

Economic Development and Peacebuilding in the USA: Lesson For Nigeria

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Abstract

The objective of achieving economic development is because of its capacity to improve living conditions and address the challenges of unemployment and poverty that have been the root cause of violent conflict. The inability of many developing countries to follow the process of economic development that addresses unemployment and poverty is the rationale for this study. The objective of this study is to analyse the role of economic development in peacebuilding in the USA, with the view to drawing lessons for Nigeria. The research method adopted for this paper is, the documentary method. The finding of this study is that the presence of strong institutions that promote access to education and technological advancement to create equal opportunity for everybody to succeed is the magic wand in achieving economic development in the U.S, while the absence of strong institutions in Nigeria produce strong leaders that war against education and technological advancement to create unfavourable environment for people to succeed. The study recommends that the civil society organisation should persuade the general public and the ruling elite to build strong institutions that will promote access to education, technological advancement and create equal opportunity for everybody to succeed in respective of individuals' background. The suggested solution will produce an educated population to favour the voice of citizens for government effectiveness, innovative and creative minds that will effectively allocate resources into productive investment for economic development in Nigeria.

Keywords: Economic development, peace-building, poverty, unemployment, USA, Nigeria, Strong institutions

INTRODUCTION

The pursuit of economic development is coterminous with the pursuit of peacebuilding, in as much as its addresses the root cause of conflict and ushers in sustainable peace. Full employment and reduction in the poverty rate can only be achieved through economic development; hence the non-pursuit of economic development is a call for conflict situations. Any society that wants to build peace must work towards achieving economic development. Countries that have overcome the challenges of poverty and unemployment have experienced economic development and have to a great extent addressed the root cause of conflict, crime or violence that peacebuilding tries to achieve. This implies that developed economies are on their way to the peacebuilding process, while underdeveloped economies are walking away from the peacebuilding process.

The pursuit of peacebuilding lies in addressing the root cause of conflict by meeting the economic needs of people in the conflict area through the pursuit of sustainable economic growth that leads to economic development. This is the main reason why underdeveloped countries like Nigeria must strive to become developed economies so that a peacebuilding

culture can be inculcated. In the words of Rostow (1960), every society needs to pass from one stage of growth to another, if economic development must be attained. Therefore, “one cannot say there is economic development when the problems of poverty and unemployment have not been overcome” (Ayeni, Abdullahi, & Christopher, 2021, p. 45). This absence of economic development is a challenge to peacebuilding.

The journey of the United States of America (the US) to economic development commenced when the colonies that made up the country were colonized in the 1620s. The US was colonized in the 16th century to July 04, 1776, while Nigeria was colonised from 1861 to 1960 by Great Britain, both countries operate bicameral legislatures with a presidential system of government (Rosenbloom, 2018; Igwe, 2007). What is today known as the United States of America was colonized in the 16th century, while it later got independent in 1776. Consequently, the situation in Nigeria is not completely different. The colonization of Nigeria started in 1851 when Lagos was attacked and subsequently annexed in 1861 and made a colony. The US history and that of Nigeria are similar because both countries were colonized by Britain in addition to practising democracy and a presidential system of government with a bicameral legislature.

Since the subject of study is ‘economic development and peacebuilding’, it is necessary to state the indicators of our independent and dependent variables. Consequently, the following are the indicators of economic development; strong economic institutions, mechanization of the agricultural sector, industrialisation, and development of the educational sector. Whereas, the indicators of peace-building are; full employment, eradication of poverty and an increase in literacy rate.

The journey to economic development that is supposed to usher in peacebuilding started as soon as the US and Nigeria were colonised in the 16th century and the 19th century respectively. The Virginia Company received the first colonial charter for a mainland colony, entitling its stockholders to colonize territory and invoke the monarch of Great Britain's protection. The fact that the charter established a culture of private property ownership is significant (Rosenbloom, 2018; Igwe, 2007). The Virginia company, a private company in Great Britain was given the authority to create a colony on the mainland that later became the US, while a private company like the Royal Niger Company that controlled the Lagos colony in Nigeria was also given authority by Great Britain to create a colony in what later became Nigeria. This implies that the capitalist orientation that the US had during the colonial era which promoted technological advancement in the migration to a developed economy, was similar to the capitalist orientation that Nigeria also had. To Mason (2011, p. 40), it is the craving for profit “and increase efficiency that led to innovation and invention of the industrial revolution in Europe”. There is no doubt that something must motivate people into doing something.

What needed to be answered is, if people in underdeveloped countries are not motivated by the need for efficiency and profit. Does it also mean that it is only the developed society that parades innovative minds that can drive development? Does it also mean that government needs not to play significant contribution to economic growth? The need to provide answers to the above uncertainty, and how economic development leads to peacebuilding is the rationale for this study. Therefore, the study seeks to investigate economic development and peacebuilding in the USA: Lesson for Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a documentary research method, thus information from secondary sources like books, government documents, journals, and other relevant literature related to economic development was critically reviewed to ascertain the effect on peacebuilding. The reason for using the foregoing research method was because it is economical, convenient and time-saving in addition to the fact that there are vast pieces of literature on economic development. The method of analysis employed for this study is ‘content analysis.

The following are reasons for choosing the USA as a unit of analysis. 1) The USA was colonized by Great Britain just as Nigeria was also colonized by Great Britain. 2) Both the USA and Nigeria are operating a presidential system of government with a bicameral legislature.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Conceptual issues: Economic development and peace-building:

Economic development

In the words of Shearer (1961, p. 523), economic development can be defined as a drive “away from a state of underdevelopment”. Shearer explanation of economic development is not too comprehensive because it does not explain what is meant by underdevelopment. What we can further deduce from the previous observation is that any attempt to move away from a society characterised by absolute poverty and unemployment, then we are indirectly pursuing economic development agenda.

Put differently, Todaro and Smith (2009) see economic development as a multifaceted process that involves significant adjustments to social structure, public opinion, and national institutions as well as accelerating economic growth, reducing inequality, and eliminating poverty. Economic development means growth in every sector of society, including the move away from weak institutions to strong institutions to ensure that problem of poverty is overcome. Similarly, Jhingan (2012, p. 5) notes that economic development implies a combination of growth and change, including qualitative adjustments to economic desires, needs, “incentives, institutions, productivity, and knowledge”. The above implies that economic development has to do with the capacity to transform the economic, social and educational needs of a society from traditional to modern in addition to addressing the problem of poverty to a great extent. Critical observation of Jhingan’s definition means that economic development also involves an increase in knowledge and skills through formal and informal education.

Economic development can be defined as an optimum increase in people's standard of living that addresses the problem of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy through strong institutions. It is only when the preceding problems are addressed that we can say there is economic development.

Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding defiles an acceptable definition just like every other social science concept. However, some definitions as they relate to prominent scholars are considered. In a document titled “An agenda of peace:

Former United Nations (UN) Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali defined peacebuilding as the process of establishing a stable foundation for an already established peace and preventing future violent conflict by addressing the

fundamental economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues at the root of the conflict (UN 1992, para. 57).

This implies that peacebuilding is all about addressing the essential needs of people that tend to result to conflict, if not addressed. Related to the above definition is the one given by Ayeni, Uzoigwe, Sani and Dubu (2019, p. 80), “peacebuilding is all the processes and methods engaged to ensure pleasant relationships among the people in the society, devoid of oppression, extortion, exploitation, absolute poverty and violation of fundamental human rights”

Corroborating the foregoing are Barash and Webel (2002, p. vii-ix), who state that peace-building demands “building positive and negative peace: Positive peace involves human rights, ecological well-being, economic well-being, non-violence and personal transformation; building negative peace means diplomacy, negotiations, conflict resolution, peace through strength, disarmament and arms control”. This observation sees peacebuilding from positive and negative peace perspectives where the former is geared towards ensuring that the root cause of conflict, crime and violence is addressed in the society devoid of the use of force, and on the other hand to employ the use of force to bring about peace when the need arises. Related to the foregoing is the definition by Umar, Muhammed, and Uddin, (2019, p. 403), according to them, “the political commitment to address the lack of proactive security measures, the peace approach to security, and equitable policies to address poverty and unemployment are all parts of peacebuilding that go beyond disturbance or the absence of violence”. Peace-building is all about tackling security challenges in addition to addressing the essential basic needs of individuals in society.

For this study, we defined peace-building as every effort put in place by government and non-state actors to address human needs that border on economic challenges (like poverty, unemployment et cetera) of individuals in the society.

Theoretical framework of analysis

This study adopted Stages of Economic Growth Model. The theory was propounded in the 1960s. The proponent of the theory is Walt Whitman Rostow. The theory believes that for development to take place, it must come from outside. The following are the propositions of the model:

1. Traditional society is a society where agriculture is the main source of income, and more than 75 per cent of the population is into agriculture.
2. Pre-condition for take-off is a stage in the life of a society where capital imports dominate total investment and even to the stage of take-off.
3. Take off-stage is the stage in the life of a society where new and modern techniques dominate agricultural production.
4. The drive to maturity stage is a state in the life of a society where the society shows the capacity that it can make anything it decides to produce using technology and entrepreneurial abilities.
5. Age of extensive mass consumption is a stage in the life of a society where the attention of the society has moved to the search for national policy to enhance power and influence on other countries, to have a welfare state, by equitable distribution of national income and decision to create new commercial centres and innumerable electrically operated household appliances (Rostow, 1960).

The model applies to this study because it explains how developed countries of the world migrated from traditional societies to developed societies to overcome the problem of poverty and unemployment. The problem of poverty and unemployment are challenges that virtually every developed society faced at the early stage of economic progress. Consequently, putting up some strategies like massive investment in capital imports and infrastructural development enable such societies to become developed economies by overcoming the challenges of poverty and unemployment that often time serve as sources of conflict in developing countries.

There is hardly a society that has ever developed without effective use of resources for capital imports from other countries. Shahbaz, Naeem, Ahad, and Tahir (2017) assert that governance is a basic necessity to translate natural resource abundance into a blessing since it can guarantee that revenue from natural resources is changed into more creative investments for the satisfaction of human needs. The United States of America and Nigeria are resource-endowed countries. Therefore there is a need for developing countries like Nigeria to ensure that funds from natural resources are invested in creative investment for capital imports (industrialisation), and infrastructural development to cement the precondition for take-off. The fact that Nigeria is still importing petroleum products as a country means that the country is yet to cement the “pre-condition for take-off) which is stage two (2), let alone moving to the “take-off stage” which is stage three (3) of five (5) in Rostow Stages of economic development. For instance, Punch Newspaper reports on 9 February 2022 that, about 100 million litres of adulterated petrol was imported into Nigeria, the supplier that the Federal Government of Nigeria is yet to disclose to the public (Nnodim & Odeniyi, 2022).

The Rostow Stages of Economic Growth Model applies to an underdeveloped country like Nigeria that needs to migrate from its present economic growth stage (pre-condition for take-off) where poverty and unemployment are widespread to the next stage (take-off stage) until the ultimate stage (the age of high mass-consumption) of growth (economic development) is attained.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Economic development and peacebuilding in the United States in comparison to Nigeria

The migration in the economic growth stages starts with the ability of a society to move away from traditional society to modernization. In the words of Rostow (1960), traditional society is a society which has agriculture as its main source of income, as more than 75% of people who are working are involved in agriculture.. Therefore, the potentialities which flow from modern science and technology were either not available or not regularly and systematically applied. In a traditional society, there is a lack of the application of modern machine equipment that can boost output in commercial quantity. To this extent, to argue that most communities in Nigeria are still in the “traditional society” which is the first (1st) out of the fifth (5th) Rostow stages of economic growth is not out of order. For the United States of America, Rosenbloom (2018, p. 12) best explains the stage (traditional society) of her growth when it was initially colonized, in this manner, from the onset, most colonies that formed the US were primitive agricultural economies that later experience consistency and steady economic growth through trade “with England and other foreign countries”. When the United States was colonised, there was no modernization by that time. Modernization is keeping in line with a global trend (Igwe, 2007). Issues in the global trend, include technological advancement, democracy, mechanized farming, et cetera.

Migration to the second stage (pre-condition for take-off) of economic growth, the shift from the use of hand tools to the use of power machinery started in Great Britain. Since the industrial revolution started in Britain, it implies that the country is the first society to migrate to the second level of Rostow stages of economic growth. Mason (2011, p. 37) best captured it in this manner, the movement of economic production from the use of hand tools to the use of machines which is usually referred to as the industrial revolution took place between 1750 and 1850 in Europe, even though greater transformations happened “in Great Britain in the half-century after 1780”. The obvious is that Great Britain is the first country to move from “traditional society” to the “pre-condition for take-off, and not the US, which is the focus of this study. One will want to ask how the USA was able to move out of the traditional society to experience economic development?

The migration from traditional society to the ‘pre-condition for take-off’ stage was achieved shortly after the colonization of the colonies that made up the United States of America through “education that suits the needs of modern activities where enterprising men are willing to take chances in an effort to make money. Bank and such organizations for raising money appeared in addition to investment in transportation, communication and drive for industrialisation” (Rostow, 1960, p. 6-7). This development in the USA was as a result of an increase in knowledge through easy access to education and creating an enabling environment for new enterprising men. Jhingan (2012) validated the above in this manner, the colonial master engaged in infrastructural development in the colonies under their control, to meet her own needs, consequently the colonial master moved the colonies from traditional society to the next stage of growth (pre-condition for take-off). Great Britain invested in the colonies (USA and Nigeria), especially transportation to supply raw materials to factories of their home country. In the course of doing the foregoing, the colonial master (Great Britain) established financial institutions and other infrastructure for the ease of moving goods to their country.

The movement from traditional society to the pre-condition for take-off received more boost with technological advancement and inclusive government policies that account for the shift in character and nature of the agricultural sector of the U.S that lead to a decrease in labour use after 1950 in the US, as a result of mechanization of the agricultural sector and chemical input (Evenson & Huffman, 2001). More important is the fact that the American Revolution boosted industrialisation in the 18th century where labourers earn the highest salaries of any location included in their data in Philadelphia, about 25% more than workers in London before the 1770s, this led to an influx of population where “Boston had over 16,000 residents, New York had 25,000 residents and Philadelphia had over 30,000 resident in 1775 (Rosenbloom, 2018, p. 2- 7). Social infrastructure that provides a conducive environment for industrialisation in the U.S doubles as a feature of the urban centres one can find anywhere in many modern societies in the world. This development increased the standard of living in the USA through the reduction of the poverty rate that enhance the peacebuilding process. This high level of employment and higher income for workers is a movement towards peacebuilding, a development that is missing in Nigeria at this stage and even till now. Ayeni, Abdullahi and Christopher (2021, p. 45) corroborate the rationale for the economic progress that enhanced peacebuilding effort when they argued that “the presence of an educated population and strong institutions to favour the voice of citizens for government effectiveness encouraged economic development”. The enhancement of economic development whenever it is carried out, is a call for peacebuilding.

The pre-civil war initiatives in Nigeria (the import substitution policy of industrialization) which brought about the development of light manufacturing industries in Nigeria showed that some parts of the country had been in the 'pre-condition for take-off' stage before now. It has been further posited that Eastern Nigeria had a better opportunity of cementing the pre-condition for 'take-off' during the civil war of 1967-1970 under the leadership of Ojukwu when the region was able to build armoured cars and tanks, and improved aircraft from trainers to fighters, from passenger aircraft to bombers (Offiom & Udah, 2014). There are innovative and creative minds in Nigeria that await in the pipeline of technological innovation and discoveries if only there are strong institutions to encourage and support such people. This is because, it is only strong and inclusive institutions that provide a level playing ground that affords equal opportunity, helps people with good ideas to start businesses, and motivate people to succeed (Acemoglu & Robinson, 2013). The absence of strong and inclusive institutions is rubbing the Eastern region of Nigeria (the industrial construction centre of goods and fabricated products in Nigeria) and Nigeria in general the opportunity to cement the 'precondition for take-off' that the country had entered since the colonial era.

The transition to the third stage, known as the "take-off stage", is where growth becomes the norm. The requirements for this take-off according to Rostow are:

1. An increase of productive investment from 5 per cent to about 10 per cent of national income or net national product;
2. The growth of substantial producing sectors with a high rate of return
3. The rise of a political, social and institutional framework that desires modernization, while making economic growth an ongoing responsibility (Rostow, 1960, p. 39)

The above development happens in the environment of strong institutions. Thus, Shahbaz, Naeem, Ahad, and Tahir (2017) opine that economic prosperity happens in countries when strong institutions effectively allocate resources from natural resources into productive investment. It is on the above note that, the colonial master (Great Britain) brought with them strong institutions (British institutions) to all the United States colonies (Rosenbloom, 2018). British had strong institutions that were brought to the USA to help facilitate economic development in the country. This strong institution in the USA helped and encourage young people in the United States to have the right of entry to schooling as they wish, hence this benefited the United States to create brilliant inventors and business people who, among other things, produced important discoveries in the fields of biotechnology, nuclear power, and information technology (Acemoglu, & Robinson, 2013). This development has presented the presence of "infrastructural development that provides enabling environment and support for industrialization and entrepreneurship skills" (Ayeni, Abdullahi & Christopher, 2021, p. 45). The importance of strong institutions in supporting education and technology is the magic wand in achieving economic development.

Strong institutions (influence behaviour and relationships among people in the society) are missing in Nigeria, hence what we have are strong leaders who use the state as an instrument of exploitation and oppression to keep people in perpetual poverty (Ayeni & Sani, 2021). The above are the reasons why developing country like Nigeria has failed to experienced economic progress that can engender economic development like that of the USA up till now. Weak institutions exploit the poor more than they do to the rich, through indirect taxation on domestic and imported goods. The above development makes it possible for the rich to save a higher proportion of their income, while the poor save little or nothing

of their income (Bourguignon, 2018). Again, it has been noted that poor countries' low levels of education are a result of weak economic institutions that do not encourage parents to educate their children, and weak political institutions that do not also persuade the government to create, finance, and support schools and the wants of parents and children (Acemoglu, & Robinson, 2013). Corroborating the above is Ayeni and Sani (2021), when they posit that the peacebuilding project in Nigeria has been challenged by weak economic institutions, high level of corruption, uneven distribution of state resources and inadequate infrastructural development.

Table 1: Take-off period in the United States

Country	Take-off period
Great Britain	1783-1802
United States	1843-1860
Canada	1896-1914
France	1830-1860
India & China	1952

Source: Rostow 1960

From table 1 above, the US economy witnessed a consistent increase in economic growth from 1843 to 1860 to get to the take-off stage. This means that economic growth has become a norm in the US economy for seventeen years (17 years) without stopping. This development resulted in an inflow of people searching for work in the numerous factories in the United States. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, (2007) noted that, by 1850, nine out of every ten adults white Americans could read, in addition to a wide spread of manufacturing industries to a wider range of commodities in the middle decade of 19 century. In addition to the above, the US government moderates inequality through taxation and transfers to the poor through education and training in addition to access to health, microcredit, water, energy, and transportation that will enhance people's ability to create wealth in the future (Bourguignon, 2018). The US government was fully involved in regulating their economy, providing equal opportunities for every citizen, and providing an enabling environment for people to achieve their dreams while also providing access to education and training, courtesy of strong institutions. Thus, Shahbaz, Naeem, Ahad, and Tahir, (2017) noted that sound education increases efficiency by organizing, managing, and governing resources for enhanced efficiency.

The US society then moved to the 'drive to maturity stage' after the economy has experienced self-sustenance (take-off stage). At this new stage of economic growth, society has effectively used modern technology in virtually every sector of its resources, hence things previously imported are locally manufactured (Rostow, 1960). Corroborated the above is Anastakis (2017), By the 1920s, Canadian industry sectors like automotive assembly, consumer goods, and chemical and auto parts were dominated by American (the U.S) branch plant operations.

Table 2: Stage of Maturity in the United States

Country	Maturity year
Great Britain	1850
United States	1900
Canada	1950

Source: Rostow (1960:)

At this point, the US economy has proven that it possesses the technology and entrepreneurial know-how to generate anything it chooses to produce, just as it did when it created industries in Canada. As a result of the technological breakthrough in the USA, Britain which had earlier imported most of its raw cotton from the Ottoman Empire and the Caribbean, now imported cheap cotton from the USA because of the invention of the cotton gin that made American cotton cheaper (Mason (2011). The technological advancement of the US increased her chance in the international arena by selling cheap cotton. Not only that, Oil refinery products that run almost all the world's means of transportation and electricity generation are in large supply in the US society (Atris, 2019).

On the contrary, a country like Nigeria which is not in the "stage of maturity" to produce anything it chooses to produce still import and sell petroleum product at a higher price to its citizens, even though it has crude oil in abundance. The strong institutions and technological advancement lacking in Nigeria have denied the country sustainable economic progress that can enhance peacebuilding. The inability of Nigeria to enter into the state of 'maturity stage' in economic development to enhance peacebuilding in Nigeria is well captured by Ayeni, Doosur & Kefas (2021) in this manner, the money that ought to be invested in development to enhance peacebuilding is diverted to vote buying for temporary satisfaction of Nigerians. Suffice to say that absence of economic development give credence to vote buying, a development that is anti-peacebuilding in nature.

In an era of 'heavy mass consumption' which is the highest stage of Rostow stages of economic growth; the attention of societies has been shifted to the welfare state (Rostow, 1960).

Table 3: Age of heavy or high mass consumption in the United States

Country	The age of heavy or high mass consumption
United States	1920s
Great Britain	1930s
Japan & Western Europe	1950s

Source: Rostow 1960:

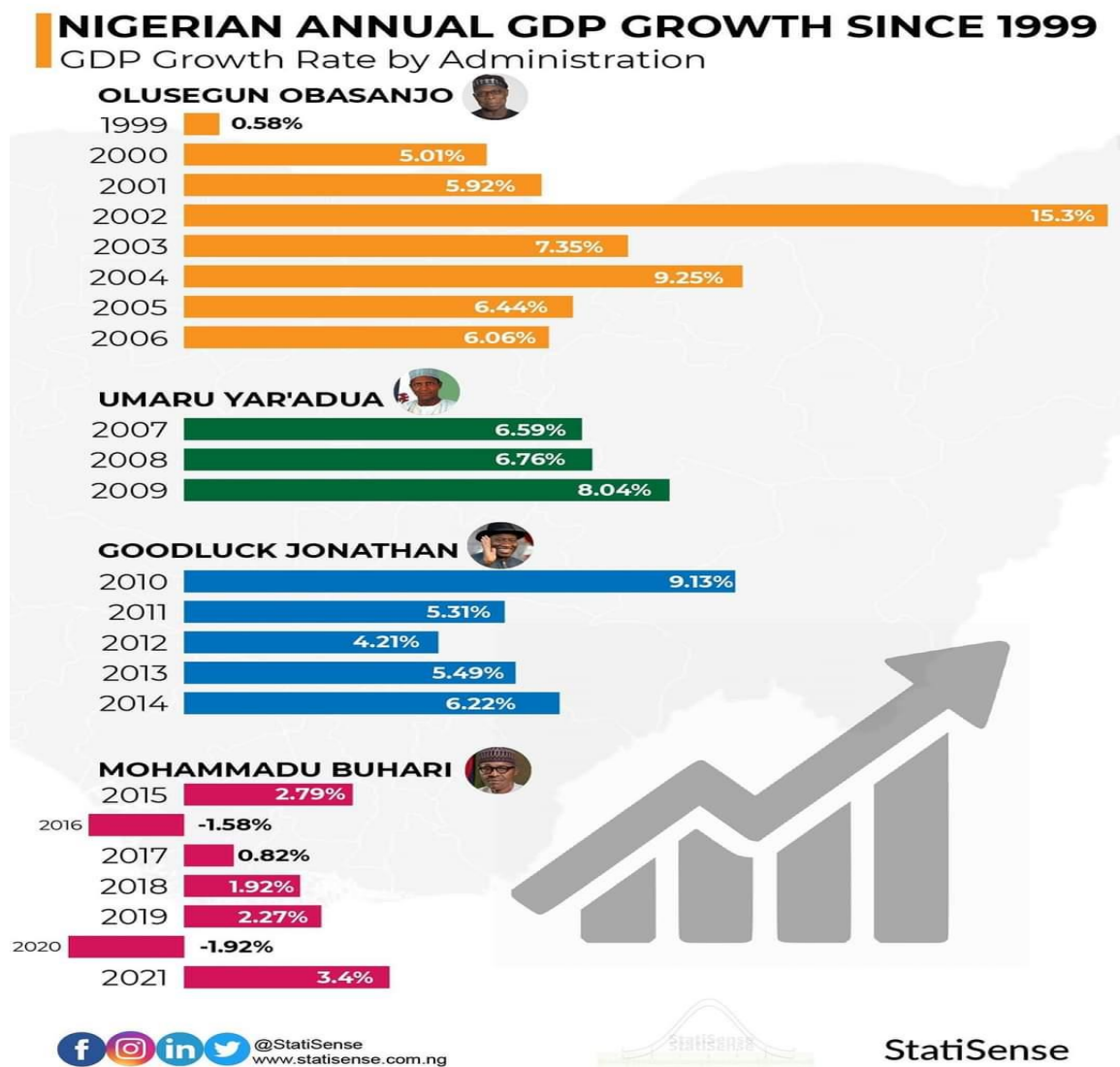
At this stage, the problem of what to eat has been overcome and the attention of the political class has been diverted to an increase in leisure, more consumption and the welfare of the people. For the US, the turning point was, perhaps, Henry Ford's moving assembly line of 1913-14; but it was in the 1920s, and again in the post-war decade, 1946-56, that this stage of growth was pressed to, virtually, its logical conclusion (Rostow, 1960). Validating the above observation, Anastakis (2017) noted that, the second industrial revolution transformed Entrepreneurs and industrialists like Henry Ford pioneered mass assembly in the United States, where economies of scale in the rail, steel, consumer goods, and automobile industries allowed for the production of long-lasting cars to be produced in enormous facilities. The above means that an economy has produced more than what the economy needs. For instance, "the US refineries exceeded 17md/d crude oil production output in 2017, with a 92% capacity utilization rate" (Atris, 2019, p.10). What the above implies is that the US Refineries produce far more than what the local consumption demands. This is the stage where attention is shifted to the welfare of the citizens, hence peacebuilding is enhanced. Thus, there is quest to enhance power and influence outside one own nationality, to have a welfare state by equitable sharing of national income, progressive taxation, increase social security and leisure to the working force; the decision to create cheap automobiles, houses,

and innumerable electricity-operated household devices, et cetera (Jhingan, 2012). Countries that have attained the stage of high mass consumption are at liberty to shift attention to welfare and leisure, hence the US has integrity by prioritizing welfare and leisure. On the other hand, countries that have not attained the stage of high mass consumption should focus on achieving economic development to achieve peacebuilding. This is where country like Nigeria got it wrong by shifting attention to welfare and leisure when economic development has not been achieved. On economic trajectory that can lead to peacebuilding, it is not out of place to say that Nigerian government lacks integrity. Integrity is doing what you are supposed to do (Ayeni, 2018).

One of the reasons why economic development will bring about peacebuilding is its ability to address some of the root causes of conflict, which peacebuilding is geared towards addressing without the use of force. This is why boosting a community's economic well-being through actions such as job creation, employment retention, tax base expansion, and quality of life improvement is economic development's primary goal (the International Economic Development Council, 2000). Economic development when achieved is capable of addressing the problem of unemployment and poverty that have been the root cause of most conflict in developing societies like Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The finding of this study is that the presence of strong institutions that promote access to education and technology advancement to create equal opportunity for everybody to succeed is the magic wand in achieving economic development in the U.S, while the absence of strong institutions in Nigeria produce strong leaders that war against education and technological advancement to create unfavourable environment for people to succeed. Strong or inclusive economic and political institutions that started taking root in the USA before 1776 independence in the US helped to lubricate and enhance the journey to the economic development of the country, even till now. The finding of this study correlated the finding of previous study by Acemoglu and Robinson (2013, p.77), when they noted that strong economic institutions enhanced the gadgets of prosperity that include technology and education, hence it was U.S. society, not Mexico or Nigeria, “that produce Thomas Edison, the founder of one of the earliest technological innovative companies”. It is a society with strong institutions to attract and support innovative minds to achieve their dreams to the greatest height irrespective of their background that can make society move from a traditional society (a society where there is poverty and unemployment that are the root cause of conflict and crime) to economic development (where major basic needs of the people have been satisfied).

Figure 1: Nigeria's annual GDP from 1999 to 2021

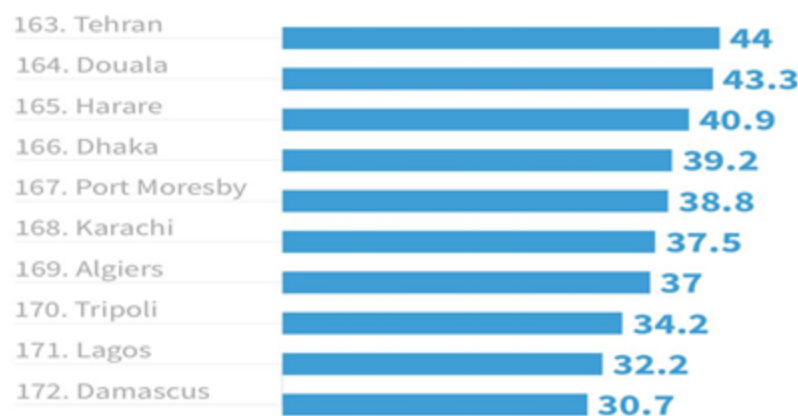
Source: StatiSense (n.d), www.statisense.com.ng.

In Nigeria, there is no steady economic growth, as shown above, that can fuel economic development and usher in sustainable peacebuilding, unlike the United State of America where the economic growth has been very steady and stable and had brought them to the level of achieving economic development. The strong institutions that are needed for steady economic growth that leads to economic development are lacking in the Nigerian state, hence the reason why many Nigerian young populations lack access to education and support to achieve their dreams. This consequently leads to a lack of consistent economic growth and low Gross Domestic Product, a development that makes peacebuilding to be a mirage.

When a country failed to achieve economic development, the journey to robust peacebuilding is thwarted. The inability of the Nigerian state to experience economic development that will make the problem of unemployment and poverty to be a thing of the past has made peacebuilding assignments difficult. Nwanegbo (2015) corroborate the implication of not achieving economic development by saying that conflicts arose as a result of poverty and unemployment owing to the non-attainment of economic development caused

by the mismanagement of resources. Absence of strong institutions have further inflicted pain on Nigerian masses courtesy of the privatisation of electricity in Nigeria that has increased the level of poverty, as people continued to buy petroleum product to power their generating set in addition to paying exorbitant price for electricity that was never supplied (Ayeni, Oluwole & Nurudden (2020). The failure of Nigerian ruling elite not to prioritise economic development is what a scholar has referred to as lack of developmental integrity. Developmental integrity means the capacity of a nation to make use of her natural and human resources so as to enhance the standard of living of her citizens (Ayeni, 2018). There will be low standard of living when there is no economic development, a development that does not encourage sustainable peace where people will want to live. Below figure attests to the effect of lack of economic development on livable cities in the world, with Nigeria inclusive.

Figure 2: Least liveable cities: Bottom ten positions



Source: Global Liveability Index for 2022

This high level of poverty and unemployment has made Nigeria cities to be among one of the least liveable cities in the world. Acemoglu and Robinson (2013) attributed the above scenario to the problems of poverty and unemployment that are caused by a lack of education and skills of the people that ought to produce the scientific knowledge needed for economic progress.

CONCLUSION

The study has theoretically analysed how economic development enhance peacebuilding in the US, with the aim of drawing lessons for Nigeria. The study conclude that economic development was made possible in the US courtesy of the presence of strong institutions that promote access to education, technological advancement and create equal opportunity for everybody to succeed to address human needs that pose challenges to peacebuilding. Therefore, the problems of unemployment and poverty that economic development was able to solve engender peacebuilding in the United States.

The absence of economic development in Nigeria is made possible because of weak institutions that produce strong leaders to war against access to education, technological advancement and opportunity for people to succeed. Therefore, the problem of unemployment and poverty that lack of economic development was not able to address war against peacebuilding and serve as root cause of conflict.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Flowing from the above findings, the study recommends that: The civil society organisation should persuade the general public and the ruling elite to build strong institutions that will promote access to education, technological advancement and create equal opportunity for everybody to succeed in respective of individuals' background. The suggested solution will produce an educated population to favour the voice of citizens for government effectiveness, innovative and creative minds that will effectively allocate resources into productive investment for economic development in Nigeria.

The Federal Government of Nigeria should privatise all government refineries and act only as a regulator in the petroleum sector. The suggested solution will spur competition and increase efficiency in the petroleum sector.

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