

POL405

NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY



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SERIES 1: Foundations of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

1.1 Conceptual Basis of Foreign Policy

- 1.1.1 Definition of Foreign Policy
- 1.1.2 Core Objectives of Nigeria's Foreign Policy
- 1.1.3 National Interest as the Guiding Principle

1.2 Historical Foundations of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

- 1.2.1 Colonial Legacy and Independence Context
- 1.2.2 Early Post-Independence Foreign Policy Directions
- 1.2.3 Role of Leadership in Shaping Policy Foundations

1.3 Key Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

- 1.3.1 Domestic Political and Economic Factors
- 1.3.2 Geopolitical and Regional Considerations
- 1.3.3 Influence of International Environment

1.4 Evolution of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Orientation

- 1.4.1 Non-Aligned Movement Beginnings
- 1.4.2 Transition from Civilian to Military Regimes
- 1.4.3 Continuities and Shifts in Policy Priorities

Introduction

Foreign policy is often described as the mirror through which a nation presents itself to the world. For Nigeria, the foundations of its foreign policy are deeply rooted in its historical experiences, domestic realities, and aspirations as a sovereign state. Understanding these foundations is essential because they provide the framework upon which subsequent policies and external relations have been built. As learners, you will find that this Series sets the stage for appreciating Nigeria's role in the international community and prepares you to engage critically with later discussions in the course.

The aim of this Series is to introduce you to the conceptual, historical, and structural bases of Nigeria's foreign policy, equipping you with the knowledge to analyse how national interests and external influences have shaped its orientation since independence.

We shall commence this Series by examining the conceptual basis of foreign policy, including its definition, objectives, and the guiding principle of national interest. Next, we will explore the historical foundations, focusing on the colonial legacy, the independence context, and the role of leadership in shaping early directions. Following that, we will consider the key determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy, such as domestic politics, economic factors, and regional as well as international influences. Finally, we will wrap up by tracing the evolution of Nigeria's foreign



policy orientation, highlighting the beginnings of non-alignment, the shifts between civilian and military regimes, and the continuities that have defined Nigeria's external relations.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 2.1 define the concept of foreign policy and identify its core objectives in the Nigerian context,

SLO 2.2 explain how national interest serves as the guiding principle of Nigeria's foreign policy,

SLO 2.3 analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's foreign policy, including the colonial legacy, independence context, and leadership influences,

SLO 2.4 evaluate the key determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy, focusing on domestic, regional, and international factors, and

SLO 2.5 trace the evolution of Nigeria's foreign policy orientation, highlighting the beginnings of non-alignment, shifts between civilian and military regimes, and continuities in policy priorities.

1.1 Conceptual Basis of Foreign Policy

1.1.1 Definition of foreign policy

Foreign policy refers to the strategies, decisions, and actions adopted by a sovereign state in its relations with other states and international organisations. It is essentially the external projection of a nation's domestic priorities, values, and interests. For Nigeria, foreign policy has been shaped by its quest to protect sovereignty, promote economic development, and assert its role within Africa and the wider world.

Foreign policy is not static, but rather dynamic, responding to changing domestic and international conditions. It is often described as the bridge between a nation's internal setting and the global environment.

Fill in the blank: Foreign policy is the _____ projection of a nation's domestic priorities, values, and interests.





[Opens in a new window](#)  mecouncil.org

Diagram showing the link between domestic priorities and foreign policy actions Caption: Figure 1.1 Conceptual link between domestic priorities and foreign policy

1.1.2 Core objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy

The **objectives** of Nigeria's foreign policy are the guiding goals that determine its external actions. Since independence, Nigeria has consistently emphasised the protection of national sovereignty, the promotion of African unity, the defence of territorial integrity, and the pursuit of economic development.

Nigeria's foreign policy objectives also include fostering peaceful relations with neighbours, supporting decolonisation movements, and contributing to global peace and security. These objectives reflect Nigeria's identity as both a regional leader and a responsible member of the international community.

Fill in the blank: One of Nigeria's foreign policy objectives is the promotion of _____ unity.

Mission	Scope	Nigeria's Role
UN Peacekeeping	Global	Historically one of the top 5 troop-contributing countries (TCCs) to the UN.
ECOMOG (Liberia)	Sub-Regional	Provided roughly 80% of funding and the bulk of the 12,000+ troops deployed.
Sudan (Darfur)	Continental	Played a lead role in the AU mission (AMIS) before it transitioned to a hybrid UN mission (UNAMID).

Caption: Box 1.1 Selected objectives of Nigeria's foreign policy

1.1.3 National interest as the guiding principle

National interest refers to the fundamental concerns and priorities that a state seeks to protect and advance in its external relations. For Nigeria, national interest has often been defined in terms of security, economic prosperity, political stability, and leadership in Africa.

National interest serves as the compass of foreign policy, ensuring that external actions are consistent with internal needs. For example, Nigeria's support for liberation movements in



Africa was not only a moral stance but also a strategic effort to strengthen its leadership role on the continent.

Fill in the blank: National interest serves as the _____ of foreign policy, ensuring consistency with internal needs.

Dimension	Level	Description	Examples in Nigerian Policy
Primary / Core	Survival	Interests that are fundamental and non-negotiable. If these are lost, the state ceases to exist.	Defense of territorial integrity; protection against secessionist movements; national sovereignty.
Secondary / Vital	Well-being	Essential for the prosperity and social stability of the nation and its citizens.	Economic diplomacy to attract FDI; protection of Nigerians in the diaspora; securing oil and gas infrastructure.
Tertiary / General	Global Status	Long-term goals that project influence and promote a stable international environment.	Leadership in ECOWAS ; participation in UN Peacekeeping ; advocacy for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Caption: Table 1.1 Dimensions of Nigeria's national interest

Pilot questions 1.1

Which term refers to the strategies and actions adopted by a sovereign state in its external relations?

Identify one of Nigeria's foreign policy objectives since independence.

What principle serves as the compass of Nigeria's foreign policy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy objectives include the defence of _____ integrity.

Which dimension of national interest focuses on promoting trade and investment?

1.2 Historical Foundations of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

1.2.1 Colonial legacy and independence context

The **colonial legacy** refers to the political, economic, and social structures inherited from colonial rule. Nigeria's foreign policy at independence in 1960 was influenced by its colonial experience under Britain. This included exposure to Western diplomatic traditions, reliance on Commonwealth ties, and the adoption of English as the language of diplomacy.



At independence, Nigeria sought to assert its sovereignty while maintaining cordial relations with Britain and other Western powers. The early foreign policy context was therefore shaped by balancing inherited colonial ties with the desire to establish an independent identity in global affairs.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy at independence was influenced by its _____ experience under Britain.



October 1, 1950

Image showing Nigeria's independence celebrations in 1960 Caption: Plate 1.1 Nigeria's independence and its foreign policy beginnings

1.2.2 Early post-independence foreign policy directions



Nigeria's early foreign policy was characterised by cautious diplomacy. Leaders emphasised non-interference in the internal affairs of other states, peaceful coexistence, and respect for sovereignty. At the same time, Nigeria began to champion African unity and support liberation movements across the continent.

The country's first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, articulated Nigeria's foreign policy as one of moderation, friendship, and cooperation. This approach reflected Nigeria's desire to be accepted internationally while also carving out a leadership role in Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's first Prime Minister, Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, emphasised _____, friendship, and cooperation in foreign policy.

OER Diagram

Box 1.2: Key Features of Nigeria's Early Foreign Policy (1960–1966)

This policy was shaped by Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa based on moderation, cautious, and legalistic.

Core Pillars of the Early Era

-  Afrocentrism
-  Non-Alignment
-  Non-Interference
-  Sovereign Equality
-  Sovereign Equality
-  Peaceful Resolution of Disputes

The "Balewa Doctrine" in Perspective

Pro-Western tilt proscribed is the distinctive feature of the Pro-Western

Feature	Souion	Application
Legalism	Caution	Leadership
Leadership	Location	Honour in

Overall Impact

Defining Nigeria as stabilizing, conservative in African politics during a global ideological tension.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

Caption: Box 1.2 Key features of Nigeria's early foreign policy



1.2.3 Role of leadership in shaping policy foundations

Leadership has played a critical role in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy foundations. The vision and priorities of early leaders influenced the country's external orientation. For example, Balewa's cautious diplomacy contrasted with later leaders who adopted more assertive stances.

Leadership decisions determined Nigeria's involvement in African affairs, its stance on global issues, and its relationships with major powers. This highlights the importance of political leadership in defining foreign policy direction and ensuring consistency with national interest.

Fill in the blank: Leadership decisions determined Nigeria's involvement in _____ affairs and relationships with major powers.

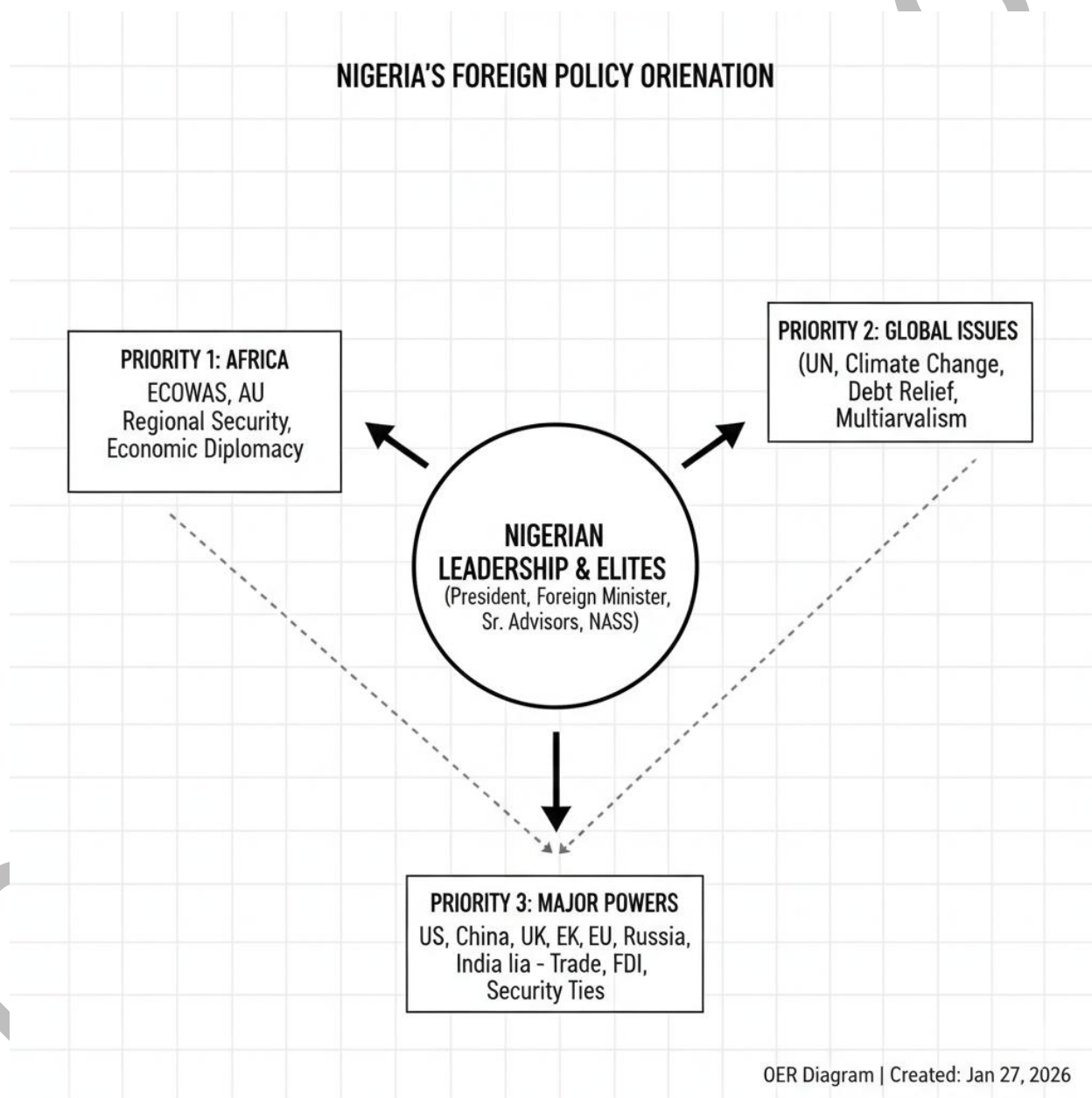


Diagram showing leadership influence on Nigeria's foreign policy orientation Caption: Figure 1.2 Leadership as a determinant of foreign policy foundations



Pilot questions 1.2

What term refers to the structures inherited from colonial rule that influenced Nigeria's foreign policy?

Which country's colonial experience shaped Nigeria's early foreign policy context?

Who was Nigeria's first Prime Minister and what principles did he emphasise in foreign policy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's early foreign policy supported _____ movements across Africa.

What factor highlights the importance of leadership in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy foundations?

1.3 Key Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

1.3.1 Domestic political and economic factors

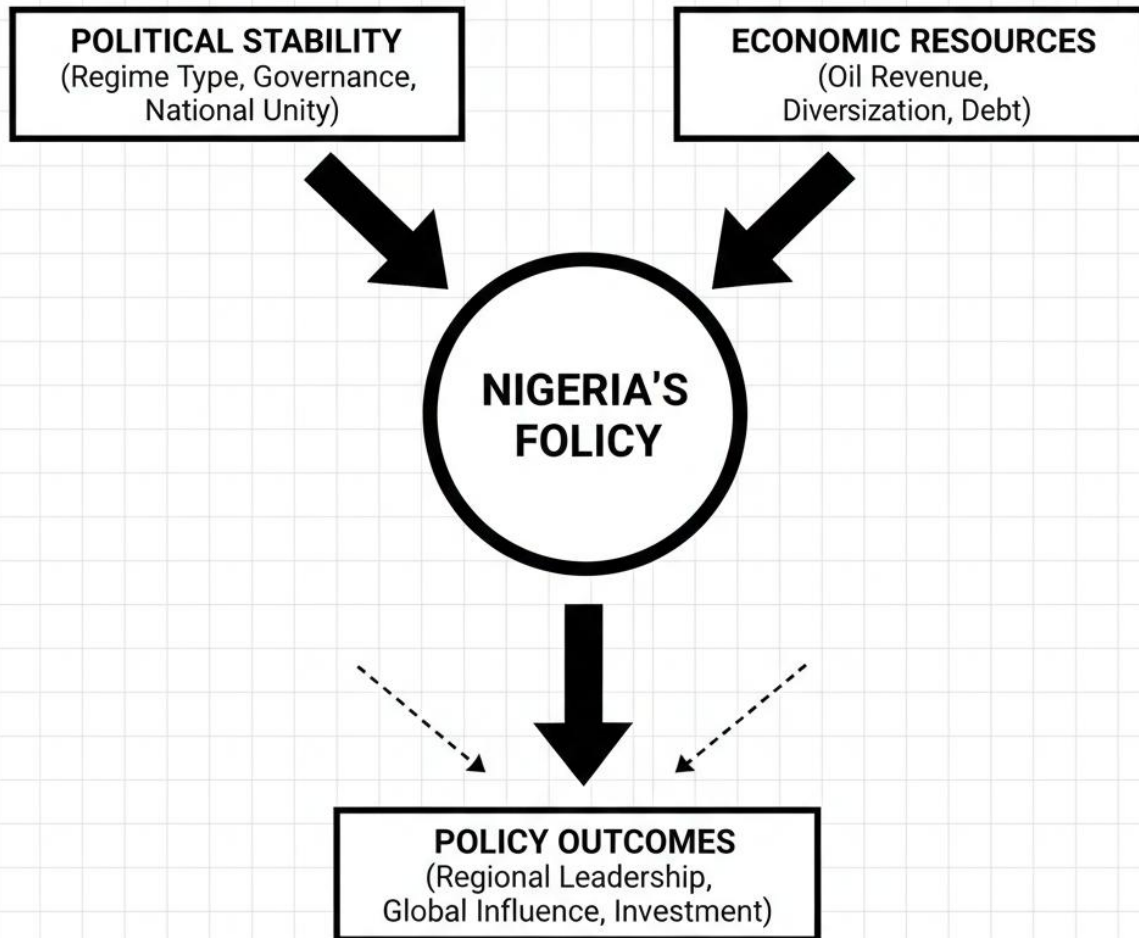
Domestic conditions play a central role in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy. **Domestic political factors** refer to the internal governance structures, political stability, and ideological orientations that influence external relations. For example, periods of military rule often produced more assertive foreign policies compared to civilian administrations, which tended to emphasise diplomacy and cooperation.

Economic factors are equally important. Nigeria's reliance on oil exports has shaped its external engagements, particularly with countries that are major consumers of petroleum. Economic challenges such as inflation, unemployment, and debt have also influenced Nigeria's foreign policy priorities, often pushing the country to seek international assistance or partnerships.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's reliance on _____ exports has significantly shaped its external engagements.



NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DETERMINANTS



OER Diagram | Created: Jan 27, 2026

Diagram showing domestic political and economic factors influencing foreign policy Caption:
Figure 1.3 Domestic determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy

1.3.2 Geopolitical and regional considerations

Geopolitical considerations refer to Nigeria's strategic location in West Africa and its role as a regional power. Nigeria shares borders with several countries, including Benin, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, making neighbourly relations a critical determinant of foreign policy.

Nigeria's size, population, and resources have positioned it as a leader in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This regional role has required Nigeria to balance national interests with collective responsibilities, such as peacekeeping and conflict resolution.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's leadership role in _____ has required it to balance national interests with collective responsibilities.



Image showing ECOWAS leaders at a regional summit Caption: Plate 1.2 Nigeria's role in ECOWAS regional diplomacy

1.3.3 Influence of international environment

The **international environment** refers to the global political and economic context within which Nigeria operates. This includes relations with major powers, membership in international organisations, and responses to global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and trade.

Nigeria's foreign policy has often been shaped by its need to navigate Cold War dynamics, global economic shifts, and contemporary challenges like globalisation. International



organisations such as the United Nations and the African Union have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its influence and pursue its interests.

Fill in the blank: International organisations such as the _____ have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its influence.

Box 1.5: International Influences on Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Influence		Cold War til: Initial "non-alignment" pro-Soviet with ties to the USSR	Examples in Nigerian Policy/History
Global Geopolitics		Cold War Era Initial pro-West tilt: pro-West and US/UK/FR/MAF, leading to the national interest.	Murtala/Obasanjo with the US
International Organizations & Norms		Relating relation with the US and China USSR	Sierra UN Security Council seat
International Organizations & Norms		Oil WAS She presently tilts to China - increases ties and as a result of this the country's policy	ICJ Panama, Relation with The UNAMID
Global Economic System		Oil Prices EcowAS with "World Bank rule"	WTO
Debt		Intense with low IMF and condition of aid, Paris Club, 2005	International of Finance, The MNJTF
Transnational Issues Non-State Actors		Boko Haram/ISWAP) Counter-terrorism cooperation with the regional, The Gambia	Pakistan Repatriation
Diaspora & Global Public Opinion		Boko Haram/ISWAP Terests with COP international with US, Sunerits, and adaptation of diglcatancy	Efforts and Nigerian Disarmament Commission, a force, public (NIICOM)

Box 1.5 Impact: Creating the Complex Interplay of Opportunities and Constraints for Nigerian Diplomats.

Caption: Table 1.2 International influences on Nigeria's foreign policy

Pilot questions 1.3

Which domestic factor has significantly shaped Nigeria's external engagements?

Fill in the blank: Periods of _____ rule often produced more assertive foreign policies.

What regional organisation has Nigeria played a leadership role in?



Which global context required Nigeria to navigate relations between Western and Eastern blocs?

Fill in the blank: International organisations such as the African Union have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its _____.

1.3 Key Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

1.3.1 Domestic political and economic factors

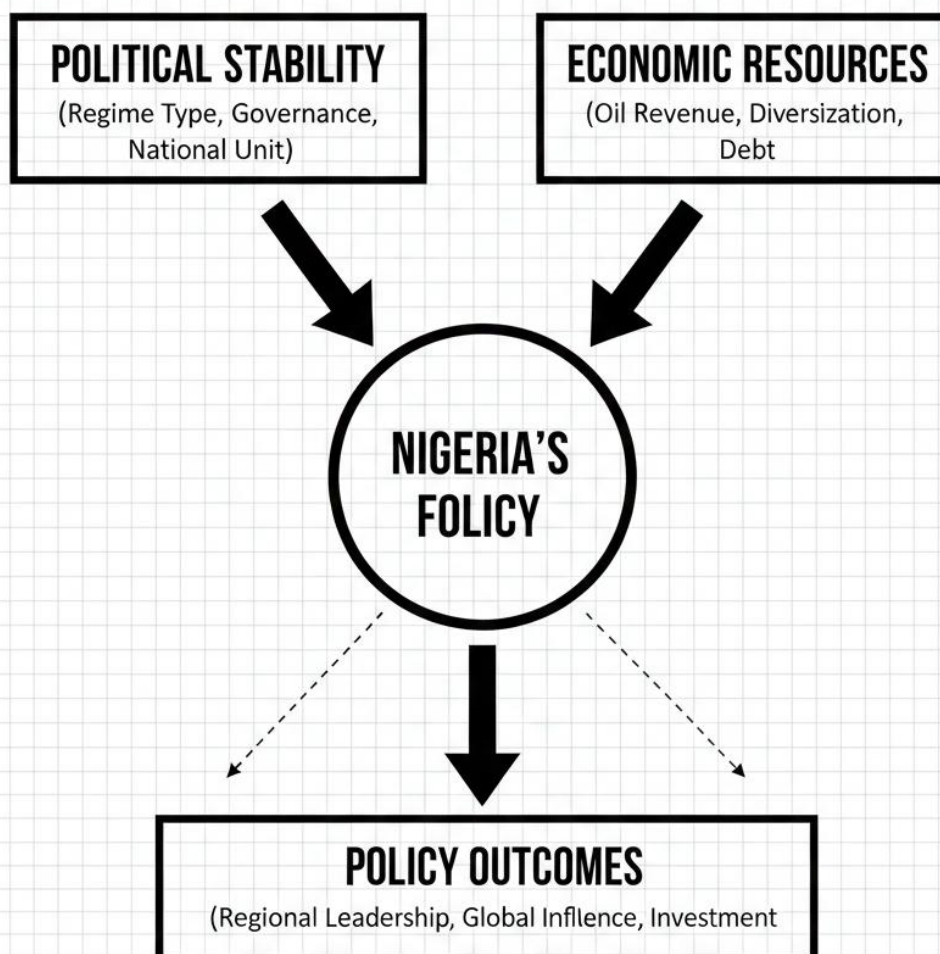
Domestic conditions play a central role in shaping Nigeria's foreign policy. **Domestic political factors** refer to the internal governance structures, political stability, and ideological orientations that influence external relations. For example, periods of military rule often produced more assertive foreign policies compared to civilian administrations, which tended to emphasise diplomacy and cooperation.

Economic factors are equally important. Nigeria's reliance on oil exports has shaped its external engagements, particularly with countries that are major consumers of petroleum. Economic challenges such as inflation, unemployment, and debt have also influenced Nigeria's foreign policy priorities, often pushing the country to seek international assistance or partnerships.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's reliance on _____ exports has significantly shaped its external engagements.



NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DETERMINANTS



OER Diagram | Created: Jan 27, 2026

Diagram showing domestic political and economic factors influencing foreign policy Caption: Figure 1.3 Domestic determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy

1.3.2 Geopolitical and regional considerations

Geopolitical considerations refer to Nigeria's strategic location in West Africa and its role as a regional power. Nigeria shares borders with several countries, including Benin, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon, making neighbourly relations a critical determinant of foreign policy.

Nigeria's size, population, and resources have positioned it as a leader in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). This regional role has required Nigeria to balance national interests with collective responsibilities, such as peacekeeping and conflict resolution.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's leadership role in _____ has required it to balance national interests with collective responsibilities.

OER image



ECOWAS Summit, Abuja, Nigeria, January 27, 2006

Image showing ECOWAS leaders at a regional summit Caption: Plate 1.2 Nigeria's role in ECOWAS regional diplomacy

1.3.3 Influence of international environment

The **international environment** refers to the global political and economic context within which Nigeria operates. This includes relations with major powers, membership in international organisations, and responses to global issues such as climate change, terrorism, and trade.

Nigeria's foreign policy has often been shaped by its need to navigate Cold War dynamics, global economic shifts, and contemporary challenges like globalisation. International



organisations such as the United Nations and the African Union have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its influence and pursue its interests.

Fill in the blank: International organisations such as the _____ have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its influence.

Box 1.5: International Influences on Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Influence	Description	Examples in Nigerin/History
Global Gepololtics	Cold War Era: Initial "non-alignment" policy but with Western ties and 8 US/SSSR ravia. Cold major ravia.	Murtala/Obsanjo with Soviet ties Shageri with US, Jountari with China/US.
International & Norms	Pressures from UN, AU, ECOWAS, WTO on issues like issues likuman rights, democracy, trade and peekepange.	Sierra Lone/Libervtions (ECOMOG), Baty inislula ICJ bids
International Organizations	Fluctatons in Oil Prices, glon, global economic crises, demoracy, and the and peekepaigne.	Bakassi Penisuula Bakassi Penisiula ICJ rulling bids
Global Economic System	Impact of 1970s oil boom, global economic crises, burdens, andd the drive for FDI.	Bolo Haram insurecy in Gulf Guinia, and migration
Transnational Issues / Non-State Actors	Impact of 1970s oil boom, maritime piratic crisis & SAP 8, climate Paris Club debt relief (2005).	Mulnattian Joint Task Force Deep Blue Wall initiative
Dissspora & Global Public on remittances, globl- of Niogria	Infuo Haram insurgency, maritime pissera on remittaces, lobbying, and peeptions of Niogria NIDCOM engagment, soccial, #BringBackOurGorls	NIDCOM engagemcial Bluf of Project, Great Green initiative
Box 1.5 Impact: Creates a Complex Interday of Opportunities and Constraints for Nigerian Diplomats		

OER Table | Created: Jan 27, 2026

Caption: Table 1.2 International influences on Nigeria's foreign policy

Pilot questions 1.3

Which domestic factor has significantly shaped Nigeria's external engagements?

Fill in the blank: Periods of _____ rule often produced more assertive foreign policies.

What regional organisation has Nigeria played a leadership role in?



Which global context required Nigeria to navigate relations between Western and Eastern blocs?

Fill in the blank: International organisations such as the African Union have provided platforms for Nigeria to project its _____.

1.4 Evolution of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Orientation

1.4.1 Non-Aligned Movement beginnings

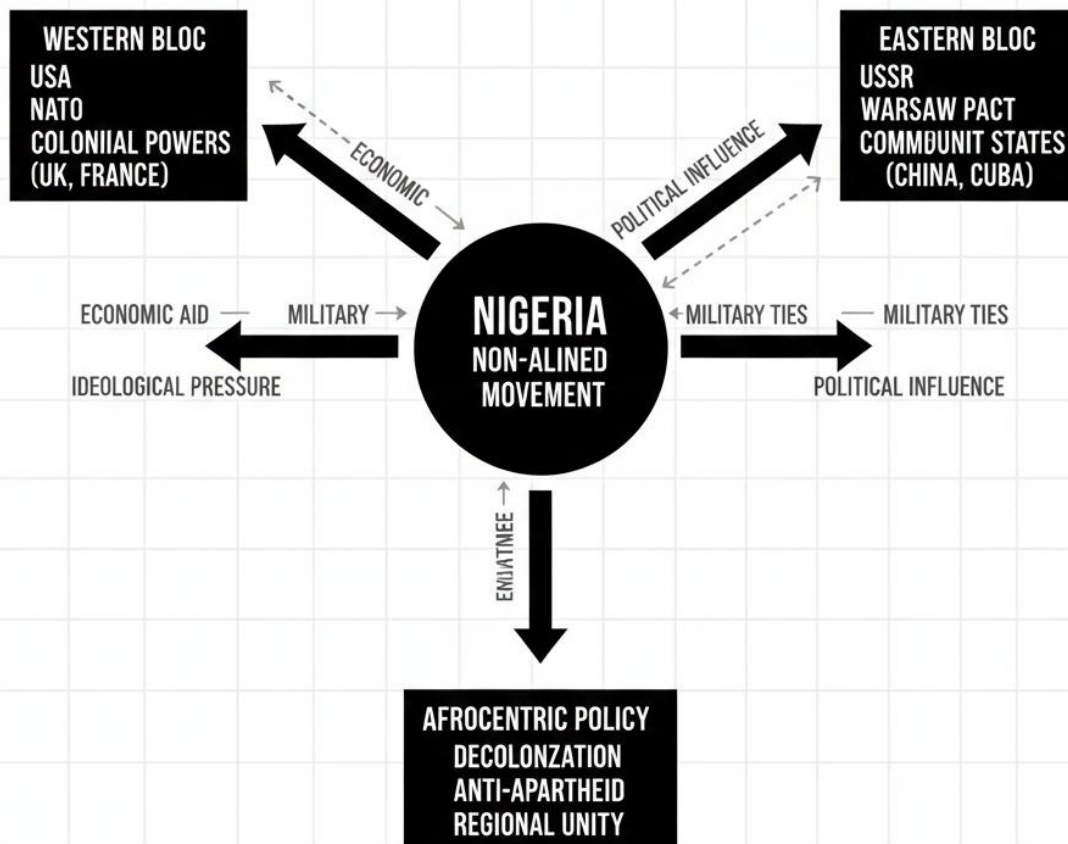
The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** refers to a group of states that chose not to formally align with either the Western or Eastern blocs during the Cold War. Nigeria joined this movement as part of its effort to maintain independence in foreign policy decisions. By doing so, Nigeria sought to avoid being drawn into superpower rivalries while still benefiting from relations with both sides.

Nigeria's participation in NAM reflected its desire to pursue a balanced approach, focusing on African solidarity and national interest rather than ideological alignment. This orientation allowed Nigeria to support liberation movements and promote peace without being tied to the policies of either bloc.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria joined the _____ Movement to avoid being drawn into superpower rivalries.



NIGERIA & THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (COLD WAR ERA)



OER Diagram | Created: Jan 27, 2026

Diagram showing Nigeria's position within the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War
Caption: Figure 1.4 Nigeria's role in the Non-Aligned Movement

1.4.2 Transition from civilian to military regimes

Nigeria's foreign policy orientation has been influenced by shifts between civilian and military regimes. Civilian governments often emphasised diplomacy, cooperation, and moderation, while military regimes tended to adopt more assertive and interventionist stances.

For example, during military rule, Nigeria played a more active role in peacekeeping missions and regional interventions, reflecting the military's preference for decisive action. Civilian administrations, on the other hand, prioritised negotiation and consensus-building.



Fill in the blank: Military regimes in Nigeria often adopted more _____ and interventionist stances in foreign policy.



Image showing Nigerian military leaders at an international summit Caption: Plate 1.3 Military influence on Nigeria's foreign policy orientation

1.4.3 Continuities and shifts in policy priorities

Despite changes in leadership and regime type, certain continuities have remained in Nigeria's foreign policy. These include the emphasis on African unity, the defence of sovereignty, and the pursuit of economic development. However, shifts have also occurred, particularly in response to global events such as the end of the Cold War, economic crises, and new security challenges.



Nigeria's foreign policy has therefore evolved as a blend of continuity and change. While the guiding principles have remained consistent, the strategies and emphases have shifted to reflect new realities. This adaptability has allowed Nigeria to maintain relevance in both regional and global affairs.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy has evolved as a blend of _____ and change.

Box 1.6: Continuities & Shifts in Nigeria's Foreign Policy

Evolling since 1960, Nigeria's foreign policy demestats core enduring principles algiande algiande dynanic adaptions to new domestic and global realities.

Dimension	Continuity (1960s - Present)	Shift (Post-Cold War/21 st Century)
Africa as "centerpiece"; decolonization/-anti-aparthid (early); regional leadership (ECOWAS)	Formal NAM membership; strategic autonomy	Shift to "Africa in the World" economic focus (AfCFTA); disara engagement
Afrocentrism Non-Alinment	Economic development focus; attracting FDI	Pragtatic alignment; stronger Western/China ties; less idological
Economic Diplomancy	Commitment peakepeing; terrritoral integrity	Pooutve-terroisim (Boko Haram); maritime security (Gulf-to-trade; digital economy
Security Multiaturalism	Active UN, AU putator Commwøllath role; int'l law	UNSC seat pursuit; climate secutime (Gulf of Guinea), defange adv/cacy global health

Box 1.6 Impact: A Hybrid Policy Balacing Pan-African Ideals with Pragamtic Global Engagement.

OER Table | Created: Jan 27, 2026

Caption: Table 1.3 Continuities and shifts in Nigeria's foreign policy priorities

Pilot questions 1.4

Which movement did Nigeria join to avoid alignment with superpower blocs?



Fill in the blank: Civilian governments often emphasised _____, cooperation, and moderation in foreign policy.

What type of regimes in Nigeria adopted more assertive and interventionist stances?

Identify one continuity in Nigeria's foreign policy priorities.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy has evolved as a blend of continuity and _____.

Series Summary

This Series has introduced you to the foundations of Nigeria's foreign policy, highlighting its importance as the framework through which Nigeria engages with the international community. The purpose was to help you appreciate how Nigeria's external relations are rooted in conceptual definitions, historical experiences, domestic realities, and evolving orientations, all of which are central to understanding the country's role in Africa and beyond.

We began by examining the conceptual basis of foreign policy, including its definition, objectives, and the guiding principle of national interest. Then we explored the historical foundations, focusing on the colonial legacy, independence context, and leadership influences. Following that, we considered the key determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy, such as domestic political and economic factors, regional considerations, and the international environment. Finally, we traced the evolution of Nigeria's foreign policy orientation, looking at the beginnings of non-alignment, shifts between civilian and military regimes, and the continuities that have remained. By completing this Series, you should now be able to define foreign policy and its objectives, explain the role of national interest, analyse historical foundations, evaluate key determinants, and trace the evolution of Nigeria's foreign policy orientation, as outlined in the Series Learning Outcomes.

Glossary of Terms

African unity: The principle that African countries should cooperate politically, economically, and socially to achieve collective progress and solidarity.

Colonial legacy: The political, economic, and social structures inherited from colonial rule, which continued to influence Nigeria's foreign policy after independence.

Domestic political factors: Internal governance structures, political stability, and ideological orientations within Nigeria that shape its foreign policy decisions.

Economic factors: The role of Nigeria's economy, particularly its reliance on oil exports, in influencing external relations and foreign policy priorities.

Foreign policy: The strategies, decisions, and actions adopted by a sovereign state in its relations with other states and international organisations.

Geopolitical considerations: Strategic factors related to Nigeria's location, borders, and role as a regional power in West Africa.



International environment: The global political and economic context, including relations with major powers, international organisations, and global challenges, that influences Nigeria's foreign policy.

National interest: The fundamental concerns and priorities of a state, such as security, economic prosperity, political stability, and regional leadership, which guide foreign policy decisions.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): A group of states that chose not to formally align with either the Western or Eastern blocs during the Cold War, allowing Nigeria to pursue independent foreign policy decisions.

Sovereignty: The authority of a state to govern itself without external interference, often defended as a core objective of Nigeria's foreign policy.

Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective Questions

Which term refers to the strategies and actions adopted by a sovereign state in its external relations? (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Nigeria's foreign policy objectives include the promotion of _____ unity. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Who was Nigeria's first Prime Minister and what principles did he emphasise in foreign policy? (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Nigeria's reliance on _____ exports has significantly shaped its external engagements. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Which movement did Nigeria join to avoid alignment with superpower blocs during the Cold War? (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Short-Answer Questions

Define national interest and explain its role as the guiding principle of Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Identify two domestic political factors that have influenced Nigeria's foreign policy orientation. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Explain how Nigeria's colonial legacy shaped its early foreign policy directions. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

List three continuities in Nigeria's foreign policy priorities despite changes in leadership. (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Describe Nigeria's role in ECOWAS and explain how it reflects geopolitical considerations. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Long-Answer Questions



Analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's foreign policy, focusing on the colonial legacy, independence context, and leadership influences. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Evaluate the key determinants of Nigeria's foreign policy, discussing domestic, regional, and international factors. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Trace the evolution of Nigeria's foreign policy orientation, highlighting the beginnings of non-alignment, shifts between civilian and military regimes, and continuities in policy priorities. (Linked to SLO 2.5)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 1]

Objective Questions

Foreign policy.

African unity.

Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; he emphasised moderation, friendship, and cooperation.

Oil.

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Short-Answer Questions

National interest refers to the fundamental concerns and priorities of a state, such as security, economic prosperity, political stability, and regional leadership. It serves as the guiding principle of Nigeria's foreign policy by ensuring that external actions align with internal needs.

Examples include periods of military rule, which produced assertive policies, and civilian governance, which emphasised diplomacy and cooperation.

Nigeria's colonial legacy under Britain introduced Western diplomatic traditions, reliance on Commonwealth ties, and English as the language of diplomacy, shaping cautious early foreign policy directions.

Continuities include emphasis on African unity, defence of sovereignty, and pursuit of economic development.

Nigeria's leadership role in ECOWAS reflects its geopolitical considerations, as its size, population, and resources position it as a regional power responsible for peacekeeping and conflict resolution.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Nigeria's foreign policy foundations were shaped by its colonial legacy under Britain, the independence context of asserting sovereignty, and leadership influences such as Balewa's emphasis on moderation and cooperation. *Value-added response:* Beyond the Series, learners may note that Nigeria's colonial experience also created economic dependencies and institutional structures that influenced foreign policy. Leadership styles varied, with later leaders adopting more assertive stances, reflecting Nigeria's growing confidence as a regional power.



Basic response: Nigeria's foreign policy determinants include domestic political and economic factors, regional considerations such as ECOWAS leadership, and international influences like Cold War dynamics and globalisation. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may add that Nigeria's oil wealth created both opportunities and vulnerabilities, while regional instability often required Nigeria to act as a peacekeeper. Internationally, Nigeria's membership in organisations like the UN and AU expanded its diplomatic reach.

Basic response: Nigeria's foreign policy evolved through participation in the Non-Aligned Movement, shifts between civilian diplomacy and military assertiveness, and continuities such as African unity and sovereignty. *Value-added response:* Learners may extend this by noting that Nigeria's adaptability allowed it to remain relevant in global affairs, with post-Cold War priorities including economic liberalisation, responses to terrorism, and engagement with globalisation.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 1]

Pilot questions 1.1

- Foreign policy
- Promotion of African unity
- National interest
- Territorial integrity
- Economic prosperity

Pilot questions 1.2

- Colonial legacy
- Britain
- Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa; moderation, friendship, and cooperation
- Liberation movements
- Leadership

Pilot questions 1.3

- Oil exports
- Military rule
- ECOWAS
- Cold War dynamics
- Influence

Pilot questions 1.4



Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

Diplomacy

Military regimes

African unity

Change

References and Attributions [Series 1]

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SERIES 2: Domestic Influences on External Relations

2.1 Political structures and governance

- 2.1.1 Influence of civilian administrations
- 2.1.2 Impact of military regimes
- 2.1.3 Role of leadership personalities

2.2 Pressure groups and domestic actors

- 2.2.1 Political parties and their foreign policy positions
- 2.2.2 Influence of civil society and media
- 2.2.3 Role of business and economic interest groups

2.3 Socio-cultural and ethnic factors

- 2.3.1 Ethnic diversity and national cohesion
- 2.3.2 Religious influences on external relations
- 2.3.3 Public opinion and national identity

2.4 Economic conditions and development priorities

- 2.4.1 Oil economy and external engagements
- 2.4.2 Trade, investment, and industrialisation
- 2.4.3 Domestic economic challenges and foreign policy responses

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored the foundations of Nigeria's foreign policy, focusing on its conceptual basis, historical roots, key determinants, and evolving orientations. Building on that knowledge, we now turn inward to examine how domestic realities shape Nigeria's external relations. This perspective is crucial because foreign policy does not exist in isolation; it is often a reflection of internal political structures, economic conditions, social dynamics, and the influence of various domestic actors.

The aim of this Series is to equip you with the ability to analyse how Nigeria's internal environment influences its foreign policy decisions, enabling you to connect domestic pressures with external actions in a clear and systematic way.

We shall commence this Series by examining political structures and governance, looking at the influence of civilian administrations, military regimes, and leadership personalities. Next, we will explore the role of pressure groups and domestic actors, including political parties, civil society, media, and business interests. Following that, we will consider socio-cultural and ethnic factors, focusing on ethnic diversity, religious influences, and public opinion. Finally, we will



wrap up by analysing economic conditions and development priorities, particularly the oil economy, trade, investment, and how domestic challenges shape Nigeria's foreign policy responses.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 2.1** analyse how political structures and governance, including civilian administrations, military regimes, and leadership personalities, influence Nigeria's foreign policy,
- SLO 2.2** evaluate the role of pressure groups and domestic actors such as political parties, civil society, media, and business interests in shaping external relations,
- SLO 2.3** explain how socio-cultural and ethnic factors, including ethnic diversity, religious influences, and public opinion, affect Nigeria's foreign policy decisions, and
- SLO 2.4** assess the impact of economic conditions and development priorities, particularly the oil economy, trade, investment, and domestic challenges, on Nigeria's external engagements

2.1 Political Structures and Governance

2.1.1 Influence of civilian administrations

Civilian administrations refer to governments led by elected officials who operate within constitutional frameworks. In Nigeria, civilian governments have generally emphasised diplomacy, cooperation, and consensus-building in foreign policy. Their approach often reflects democratic values such as respect for sovereignty, peaceful coexistence, and international collaboration.

Civilian administrations have also prioritised economic diplomacy, seeking trade agreements and partnerships that support national development. For example, during the Second Republic, Nigeria pursued closer ties with Western nations while maintaining its African commitments.

Fill in the blank: Civilian administrations in Nigeria often emphasised _____, cooperation, and consensus-building in foreign policy.



NIGERIA: CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATIONS & FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENCE

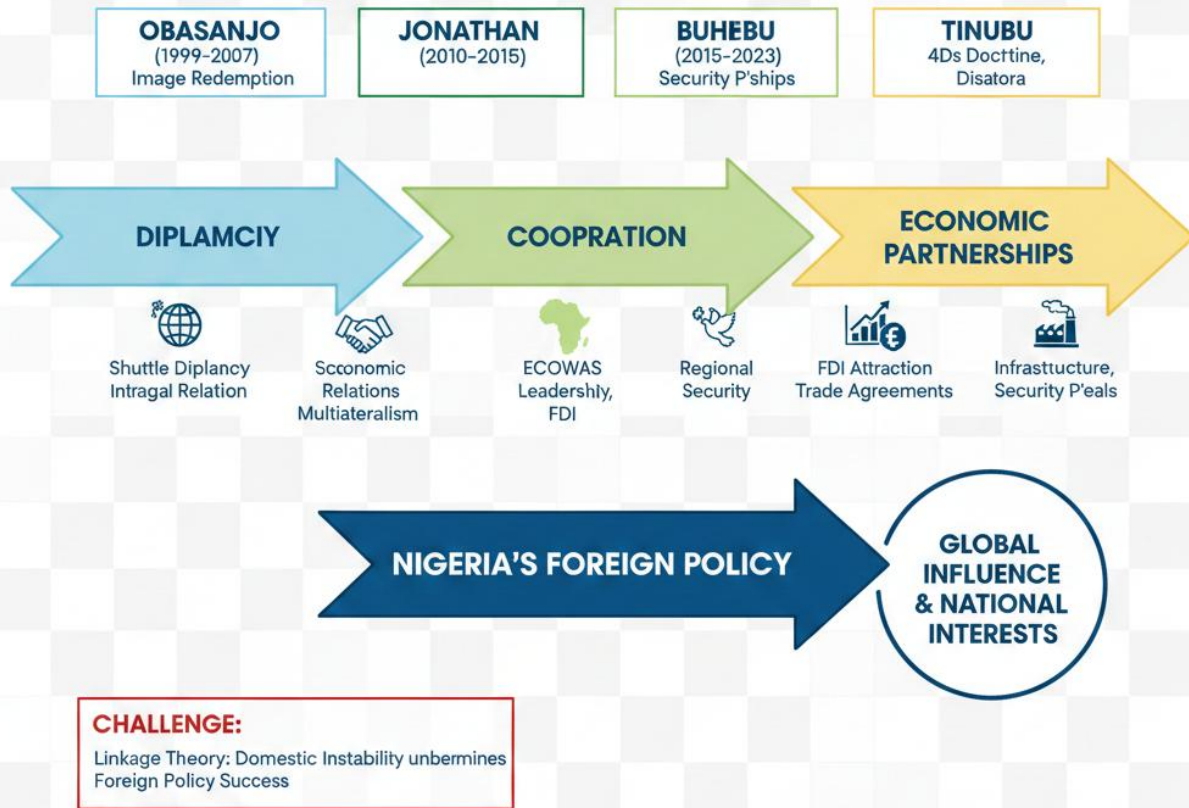


Diagram showing the influence of civilian administrations on Nigeria's foreign policy orientation
Caption: Figure 2.1 Civilian administrations and their foreign policy orientation

2.1.2 Impact of military regimes

Military regimes refer to governments led by armed forces, often established through coups. In Nigeria, military regimes have tended to adopt more assertive and interventionist foreign policies. Their approach reflected the military's preference for decisive action and control, both domestically and internationally.

Military governments often engaged in peacekeeping missions and regional interventions, asserting Nigeria's leadership role in Africa. For instance, Nigeria's involvement in Liberia and



Sierra Leone during the 1990s demonstrated the military's willingness to use force to achieve regional stability.

Fill in the blank: Military regimes in Nigeria often adopted more _____ and interventionist stances in foreign policy.



Image showing Nigerian military leaders at a regional summit
Caption: Plate 2.1 Military regimes and Nigeria's assertive foreign policy role

2.1.3 Role of leadership personalities

Leadership personalities refer to the individual traits, visions, and priorities of Nigeria's leaders that shape foreign policy direction. For example, Prime Minister Tafawa Balewa was known for



his cautious diplomacy, while General Murtala Mohammed adopted a bold and activist stance, particularly in African affairs.

Leadership personalities often determine the tone and emphasis of foreign policy. A leader's worldview, charisma, and political ideology can influence Nigeria's external relations, sometimes leading to significant shifts in orientation.

Fill in the blank: Leadership personalities often determine the _____ and emphasis of foreign policy.

Box 2.2

Nigeria: Leadership Personalities & Foreign Policy Styles

LEADER (YEARS)	FOREIGN POLICY STYLE
Olsegeun Obsanjo (1999–2007)	Diplomatic Shuttle Diplomacy & Debt Relief
Goodluck Jonathan (2010–2015)	Economic-Centricity & Infrastructure Partnerships (China)
Muhammadu Buhari (2015–2023)	4Ds Doctrine: Democracy, Dev, Disarm, Disrupt & Anti-Coup Stance
Bola Tinubu (2023–Present)	

Caption: Box 2.1 Examples of leadership personalities influencing Nigeria's foreign policy

Pilot questions 2.1



What term refers to governments led by elected officials operating within constitutional frameworks?

Fill in the blank: Civilian administrations in Nigeria often emphasised _____, cooperation, and consensus-building in foreign policy.

What type of regimes in Nigeria adopted more assertive and interventionist stances in foreign policy?

Identify one example of Nigeria's military involvement in regional peacekeeping.

Fill in the blank: Leadership personalities often determine the _____ and emphasis of foreign policy.

2.2 Pressure Groups and Domestic Actors

2.2.1 Political parties and their foreign policy positions

Political parties are organised groups that seek to gain political power and influence government decisions, including foreign policy. In Nigeria, political parties have historically shaped external relations through their ideological leanings and policy priorities. For example, parties with strong nationalist orientations emphasised sovereignty and African solidarity, while others focused on economic diplomacy and international cooperation.

Political parties also influence foreign policy through their manifestos, legislative actions, and the positions of their elected representatives. Their role ensures that foreign policy reflects not only leadership preferences but also broader political competition and debate.

Fill in the blank: Political parties influence foreign policy through their _____, legislative actions, and elected representatives.



Box 2.3

Nigeria: How Political Parties Influence Foreign Policy

<u>METHOD OF INFLUENCE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION & EXAMPLES</u>
1. Platform & Manifestos	Policies on trade, defense, and regional integration are outlined pre-election (eg, APC infrastructure focus).
2. Appointments & Patronage	Loyal party members fill ambassadorial & ministerial roles, aligning with party vision.
3. Legislative Oversight	Committees in the National Assembly review budgets, and executive actions.
4. Public Opinion Mobilization	Parties frame foreign issues to garner supporter support or criticize opposition.
5. Inter-Party Alliances	Forming blocs can amplify stance on national issues (eg, ECOWAS decisions).

Caption: Box 2.2 Political party influences on Nigeria's foreign policy

2.2.2 Influence of civil society and media

Civil society refers to non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, and community associations that represent public interests. In Nigeria, civil society has influenced foreign policy by advocating for human rights, democracy, and accountability in international engagements.



The **media** plays a complementary role by shaping public opinion and holding leaders accountable for foreign policy decisions. Through reporting, commentary, and investigative journalism, the media ensures transparency and stimulates debate on Nigeria's external relations.

Fill in the blank: Civil society influences foreign policy by advocating for _____, democracy, and accountability.

Box 2.4

Box 2.4: Nigeria: Civil Society & Media Influence on Foreign Policy



Diagram showing the influence of civil society and media on foreign policy Caption: Figure 2.2 Civil society and media as influencers of foreign policy

2.2.3 Role of business and economic interest groups



Business and economic interest groups are associations of industries, trade unions, and investors that lobby for policies favourable to economic growth and trade. In Nigeria, these groups have influenced foreign policy by pushing for agreements that open markets, protect investments, and encourage international partnerships.

For instance, oil companies and trade associations have played a significant role in shaping Nigeria's external economic relations, given the country's reliance on petroleum exports. Their influence ensures that foreign policy decisions align with economic priorities and development goals.

Fill in the blank: Business and economic interest groups lobby for policies that protect _____ and encourage international partnerships.

Box 2.5

Box 2.5: Nigeria: Civil Society Groups & Influence on Foreign Policy Influence

ECONOMIC INTEREST GROUP TYPE		METHOD OF INFLUENCE & EXAMPLES
	Advocacy & Lobbying	Lobbying for favorable trade policies, tax incentives 
	1. Multinational Corporations (MNCs)	Lobbying for favorable trade policies, tax incentives, and investment protection agreements (e. Shell, MTN)
	2. Domestic Business Conglomerates	Direct engagement with government officials, funding policy research, and advocacy (e.g. Dangote Group, Tony Elumelu's AfriCapitalism)
	3. Industry Associations (e.g., NACCIMA)	Collective bargaining for sectors-specific interests, input on trade regulations and regulatory content policies
	4. Labor Unions	Editorials against unfavorable economic policies, and foreign labor practices
SHAPING NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY DIRECTION 		
IMPACT: Increased transparency, accountability & responsiveness to citizen concerns		

Caption: Table 2.1 Economic interest groups and their influence on foreign policy



Pilot questions 2.2

Fill in the blank: Political parties influence foreign policy through their _____, legislative actions, and elected representatives.

What term refers to non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups that represent public interests?

Fill in the blank: Civil society influences foreign policy by advocating for _____, democracy, and accountability.

Which sector has played a significant role in shaping Nigeria's external economic relations?

Fill in the blank: Business and economic interest groups lobby for policies that protect _____ and encourage international partnerships.

2.3 Socio-Cultural and Ethnic Factors

2.3.1 Ethnic diversity and national cohesion

Ethnic diversity refers to the presence of multiple ethnic groups within a nation, each with distinct languages, traditions, and identities. Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups, with the three largest being Hausa-Fulani, Yoruba, and Igbo. This diversity has shaped Nigeria's domestic politics and, by extension, its foreign policy.

Foreign policy decisions often reflect the need to maintain **national cohesion**, ensuring that external actions do not exacerbate internal divisions. For instance, Nigeria's support for African unity has been partly motivated by its desire to project an image of internal harmony despite ethnic complexity.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy decisions often reflect the need to maintain _____ cohesion.



Box 2.6

Box 2.6: Nigeria: Diversity, National Cohesion & Foreign Policy

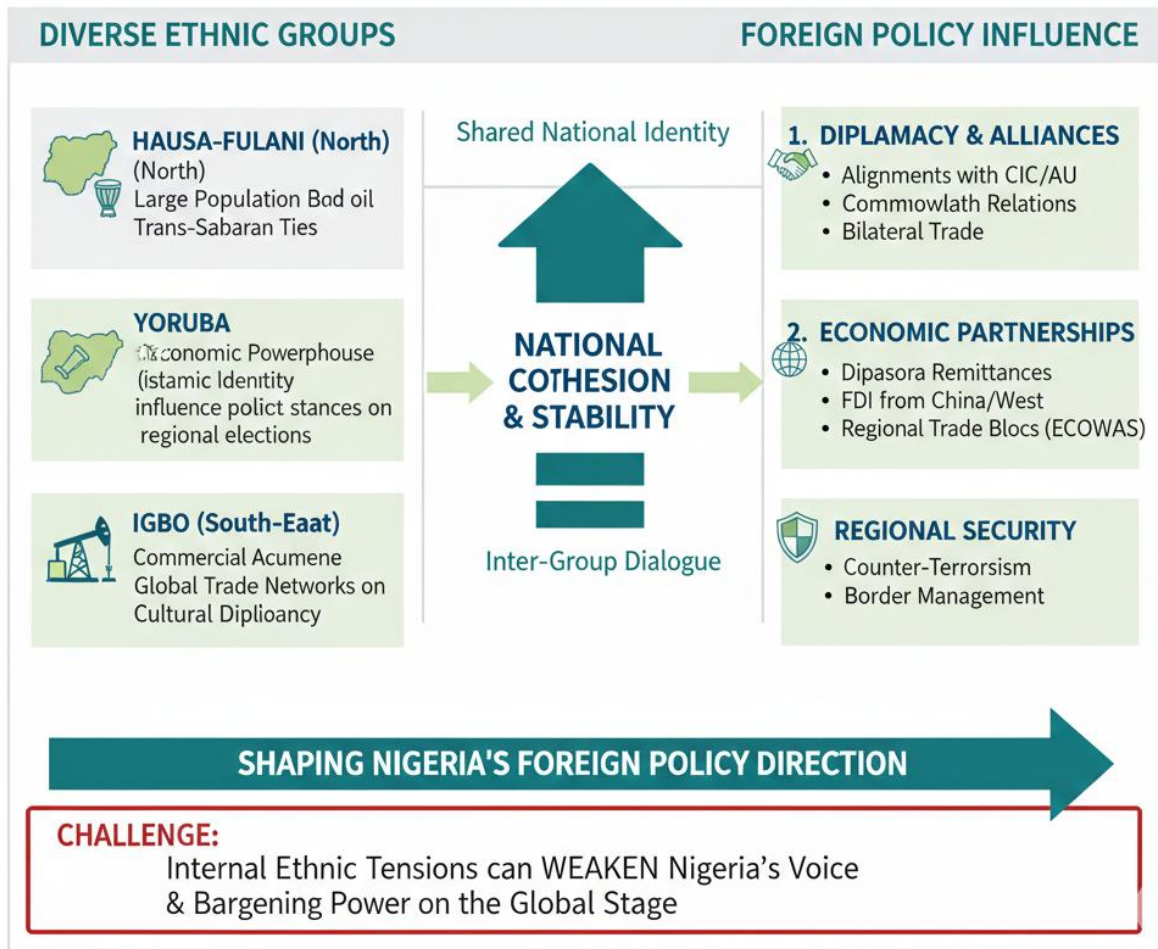


Diagram showing Nigeria's ethnic diversity and its influence on foreign policy cohesion
Caption: Figure 2.3 Ethnic diversity and national cohesion in Nigeria's foreign policy

2.3.2 Religious influences on external relations

Religious influences refer to the impact of faith-based values, institutions, and communities on Nigeria's foreign policy. Nigeria is religiously diverse, with Islam and Christianity being the dominant faiths, alongside traditional beliefs.

Religion has influenced Nigeria's external relations in several ways. For example, Nigeria's membership in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) reflected its Muslim population's interests, while its active participation in Christian-led humanitarian initiatives reflected its



Christian community's values. Religious considerations can therefore shape alliances, aid commitments, and diplomatic positions.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's membership in the _____ reflected its Muslim population's interests.



Image showing Nigerian delegates at an international religious organisation meeting Caption: Plate 2.2 Religious influences on Nigeria's external relations

2.3.3 Public opinion and national identity

Public opinion refers to the collective views of citizens on national and international issues, while **national identity** refers to the shared sense of belonging and values that unite Nigerians. Both factors influence foreign policy by shaping the legitimacy of government decisions.



For example, widespread public opposition to apartheid in South Africa strengthened Nigeria's foreign policy stance against racial discrimination. Similarly, national identity has motivated Nigeria to project itself as a leader in Africa, reinforcing policies that emphasise solidarity and regional cooperation.

Fill in the blank: Widespread public opposition to _____ in South Africa strengthened Nigeria's foreign policy stance against racial discrimination.

Box 2.7

Nigeria: Public Opinion Shaping Foreign Policy

ISSUE & YEAR	PUBLIC OPINION'S ROLE
1. South Africa Xenophobia (2017 & 2019)	Widespread public outrage & social media campaigns demanded govt action, leading to recall of ambassador & evacuation of citizens
2. #BringBackOurGirls (2014)	Global & domestic social media movement pressured Nigerian govt & international community for rescue efforts, impacting diplomatic relations
3. ECOWAS Sanctions on Niger (2023)	Mixed public reactions; concerns over economic impact on border communities influenced parliamentary debate & govt's cautious approach



IMPACT: Increased government responsiveness & policy adjustments

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10:52:01 PM WAT

Caption: Box 2.3 Examples of public opinion shaping Nigeria's foreign policy

Pilot questions 2.3

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy decisions often reflect the need to maintain _____ cohesion.



What term refers to the impact of faith-based values and communities on Nigeria's foreign policy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's membership in the _____ reflected its Muslim population's interests.

Identify one example of public opinion shaping Nigeria's foreign policy stance.

Fill in the blank: National identity has motivated Nigeria to project itself as a _____ in Africa.

2.4 Economic Conditions and Development Priorities

2.4.1 Oil economy and external engagements

The **oil economy** refers to Nigeria's heavy reliance on petroleum exports as the backbone of its national revenue. Since the 1970s, oil has shaped Nigeria's foreign policy by determining its external engagements, particularly with countries that are major consumers of petroleum. Oil wealth has enabled Nigeria to project influence in Africa and beyond, but it has also created vulnerabilities when global oil prices fluctuate.

Nigeria's oil dependence has often driven foreign policy decisions towards securing favourable trade agreements, attracting investment in the energy sector, and maintaining strategic relations with oil-importing nations.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy has often been driven by the need to secure favourable _____ agreements in the energy sector.



Box 2.8

Nigeria : Nigeria's Oil Economy & Foreign Policy

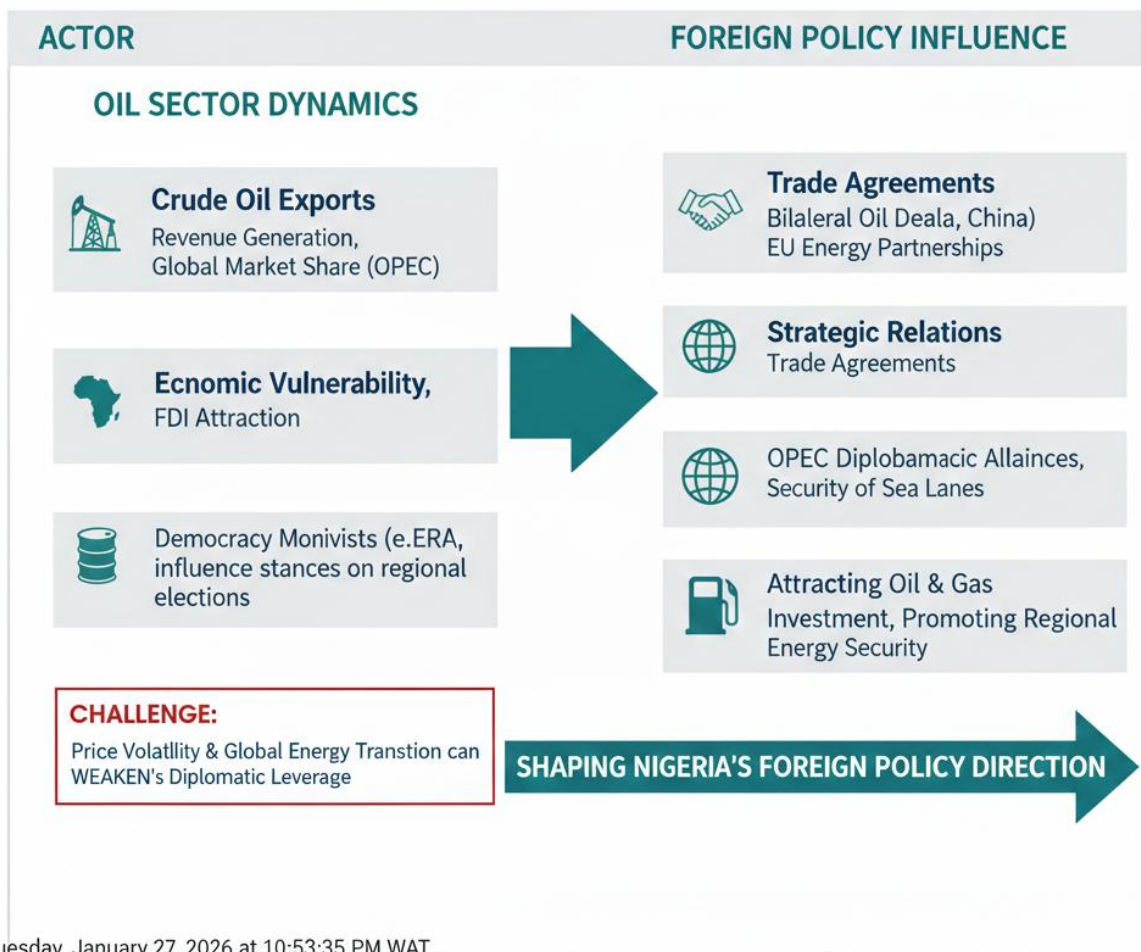


Diagram showing Nigeria's oil economy and its influence on foreign policy Caption: Figure 2.4 Oil economy as a driver of Nigeria's external engagements

2.4.2 Trade, investment, and industrialisation

Trade refers to the exchange of goods and services across borders, while **investment** involves the inflow of capital to support economic growth. **Industrialisation** is the process of developing industries to diversify the economy. These three factors have significantly influenced Nigeria's foreign policy by shaping its external partnerships and priorities.

Nigeria has sought to expand trade relations beyond oil, attract foreign investment, and promote industrialisation to reduce dependence on petroleum. Foreign policy initiatives often include



negotiating trade agreements, participating in regional economic blocs, and encouraging international investors to support domestic industries.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy initiatives often include negotiating _____ agreements and encouraging international investors.

Box 2.9

Box 2.9: Nigeria: Trade Investment Industrialisation & Foreign Policy

ECONOMIC DRIVER	MECHANISM OF INFLUENCE	FOREIGN POLICY OUTCOME / EXAMPLE
 Trade  Bilateral & Multilateral Agreements; Market Access Negotiations	FDI Attraction; Investor Protection Treaties; Treaties; Capital Flows	ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation; AfCFTA Engagement; EU-Nigeria EPA Talks Partnerships with China (Infrastructure Loans); US & Investment Summits
 Investment  Industrialisation	Technology Transfer; Economic Economic Diversification, Manufacturing Hub Development	Establishment of Free Trade Trade Zones; 'Made in Nigeria' Campaign; Global Value Chain Integration

SHAPING NIGERIA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

CHALLENGE: Global Competitiveness & Infrastructure Deficits can HINDER Economic Influence Abroad

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10:55:00 PM WAT

Caption: Table 2.2 Trade, investment, and industrialisation influences on foreign policy

2.4.3 Domestic economic challenges and foreign policy responses

Domestic economic challenges such as inflation, unemployment, debt, and poverty have influenced Nigeria's foreign policy responses. Governments often seek external assistance, loans, and partnerships to address these challenges.



For example, Nigeria's engagement with international financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank has been shaped by the need to stabilise the economy. Similarly, foreign policy decisions have included seeking debt relief and negotiating aid packages to support development priorities.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's engagement with international financial institutions such as the _____ has been shaped by the need to stabilise the economy.

Box 2.10

Nigeria: Domestic Economic Challenges & Foreign Policy

<u>CHALLENGE</u>	<u>FOREIGN POLICY INFLUENCE & OUTCOME</u>
Inflation & Currency Devaluation (2017 & 2019)	Weakens purchasing power, power, reduces trade competize competibilizes, impacts currency exchange agreements
Unmpolpyymment & Poverty (2013)	Drives irregular migration, creates creates diplomatic pressure on host countries, diapacing engagement relations
Infrastructure Deficit (Power, Roads)	necessties disalora engaagement, attractiviness for FDI & caustiouts partnerships

SHAPING NIGERIA'S GLOBAL DIPLOMACY & ECONOMIC RELATIONS

IMPACT: Reduces Barguning Power & Credibilty
Credibility on a HINDER Economic Infubal Stage

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10:56:06 PM WAT

Caption: Box 2.4 Examples of domestic economic challenges influencing foreign policy

Pilot questions 2.4

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy has often been driven by the need to secure favourable _____ agreements in the energy sector.



What term refers to the process of developing industries to diversify the economy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy initiatives often include negotiating _____ agreements and encouraging international investors.

Identify one international financial institution Nigeria has engaged with to stabilise its economy.

Fill in the blank: Domestic economic challenges such as inflation and debt have influenced Nigeria's foreign policy _____.

Series Summary

This Series has examined how Nigeria's domestic environment shapes its external relations, highlighting the importance of internal political, social, and economic realities in guiding foreign policy decisions. The purpose was to help you connect domestic pressures with Nigeria's international actions, showing that foreign policy is not only about external engagements but also a reflection of internal governance, societal dynamics, and economic priorities.

We began by exploring political structures and governance, focusing on the influence of civilian administrations, military regimes, and leadership personalities. Then we considered the role of pressure groups and domestic actors, including political parties, civil society, media, and business interests. Following that, we examined socio-cultural and ethnic factors such as ethnic diversity, religious influences, and public opinion. Finally, we analysed economic conditions and development priorities, looking at the oil economy, trade, investment, and domestic challenges. By completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse the impact of political structures, evaluate the role of domestic actors, explain socio-cultural influences, and assess how economic conditions shape Nigeria's foreign policy, as outlined in the Series Learning Outcomes.

Glossary of Terms

Civilian administrations: Governments led by elected officials operating within constitutional frameworks, often emphasising diplomacy, cooperation, and consensus-building in foreign policy.

Civil society: Non-governmental organisations, advocacy groups, and community associations that represent public interests and influence foreign policy through advocacy for human rights, democracy, and accountability.

Economic interest groups: Associations of industries, trade unions, and investors that lobby for policies favourable to economic growth, trade, and investment, thereby shaping Nigeria's external relations.

Ethnic diversity: The presence of multiple ethnic groups within Nigeria, each with distinct languages, traditions, and identities, which influences national cohesion and foreign policy decisions.

Industrialisation: The process of developing industries to diversify the economy beyond oil, often shaping Nigeria's foreign policy priorities towards trade and investment.



Leadership personalities: The traits, visions, and priorities of Nigeria's leaders that determine the tone and emphasis of foreign policy, sometimes leading to significant shifts in orientation.

Media: Communication platforms such as newspapers, radio, television, and online outlets that shape public opinion and hold leaders accountable for foreign policy decisions.

Military regimes: Governments led by armed forces, often established through coups, which tend to adopt assertive and interventionist foreign policy stances.

National cohesion: The unity and stability of Nigeria's diverse population, which foreign policy decisions aim to protect and project in external relations.

Oil economy: Nigeria's reliance on petroleum exports as the backbone of national revenue, which strongly influences its foreign policy engagements and external partnerships.

Political parties: Organised groups that seek to gain political power and influence government decisions, including foreign policy, through manifestos, legislative actions, and elected representatives.

Public opinion: The collective views of citizens on national and international issues, which influence the legitimacy and direction of foreign policy decisions.

Religious influences: The impact of faith-based values, institutions, and communities on Nigeria's foreign policy, shaping alliances, aid commitments, and diplomatic positions.

Trade: The exchange of goods and services across borders, which influences Nigeria's foreign policy through the negotiation of bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Concept Check Questions [Series 2]

Objective Questions

Which type of government in Nigeria often emphasised diplomacy, cooperation, and consensus-building in foreign policy? (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Fill in the blank: Military regimes in Nigeria often adopted more _____ and interventionist stances in foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Political parties influence foreign policy through their _____, legislative actions, and elected representatives. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Nigeria's membership in the _____ reflected its Muslim population's interests. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Nigeria's foreign policy has often been driven by the need to secure favourable _____ agreements in the energy sector. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Short-Answer Questions

Explain how leadership personalities have influenced Nigeria's foreign policy orientation. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Identify two ways civil society and media shape Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 2.2)



Describe how ethnic diversity affects Nigeria's foreign policy decisions. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

List three domestic economic challenges that have influenced Nigeria's foreign policy responses. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Define industrialisation and explain its relevance to Nigeria's foreign policy priorities. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the influence of political structures and governance, including civilian administrations, military regimes, and leadership personalities, on Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 2.1)

Evaluate the role of pressure groups and domestic actors such as political parties, civil society, media, and business interests in shaping Nigeria's external relations. (Linked to SLO 2.2)

Explain how socio-cultural and ethnic factors, including ethnic diversity, religious influences, and public opinion, affect Nigeria's foreign policy decisions. (Linked to SLO 2.3)

Assess the impact of economic conditions and development priorities, particularly the oil economy, trade, investment, and domestic challenges, on Nigeria's external engagements. (Linked to SLO 2.4)

[Answers to Concept Check Questions \[Series 2\]](#)

Objective Questions

Civilian administrations.

Assertive.

Manifestos.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Trade.

Short-Answer Questions

Leadership personalities determine the tone and emphasis of foreign policy. For example, Tafawa Balewa promoted cautious diplomacy, while Murtala Mohammed adopted bold activism in African affairs.

Civil society advocates for democracy and human rights, while the media shapes public opinion and holds leaders accountable.

Nigeria's ethnic diversity requires foreign policy decisions that promote national cohesion and avoid exacerbating internal divisions.

Inflation, unemployment, and debt are examples of domestic economic challenges influencing Nigeria's foreign policy.

Industrialisation is the process of developing industries to diversify the economy. It is relevant to foreign policy because it drives Nigeria to seek trade agreements and investment partnerships that support economic diversification.



Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Civilian administrations emphasised diplomacy and cooperation, military regimes adopted assertive stances, and leadership personalities shaped the tone of foreign policy.

Value-added response: Outstanding learners may add that leadership styles reflected broader political contexts, with military leaders using foreign policy to assert Nigeria's regional dominance, while civilian leaders sought legitimacy through international cooperation.

Basic response: Political parties, civil society, media, and business groups influence Nigeria's foreign policy through manifestos, advocacy, public opinion, and lobbying. *Value-added response:* Learners may extend this by noting that business groups, particularly oil companies, have shaped Nigeria's external economic relations, while civil society has pressured governments to adopt human rights-based foreign policies.

Basic response: Ethnic diversity, religious influences, and public opinion affect Nigeria's foreign policy by shaping legitimacy and alliances. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that Nigeria's ethnic and religious diversity has sometimes created tensions in foreign policy, such as debates over OIC membership, while public opinion has strengthened Nigeria's stance against apartheid and promoted African solidarity.

Basic response: Nigeria's oil economy, trade, investment, and domestic challenges have influenced foreign policy by driving external engagements and partnerships. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may highlight that oil dependence created vulnerabilities during price fluctuations, while engagement with international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank reflected Nigeria's need to stabilise its economy and secure development support.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 2]

Pilot questions 2.1

Civilian administrations
Diplomacy
Military regimes
Liberia and Sierra Leone interventions
Tone

Pilot questions 2.2

Manifestos
Civil society
Human rights
Oil sector
Investments

Pilot questions 2.3



National cohesion

Religious influences

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

Opposition to apartheid in South Africa

Leader

Pilot questions 2.4

Trade agreements

Industrialisation

Trade agreements

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Responses

References and Attributions [Series 2]

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SERIES 3: Nigeria and Its African Neighbours

3.1 Historical foundations of Nigeria–African relations

- 3.1.1 Colonial legacies and independence movements
- 3.1.2 Nigeria's early African policy orientation
- 3.1.3 Pan-Africanism and solidarity with liberation struggles

3.2 Bilateral relations with neighbouring states

- 3.2.1 Relations with West African neighbours (e.g., Benin, Niger, Cameroon)
- 3.2.2 Border issues and cross-border cooperation
- 3.2.3 Security and migration challenges

3.3 Nigeria's role in regional organisations

- 3.3.1 Leadership in ECOWAS
- 3.3.2 Contributions to African Union initiatives
- 3.3.3 Peacekeeping and conflict resolution in Africa

3.4 Contemporary challenges and opportunities

- 3.4.1 Economic integration and trade relations
- 3.4.2 Regional security threats (terrorism, insurgency, piracy)
- 3.4.3 Nigeria's vision for African development and cooperation

Introduction

Nigeria's foreign policy cannot be fully understood without considering its relations with neighbouring African states. As the most populous country on the continent and a regional power in West Africa, Nigeria's interactions with its neighbours have shaped both its domestic priorities and its international standing. This Series highlights the historical, political, and economic dimensions of Nigeria's African relations, helping you appreciate how regional ties influence broader foreign policy directions.

The aim of this Series is to examine Nigeria's relations with its African neighbours, focusing on historical foundations, bilateral engagements, regional leadership, and contemporary challenges. By doing so, it seeks to equip you with the ability to analyse Nigeria's role in Africa and evaluate how regional dynamics shape its external relations.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the historical foundations of Nigeria–African relations, including colonial legacies, independence movements, and solidarity with liberation struggles. Next, we will examine Nigeria's bilateral relations with neighbouring states, paying attention to border issues, cooperation, and security challenges. Following that, we will consider



Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, highlighting its leadership and peacekeeping contributions. Finally, we will wrap up by analysing contemporary challenges and opportunities, including economic integration, regional security threats, and Nigeria's vision for African development and cooperation.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 3.1** analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's relations with African neighbours, including colonial legacies, independence movements, and solidarity with liberation struggles,
- SLO 3.2** evaluate Nigeria's bilateral relations with neighbouring states, focusing on border issues, cross-border cooperation, and security challenges,
- SLO 3.3** explain Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, highlighting its leadership and peacekeeping contributions, and
- SLO 3.4** assess contemporary challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's African relations, including economic integration, regional security threats, and its vision for continental development.

3.1 Historical Foundations of Nigeria–African Relations

3.1.1 Colonial legacies and independence movements

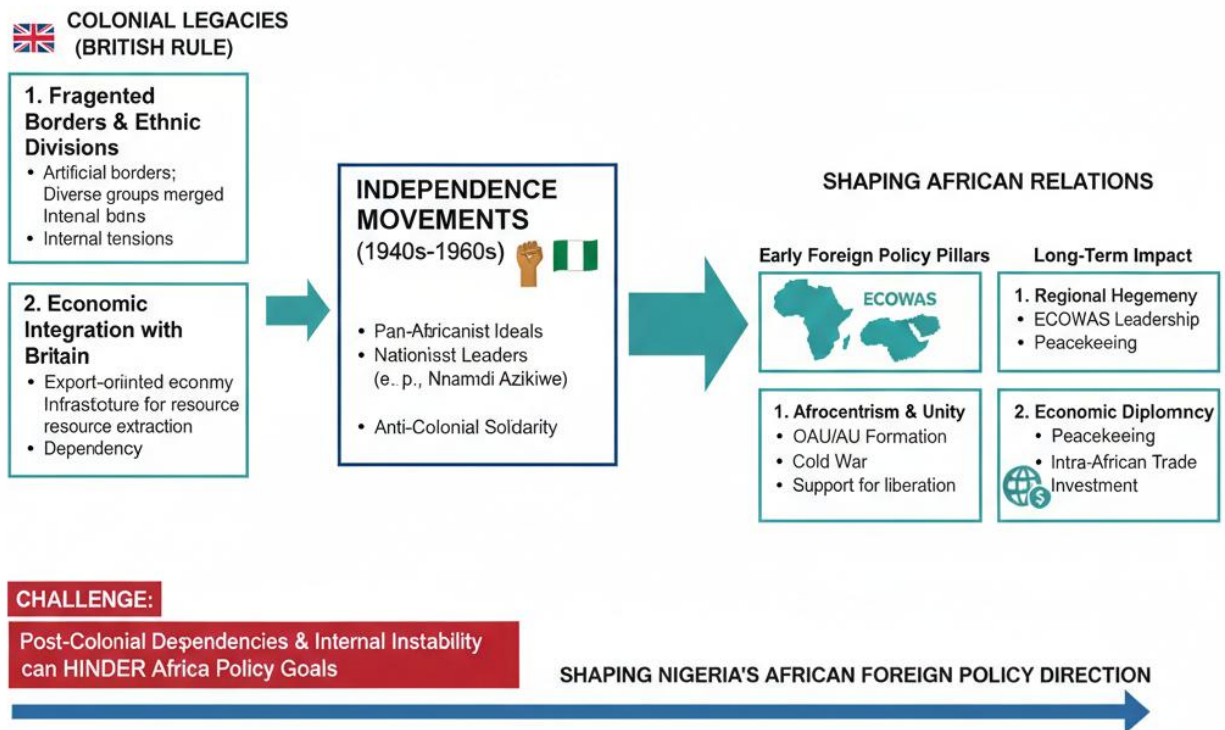
Colonial legacies refer to the political, economic, and social structures left behind by European colonial powers, which shaped the relations among African states after independence. Nigeria, like many African countries, inherited borders that did not reflect ethnic or cultural realities, leading to challenges in regional cooperation.

The **independence movements** across Africa created a sense of solidarity among newly independent states. Nigeria, gaining independence in 1960, quickly aligned itself with other African nations to support decolonisation and resist neo-colonial influences. This historical context explains why Nigeria's foreign policy has consistently emphasised African unity and anti-colonial struggles.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy emphasis on African unity was strongly influenced by the _____ movements across the continent.



Box 2.11 Nigeria: Colonial Legacies, Independence & African Relations



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:03:45 PM WAT

Diagram showing colonial legacies and independence movements shaping Nigeria's African relations
Caption: Figure 3.1 Colonial legacies and independence movements in Nigeria's African relations

3.1.2 Nigeria's early African policy orientation

African policy orientation refers to Nigeria's deliberate prioritisation of Africa as the cornerstone of its foreign policy. From independence, Nigeria declared that Africa would be the centrepiece of its external relations. This meant that Nigeria's diplomatic, economic, and security engagements were first directed towards African states before extending globally.

Nigeria's early African policy included supporting liberation movements, promoting regional cooperation, and advocating for African voices in international organisations. This orientation



reinforced Nigeria's identity as a leader in Africa and shaped its long-term foreign policy trajectory.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence.

Box 2.12

Nigeria's Early African Policy: "Africa Centrepece" Orientation

POLICY PILLAR	DESCRIPTION & EXAMPLES
1. Afrocentrism	• Africa as the focal point of foreign foreign (OAU/AU)
2. Pan-Afrfrican Solidarity	• Advocacy for independence across Africa; aid to liberation movements
3. Anti-Colonialism & Liberation	
3. Regional Cooperation	• Leadership in ECOWAS; conflict mediation (e..p, Liberia, Liberia, Sierra Lone)
4. Regional Cooperation	
5. Non-Alinment	• Avoding Cold War blocs; independent foreign stance

SHAPING NIGERIA'S ROLE AS REGIONAL HEGEMON

IMPACT:

Established Nigeria as a key diplomatic & stablizing force in Africa.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:00:48 PM WAT

Caption: Box 3.1 Nigeria's early African policy orientation

3.1.3 Pan-Africanism and solidarity with liberation struggles

Pan-Africanism is the ideology that emphasises unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African peoples and states. Nigeria embraced Pan-Africanism by supporting liberation struggles in countries such as South Africa, Angola, and Zimbabwe.



Nigeria provided financial assistance, diplomatic support, and even military aid to liberation movements, reinforcing its image as a champion of African freedom. This solidarity was not only moral but also strategic, as Nigeria sought to strengthen its leadership role in Africa and ensure stability in the region.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria embraced _____ by supporting liberation struggles in countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe.



Image showing Nigerian leaders meeting with African liberation movement representatives
Caption: Plate 3.1 Nigeria's solidarity with African liberation struggles

Pilot questions 3.1



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's foreign policy emphasis on African unity was strongly influenced by the _____ movements across the continent.

What term refers to Nigeria's deliberate prioritisation of Africa as the cornerstone of its foreign policy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence.

What ideology emphasises unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African peoples and states?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria embraced _____ by supporting liberation struggles in countries such as South Africa and Zimbabwe.

3.2 Bilateral Relations With Neighbouring States

3.2.1 Relations with West African neighbours

Nigeria shares borders with several **West African neighbours**, including Benin, Niger, and Cameroon. These relationships have been shaped by historical ties, cultural exchanges, and economic cooperation. Nigeria has often promoted trade and cross-border movement, while also working to resolve disputes peacefully.

However, challenges such as smuggling, illegal migration, and border insecurity have sometimes strained these relations. Despite these issues, Nigeria continues to play a leading role in fostering regional integration and cooperation with its neighbours.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria shares borders with Benin, Niger, and _____ as part of its West African relations.



Box 2.13: Nigeria's West African Border Relations



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:03:15 PM WAT

Diagram showing Nigeria and its West African neighbours with key border points Caption: Figure 3.2 Nigeria's West African neighbours and border relations

3.2.2 Border issues and cross-border cooperation

Border issues refer to disputes or challenges arising from the demarcation and management of boundaries between Nigeria and its neighbours. For example, Nigeria and Cameroon experienced a long-standing dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula, which was eventually resolved through international arbitration.

At the same time, **cross-border cooperation** has been essential for promoting peace and development. Nigeria has engaged in joint initiatives with neighbours to improve border security,



facilitate trade, and manage shared resources. These efforts highlight the balance between conflict resolution and collaboration in Nigeria's bilateral relations.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria and _____ resolved their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula through international arbitration.

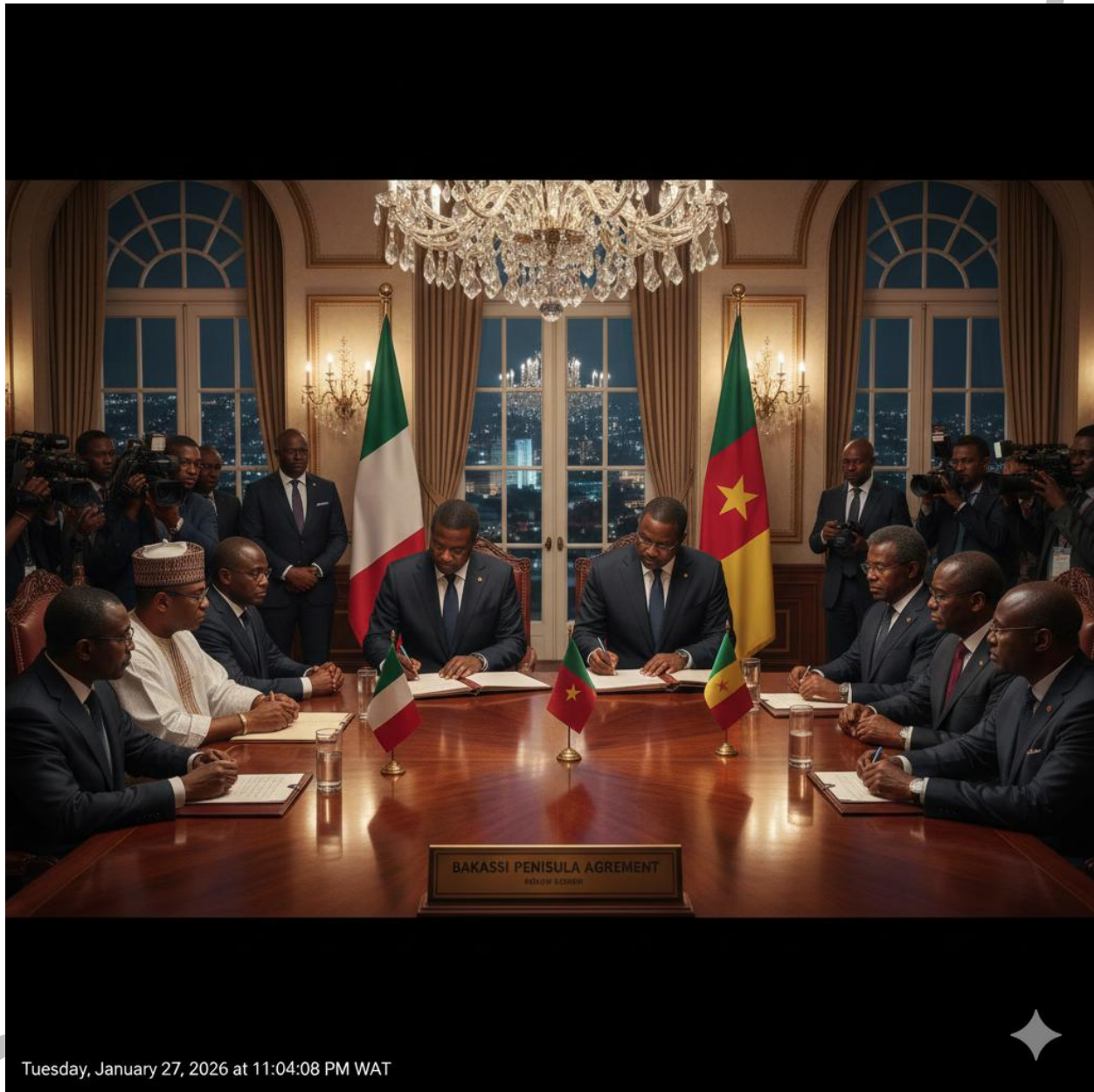


Image showing Nigerian and Cameroonian officials signing a border agreement Caption: Plate 3.2 Nigeria–Cameroon border agreement on the Bakassi Peninsula

3.2.3 Security and migration challenges



Security challenges along Nigeria's borders include terrorism, insurgency, and cross-border crime. Groups such as Boko Haram have operated across Nigeria's northeastern borders, affecting relations with Niger, Chad, and Cameroon.

Migration challenges involve the movement of people across borders, often for economic opportunities. While migration fosters cultural exchange and labour mobility, it can also create tensions when linked to resource competition or insecurity. Nigeria has worked with neighbouring states to strengthen border patrols and manage migration flows responsibly.

Fill in the blank: Cross-border crime and insurgency, including the activities of _____, have affected Nigeria's relations with neighbouring states.

Box 2.14

Nigeria: Border Security & Migration Migration Challenges

CHALLENGE	FOREIN POLICY IMPACT & OUTCOME
Regional Insecurity & Terrosism (e.g, Boko Haram, ISWAP) Irrullgar Migration & Human Human Traffcling (2013) Transhational Organized Crime (Smulging, Arms/Drug Traffccking)	- Joint military operations across across - Joint military operations (MNJJP) Strenghtned intelligence sharing Diplamtic pressure for regional stability - Bilaireral agreements with Humathatian aid & repoitration efforts Regional policy harmolization (ECOWAS) - Enhanced border management Law enforement cooperation international partnerships foreign stance

SHAPING NIGERIA'S REGIONAL DIPLOMACY & SECURITY STRATEGY

IMPACT:
 STRACT: STRAINS Neghborly Relations &
 Requires Collective Action.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 10:56:06 PM WAT

Caption: Box 3.2 Security and migration challenges in Nigeria's bilateral relations



Pilot questions 3.2

Fill in the blank: Nigeria shares borders with Benin, Niger, and _____ as part of its West African relations.

What term refers to disputes or challenges arising from the demarcation and management of boundaries between Nigeria and its neighbours?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria and _____ resolved their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula through international arbitration.

Identify one example of a security challenge affecting Nigeria's relations with neighbouring states.

Fill in the blank: Cross-border crime and insurgency, including the activities of _____, have affected Nigeria's relations with neighbouring states.

3.3 Nigeria's Role in Regional Organisations

3.3.1 Leadership in ECOWAS

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) is a regional organisation established to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries. Nigeria has played a leading role in ECOWAS since its inception in 1975, contributing significantly to its policies and initiatives.

Nigeria's leadership has been evident in its financial contributions, diplomatic influence, and peacekeeping efforts within the region. By championing integration, Nigeria has sought to strengthen regional trade, security, and collective bargaining power in global affairs.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has played a leading role in _____ since its inception in 1975.



Box 2.15

Nigeria's Leadership in ECOWAS & Regional Strategy

LEADERSHIP PILLARS



1. Financial Contributions

- Largest contributor to ECOWAS budget
- Funds regional infrastructure projects
- Supports development initiatives



2. Diplomacy & Mediation

- Leads conflict resolution
- Leads conflict resolution efforts
- Negotiates regional trade agreements
- Promotes political stability & democracy



3. Peacekeeping & Security

- Deploys troops for regional missions (e.g., ECOMOG)
- Combats transnational crime
- Intelligence sharing on terrorism

SHAPING WEST AFRICAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION

CHALLENGE:

Disputes over funding, national interests, & implementation can **STRAIN ECOWAS cohesion.**

NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES:
Regional Hegemony & Stability

IMPACT: Promotes economic growth, peace, & collective security in West Africa

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:06:17 PM WAT

Diagram showing Nigeria's leadership role in ECOWAS
Caption: Figure 3.3 Nigeria's leadership in ECOWAS

3.3.2 Contributions to African Union initiatives

The **African Union (AU)** is a continental organisation that promotes unity, peace, and development across Africa. Nigeria has been an active member, contributing to AU initiatives such as conflict resolution, democratic governance, and economic development programmes.

Nigeria's participation in AU summits and committees has reinforced its image as a continental leader. It has also supported AU-led projects on infrastructure, health, and education, aligning its national priorities with broader African goals.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria has contributed to AU initiatives such as conflict resolution, _____ governance, and economic development programmes.



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:07:53 PM WAT

Image showing Nigerian delegates at an African Union summit Caption: Plate 3.3 Nigeria's contributions to African Union initiatives

3.3.3 Peacekeeping and conflict resolution in Africa

Peacekeeping refers to military or diplomatic efforts aimed at maintaining peace in conflict zones, while **conflict resolution** involves strategies to address and resolve disputes. Nigeria has been a major contributor to peacekeeping missions in Africa, particularly through ECOWAS and AU frameworks.



Examples include Nigeria's involvement in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Darfur, where it provided troops, funding, and mediation support. These efforts highlight Nigeria's commitment to regional stability and its willingness to bear the costs of leadership in Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has been a major contributor to _____ missions in Africa, particularly through ECOWAS and AU frameworks.

Box 2.16

Nigeria's Peacekeeping & Conflict Resolution in Africa

MISSION/EFFORT & YEAR	ROLE & OUTCOME
	- Led multinational force, independence across, facilitated elections - Deploys troops, restore peace, facilitated elections
	- Intervened to end civil war, disarmed combatants - Stabilized country during crisis, ensured peaceful transition
	- Stabilized country during political crisis, ensured peaceful transition - Provided troops/police, supported stabilization, monitoring efforts against insurgency

SHAPING REGIONAL PEACE & SECURITY

IMPACT: Establishes Nigeria's leadership & leadership commitment to African stability

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:09:05 PM WAT

Caption: Box 3.3 Nigeria's peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts in Africa

Pilot questions 3.3

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has played a leading role in _____ since its inception in 1975.

What continental organisation promotes unity, peace, and development across Africa?



Fill in the blank: Nigeria has contributed to AU initiatives such as conflict resolution, _____ governance, and economic development programmes.

Identify one example of Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping missions in Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has been a major contributor to _____ missions in Africa, particularly through ECOWAS and AU frameworks.

3.4 Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

3.4.1 Economic integration and trade relations

Economic integration refers to the process of creating closer economic ties among countries through trade agreements, shared markets, and cooperative policies. Nigeria has actively promoted economic integration in Africa, particularly through ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Trade relations with neighbouring states have been both an opportunity and a challenge. While Nigeria benefits from expanded markets and regional cooperation, issues such as smuggling, tariff disputes, and infrastructural gaps have sometimes hindered progress. Nonetheless, Nigeria continues to advocate for stronger regional trade frameworks to boost development.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has promoted economic integration in Africa through ECOWAS and the _____.



Nigeria's Role in ECOWAS & AfCFTA

INITIATIVE	ROLE & BENEFITS	CHALLENGES
 ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) • Regional Hegemon: Largest economy, Leads peacekeeping missions, conflict resolution • Trade Integration: Promotes free movement of goods, people, capital	• Market Access • Implementation: Slow enforcement funding. Funding Disputes: Burden-sharing issues Diversification: Boosts a host of non-oil sectors, manufacturing Attracts FDI across Africa	Market Access Access a firm Gaps: Slow enforcement of protocols. Insecurity instability (e.g., terrorism) • Infrastructure Deficit: Poor roads, power power hinder trades • Infrastructure Deficit: Non-Tariff Barriers: Customs delays, regulatory hurdles Competition: Facing goods from more developed African economies
 AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area)		

SHAPING NIGERIA'S CONTINENTAL INFLUENCE & ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

IMPACT: Bolsters Nigeria's leadership & economic growth, but requires ADDRESSING deep-seated domestic & domestic & regional issues for full potential.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:12:34 PM WAT

Caption: Table 3.1 Economic integration and trade relations in Nigeria's African policy

3.4.2 Regional security threats

Regional security threats include terrorism, insurgency, piracy, and cross-border crime that affect Nigeria and its neighbours. Boko Haram and other extremist groups have destabilised parts of West Africa, requiring Nigeria to collaborate with regional partners in counter-terrorism efforts.

Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has also posed a major challenge, threatening trade and maritime security. Nigeria has worked with neighbouring states and international partners to strengthen naval patrols and improve intelligence sharing.



Fill in the blank: Piracy in the _____ has posed a major challenge to Nigeria's trade and maritime security.

Box 2.18: Nigeria: Regional Security Threats & Cooperative Responses



Diagram showing Nigeria's regional security threats and cooperative responses
Caption: Figure 3.4 Regional security threats and Nigeria's cooperative responses

3.4.3 Nigeria's vision for African development and cooperation

Nigeria's vision for Africa emphasises **development and cooperation**, focusing on economic growth, political stability, and continental unity. Nigeria has consistently advocated for African-led solutions to African problems, promoting initiatives that strengthen infrastructure, education, and governance.



This vision is reflected in Nigeria's support for regional organisations, its leadership in peacekeeping, and its commitment to continental projects such as AfCFTA. By positioning itself as a driver of African development, Nigeria seeks to reinforce its role as a continental leader.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has consistently advocated for _____-led solutions to African problems.

Box 2.19

Nigeria's Vision for African Development & Cooperation

VISION PILLARS		DESCRIPTION & INITIATIVES
1. 	Economic Integration & Prosperity	Advocating for AfCFTA implementation, regional infrastructure projects, and intra-African trade.
2. 	Peace, Security & Stability	Leading ECOWAS peacekeeping missions, counter-terrorism efforts, and conflict mediation
3. 	Good Governance & Democracy	Promoting democratic values, institutional strengthening, and anti-corruption initiatives
4. 	Human Capital & Innovation	Investing in education, technology transfer and youth empowerment programs across Africa

SHAPING A UNITED & PROSPEROUS AFRICA

CHALLENGE: Funding shortfalls, political instability, and diverse national interests can HINDER Vision's full realization.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:13:00 PM WAT

Caption: Box 3.4 Nigeria's vision for African development and cooperation

Pilot questions 3.4

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has promoted economic integration in Africa through ECOWAS and the _____.



What term refers to terrorism, insurgency, piracy, and cross-border crime affecting Nigeria and its neighbours?

Fill in the blank: Piracy in the _____ has posed a major challenge to Nigeria's trade and maritime security.

Identify one initiative that reflects Nigeria's vision for African development and cooperation.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has consistently advocated for _____-led solutions to African problems.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on Nigeria's relations with its African neighbours, highlighting the historical, political, and economic dimensions that shape regional interactions. Its purpose was to show how Nigeria's position as a regional power influences both its bilateral ties and its leadership role in continental organisations, while also addressing the challenges and opportunities that arise from these engagements.

We began by examining the historical foundations of Nigeria–African relations, including colonial legacies, independence movements, and Pan-African solidarity. Then we explored Nigeria's bilateral relations with neighbouring states, looking at border issues, cooperation, and security concerns. Following that, we considered Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, with emphasis on leadership, contributions, and peacekeeping. Finally, we analysed contemporary challenges and opportunities, including economic integration, regional security threats, and Nigeria's vision for African development. By completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse historical foundations, evaluate bilateral relations, explain Nigeria's role in regional organisations, and assess contemporary challenges and opportunities, as outlined in the Series Learning Outcomes.

Glossary of Terms

African policy orientation: Nigeria's deliberate prioritisation of Africa as the centrepiece of its foreign policy, focusing on regional cooperation and solidarity.

African Union (AU): A continental organisation that promotes unity, peace, and development across Africa, with Nigeria as an active member.

Bilateral relations: Direct political, economic, and social interactions between Nigeria and individual neighbouring states such as Benin, Niger, and Cameroon.

Border issues: Disputes or challenges arising from the demarcation and management of boundaries between Nigeria and its neighbours, such as the Bakassi Peninsula conflict with Cameroon.

Colonial legacies: Political, economic, and social structures left behind by European colonial powers that continue to shape relations among African states.



Conflict resolution: Strategies and efforts aimed at addressing and resolving disputes between or within states, often involving mediation or negotiation.

Cross-border cooperation: Collaborative initiatives between Nigeria and its neighbours to promote peace, trade, and security across shared boundaries.

Economic integration: The process of creating closer economic ties among countries through trade agreements, shared markets, and cooperative policies.

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States): A regional organisation established in 1975 to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries, with Nigeria playing a leading role.

Independence movements: Struggles by African nations to gain freedom from colonial rule, which fostered solidarity and influenced Nigeria's foreign policy emphasis on African unity.

Migration challenges: Issues arising from the movement of people across Nigeria's borders, including labour mobility, resource competition, and insecurity.

Pan-Africanism: An ideology that emphasises unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African peoples and states, strongly embraced by Nigeria.

Peacekeeping: Military or diplomatic efforts aimed at maintaining peace in conflict zones, where Nigeria has contributed troops and mediation support.

Regional security threats: Challenges such as terrorism, insurgency, piracy, and cross-border crime that affect Nigeria and its neighbours.

Smuggling: The illegal movement of goods across Nigeria's borders, often undermining trade relations and economic stability.

Trade relations: Economic interactions between Nigeria and its neighbours, involving the exchange of goods and services across borders.

Vision for African development: Nigeria's long-term commitment to promoting economic growth, political stability, and continental unity, often expressed through advocacy for African-led solutions.

Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Which regional organisation was established in 1975 to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries? (Linked to SLO 3.3)

Fill in the blank: Piracy in the _____ has posed a major challenge to Nigeria's trade and maritime security. (Linked to SLO 3.4)



What ideology emphasises unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African peoples and states? (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Nigeria and _____ resolved their dispute over the Bakassi Peninsula through international arbitration. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Short-Answer Questions

Define colonial legacies and explain how they shaped Nigeria's relations with African neighbours. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Identify two ways Nigeria has contributed to African Union initiatives. (Linked to SLO 3.3)

Describe one security challenge that has affected Nigeria's relations with neighbouring states. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Explain the meaning of economic integration and give one example of Nigeria's role in promoting it. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

What does Nigeria's vision for African development emphasise? (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's relations with African neighbours, focusing on colonial legacies, independence movements, and Pan-African solidarity. (Linked to SLO 3.1)

Evaluate Nigeria's bilateral relations with neighbouring states, considering border issues, cooperation, and security challenges. (Linked to SLO 3.2)

Explain Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, highlighting its leadership and peacekeeping contributions. (Linked to SLO 3.3)

Assess contemporary challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's African relations, including economic integration, regional security threats, and Nigeria's vision for continental development. (Linked to SLO 3.4)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 3]

Objective Questions

Africa

ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States)

Gulf of Guinea

Pan-Africanism

Cameroon

Short-Answer Questions

Colonial legacies are the political, economic, and social structures left behind by European colonial powers. They shaped Nigeria's relations by creating artificial borders and influencing its emphasis on African unity.



Nigeria has contributed to AU initiatives through conflict resolution efforts and support for democratic governance programmes.

One example is terrorism and insurgency, particularly Boko Haram's activities across Nigeria's northeastern borders.

Economic integration is the creation of closer economic ties among countries. Nigeria promoted it through ECOWAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Nigeria's vision emphasises economic growth, political stability, continental unity, and African-led solutions to African problems.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Nigeria's historical foundations include colonial legacies that shaped borders, independence movements that fostered solidarity, and Pan-Africanism that promoted unity.

Value-added response: Learners may add that Nigeria's early foreign policy orientation was strongly influenced by these factors, positioning it as a leader in supporting liberation struggles and advocating for African voices in global forums.

Basic response: Nigeria's bilateral relations involve cooperation with neighbours, border disputes such as Bakassi, and challenges like migration and security threats. *Value-added response:* Learners may extend this by noting Nigeria's role in balancing conflict resolution with cross-border cooperation, and how these relations affect regional stability and integration.

Basic response: Nigeria has played a leading role in ECOWAS, contributed to AU initiatives, and supported peacekeeping missions in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Darfur. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may highlight Nigeria's financial and diplomatic leadership, its advocacy for continental development, and its willingness to bear the costs of regional leadership.

Basic response: Nigeria faces challenges such as piracy, terrorism, and smuggling, while opportunities include economic integration and continental cooperation. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that Nigeria's vision for African development reflects its ambition to lead continental initiatives, strengthen infrastructure, and promote African-led solutions, positioning itself as a driver of regional progress.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 3]

Pilot questions 3.1

Independence

African policy orientation

Africa

Pan-Africanism

Pan-Africanism

Pilot questions 3.2



Cameroon

Border issues

Cameroon

Terrorism (e.g., Boko Haram)

Boko Haram

Pilot questions 3.3

ECOWAS

African Union (AU)

Democratic

Liberia (or Sierra Leone, or Darfur)

Peacekeeping

Pilot questions 3.4

AfCFTA (African Continental Free Trade Area)

Regional security threats

Gulf of Guinea

AfCFTA (or ECOWAS initiatives)

African-led

References and Attributions [Series 3]

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SERIES 4; Civil War, Non-Alignment, and Policy Shifts

4.1 The Nigerian Civil War and Foreign Policy

- 4.1.1 Causes and domestic context of the Civil War
- 4.1.2 International reactions and Nigeria's diplomatic strategies
- 4.1.3 Impact of the Civil War on Nigeria's external relations

4.2 Nigeria and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

- 4.2.1 Origins and principles of non-alignment
- 4.2.2 Nigeria's participation and contributions to NAM
- 4.2.3 Challenges and criticisms of Nigeria's non-aligned stance

4.3 Policy Shifts in Nigeria's Foreign Relations

- 4.3.1 Post-war reorientation of foreign policy
- 4.3.2 Shifts under military regimes and civilian governments
- 4.3.3 Long-term implications for Nigeria's global and regional role

4.4 Contemporary relevance of Civil War, non-alignment, and policy shifts

- 4.4.1 Lessons from the Civil War for modern foreign policy
- 4.4.2 Continuing influence of non-alignment principles
- 4.4.3 Policy shifts and Nigeria's evolving international identity

Introduction

In the last Series, we explored Nigeria's relations with its African neighbours, focusing on historical foundations, bilateral ties, regional organisations, and contemporary challenges. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to a critical period in Nigeria's foreign policy history, shaped by the Civil War, the country's engagement with the Non-Aligned Movement, and subsequent policy shifts. These themes are central to understanding how Nigeria's domestic struggles and global positioning influenced its external relations and long-term identity in international affairs.

The aim of this Series is to examine how the Civil War, non-alignment, and major policy shifts redefined Nigeria's foreign policy direction. It seeks to equip you with the ability to analyse the impact of conflict on external relations, evaluate Nigeria's role in the Non-Aligned Movement, and assess the significance of policy reorientations for Nigeria's global and regional standing.

We shall commence this Series by exploring the Nigerian Civil War and its influence on foreign policy, including causes, international reactions, and its impact on external relations. Next, we



will examine Nigeria's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement, considering its principles, contributions, and criticisms. Following that, we will analyse the policy shifts that occurred in Nigeria's foreign relations, focusing on post-war reorientation and changes under different regimes. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing the contemporary relevance of these historical experiences, highlighting lessons from the Civil War, the continuing influence of non-alignment, and Nigeria's evolving international identity.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

SLO 4.1 analyse the causes, international reactions, and foreign policy implications of the Nigerian Civil War,

SLO 4.2 explain the origins and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement and Nigeria's participation within it,

SLO 4.3 evaluate Nigeria's contributions and challenges in maintaining a non-aligned stance during the Cold War era,

SLO 4.4 assess the major foreign policy shifts in Nigeria's post-war period under both military and civilian governments, and

SLO 4.5 appraise the contemporary relevance of the Civil War, non-alignment, and policy shifts for Nigeria's evolving international identity.

4.1 The Nigerian Civil War and Foreign Policy

4.1.1 Causes and domestic context of the Civil War

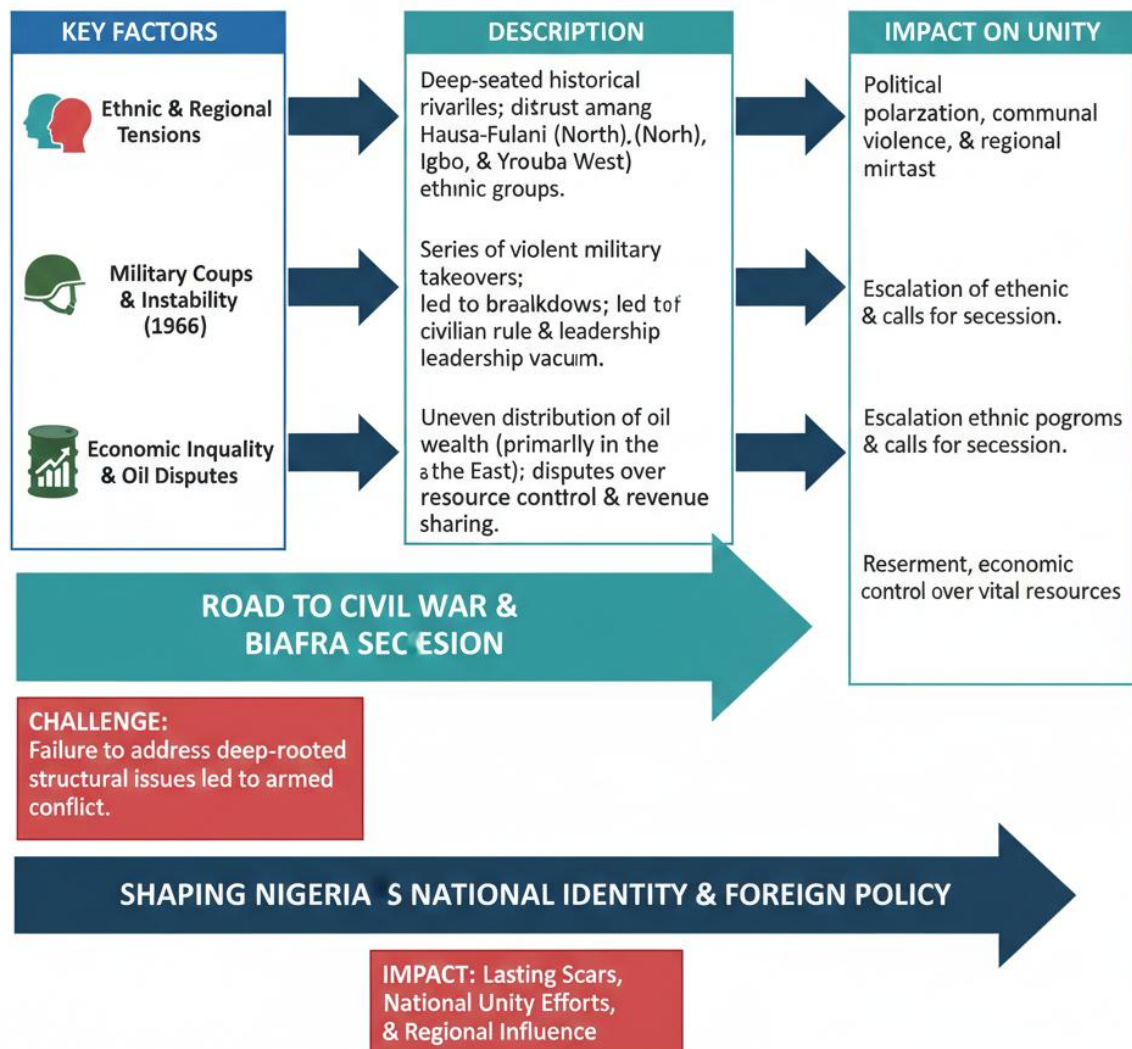
The **Nigerian Civil War** (1967–1970), also known as the Biafran War, was a conflict between the Nigerian government and the secessionist state of Biafra. The war was triggered by political instability, ethnic tensions, and disputes over resource control, particularly oil.

The domestic context of the war was shaped by Nigeria's fragile federal structure, ethnic rivalries, and the aftermath of military coups in the mid-1960s. These internal divisions influenced Nigeria's foreign policy, as the government sought international recognition and support to maintain national unity.

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian Civil War was also known as the _____ War.



Box 2.20: Causes of the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970)



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:15:55 PM WAT

Diagram showing the causes and domestic context of the Nigerian Civil War
Caption: Figure 4.1
Causes and domestic context of the Nigerian Civil War

4.1.2 International reactions and Nigeria's diplomatic strategies

International reactions to the Civil War varied. Some countries supported the Nigerian government, while others sympathised with Biafra due to humanitarian concerns over famine and suffering. The war attracted global attention, with relief agencies and international organisations becoming involved.

Nigeria's **diplomatic strategies** during the war focused on securing recognition of its sovereignty, preventing external intervention, and maintaining relations with key allies. The



government emphasised the principle of territorial integrity, arguing that secession threatened the stability of Africa as a whole.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's diplomatic strategy during the Civil War emphasised the principle of _____ integrity.



Tuesday, January 27, 1968 at 11:17:13 PM WAT

Image showing Nigerian diplomats engaging with foreign representatives during the Civil War era
Caption: Plate 4.1 Nigeria's diplomatic strategies during the Civil War

4.1.3 Impact of the Civil War on Nigeria's external relations



The Civil War had a lasting impact on Nigeria's **external relations**, reshaping its foreign policy priorities. Nigeria became more cautious about secessionist movements in Africa, supporting unity and stability across the continent.

The war also strengthened Nigeria's resolve to play a leadership role in Africa, particularly in promoting anti-secessionist policies and supporting liberation movements. Nigeria's experience during the Civil War reinforced its commitment to African solidarity and influenced its later involvement in regional organisations.

Fill in the blank: The Civil War strengthened Nigeria's resolve to play a _____ role in Africa.

Box 2.21

Nigeria's Civil War: Impact on External Relations

FOREIGN POLICY SHIFTS	DESCRIPTION & OUTCOME
1. Strained Relations with France & Portugal	France/Portugal: Supported Biafra, led to post-war diplomatic fallout.
2. Strengthened Ties with Britain & USSR	Britain/USSR: Supported Federal Govt, arms supply, diplomatic backing.
3. OAU/African Solidarity Tested	OAU: Non-interference principle, internal divisions among members.
4. Humanitarian Aid & Diplomacy	Humanitarian: Global appeals of relief, international media coverage.

SHAPING POST-WAR DIPLOMACY & NATIONAL UNITY

IMPACT: Renewed focus on African unity & non-alignment, BUT lingering mistrust with external actors.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:18:32 PM WAT

Caption: Box 4.1 Impact of the Civil War on Nigeria's external relations



Pilot questions 4.1

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian Civil War was also known as the _____ War.

Nigeria's diplomatic strategy during the Civil War emphasised the principle of _____ integrity.

Fill in the blank: The Civil War strengthened Nigeria's resolve to play a _____ role in Africa.

Identify one way the Civil War influenced Nigeria's external relations.

What was the primary resource dispute that contributed to the outbreak of the Civil War?

4.2 Nigeria and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)

4.2.1 Origins and principles of non-alignment

The **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)** emerged during the Cold War as a coalition of states that chose not to formally align with either the Western bloc led by the United States or the Eastern bloc led by the Soviet Union. Its origins can be traced to the Bandung Conference of 1955 and the subsequent Belgrade Conference of 1961.

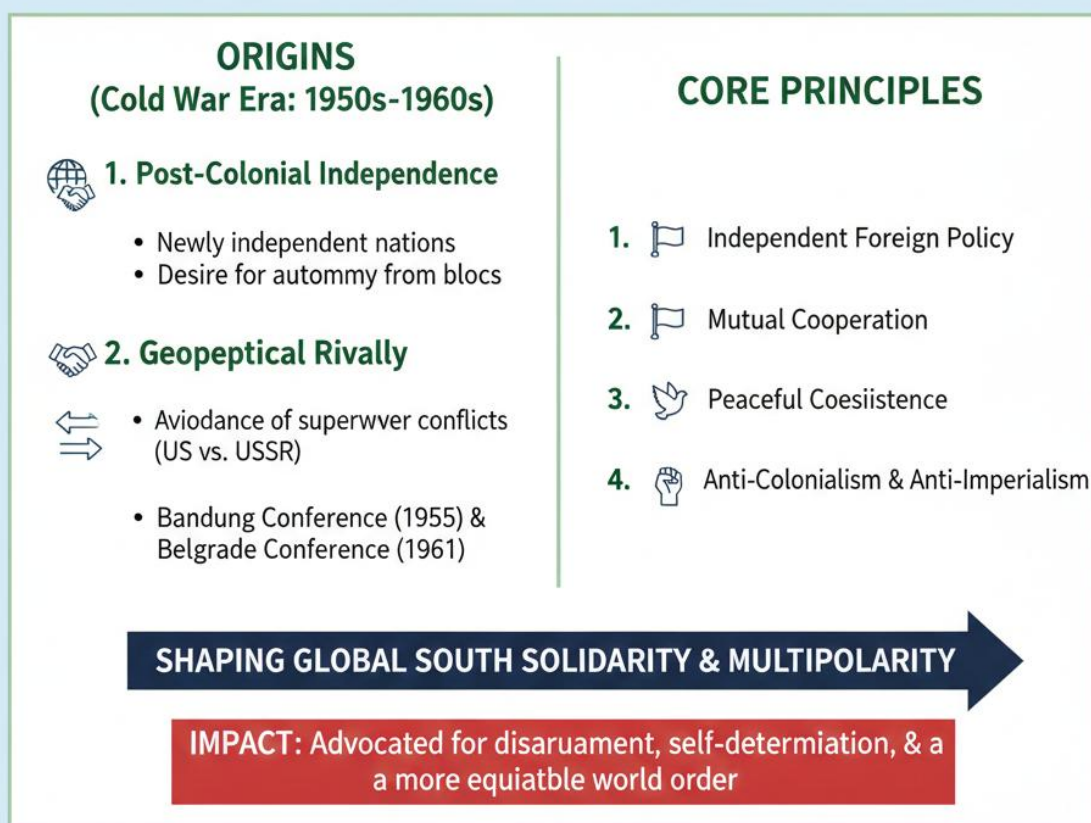
The principles of non-alignment included respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, and opposition to colonialism and imperialism. For Nigeria, these principles resonated strongly, as the country sought to maintain independence in its foreign policy while promoting African solidarity.

Fill in the blank: The Non-Aligned Movement emerged during the _____ War as a coalition of states avoiding bloc politics.





Box 2.22: Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Origins & Principles



Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:20:04 PM WAT

Diagram showing the origins and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement Caption: Figure 4.2
Origins and principles of the Non-Aligned Movement

4.2.2 Nigeria's participation and contributions to NAM

Nigeria joined NAM soon after independence, recognising its value in safeguarding sovereignty and promoting African unity. Nigeria's **participation** involved attending summits, contributing to debates on global issues, and supporting resolutions that reflected African interests.

Nigeria's **contributions** included advocating for decolonisation, supporting liberation movements, and promoting economic cooperation among developing countries. By aligning with NAM, Nigeria sought to amplify its voice in international affairs without being tied to either superpower bloc.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's contributions to NAM included advocating for _____ and supporting liberation movements.



Tuesday, January 27, 1966 at 11:21:00 PM WAT

Image showing Nigerian delegates at a Non-Aligned Movement summit
Caption: Plate 4.2
Nigeria's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement

4.2.3 Challenges and criticisms of Nigeria's non-aligned stance

Nigeria's non-aligned stance was not without challenges. Critics argued that non-alignment was sometimes inconsistent, as Nigeria maintained close ties with certain Western countries while claiming neutrality.



Another challenge was the difficulty of balancing national interests with NAM's collective principles. Nigeria occasionally faced pressure to take sides in global conflicts, which tested the credibility of its non-aligned position. Despite these criticisms, Nigeria continued to uphold non-alignment as a guiding principle of its foreign policy.

Fill in the blank: Critics argued that Nigeria's non-aligned stance was sometimes inconsistent because of its close ties with _____ countries.

Box 2.23

Nigeria's Non-Aligned Stance: Challenges & Criticisms

CHALLENGES Balancing Cold War Pressures - Economic/military aid dependence on superpowers Internal Divisions & coups - Political instability undermined consistent policy Economic Vulnerability - Fluctuating oil prices impacted independent stance	CRITICISMS Lack of True Neutrality - Perceived tilt towards/Eastern blocs times Limited Influence - NAM seen as ineffective in resolving conflicts Corruption & Mismanagement - Hindered effective use of foreign aid/resources
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IMPACT ON NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Navigating complex global politics, impacting economic development & internal stability, BUT fosters independent African leadership.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:21:44 PM WAT

Caption: Box 4.2 Challenges and criticisms of Nigeria's non-aligned stance

Pilot questions 4.2

Fill in the blank: The Non-Aligned Movement emerged during the _____ War as a coalition of states avoiding bloc politics.



What principles of non-alignment resonated strongly with Nigeria's foreign policy?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's contributions to NAM included advocating for _____ and supporting liberation movements.

Identify one way Nigeria participated in NAM activities.

Fill in the blank: Critics argued that Nigeria's non-aligned stance was sometimes inconsistent because of its close ties with _____ countries.

4.3 Policy Shifts in Nigeria's Foreign Relations

4.3.1 Post-war reorientation of foreign policy

Following the end of the Nigerian Civil War in 1970, Nigeria undertook a **post-war reorientation** of its foreign policy. This meant redefining its external relations to reflect lessons learned from the conflict. Nigeria became more assertive in promoting African unity, opposing secessionist movements, and supporting liberation struggles across the continent.

The government also sought to rebuild its international image, emphasising sovereignty, stability, and leadership in Africa. This reorientation marked Nigeria's transition from a reactive foreign policy during the war to a proactive role in continental and global affairs.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's post-war foreign policy strongly opposed _____ movements across Africa.

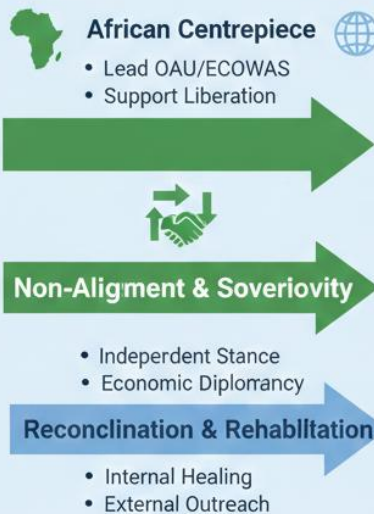


Nigeria's Post-War Foreign Policy Reorientation: Unity & Leadership

CONTEXT: POST-CIVIL WAR NIGERIA

1. National Unity Imperative 
2. Rebuild International Standing

POLICY SHIFTS



GOALS & OUTCOMES

1. Regional Hegemony 
2. Global Influence

SHAPING POST-WAR NATIONAL IDENTITY & FOREIGN POLICY

IMPACT: Consolidated National Unity & Established Nigeria's Enduring Leadership Role in Africa.

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:23:05 PM WAT



Diagram showing Nigeria's post-war foreign policy reorientation Caption: Figure 4.3 Post-war reorientation of Nigeria's foreign policy

4.3.2 Shifts under military regimes and civilian governments

Nigeria's foreign policy experienced several **shifts under military regimes and civilian governments**. Military rulers often adopted assertive and interventionist policies, particularly in West Africa, while civilian governments tended to emphasise diplomacy and economic cooperation.

For example, under General Murtala Mohammed, Nigeria pursued bold initiatives in Africa, including strong support for liberation movements. Civilian administrations, such as those led by President Shehu Shagari, focused more on economic diplomacy and regional integration. These



shifts reflected the influence of leadership styles and domestic priorities on foreign policy direction.

Fill in the blank: Civilian governments in Nigeria often emphasised diplomacy and _____ cooperation in foreign policy.



Image showing Nigerian military and civilian leaders in foreign policy contexts Caption: Plate 4.3 Shifts under military regimes and civilian governments

4.3.3 Long-term implications for Nigeria's global and regional role



The policy shifts that followed the Civil War had significant **long-term implications** for Nigeria's global and regional role. Nigeria emerged as a recognised leader in Africa, often acting as a voice for the continent in international forums.

These shifts also positioned Nigeria as a key player in peacekeeping, economic integration, and advocacy for African-led solutions. However, challenges such as political instability and economic fluctuations sometimes limited Nigeria's ability to sustain its leadership role. Overall, the Civil War and subsequent policy shifts shaped Nigeria's enduring identity as a regional power with continental ambitions.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's policy shifts positioned it as a key player in _____ and advocacy for African-led solutions.

Box 2.25

Nigeria's Foreign Policy Shifts: Long-Term Implications

IMPLICATION AREA	DESCRIPTION & OUTCOME
1. Regional Hegemony & Stability	- Established Nigeria as a key security provider in West Africa - Mediates conflicts & promotes democracy (e.g., ECOWAS)
2. Economic Influence & Development	- Drives regional integration (AfCFTA) - Attracts FDI & expands trade networks across Africa
3. Diplomatic Leadership & Soft Power	- Strong voice in AU & UN - Promotes pan-Africanism & South-South cooperation

SHAPING NIGERIA'S GLOBAL ROLE & PROSPERITY

LONG-TERM IMPACT: Consolidated National Identity, Sustained Influence, & Contributions to a Multipolar World Order

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Caption: Box 4.3 Long-term implications of Nigeria's foreign policy shifts



Pilot questions 4.3

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's post-war foreign policy strongly opposed _____ movements across Africa.

What type of policies did military regimes often adopt in Nigeria's foreign relations?

Fill in the blank: Civilian governments in Nigeria often emphasised diplomacy and _____ cooperation in foreign policy.

Identify one example of Nigeria's long-term role in Africa following policy shifts.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's policy shifts positioned it as a key player in _____ and advocacy for African-led solutions.

4.4 Contemporary Relevance of Civil War, Non-Alignment, and Policy Shifts

4.4.1 Lessons from the Civil War for modern foreign policy

The Civil War left Nigeria with enduring lessons that continue to shape its foreign policy. One key lesson is the importance of **national unity**, defined as the commitment to maintaining territorial integrity and preventing fragmentation. Nigeria's experience reinforced its opposition to secessionist movements across Africa, as it recognised the destabilising effects such conflicts can have on regional peace.

Another lesson is the need for proactive diplomacy. Nigeria learned that internal conflicts attract international attention, and that effective diplomatic engagement is essential to safeguard sovereignty and manage external perceptions.

Fill in the blank: The Civil War reinforced Nigeria's opposition to _____ movements across Africa.





Lessons from the Nigerian Civil War: Modern Foreign Policy Implications

KEY LESSONS

1.  **National Unity & Cohesion**
Address religious divides

2.  **Proactive Diplomacy & Mediation**

3.  **Economic Diversification & Equity**

DESCRIPTION & APPLICATION

- Prioritize inclusive governance; Address ethnic & religious divides

- Invest in conflict prevention

- Utilize regional platforms (ECOWAS)

- Reduce oil dependence, Promote equitable resource distribution

IMPACT ON FOREIGN POLICY

- Strengthened national identity

- Enhanced regional leadership
Credibility as a mediator

- Reduced external vulnerability
Sustainable development

SHAPING NIGERIA'S MODERN FOREIGN POLICY & STABILITY

LONG-TERM IMPACT: Resilient Nationhood, Robust Diplomacy, & a Foundation for Enduring African Leadership

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at 11:25:10 PM WAT

Diagram showing lessons from the Civil War for Nigeria's modern foreign policy
Caption: Figure 4.4 Lessons from the Civil War for Nigeria's modern foreign policy

4.4.2 Continuing influence of non-alignment principles

Although the Cold War has ended, the principles of **non-alignment** remain relevant in Nigeria's foreign policy. Non-alignment, defined as the pursuit of independence in foreign relations without binding alliances to major power blocs, continues to guide Nigeria's approach to global affairs.

Nigeria applies these principles by maintaining balanced relations with diverse partners, advocating for sovereignty, and promoting South–South cooperation. In today's multipolar



world, non-alignment helps Nigeria navigate complex international dynamics while safeguarding its national interests.

Fill in the blank: Non-alignment refers to the pursuit of independence in foreign relations without binding alliances to _____ power blocs.



Image showing Nigerian representatives engaging in modern multilateral diplomacy Caption: Plate 4.4 Continuing influence of non-alignment principles in Nigeria's foreign policy

4.4.3 Policy shifts and Nigeria's evolving international identity



Nigeria's foreign policy has continued to evolve, reflecting shifts in leadership, domestic priorities, and global realities. These **policy shifts** include greater emphasis on economic diplomacy, regional integration, and active participation in peacekeeping missions.

Nigeria's evolving **international identity** is that of a regional power committed to African-led solutions, while also seeking recognition as a responsible global actor. The Civil War, non-alignment, and subsequent policy shifts have all contributed to this identity, positioning Nigeria as a country that values unity, independence, and leadership.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's evolving international identity reflects its role as a regional power committed to _____-led solutions.



Caption: Box 4.4 Policy shifts and Nigeria's evolving international identity



Pilot questions 4.4

Fill in the blank: The Civil War reinforced Nigeria's opposition to _____ movements across Africa.

What key lesson from the Civil War continues to shape Nigeria's foreign policy today?

Fill in the blank: Non-alignment refers to the pursuit of independence in foreign relations without binding alliances to _____ power blocs.

Identify one way Nigeria applies non-alignment principles in the modern era.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's evolving international identity reflects its role as a regional power committed to _____-led solutions.

Series Summary

This Series has examined how the Nigerian Civil War, the country's engagement with the Non-Aligned Movement, and subsequent policy shifts shaped the trajectory of Nigeria's foreign policy. Its purpose was to highlight the interplay between domestic conflict, global positioning, and evolving diplomatic strategies, showing their relevance to Nigeria's identity as a regional power and continental leader.

We began by analysing the Civil War, its causes, international reactions, and its impact on Nigeria's external relations. Then we explored Nigeria's participation in the Non-Aligned Movement, considering its principles, contributions, and criticisms. Following that, we assessed the policy shifts that occurred in the post-war period under military and civilian governments, and their long-term implications for Nigeria's global and regional role. Finally, we discussed the contemporary relevance of these experiences, including lessons from the Civil War, the continuing influence of non-alignment, and Nigeria's evolving international identity. By completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse the Civil War's foreign policy implications, explain Nigeria's role in non-alignment, evaluate policy shifts across different regimes, and appraise their ongoing significance, as outlined in the Series Learning Outcomes.

Glossary of Terms

African-led solutions: The idea that African countries should take responsibility for solving their own political, economic, and security challenges without over-reliance on external powers.

Civil War (Biafran War): The Nigerian Civil War (1967–1970), also known as the Biafran War, was fought between the Nigerian government and the secessionist state of Biafra, largely over political instability, ethnic tensions, and control of oil resources.

Diplomatic strategy: A planned approach by a country to manage its international relations, often involving negotiations, alliances, and advocacy of principles such as sovereignty and territorial integrity.

International identity: The way a country is recognised and perceived in global affairs, shaped by its policies, actions, and leadership roles.



National unity: The commitment to maintaining Nigeria's territorial integrity and preventing fragmentation, reinforced by lessons from the Civil War.

Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): A coalition of states formed during the Cold War that chose not to formally align with either the Western bloc led by the United States or the Eastern bloc led by the Soviet Union.

Non-alignment: A foreign policy principle that emphasises independence in international relations without binding alliances to major power blocs.

Peacekeeping: Military or diplomatic efforts aimed at maintaining peace in conflict zones, often involving troop deployment, mediation, or participation in international missions.

Policy shifts: Changes in Nigeria's foreign policy direction, often influenced by leadership styles, domestic priorities, or global realities, such as moving from war-time diplomacy to post-war continental leadership.

Post-war reorientation: Nigeria's adjustment of its foreign policy after the Civil War, focusing on African unity, opposition to secession, and leadership in continental affairs.

Sovereignty: The authority of a state to govern itself without external interference, a principle strongly defended by Nigeria during and after the Civil War.

Territorial integrity: The principle that a country's borders should remain intact and protected against secession or external intervention, emphasised by Nigeria during the Civil War.

Concept Check Questions [Series 4]

Objective Questions

Fill in the blank: The Nigerian Civil War was also known as the _____ War. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Which principle did Nigeria emphasise during the Civil War to safeguard its sovereignty? (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Fill in the blank: The Non-Aligned Movement emerged during the _____ War. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Nigeria's contributions to NAM included advocating for _____ and supporting liberation movements. (Linked to SLO 4.3)

Fill in the blank: Civilian governments in Nigeria often emphasised diplomacy and _____ cooperation in foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Short-Answer Questions

Define non-alignment and explain why it was significant for Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 4.2)

Identify one way Nigeria participated in the Non-Aligned Movement. (Linked to SLO 4.3)



Describe one major foreign policy shift that occurred under Nigeria's military regimes. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Explain one lesson Nigeria learned from the Civil War that continues to shape its foreign policy today. (Linked to SLO 4.5)

What does Nigeria's evolving international identity reflect in terms of its role in Africa? (Linked to SLO 4.5)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the causes and international reactions to the Nigerian Civil War, and explain how they influenced Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 4.1)

Evaluate Nigeria's role in the Non-Aligned Movement, highlighting its contributions and the criticisms of its stance. (Linked to SLO 4.2, SLO 4.3)

Assess the foreign policy shifts under military and civilian governments in Nigeria, and discuss their long-term implications for Nigeria's global and regional role. (Linked to SLO 4.4)

Appraise the contemporary relevance of the Civil War, non-alignment, and policy shifts in shaping Nigeria's evolving international identity. (Linked to SLO 4.5)

[Answers to Concept Check Questions \[Series 4\]](#)

Objective Questions

Biafran War

Territorial integrity

Cold War

Decolonisation

Economic cooperation

Short-Answer Questions

Non-alignment is the pursuit of independence in foreign relations without binding alliances to major power blocs. It was significant for Nigeria as it safeguarded sovereignty and allowed balanced relations.

Nigeria participated by attending NAM summits and supporting resolutions on decolonisation and liberation movements.

Military regimes often adopted assertive and interventionist policies, such as General Murtala Mohammed's strong support for African liberation struggles.

One lesson was the importance of national unity, which reinforced Nigeria's opposition to secessionist movements in Africa.

Nigeria's evolving international identity reflects its role as a regional power committed to African-led solutions.

Long-Answer Questions



Basic response: The Civil War was caused by ethnic tensions, coups, and disputes over oil. International reactions varied, with some countries supporting Nigeria and others sympathising with Biafra. These experiences influenced Nigeria to emphasise sovereignty and territorial integrity in foreign policy. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that Nigeria's diplomatic strategies during the war shaped its later leadership role in Africa, reinforcing its opposition to secessionist movements and strengthening its continental influence.

Basic response: Nigeria contributed to NAM by advocating for decolonisation and supporting liberation movements. Critics argued its stance was inconsistent due to close ties with Western countries. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may highlight Nigeria's role in amplifying African voices in NAM debates, promoting South–South cooperation, and balancing Cold War pressures while maintaining credibility as a non-aligned state.

Basic response: Military regimes pursued assertive policies, while civilian governments emphasised diplomacy and economic cooperation. These shifts influenced Nigeria's leadership role in Africa. *Value-added response:* Learners may extend this by noting how Nigeria's foreign policy under different regimes shaped its peacekeeping contributions, regional integration efforts, and reputation as a continental leader despite domestic challenges.

Basic response: The Civil War, non-alignment, and policy shifts remain relevant as they shaped Nigeria's commitment to unity, independence, and leadership. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that these experiences continue to influence Nigeria's modern diplomacy, including its emphasis on economic diplomacy, peacekeeping, and advocacy for African-led solutions in a multipolar world.

Answers to Pilot Questions [Series 4]

Pilot questions 4.1

Biafran War

Territorial integrity

Leadership

Reinforced Nigeria's support for African unity and opposition to secessionist movements

Oil

Pilot questions 4.2

Cold War

Respect for sovereignty, non-interference, peaceful coexistence, opposition to colonialism and imperialism

Decolonisation

Attending NAM summits and supporting resolutions on global issues

Western

Pilot questions 4.3



Secessionist

Assertive and interventionist policies

Economic

Nigeria's role in peacekeeping and regional integration

Peacekeeping

Pilot questions 4.4

Secessionist

National unity

Major

Maintaining balanced relations with diverse partners and promoting South–South cooperation

African

References and Attributions [Series 4]

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SERIES 5: Nigeria's Pan-African Role and Global Engagement

5.1 Nigeria's Pan-African Leadership

- 5.1.1 Historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African role
- 5.1.2 Contributions to African unity and solidarity
- 5.1.3 Support for liberation movements and decolonisation

5.2 Nigeria in Regional Organisations

- 5.2.1 Nigeria's leadership in ECOWAS
- 5.2.2 Nigeria's role in the African Union
- 5.2.3 Peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives

5.3 Nigeria's Global Engagement

- 5.3.1 Nigeria's participation in the United Nations and other multilateral institutions
- 5.3.2 Relations with major powers and South-South cooperation
- 5.3.3 Nigeria's role in global economic diplomacy

5.4 Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

- 5.4.1 Nigeria's image and reputation in global affairs
- 5.4.2 Balancing Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities
- 5.4.3 Future prospects for Nigeria's foreign policy identity

Introduction

In the last Series, we examined how the Nigerian Civil War, non-alignment, and subsequent policy shifts shaped the country's foreign policy identity. Building on that foundation, this Series turns to Nigeria's Pan-African role and global engagement, highlighting how the country has sought to lead within Africa while also positioning itself as an active participant in international affairs. This focus is crucial for understanding Nigeria's dual responsibilities: strengthening continental unity and projecting influence on the global stage.

The aim of this Series is to explore Nigeria's leadership in Pan-African initiatives and its engagement in global diplomacy. It seeks to equip you with the ability to analyse Nigeria's contributions to African unity, evaluate its participation in regional and international organisations, and assess the challenges and opportunities that define its evolving foreign policy identity.

We shall commence this Series by examining Nigeria's Pan-African leadership, focusing on its historical foundations, contributions to African solidarity, and support for liberation movements.



Next, we will explore Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, with attention to peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Following that, we will analyse Nigeria's global engagement, including its participation in the United Nations, relations with major powers, and involvement in economic diplomacy. Finally, we will wrap up by discussing contemporary challenges and opportunities, considering Nigeria's image in global affairs, the balance between Pan-African commitments and global responsibilities, and the future prospects of its foreign policy identity.

Series Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this Series, you should be able to:

- SLO 5.1** analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African leadership and its contributions to African unity,
- SLO 5.2** explain Nigeria's support for liberation movements and decolonisation within the Pan-African framework,
- SLO 5.3** evaluate Nigeria's leadership role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union,
- SLO 5.4** assess Nigeria's peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives in Africa,
- SLO 5.5** examine Nigeria's participation in global institutions such as the United Nations and its relations with major powers,
- SLO 5.6** appraise Nigeria's role in global economic diplomacy and South–South cooperation, and
- SLO 5.7** evaluate contemporary challenges and opportunities that shape Nigeria's Pan-African commitments and global foreign policy identity.

5.1 Nigeria's Pan-African Leadership

5.1.1 Historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African role

Nigeria's **Pan-African role** refers to its leadership and active participation in promoting unity, solidarity, and cooperation among African states. This role is rooted in the country's independence in 1960, when it declared Africa as the centrepiece of its foreign policy. Nigeria's leaders believed that the country's size, population, and resources gave it a responsibility to champion African causes.

The historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African role include its early support for liberation movements, its advocacy for decolonisation, and its commitment to African unity through organisations such as the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). These foundations shaped Nigeria's identity as a continental leader.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence.



Source: OER - Pan-African Studies. Date: JAN. 2026

Date: JAN. 2026

Diagram showing the historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African role
Caption: Figure 5.1
Historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African role

5.1.2 Contributions to African unity and solidarity

Nigeria's contributions to **African unity**, defined as the collective effort of African states to promote political, economic, and cultural integration, have been significant. Nigeria consistently supported initiatives that strengthened solidarity among African nations, including mediation in conflicts and advocacy for regional cooperation.



Nigeria also played a role in promoting cultural solidarity, encouraging African identity and pride through diplomacy and participation in continental forums. These contributions reinforced Nigeria's reputation as a country committed to the collective progress of Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's contributions to African unity included mediation in _____ and advocacy for regional cooperation.



Image showing Nigerian leaders participating in an African summit promoting unity Caption: Plate 5.1 Nigeria's contributions to African unity and solidarity

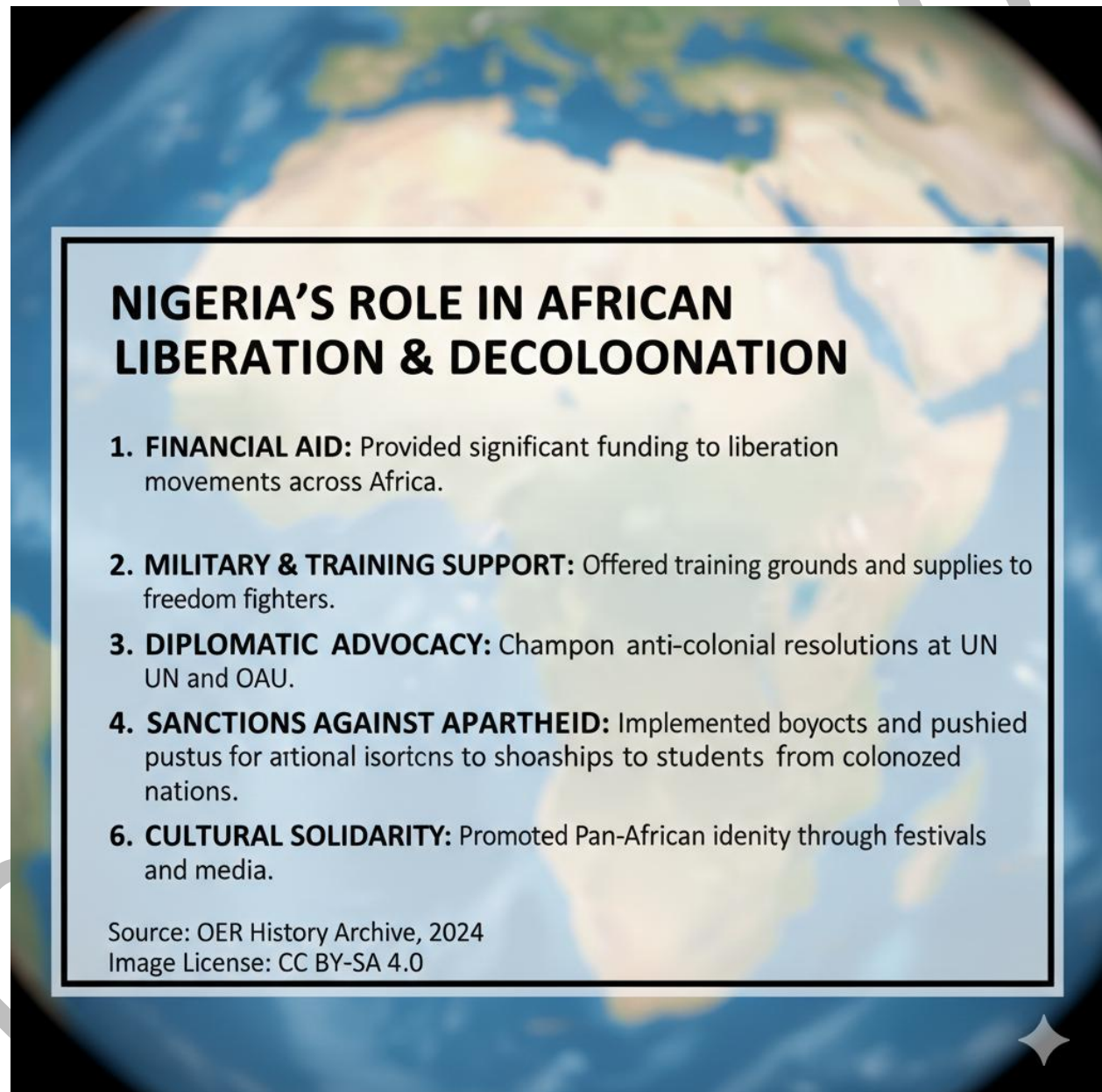
5.1.3 Support for liberation movements and decolonisation



Nigeria strongly supported **liberation movements**, defined as organised struggles by African peoples to gain independence from colonial rule. Nigeria provided diplomatic, financial, and sometimes military assistance to countries fighting for freedom, such as South Africa, Angola, and Zimbabwe.

Nigeria's advocacy for **decolonisation**, the process of ending colonial rule and achieving independence, was evident in its active role in the United Nations and the OAU. By supporting liberation movements, Nigeria positioned itself as a defender of justice and equality in Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria supported liberation movements in countries such as _____, Angola, and Zimbabwe.



NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICAN LIBERATION & DECOLOONATION

- 1. FINANCIAL AID:** Provided significant funding to liberation movements across Africa.
- 2. MILITARY & TRAINING SUPPORT:** Offered training grounds and supplies to freedom fighters.
- 3. DIPLOMATIC ADVOCACY:** Champion anti-colonial resolutions at UN and OAU.
- 4. SANCTIONS AGAINST APARTHEID:** Implemented boycotts and pushed for international isolation of South Africa.
- 5. EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT:** Provided scholarships and support for students from colonized nations.
- 6. CULTURAL SOLIDARITY:** Promoted Pan-African identity through festivals and media.

Source: OER History Archive, 2024
Image License: CC BY-SA 4.0

Caption: Box 5.1 Nigeria's support for liberation movements and decolonisation



Pilot questions 5.1

Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence.

What organisation did Nigeria join to promote African unity after independence?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's contributions to African unity included mediation in _____ and advocacy for regional cooperation.

Identify one way Nigeria promoted cultural solidarity in Africa.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria supported liberation movements in countries such as _____, Angola, and Zimbabwe.

5.2 Nigeria in Regional Organisations

5.2.1 Nigeria's leadership in ECOWAS

The **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** is a regional organisation established in 1975 to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries. Nigeria has played a leading role in ECOWAS, providing financial support, diplomatic leadership, and military contributions when necessary.

Nigeria's leadership has been evident in its mediation of political crises, its commitment to free movement of people and goods, and its active involvement in peacekeeping missions within the region. These efforts have reinforced Nigeria's image as a stabilising force in West Africa.

Fill in the blank: ECOWAS was established in _____ to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries.





Diagram showing Nigeria's leadership role in ECOWAS Caption: Figure 5.2 Nigeria's leadership in ECOWAS

5.2.2 Nigeria's role in the African Union

The **African Union (AU)**, formed in 2002 as the successor to the Organisation of African Unity, is dedicated to promoting unity, peace, and development across Africa. Nigeria has been an active member, contributing to policy debates, supporting continental initiatives, and advocating for African-led solutions to African problems.

Nigeria's role in the AU includes participation in peace and security councils, contributions to development programmes, and leadership in promoting democracy and good governance. These activities highlight Nigeria's commitment to continental progress.



Fill in the blank: The African Union was formed in _____ as the successor to the Organisation of African Unity.



Image showing Nigerian delegates participating in an African Union summit Caption: Plate 5.2
Nigeria's role in the African Union

5.2.3 Peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives

Nigeria has consistently contributed to **peacekeeping**, defined as military or diplomatic efforts aimed at maintaining peace in conflict zones. Through ECOWAS and the AU, Nigeria has deployed troops to countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Mali, helping to restore stability.



Nigeria's **conflict resolution initiatives** also include mediation and diplomatic engagement in disputes across Africa. These efforts demonstrate Nigeria's willingness to bear the costs of leadership and reinforce its Pan-African identity.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria deployed peacekeeping troops to countries such as _____, Sierra Leone, and Mali.



**NIGERIA'S ROLE IN AFRICAN
PEACEKEEPING & CONFLICT
RESOLUTION**

- 1. ECOMOG LEADERSHIP:**
Led military interventions in Liberia and Sierra Leone to restore peace during civil wars.
- 2. TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS:**
Major contributor to troops to UN and AU peacekeeping missions across Africa (e.g. Sudan, Somalia, Mali).
- 4. MEDIATION & DIALOGUE:**
Facilitates training talks and negotiators and serves as a logistical base and a host base for AU/ECOWAS missions.

Source: OER Diplomacy Archives, 2024
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OER Image

Caption: Box 5.2 Nigeria's peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives

Pilot questions 5.2

Fill in the blank: ECOWAS was established in _____ to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries.



What year was the African Union formed as the successor to the Organisation of African Unity?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria deployed peacekeeping troops to countries such as _____, Sierra Leone, and Mali.

Identify one way Nigeria has demonstrated leadership in ECOWAS.

What is one example of Nigeria's role in promoting democracy within the African Union?

5.3 Nigeria's Global Engagement

5.3.1 Nigeria's participation in the United Nations and other multilateral institutions

Nigeria has been an active member of the **United Nations (UN)** since independence in 1960. The UN, defined as an international organisation established in 1945 to promote peace, security, and cooperation among nations, has provided Nigeria with a platform to project its foreign policy priorities.

Nigeria has served multiple times as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, where it contributed to debates on peacekeeping, conflict resolution, and global security. Beyond the UN, Nigeria participates in other multilateral institutions such as the Commonwealth, the World Trade Organization, and the Non-Aligned Movement, using these platforms to advocate for African interests and global equity.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has served multiple times as a non-permanent member of the UN _____ Council.



Nigeria's Participation in Major Multilateral Institutions



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Source: OER Geopoptetical Archive, 2024
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OER Diagram

Diagram showing Nigeria's participation in the UN and other multilateral institutions
Caption: Figure 5.3 Nigeria's participation in the UN and other multilateral institutions

5.3.2 Relations with major powers and South–South cooperation

Nigeria's foreign policy has involved building relations with **major powers**, defined as influential states such as the United States, China, Russia, and the United Kingdom. These relationships are often shaped by trade, investment, security cooperation, and diplomatic exchanges. Nigeria balances these ties carefully to maintain independence while benefiting from strategic partnerships.

Nigeria also engages in **South–South cooperation**, which refers to collaboration among developing countries in areas such as trade, technology, and political solidarity. Through



initiatives with countries in Asia, Latin America, and other parts of Africa, Nigeria has sought to strengthen its global voice and reduce reliance on traditional Western partners.

Fill in the blank: South–South cooperation refers to collaboration among _____ countries in trade, technology, and solidarity.



Image showing Nigerian leaders meeting with representatives from major powers and developing countries Caption: Plate 5.3 Nigeria's relations with major powers and South–South cooperation

5.3.3 Nigeria's role in global economic diplomacy



Nigeria has increasingly emphasised **economic diplomacy**, defined as the use of foreign policy to promote trade, investment, and economic cooperation. This approach reflects Nigeria's need to diversify its economy beyond oil and to attract foreign investment.

Nigeria participates in global economic forums such as the G77, the World Trade Organization, and international financial institutions. It advocates for fairer trade rules, debt relief for developing countries, and greater representation of Africa in global economic decision-making. These efforts highlight Nigeria's ambition to influence the global economic order while advancing its national interests.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's economic diplomacy reflects its need to diversify its economy beyond _____.

NIGERIA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

1. **TRADE LIBERLLIZATION:** Advocating for fair trade polices and market access for African goods.
2. **FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI):** Promorting Nigeria Nigeria as key investment destination in Africa through bilateral treaties and incentives.
3. **DEBT RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT AID:** Champoing Champoing initiatives for sustainable debt managemen and development financing.
4. **REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION:** Leading in ECOWAS to ta single market and boost intra-African trade.
5. **RESOURCE GOVERNANCE:** Advocating for equitable benefit sharing and transpaanency in the global extractive industries.

Source: OER Economic Policy Archives, 2024
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OER Image

Caption: Box 5.3 Nigeria's role in global economic diplomacy



Pilot questions 5.3

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has served multiple times as a non-permanent member of the UN _____ Council.

Identify one multilateral institution, apart from the UN, where Nigeria actively participates.

Fill in the blank: South–South cooperation refers to collaboration among _____ countries in trade, technology, and solidarity.

What is one example of Nigeria’s relations with major powers?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria’s economic diplomacy reflects its need to diversify its economy beyond _____.

5.4 Contemporary Challenges and Opportunities

5.4.1 Nigeria’s image and reputation in global affairs

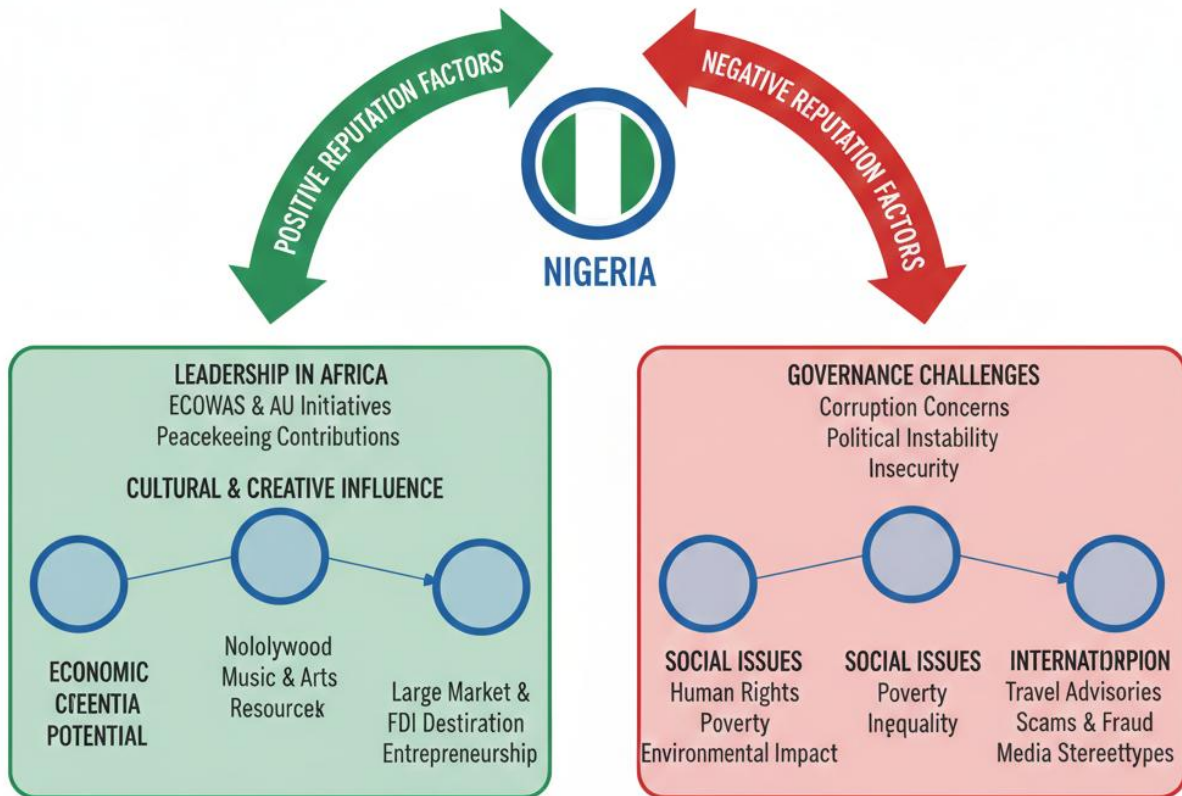
Nigeria’s **image and reputation**, defined as how the country is perceived by other nations and international organisations, has been shaped by both achievements and challenges. On the positive side, Nigeria is recognised for its leadership in Africa, its peacekeeping contributions, and its active participation in global institutions. However, issues such as corruption, insecurity, and economic instability have sometimes undermined its credibility.

Nigeria’s reputation matters because it influences the country’s ability to attract investment, build alliances, and project soft power. A strong and positive image enhances Nigeria’s diplomatic leverage, while a negative perception can limit its influence.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria’s reputation matters because it influences the country’s ability to attract _____ and build alliances.



Nigeria's Global Reputation in Foreign Policy



GLOBAL STANDING & CHALLENGES

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Source: OER Geopolitical Archives, 2024

Diagram showing Nigeria's image and reputation in global affairs
Caption: Figure 5.4 Nigeria's image and reputation in global affairs

5.4.2 Balancing Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities

Nigeria faces the challenge of balancing its **Pan-African commitments**, defined as its responsibilities to promote unity and development within Africa, with its **global responsibilities**, which include participation in international institutions and relations with major powers.

This balancing act requires Nigeria to allocate resources carefully, prioritise regional leadership while also engaging globally, and ensure that its foreign policy reflects both African solidarity and global relevance. Striking this balance is essential for Nigeria to maintain credibility at home and abroad.



Fill in the blank: Nigeria's Pan-African commitments must be balanced with its _____ responsibilities in international institutions and relations.



Image showing Nigerian leaders at both African and global summits
Caption: Plate 5.4
Balancing Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities

5.4.3 Future prospects for Nigeria's foreign policy identity

Nigeria's **foreign policy identity**, defined as the distinctive role and values that guide its external relations, continues to evolve. Looking ahead, Nigeria has opportunities to strengthen its leadership in Africa, expand its global partnerships, and enhance its economic diplomacy.



Future prospects depend on addressing domestic challenges such as governance, security, and economic diversification. If Nigeria successfully manages these issues, it can project a stronger identity as a continental leader and responsible global actor.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's future foreign policy identity depends on addressing domestic challenges such as governance, security, and _____ diversification.



FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY IDENTITY

1. **REGIONAL POWER HOUSE:** Strengthening ECOWAS and AU leadership for peace, security, and economic integration.
2. **GLOBAL ADVOCATE:** Champion South-South cooperation, climate change action, and multilateral reforms.
3. **ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION:** Promoting non-oil sectors, tech, and creative industries on the global stage.
4. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT**
5. **YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:** Empowering young diplomats and intra networks.
5. **SOFT POWER PROJECTION** arts, sports to enhance global influence.

Source: OER Foreign Policy Think Tank, 2024
Image License: CC BY-SA 4.0

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 AT 9:13:25 AM WAT

OER Image

Caption: Box 5.4 Future prospects for Nigeria's foreign policy identity

Pilot questions 5.4

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's reputation matters because it influences the country's ability to attract _____ and build alliances.



What are two factors that have positively shaped Nigeria's global reputation?

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's Pan-African commitments must be balanced with its _____ responsibilities in international institutions and relations.

Identify one challenge Nigeria faces in balancing Pan-African and global responsibilities.

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's future foreign policy identity depends on addressing domestic challenges such as governance, security, and _____ diversification.

Series Summary

This Series has focused on Nigeria's Pan-African role and global engagement, highlighting how the country has sought to lead within Africa while also projecting influence internationally. Its purpose was to show how Nigeria's foreign policy identity has been shaped by its commitment to African unity, regional cooperation, and participation in global institutions, while also addressing contemporary challenges and opportunities.

We began by analysing Nigeria's Pan-African leadership, including its historical foundations, contributions to African solidarity, and support for liberation movements. Then we examined Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, with emphasis on peacekeeping and conflict resolution. Following that, we explored Nigeria's global engagement through its participation in the United Nations, relations with major powers, and involvement in economic diplomacy. Finally, we considered Nigeria's image in global affairs, its balancing of Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities, and the future prospects of its foreign policy identity. By completing this Series, you should now be able to analyse Nigeria's Pan-African leadership, evaluate its role in regional and global institutions, assess its economic diplomacy, and appraise the challenges and opportunities that shape its evolving foreign policy identity, as outlined in the Series Learning Outcomes.

Glossary of Terms

African Union (AU): A continental organisation formed in 2002 to promote unity, peace, and development across Africa, succeeding the Organisation of African Unity.

Conflict resolution initiatives: Efforts by Nigeria to mediate disputes and restore peace in Africa through diplomacy and negotiation.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): A regional organisation established in 1975 to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries.

Economic diplomacy: The use of foreign policy to promote trade, investment, and economic cooperation, often aimed at diversifying Nigeria's economy beyond oil.

Foreign policy identity: The distinctive role and values that guide Nigeria's external relations and shape how it is perceived internationally.



Image and reputation: How Nigeria is viewed by other nations and organisations, influenced by achievements such as peacekeeping and challenges like corruption or insecurity.

Liberation movements: Organised struggles by African peoples to gain independence from colonial rule, often supported by Nigeria through diplomacy and resources.

Multilateral institutions: International organisations where multiple countries cooperate, such as the United Nations, Commonwealth, and World Trade Organization.

Pan-African commitments: Nigeria's responsibilities to promote unity, solidarity, and development within Africa as part of its foreign policy.

Peacekeeping: Military or diplomatic efforts aimed at maintaining peace in conflict zones, often involving troop deployments or mediation.

South–South cooperation: Collaboration among developing countries in areas such as trade, technology, and political solidarity, reducing reliance on Western powers.

United Nations (UN): An international organisation established in 1945 to promote peace, security, and cooperation among nations, where Nigeria has been an active member since independence.

Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective Questions

Fill in the blank: Nigeria declared that _____ would be the centrepiece of its foreign policy at independence. (Linked to SLO 5.1)

ECOWAS was established in _____ to promote economic integration and political cooperation among West African countries. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

Fill in the blank: Nigeria has served multiple times as a non-permanent member of the UN _____ Council. (Linked to SLO 5.5)

South–South cooperation refers to collaboration among _____ countries in trade, technology, and solidarity. (Linked to SLO 5.6)

Fill in the blank: Nigeria's future foreign policy identity depends on addressing domestic challenges such as governance, security, and _____ diversification. (Linked to SLO 5.7)

Short-Answer Questions

Define Pan-African commitments and explain their significance for Nigeria's foreign policy. (Linked to SLO 5.1)

Identify one way Nigeria has demonstrated leadership in ECOWAS. (Linked to SLO 5.3)

Describe one example of Nigeria's role in peacekeeping within Africa. (Linked to SLO 5.4)

Explain one challenge Nigeria faces in balancing Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities. (Linked to SLO 5.7)



What is one example of Nigeria's participation in global economic diplomacy? (Linked to SLO 5.6)

Long-Answer Questions

Analyse the historical foundations of Nigeria's Pan-African leadership and explain how they shaped its contributions to African unity. (Linked to SLO 5.1, SLO 5.2)

Evaluate Nigeria's role in regional organisations such as ECOWAS and the African Union, highlighting its peacekeeping and conflict resolution initiatives. (Linked to SLO 5.3, SLO 5.4)

Assess Nigeria's global engagement through its participation in the United Nations, relations with major powers, and involvement in South–South cooperation. (Linked to SLO 5.5, SLO 5.6)

Appraise the contemporary challenges and opportunities that shape Nigeria's evolving foreign policy identity. (Linked to SLO 5.7)

Answers to Concept Check Questions [Series 5]

Objective Questions

Africa

1975

Security

Developing

Economic

Short-Answer Questions

Pan-African commitments are Nigeria's responsibilities to promote unity, solidarity, and development within Africa. They are significant because they reinforce Nigeria's leadership role and continental identity.

Nigeria has demonstrated leadership in ECOWAS by mediating political crises and supporting free movement of people and goods.

Nigeria deployed peacekeeping troops to Liberia and Sierra Leone to help restore stability during civil conflicts.

One challenge is resource allocation, as Nigeria must balance regional leadership with global responsibilities.

Nigeria advocates for fairer trade rules and debt relief in forums such as the G77 and WTO.

Long-Answer Questions

Basic response: Nigeria's Pan-African leadership was founded on its declaration of Africa as the centrepiece of foreign policy, support for liberation movements, and advocacy for decolonisation. These foundations shaped its contributions to African unity through mediation and solidarity. *Value-added response:* Outstanding learners may add that Nigeria's early Pan-



African role positioned it as a continental leader, influencing its later involvement in the OAU and AU, and reinforcing its identity as a defender of African independence and justice.

Basic response: Nigeria's role in ECOWAS and the AU includes leadership in economic integration, peacekeeping, and mediation. It deployed troops to Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Mali, and supported democratic transitions. *Value-added response:* Learners may extend this by noting Nigeria's financial and diplomatic sacrifices in ECOWAS missions, its influence in AU policy debates, and its advocacy for African-led solutions to continental challenges.

Basic response: Nigeria's global engagement includes participation in the UN Security Council, relations with major powers, and involvement in South–South cooperation. These efforts promote sovereignty and economic diplomacy. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that Nigeria's global engagement reflects its ambition to influence international economic governance, diversify partnerships beyond Western powers, and strengthen Africa's collective voice in multilateral institutions.

Basic response: Nigeria's foreign policy identity faces challenges such as corruption, insecurity, and economic instability, but opportunities exist in strengthening leadership, expanding partnerships, and enhancing diplomacy. *Value-added response:* Learners may add that Nigeria's future prospects depend on successfully balancing Pan-African commitments with global responsibilities, projecting a stronger image internationally, and leveraging economic diversification to sustain its leadership role.

[Answers to Pilot Questions \[Series 5\]](#)

Pilot questions 5.1

Africa

Organisation of African Unity (OAU)

Conflicts

Encouraging African identity and pride through diplomacy and continental forums

South Africa

Pilot questions 5.2

1975

2002

Liberia

Mediation of political crises and support for free movement of people and goods

Participation in AU peace and security councils and promotion of democracy

Pilot questions 5.3

Security



Commonwealth

Developing

Trade and investment relations with the United States or China

Oil

Pilot questions 5.4

Investment

Leadership in peacekeeping and active participation in global institutions

Global

Resource allocation and domestic instability

Economic

References and Attributions [Series 5]

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