Institutions promoting integration (e.g., NYSC, unity schools)

Institutions such as the **National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)** and **unity schools** were established to promote integration. NYSC deploys graduates to serve in states outside their region of origin, encouraging cross-cultural interaction. Unity schools admit students from diverse backgrounds to foster national cohesion. These institutions aim to reduce ethnic prejudice and strengthen bonds among Nigerians.

Fill in the blank: The _____ deploys graduates to serve in states outside their region of origin to promote integration.



Box 5.3 Institutions Promoting Integration

In Nigeria, several institutions are dedicated to fostering national integration and cohesion among diverse ethnic and religious groups. Two prominent examples are the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) and Unity Schools, both playing vital roles in nation-building efforts.

National Youth Service Corps (NYSC)

- Mandatory year-long national service for Nigerian graduates
- Deployment of youth to states outside their origin
- Cross-cultural interaction, learning, and skill development
- Fostering national unity, patriotism, and shared experiences

Unity Schools (Federal Government Colleges)

- Secondary schools established nationwide by the federal government
- Admission of students from all 36 states and diverse backgrounds
- Promoting interaction, understanding, friendships across ethnic lines
- Cultivating a sense of national identity from a young age

Box 5.3 Institutions promoting integration in Nigeria

Caption: Box 5.3 Institutions promoting integration Summary of NYSC, unity schools, and their roles in fostering cohesion

5.3.3 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria

Despite these efforts, Nigeria faces obstacles to nation building. Ethnic rivalries, religious intolerance, corruption, and poor governance undermine unity. Regional inequalities and marginalisation also fuel grievances. These challenges make it difficult to build a strong national identity and cohesive political community. Addressing them requires inclusive policies, equitable development, and sustained dialogue.

Fill in the blank: Ethnic rivalries and religious _____ are major obstacles to nation building in Nigeria.



Table 5.3 Obstacles to Nation Building in Nigeria

Table 5.3 Obstacles to Nation Building in Nigeria

	Explanation	Impact on Nation Building
Ethnic Rivalries	Historical tensions, competition for resources & political power among different ethnic groups.	Fragmentation, inter-communal violence, and hinders national unity
Religious Intolerance	Lack of acceptance & understanding between different religious, leading to conflicts.	Social division, mistrust, & disruption of peace
Corruption & Poor Governance	Mismanagement of public funds, lack of transparency, & weak institutions.	Reduces public trust, hampers development, & perpetuates inequality
Regional Inequalities	Mismanagement of public funds, lack of transparency & weak institutions.	Resentment, agitation, & feeling marginalisation
Security Insurgency (Boko Haram), banditry, & communal clashes.	Disparities in economic development, infrastructure, education & healthcare & harshness across regions	Resentment, agitation, & feelings of helplessness. Displacement, loss & unstable environment for growth

Table 5.3 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria

Caption: Table 5.3 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria Table listing ethnic rivalries, religious intolerance, corruption, poor governance, regional inequalities with short explanations

Pilot questions 5.3

1. Name one national symbol designed to promote unity in Nigeria.
2. Which institution deploys graduates to serve outside their region of origin?
3. What is the purpose of unity schools in Nigeria?
4. Give one obstacle to nation building in Nigeria.
5. Why are inclusive policies important for nation building?



5.4 Prospects for Strengthening National Cohesion

5.4.1 Policy reforms for inclusiveness

Strengthening national cohesion requires **policy reforms** that promote inclusiveness. These include equitable resource distribution, fair representation in government, and development policies that reduce regional disparities. Inclusive policies help to address grievances and foster unity among Nigeria's diverse groups.

Fill in the blank: Equitable resource distribution and fair representation are examples of policy reforms for _____.



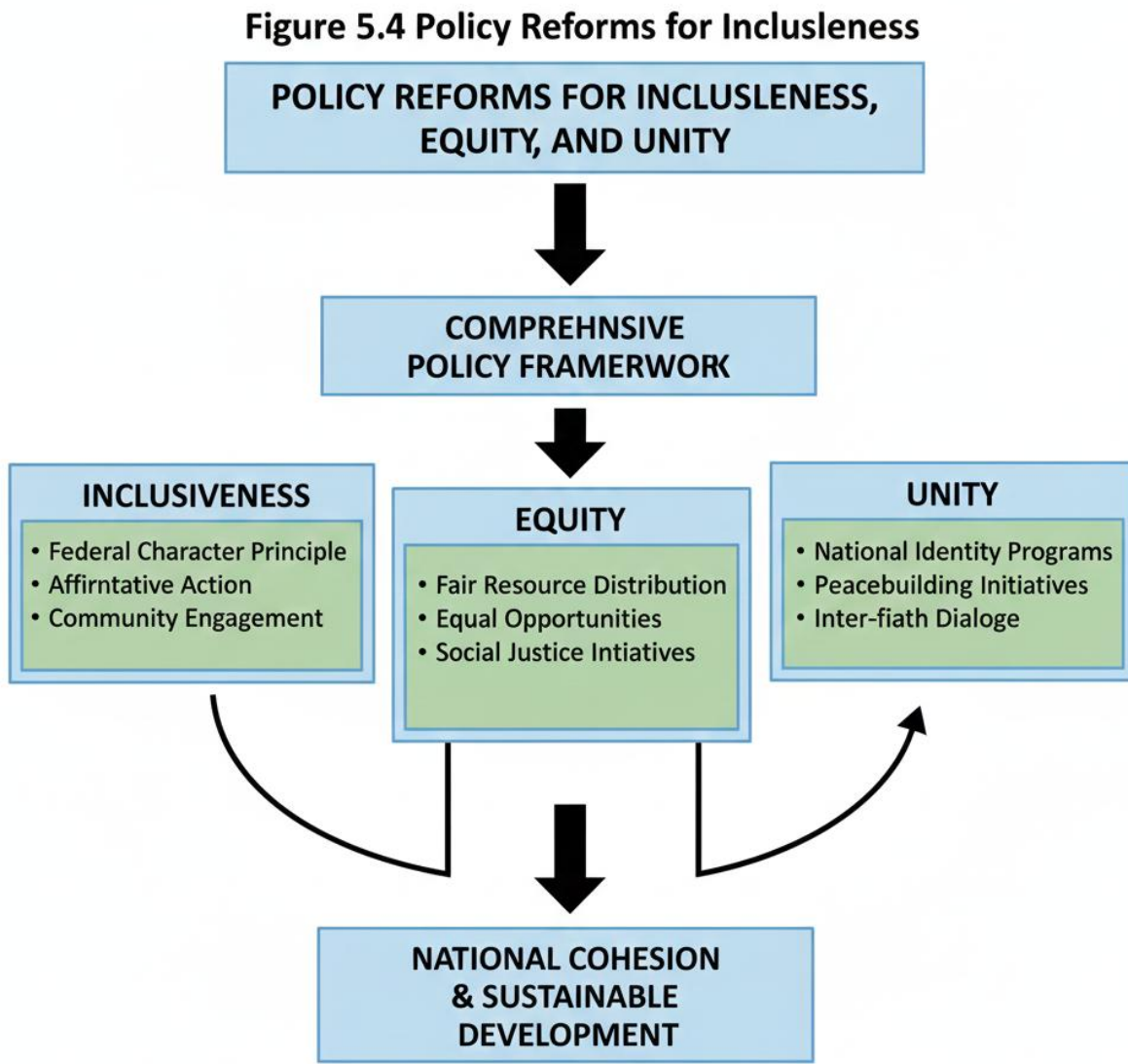


Figure 5.4 Policy reforms for inclusiveness, equity, and unity in Nigeria

Diagram showing policy reforms linked to inclusiveness, equity, and unity Caption: Figure 5.4 Policy reforms for

5.4.2 Role of civil society and media

Civil society organisations and the media play a vital role in promoting national cohesion. Civil society advocates for inclusiveness, monitors government policies, and facilitates dialogue among communities. The media educates citizens, exposes corruption, and promotes national values. Together, they strengthen accountability and foster unity.

Fill in the blank: Civil society and the _____ play vital roles in promoting national cohesion.



Box 5.4 Role of Civil Society and Media

Civil society organizations (CSO) and the media play crucial roles in fostering national cohesion and accountability in Nigeria. They act as bridges between government and citizens, promote dialogue and transparency. Key roles include:

- **Advocacy & Sensitization:** on issues of national importance and advocating for inclusive policies
- **Advocacy & Sensitization:**
- **Monitoring & Oversight:** Acting as watchdogs over government actions, monitoring
- **Dialogue & Mediation:** Facilitating elections, and exposing corruption
- **Civic Education & Facilitating conversions** different and religious groups to resolve conflicts
- **Civic Education & Awareness** Civil rights, responsibilities, and democratic processes
- **Promote National Values:** Highlight shared cultural heritage, and celebrate diversity.
- **Accountability & Transparency** Demanding accountability from leaders and pushing for good governance

Box 5.4 Role of civil society and media in promoting national cohesion in Nigeria

Caption: Box 5.4 Role of civil society and media Summary of roles: advocacy, monitoring, dialogue facilitation, education, accountability, promoting national values

5.4.3 Enhancing citizen participation in nation building

Citizen participation is essential for strengthening national cohesion. Active involvement in elections, civic education, community service, and public debates fosters unity and accountability. When citizens feel included in governance, they are more likely to support national integration and democratic consolidation.

Fill in the blank: Active involvement in elections and civic education fosters unity and strengthens _____ cohesion.



Table 5.4 Citizen Participation Nation Building in Nigeria

Citizen participation activities that strengthen nation building in Nigeria

	Activity	Obstacles Nation Building
Elections & Voting	Regular participation in democratic elections to choose leaders and hold them accountable.	Social division, understanding between different rights, and hinders
Civic Education	Educational programs to inform citizens, responsibilities and democratic processes.	Educational programs to inform citizens, cleanup & democratic rights.
Community Service	Volunteering for local projects, cleanup, or social that the community.	Engaging in discussions and forums on nation, & collective institutions.
Public Debates & Dialogue	Local initiatives that benefit the community.	Engaging in discussions and forums, understanding & solve problem-solving.

Table 5.4 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria

Caption: Table 5.4 Citizen participation in nation building Table listing elections, civic education, community service, public debates with short explanations

Pilot questions 5.4

1. What type of reforms are needed to strengthen national cohesion?
2. Name one role of civil society in promoting unity.
3. Why is the media important for national cohesion?
4. Give one example of citizen participation that strengthens nation building.



5. How do inclusive policies help foster unity?

Series Summary

This Series explored how ethnicity, representation, and nation building shape Nigeria's political development. We began by examining the historical roots of ethnic diversity, the role of ethnicity in political mobilisation, and the impact of ethnic conflicts on governance. We then analysed representation and inclusiveness in governance, focusing on the federal character principle, minority rights, and challenges of equitable representation. Next, we studied nation building and integration strategies, including national identity efforts, institutions such as NYSC and unity schools, and obstacles to unity. Finally, we considered prospects for strengthening national cohesion, highlighting policy reforms, the role of civil society and media, and citizen participation.

By engaging with these discussions, you should now be able to explain the historical roots of ethnic diversity, analyse mechanisms of representation, evaluate strategies for nation building, and discuss prospects for strengthening national cohesion in Nigeria.

Glossary of Terms

- **Indirect rule:** Colonial policy of governing through traditional rulers, reinforcing ethnic divisions.
- **Ethnic mobilisation:** Use of ethnic identity to gain political support.
- **Federal character principle:** Constitutional measure ensuring equitable representation of Nigeria's diverse groups.
- **Minority rights:** Legal and political protections for smaller ethnic or regional groups.
- **Tokenism:** Superficial inclusion of minorities without genuine representation.
- **National identity:** Shared sense of belonging to one nation beyond ethnic or regional affiliations.
- **NYSC:** National Youth Service Corps, promoting integration by deploying graduates across regions.
- **Unity schools:** Secondary schools admitting students from diverse backgrounds to foster cohesion.
- **Civil society:** Organisations outside government advocating for inclusiveness and accountability.
- **Nation building:** Efforts to promote unity, integration, and cohesion among diverse groups.

Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Colonial policies such as _____ rule reinforced ethnic divisions in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 5.1)



2. Political parties often appeal to _____ identities to gain support. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
3. The federal _____ principle ensures equitable representation of Nigeria's diverse groups. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
4. The _____ deploys graduates to serve outside their region of origin to promote integration. (Linked to SLO 5.3)
5. Civil society and the _____ play vital roles in promoting national cohesion. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Short-answer questions

6. Name the three largest ethnic groups in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 5.1)
7. Give one mechanism designed to protect minority rights. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
8. State one obstacle to nation building in Nigeria. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

Long-answer questions

9. Analyse the role of the federal character principle in promoting inclusiveness and its limitations. (Linked to SLO 5.2)
10. Evaluate the prospects for strengthening national cohesion in Nigeria, highlighting reforms and citizen participation. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective questions

1. Indirect
2. Ethnic
3. Character
4. NYSC
5. Media

Short-answer questions

6. Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo
7. Affirmative action or reserved positions
8. Ethnic rivalries or religious intolerance

Long-answer questions

9. **Basic response:** The federal character principle promotes inclusiveness by ensuring diverse representation. **Value-added response:** However, it sometimes prioritises identity over merit, leading to inefficiency and tokenism.



10. **Basic response:** National cohesion can be strengthened through reforms, civil society, and citizen participation. **Value-added response:** Equitable policies, active civic engagement, and accountability mechanisms are essential for unity and democratic consolidation.

References and Attributions [Series 5]

- Constitutional references: Nigerian Constitution (1999), provisions on federal character, minority rights, and national integration.
- Figures, Tables, and Boxes:
 - Figure 5.1 Historical roots of ethnic diversity: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s major ethnic groups and colonial indirect rule reinforcing divisions.”
 - Box 5.1 Ethnicity and political mobilisation: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising ethnicity and political mobilisation in Nigeria.”
 - Table 5.1 Impact of ethnic conflicts on governance: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing impacts of ethnic conflicts on governance in Nigeria with explanations.”
 - Figure 5.2 Federal character principle in Nigeria: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s federal character principle applied to appointments and resource distribution.”
 - Box 5.2 Minority rights and political participation: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising minority rights and political participation in Nigeria.”
 - Table 5.2 Challenges of equitable representation: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing challenges of equitable representation in Nigeria with explanations.”
 - Figure 5.3 National identity and unity efforts: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing Nigeria’s national symbols (flag, anthem, pledge) linked to unity and identity.”
 - Box 5.3 Institutions promoting integration: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising NYSC and unity schools as institutions promoting integration in Nigeria.”
 - Table 5.3 Obstacles to nation building in Nigeria: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing obstacles to nation building in Nigeria with explanations.”
 - Figure 5.4 Policy reforms for inclusiveness: AI-generated diagram prompt “Create a diagram showing policy reforms linked to inclusiveness, equity, and unity in Nigeria.”



- Box 5.4 Role of civil society and media: AI-generated text box prompt “Create a text box summarising the role of civil society and media in promoting national cohesion in Nigeria.”
- Table 5.4 Citizen participation in nation building: AI-generated table prompt “Generate a table listing citizen participation activities that strengthen nation building in Nigeria.”

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 5]

Part 5.1

1. Indirect rule
2. Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo
3. Ethnic identities
4. Weakened state authority or disrupted development
5. It deepens divisions and undermines unity

Part 5.2

1. Federal character principle
2. Affirmative action
3. Tokenism or corruption
4. It strengthens democracy and unity
5. It distorts fairness and inclusiveness

Part 5.3

1. National anthem or flag
2. NYSC
3. To foster national cohesion among students
4. Religious intolerance or corruption
5. They reduce grievances and promote unity

Part 5.4

1. Policy reforms for inclusiveness
2. Advocacy or monitoring government policies
3. It educates citizens and promotes national values
4. Elections or civic education
5. They foster equity and reduce marginalisation



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