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REVIEW

domestic scientific consultant to the dissertation work of the doctoral student of the English department of the EP "8D03104 Political Science " Yakasai Bashir Aliyu

«Нигерияның мемлекеттік басқару жүйесіндегі ру-тайпалық қатынастардың рөлі / Роль рода-племенных отношений в системе государственного управления Нигерии / The role of tribal relations in the system of public administration in Nigeria»

This dissertation undertakes a comprehensive study of the complex relationship between tribal relations and governance in Nigeria, a country characterized by deep ethnic diversity and political pluralism. Through a methodologically rigorous approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including case studies, ethnographic fieldwork, and surveys, the dissertation analyzes the enduring influence of tribal ties in the country's administrative and governance systems.

The doctoral student's research draws on established theoretical frameworks such as pluralist society theory, prebendalism, and consociationalism, which together explain how ethnic alliances intersect with political and bureaucratic processes in multi-ethnic societies such as Nigeria. The incorporation of these theories provides a strong conceptual lens for understanding both formal and informal dynamics within state institutions.

The study's main findings indicate that tribalism has a predominantly negative impact on governance in Nigeria, undermining meritocratic practices, fostering corruption, and perpetuating regional disparities in resource distribution. The politicization of ethnicity not only hinders effective governance, but also undermines public trust in public institutions. However, the study also acknowledges the paradoxical role of tribalism as a source of social identity and cohesion for many Nigerians, which complicates reform efforts.

The hypotheses tested in this study were supported by both empirical and perceptual evidence, indicating that hiring fairness, tribal affiliation, and federal character principles significantly influence public trust in government. Notably, the 2023 presidential election demonstrated how tribal loyalties shape election outcomes and political discourse, reflecting broader national patterns.

Despite structural attempts to manage ethnic diversity through federalism, statehood, and the federal character principle, these mechanisms are often used by elites for patronage purposes. The study concludes that institutional frameworks remain too weak to neutralize ethnic bias or fully realize equitable governance.

This dissertation makes a significant contribution to the debate on governance in multi-ethnic states by offering evidence-based findings and practical policy recommendations. It advocates a balanced approach that acknowledges ethnic identities while promoting equity, inclusion and national unity. Reforms should prioritise merit-based appointments, anti-discrimination policies and civic education, while carefully considering the sensitivities of ethnic pluralism.

Moreover, the publication of research results in national and international journals and peer-reviewed publications highlights its scientific value and potential impact on both the academic and policy communities.

In summary, this study provides a nuanced, interdisciplinary understanding of how tribal relations shape governance in Nigeria. It offers not only a critical diagnosis of current problems but also a strategic roadmap towards more inclusive and effective governance.

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