

Examining Nigeria's Political Structure (NPS) as a Vehicle for Criminality, Corruption and Anti-National Development

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Abstract

This study intends to develop a standard political structure in the Nigerian context that is national, economic, and social-political development oriented. Again, this study contributes to the deficiencies in the past literature on political science regarding political structure and good governance. There is a global paradigm shift in the citizens' acceptability of political decisions and promises, especially in Nigeria. The concept of emilokanism is an anti-democratic political structure. The downscale of citizens' trust in the government keeps decreasing. The U.S. citizens' trust in government dropped from 77% in the 1960s to 54% in 2001 and then went down to 17% in 2019. However, European and Asian countries are not left out. Nigeria is not exceptional in this drop in government trust among citizens due to the so-called political structure. Nigerian Leaders are the viruses eating deep into the mechanism and framework of the country. The cost of running a corrupt government is much higher than running a corrupt-free nation. In this article, the authors employed a scoping review of studies on political studies, political structure, good governance, political corruption, and politics to demystify the repulsive nature of political structure in Nigeria and provide recommendations for a more refined architecture. The findings revealed that one of the significant reasons for corruption among Nigerian political leaders is the political structure. Nigeria's political system gives room for corruption and thereby economically enslaves her citizenry.

Keywords: Nigeria Political Structure, Corruption, Criminality, National Development.

Introduction

Although political corruption is widespread in contemporary societies (Tignor, 1993), it is increasingly becoming worse in Africa and Nigeria in particular. The level of trust in government has been de-escalating on a global scale. The Pew Research Center of the United States records that the proportion of U.S. citizens' trust in government dropped from 77% in the 1960s to 54% in 2001 and then went down to 17% in 2019. The downscale of citizens' trust in the government takes similar observable ordonnance in European and Asian countries (Nam & Lee, 2021). Nigeria is not exceptional in this drop in government trust among citizens as a result of the so-called political structure.

Politics is the social structure and methods used to manage a government or state. It is a coordinated set of principles, laws, ideas, and procedures relating to a particular form of government. Political structure refers to institutions and their relations to each other, their patterns of interaction within political systems, political regulations, laws, and the norms present in political systems in such a way that they constitute the political landscape and political entity (Offe, 1993).

The form of government could be democracies, monarchies, military, authoritarian or totalitarian regimes. Notwithstanding, the national government of every country is into three branches, the Legislature, the Executive, and the Judiciary. These three levels of government regulate one another so that no one can become despotic (Kriesi, 2004; Chazan, 2019; Clapham & Philip, 2021).

The failure to positively harmonize this structure of government makes corrupt governance and electoral fraud. Corruption is the abuse of public power, office, or resources by elected government officials for personal gain, by extortion, soliciting, or offering bribes. Consequently, there is nothing wrong with the Nigerian character. There is nothing wrong with Nigerian land, climate, water, air, natural resources, currency, and diversities. The Nigerian problem is the unwillingness of political leaders to uphold the true meaning of political structure (Gana, 1996; Buxton, 2020).

The word "democracy" (Greek: δημοκρατία - "rule by the people") was excogitated by Athenians to define their system of government around 508 BC. Abraham Lincoln further circumscribed democracy as the government of the people by the people and for the good of the people (Tuncer, 2022). Since the inception of democracy in Nigeria on 27 February 1999, it has yielded poor dividends to the Nigerian citizens due to the misleading political structure. However, this has reduced the country to a mere 'shopping mall' where the privileged will come, embezzle, and enrich themselves to the detriment of the common man in society. Today, that 'shopping mall' (Nigeria) is empty with a huge national debt-the result of political structure. Political leaders no longer embrace ideas but the political structure. A country without new idea never advances.

The purpose of this study is to develop a standard political structure in the Nigerian context that is national, economic, and social-political development oriented. Again, this study contributes to the deficiencies in the past literature on political science regarding political structure and good governance. There is a global negative shift in the citizens' trustability in political decisions and promises, especially in Nigeria.

Nigeria Political Structure Abused

The concept of political structure (PS) claimed by Nigerian political leaders has brought nothing but Misappropriation of public funds and embezzlement, looting of funds and wealth-keeping secretly abroad, money laundering (including extra-legal and illegal transfer of funds) across national borders, Gratification involving monetary, pecuniary, material, or even physical favors like sexual relationships, abuse of office, including the violation of the oath of office by an incumbent, debasement of official procedures for personal financial or non-material gains and obstructing due process or rule of law for political advantage, Nepotism, political abuse, favoritism and other forms of primordial considerations (Awofeso & Odeyemi, 2014). When corruption becomes a culture, it stands rooted and is challenging to fight.

Furthermore, the concept of political structure has erroneously attained an important picture between Nigeria's political parties (APC and PDP) as a vehicle for corruption and national decay. This has resulted in Political leaders seeing themselves as 'deceptive' gods to the people they were supposed to protect (Otusanya & Lauwo, 2019; Igiebor, 2019). In Nigeria, the concept of PS can be summarized as, *WHO DO YOU KNOW* in government that can protect you and your corrupt practices?

Thus, this abuse of PS among Nigerian political parties during the 2023 general election in the light of (emilokan) - it is my turn/time has demonstrated the level of national decay. When a presidential candidate is based on my turn and not on competence, transparency, track records, strong vision for the country's future, an ability to put their times in the perspective of history, concrete communication skills, the courage to make unpopular decisions, crisis management skills, advanced technological know-how, strategic thinking, selflessness, health, character, integrity, education, and trust (Nam & Lee, 2021), the country suffers significant setback and despondency.

The trustability of every government is dependent on presidential quality. Thus, Nam & Lee (2021) confirms that presidential qualities can increase the public's confidence in the government. In a democratic government, every government election should be the turn of the citizens to elect the most qualified candidate and not the aspirant's turn. When the political candidate assumes or imposes himself, it becomes 'democracy'.

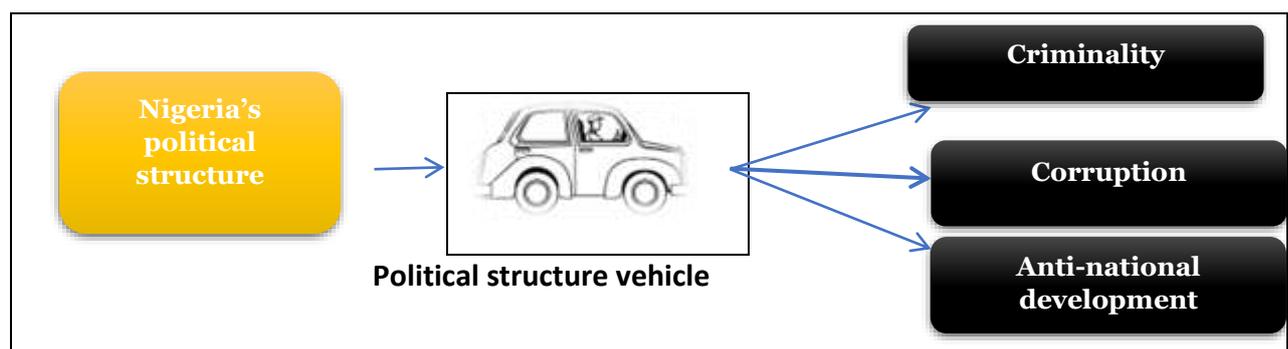


Figure 1: demonstrating Nigeria political structure
Adapted and improved from (Hanson-Agumbah, 2022).

Corruption in Nigeria has cost the country hundreds of billions of pounds (Folarin, 2021). Still emphasizing PS in Nigeria, it has normalized corruption among political leaders and spread across the entire three tiers of government. According to a political scholar, 'corruption has become a pandemic in Nigeria, spreading like a hurricane and has so eaten deep into the country's economy (Kabiru, 2019; Okenna, 2020).

Similarly, Okenna (2020) posited that the corruption in Nigeria brought by PS ranges from misuse of public positions, lack of accountability and misappropriation of public funds, increase in prices of contracts, high-level bribery, forgery of documents and contracts agreements, tax dodging and evasions, and godfatherism, which till today posed as a national threat. The scholar further suggests that to eradicate corruption, there should be a rebuilding of morality, integrity, honesty, hard work, trustability, and credibility among political leaders. For over 40 years till date, with the Nigerian political structure, Nigeria could not provide electricity, roads, quality education, and basic amenities.

Most regrettably, a corrupt government produces corrupt leaders, which impacts national security, economic growth, infrastructural development, and citizens' trust. Only a government free of corruption can fight corruption among national leaders, irrespective of personalities, ethnicities, religions, and status. In developing countries, it is easier for the head of a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a ruined political structure to fight corruption (Elijah, 2007; Trump, 2017; Ojiji et al., 2021).

A political structure that allows the intimidation of innocent citizens, infringement of fundamental human rights, election fraud, controls the judiciary, promotes emilokanism, protects terrorism, encourages embezzlement of public funds, deprives national development, handicaps economic growth, encourages unlawfully and forcefully detection and murder of innocent citizens, promotes insecurities, and religious incitement is barbaric and never intended for national, political, and economic, development. Its' aim is one - to sap the nation of her resources and cause untold hardship to her citizens (Okunola et al., 2019; Joseph, 2020; Escobar, 2019; Wang, 2019).

Corruption, Criminality and Anti-National Development

According to Dominic et al (2022), one vital driver of national development and a corruption fight is the education of higher learning. Furthermore, good governance correlates with national issues solving, and solving humanity's problems need the activities of outstanding and reputable universities (Dominic et al., 2022). A further study revealed that university Strikes by different unions in Nigerian universities are another problem preventing the fight against corruption (Jacob & Lawan, 2020).

In addition, Ngwoke (2021) argued that corruption and corrupt practices exist in all (corruption in the Nigerian oil industry, bureaucracy, politics, universities, public services, health services, economy...) Nigerian sectors. Thus, the worst corruption is when a corrupt government is fighting corruption. In the same light, Eusebius, et al (2020) concluded that political corruption is responsible for the rise in the poverty level in Nigeria from top to bottom.

Greed and corruption among political leaders have reduced Nigeria to an ant of Africa instead of the giant she ought to be. For over 40 years, Nigeria has had no steady electricity, good road networks, no basic amenities, infrastructural development, and a poor education system because of the corrupt characteristics of its leaders (Olanrele, 2020). My question is, can Nigeria ever get it right?

The beauty in our cultural diversity as a nation has been bastardized by those who were supposed to lead Nigerians to harmony. Thus, Nigeria has become a microcosm of Chinua Achebe's novel, "The falcon cannot hear the falconer; Things fall apart; the center cannot hold; Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world-Nigeria/the ceremony of innocence is drowned (Gosling, 2017). The reasons for insurgencies in Nigeria are 95% traceable to corrupt politics.

This justifies the biblical allusion that says "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: But when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2 KJV).

The Nigerian political structure caused political decay, economic downturn, negative impact on the human rights of the citizenry, low investment, adverse effects on efficient mobilization and management of human and material resources, mass poverty, insurgencies, and inflation. Funny enough, a political leader can get away with corrupt practices when he has high-level governmental and political figures. The truism that the Nigerian political structure is anti-development, anti-democratic, and anti-economic growth does not need contention (Moyosore, 2015).

However, one persistent accolade conferred on Nigeria is that she is one of the most corrupt countries in the world (Salisu, 2000; Obamuyi & Olayiwola, 2019; Nwogbo & Ighodalo, 2021). This conferment is untrue, mentally incorrect, and morally wrong. Emphatically, it should read as one persistent accolade conferred on Nigeria is that she has one of the worst/ most corrupt political leaders among the countries in the world. Nigeria is blessed, and Nigerians are hardworking people with a high level of intellect. Nigerian Leaders are the viruses eating deep into the morality of the country.

It takes credible leaders to produce a decent and corrupt-free country. No country in the world is corrupt-free. However, when the rate of corruption is so high to the detriment of the citizenry, it becomes a national pandemic (Dominic et al., 2021). This is so true for political leaders who are developmentally immature and corruptly wise. The political structure of Nigeria not only produces corruption but also gives birth to national poverty. A scholar has it that corruption in Nigeria is a scourge without remedies (Obiora & Nwankwo, 2022). Arguably, the whip (Nigeria political structure-corruption) used as an instrument of punishment, suffering, and trouble to the Nigerian citizenry can be reduced, if not completely stopped, when the right leaders come into play.

The cost of running a corrupt government is much higher than running a corrupt-free nation. Society prepares for the crimes, and criminals commit the crimes. The difference is what happened after the crime was committed- irrespective of who committed the crime. Nigeria is like a 63 years old man who has refused to grow because of the political structure she practices (Imosemi, 2021).

The consequences of corruption are unfavorable for the progress of any society. Having investigated the political style in Nigeria, can it be said that Nigerian leaders have a culture of political corruption? The answer to the above question is the aim of this article. Nigeria's political structure is the vehicle for corruption and national anti-development.

A study further posited Nigerian politics and administration as a hidden disease of democracy and blight of development in the country (Abdulkareem et al., 2021). Again, Kanu (2020) argued that political corruption in Nigeria cuts across faiths, religious denominations, and political systems and affects both young and old, men and women alike.

The concept of corruption and anti-national development instigates crimes, high poverty levels, and violence among the citizenry and hamper economic growth. It is, therefore, necessary to initiate a way forward and savage the citizens against this national pandemic-political corruption (Ezewudo & Peters, 2022).

Recommended way Forward to Redefining Nigeria Political Structure

No government is immune to corruption as much as it constitutes human beings. However, when dishonest or fraudulent conduct by those in power becomes a way of life among political leaders, it leads to an anti-democratic system, anti-development, anti-progress, and

anti-rule of law. Simply put, any corrupt government is a disease to its citizenry. Below is a list of recommended solutions for better governance and protecting the citizenry's interest (Doornbos, 2019; Ezewudo & Peters, 2022).

Participation, Representation, and Fair Conduct of Elections: Every political soundness, correctness, and corrupt free needs a fair and credible election, political inclusiveness, and unbiased representation void of violence.

Responsiveness: Good governance possesses the quality of reacting quickly and positively to the need of its citizens and avoiding inflicting pain on the citizens. When political leaders have unconditional and equal approachability, sensitivity, broad-mindedness, observance, and (religious, ethnic, and political) tolerance toward finding a solution to national problems, the political structure will be meaningful and politically accommodative.

Efficiency and Effectiveness: Every political structure should be result oriented among political leaders. Good governance involves the quality of accomplishing electoral promises with the least amount of wasted time, money, and effort or competency in performance. The political structure in Nigeria should have the degree to which national and economic development is successful in producing the desired result.

Openness and Transparency: This concept implies that the decisions/enforcement taken by the political actors should be in a manner that follows the national rules and regulations. Good governance embraces Communication, engagement, personal relationships, and collaboration, encourages innovation and experimentation, builds enthusiasm, and provides recognition. Transparency is far among Nigerian political leaders because of the evil in the political structure.

Rule of Law: A working political structure operates on a durable system of law. The rule of law implies that the creation of laws, their enforcement, and the relationships among legal authorities are themselves legally regulated so that no one (including the most highly placed political personnel) is above the law.

Ethical Conduct: The political structure's credibility, believability, and acceptability depend on ethical conduct among top political actors. This concept comprises trustworthiness, accountability, respect consistent with laws, regulations, and national policies, transparency, fairness, good faith, and integrity among political officials. When political leaders display questionable conduct, the structure becomes dishonorable and doubtful.

Competence and Capacity: The political structure in Nigeria's government comprises privileged individuals without competence in governance, thus, the suffering of the citizens today. This concept entails that the professional skills of political actors are continuously maintained and strengthened to improve their output and impact. The political structure in Nigeria is a chain of corrupt practices with no governmental, infrastructural, developmental, or economic-growth competence and capacity.

Innovation and Openness to Change: No political structure that practices the same thing without changes expects to achieve a different result. This is the case with Nigeria's political system. The same promises without fulfillment, borrowing without development, corruption, greediness, intimidation, and political wickedness that crippled the country's economy. Sadly, Nigeria's political leaders lack the implementation of a new or significantly changed governance system.

Sustainability and Long-term Orientation: The political structure should improve its chances of survival by ensuring that the dividends of democracy/ governance strategies used by the political officials are responsibly managed and maintained.

Sound Financial Management: There is a lack of sound financial management among Nigeria's top officials that constitute the structure. Sound financial management implies careful tracking and prudent management of the government's financial resources and cash flow. The much abandoned political projects, looting, embezzlement of public funds, deep financial misappropriation, and economic decay are products of careless national financial management.

Human rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion: Any political structure where human rights are not protected, respected, and regarded is ill-structured. Cultural diversity is the beauty of any country. Therefore, there should be unity in diversity that harmonizes that national beauty. Cultural diversity is a national asset, and continuous efforts are required to ensure that all have a stake in the government, identify with it, and do not feel excluded. Again, the extent of connectedness and solidarity among groups in Nigeria should be respected and appreciated.

Accountability: Every meaningful good political structure implies accountability in terms of ethics and governance. Thus, the concept stands for answerability, blameworthiness, liability, and the expectation of account-giving. Regarding governance, this has always been a big problem in the public sector. The political structure in Nigeria disallows accountability and allows corruption.

Furthermore, an unhealthy political structure inflicts poverty and endangers the lives of the citizenry. Thus, this account for the reason political leaders uses the public money to buy the consciences of the (poor) masses. However, a significant obstacle to controlling corruption in Nigeria is the weak attitude/character of the citizenry toward participating in the government beyond voting in elections (Igiebor, 2019). The political parties that enjoy sharing money during elections constitute an evil and corrupt political structure.

Regrettably, extraction and power preservation are rooted in Nigeria's political structure. Thus, when top political officials enrich themselves by abusing their hold on power to extract from public and private sources to the detriment of the citizens, the structure becomes a political pandemic (Obamuyi & Olayiwola, 2019). Only in Africa, especially in 'Nigeria' operates a system of government where a few political power holders are wealthier than the whole country. The concept of good political structure is simplified in the figure below:

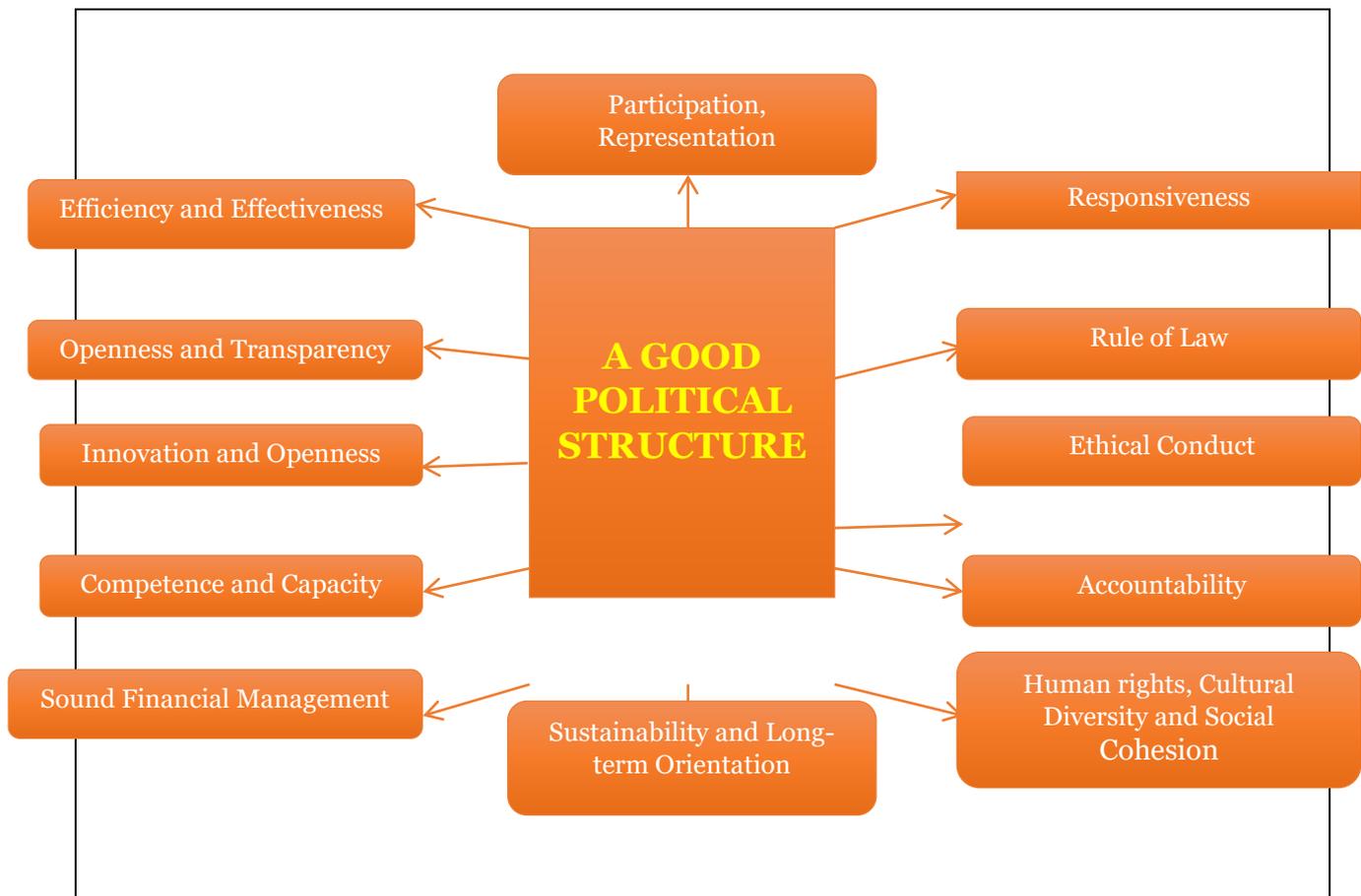


Figure 2: Recommended way forward to redefining Nigeria political structure

Adapted and improved from (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/good-governance/12-principles-and-elope>; Doornbos, 2019).

Consequently, there is hope for a better Nigeria if the political structure is tailored appropriately to the right channel, paying attention to accountability, giving education a priority, and the rule of law a chance in society. According to scholars, education is the key to the all-round development of the nation and its citizens (Eruka & Obute, 2021; Dominic, Mahamed, et al., 2022).

Method

The authors employed a scoping review of studies on political studies, political structure, good governance, political corruption, and politics during this period of (Nigeria) national decay. Scoping reviews account for studies related to politics and corrupt practices among political leaders (Moulaert, et al., 2022; Rinaldi & Bekker, 2021). However, we did not use meta-analysis in the review, but systematic review methods were employed to minimize bias that might arise from the identification and inclusion of the study (Daudt et al., 2013).

Furthermore, the authors used Google scholar search throughout the study. Justifiably, Google scholar has the most coverage of literature and the most comprehensive academic search engine, found in academic search and bibliographic databases, with the Inclusion of subscription-based SCOPUS, ERA, and Web of Science databases (Dominic et al., 2021).

Most importantly, this review paper was on the (Nigeria) political structure and politics-related news, supported by relevant literature reviews on the (Nigeria) political system,

political corruption, and governance. The study collected secondary data primarily from academic journals, books, conference papers, and internet sources. The authors' personal experiences in investigating political corruption also contributed to the study. From the initial search, the results documents were first examined; for relevance purposes. Thus, the relevant articles were evaluated based on their titles.

Previous works are fundamentals to the creation of new knowledge. When conducting a scoping review, researchers analyze, interpret, compare, and critically evaluate the existing body of knowledge. Scoping reviews are 'helpful precursors to systematic reviews and can be used to confirm the relevance of inclusion criteria' and potential questions (Peters, et al., 2018).

The process of scoping review allows scholars to discover the pattern of prior results, assimilate the depth and details of the breath knowledge, and scientifically identify gaps for future exploration. This scoping review investigates the Nigeria's political structure as a vehicle for criminality, corruption and anti-national development.

Furthermore, a lot of authors investigated corruption among Nigeria's political leaders and bad governance in Nigeria (Elijah, 2007; Ojiji et al., 2021; Joseph, 2020; Okunola et al., 2019; Doornbos, 2019). Very few research focus on Nigeria political structure as a vehicle for criminality, corruption and anti-national development.

From the search, the studies that were irrelevant to the review topic were dropped. After a careful evaluation of the relevant documents, the findings below were evidenced from the search. The search keywords are Nigeria political structure, criminality, corruption and anti-national development. From the initial search, the results documents total 68 from (2019 to 2023), and after screening and exclusion, a total of relevant documents were 7, based on relevance to the topic under investigation.

Findings from the scoping search

NOs	Authors	Year	Findings
1	OMEJE et al, 2021; Okpako, & Famous	2022	Nigeria's political structure will address the problem of uneven distribution of budgeting (OMEJE et al, 2021), however, it has become a tool for private gain, of rule of law, governance failure, corruption, class conflict, and unhealthy competitive interest, and favoritism.
2	Ojo	2021	No doubt of the high rate of criminality, insecurity and apathy in Nigeria political structure.
3	Ogbu	2020	Nigeria's political structure is rooted in corruption, the unequal distribution of the national cake, the incessant killings of innocent citizens, the issue of little or no accountability with waste, and disrespect of human rights.
4	Enejoh, & Ekele,	2021	Nigeria's political structure has been posed to several abuses.
5	Ineh-Dumbi	2021	Nigeria's political structure is the interest of the elites. Such a structure produces an output of underutilized and wasteful expenditure of national resources.
6	Emeh et al.,	2020	The clamor for the restructuring of the country is due to the dissatisfaction with both the Nigeria's political structure, and the government. The NPS encourages corruption, greed, selfishness, impunity, and mismanagement of public funds.

7	Hanson-Agumbah	2022	Nigeria's political structure is based on tribal and ethnic groups. Not based on national interest and it is corrupt.
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The authors opted 2019 to 2023 because the rate of political corruption heightened between the years in Nigeria. The findings justify the political ideology that a good political structure is a credit to national development and advancement. Detailed findings are discussed below.

Findings

The findings of this scoping review revealed that one of the significant reasons for corruption among Nigerian political leaders is the country's political structure. Nigeria's political system gives room for corruption and thereby economically enslaves her citizenry (Obiora & Nwankwo, 2022; Okenna, 2020).

Secondly, (the Nigeria political structure) having mentally, economically, and psychologically enslaved her citizenry makes it possible for electoral fraud. Again, a significant obstacle to controlling corruption in Nigeria is the weak attitude of the citizenry toward participating in the government beyond voting in elections. Most voters' consciences are bought over during an election, which further increases the corruption level among political leaders in Nigeria.

According to Omeje et al (2021), Nigeria's political structure should address the corruption in the country but failed in its intent (Okpako & Famous, 2022). Following these findings, Ojo (2021) found that the high level of criminality and corruption are not too far from Nigeria's political structure.

Furthermore, Ogbu (2020) posited that Nigeria's political architecture is rooted in several fits of abuse like; corruption and disregard for human rights. To support these findings, Ineh-Dumbi (2021) confirmed that Nigeria's political structure is good at 'wasteful expenditure' of national resources.

Moreover, to confirm the above findings, Emeh et al (2020) posited that NPS encourages corruption, greed, selfishness, impunity, and mismanagement of public funds; hence, the need for restructuring. In addition, Hanson-Agumbah (2022) revealed that the NPS is not based on national interest but on tribal and ethnic groups.

In conclusion, the political structure has brought Nigerians pain, suffering, hardships, intimidation, poverty, and rejection (Obamuyi & Olayiwola, 2019). Furthermore, political parties that enjoy sharing money during elections constitute an evil and corrupt political structure (Igiebor, 2019). The findings generally affirmed that the political structure in Nigeria constitutes power lunacy, tyranny, and political demagogues, which contribute towards anti-national development.

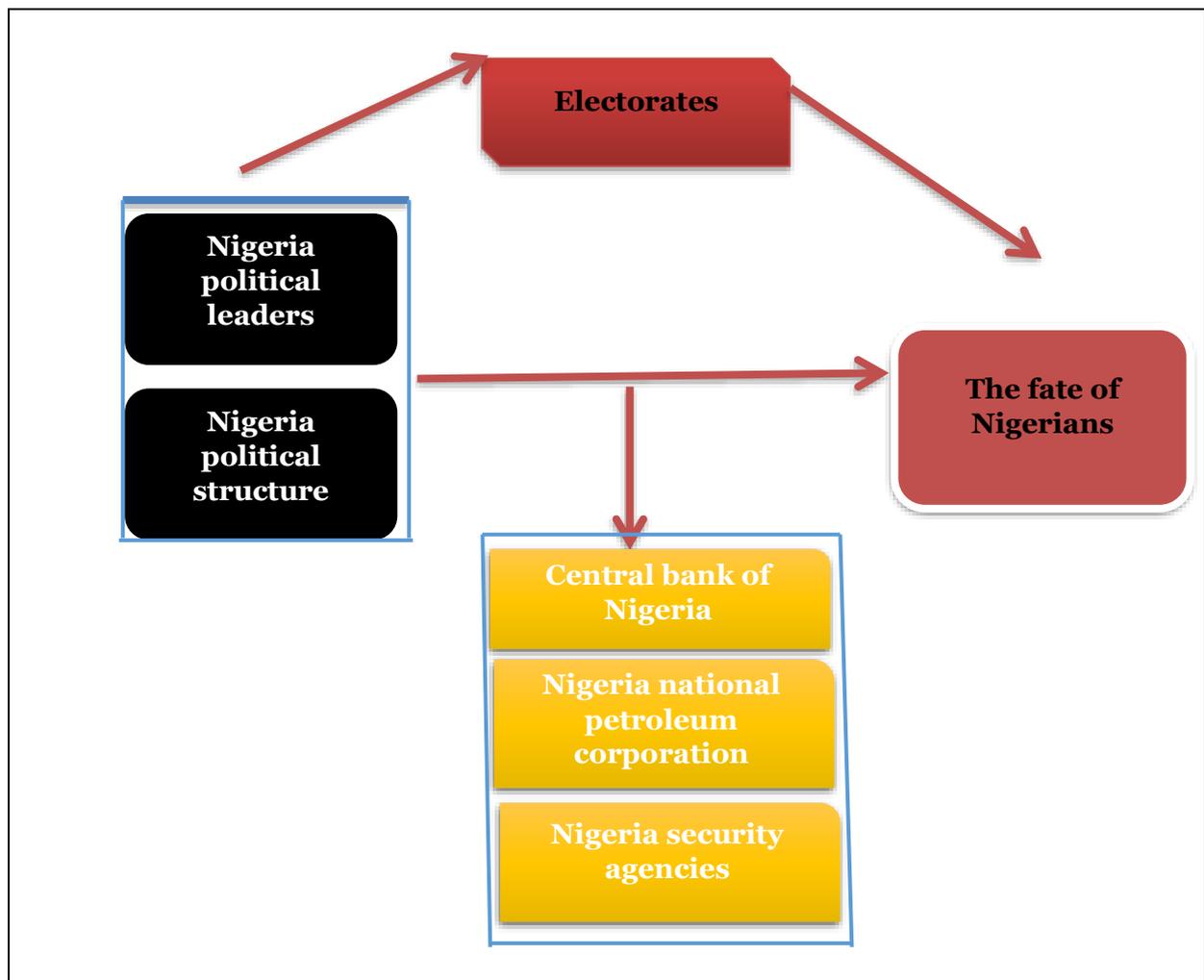


Figure 3: Conceptualizing the mediating and moderating factors that influence the fate of Nigerians

Adapted from Nigeria's practical issues and political science-related literature

The Nigeria political leaders, Nigeria political structure, electorates, central bank of Nigeria, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation, and the Nigeria security agencies are factors deciding the fate of the common Nigerians today. When these factors are corrupt, the common man suffers. Especially when the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) lacks transparency/credibility, as seen in the 2023 Nigeria general election, the initiation of new naira colouring/design by the (CBN) Central Bank of Nigeria, and the Nigeria national petroleum corporation (NNPC) frequent fuel scarcity. The concept of Nigeria's vote buying and selling also contributes to the fate of every Nigerian. If we must get it right, our perspective must change. "Nigeria is the only country where Professors rig elections for politicians, but expel students for examination malpractice." —Prof. Wole Soyinka.

The effects of political corruption generate poor university graduates, lack of good moral values, poor image of Nigeria at international levels, lack of respect for the rule of law, and total abuse of fundamental human rights. A country with corrupt-free political leaders, political structure, and positive behavior of the electorates, efficient central bank system, and technology-driven security agencies is bound to produce national developmental results and a robust economy (Mercy, 2015).

Nigerian government should address the root causes of corruption rather than the effects through the effective implementation of legal mechanisms and a well-tailored political structure (Ajie & Wokekoro, 2012). The study recommended citizens' participation and engagement in politics, institutionalizing the rule of law, engaging transparency, and ethical conduct, ensuring responsiveness, inclusiveness, consensus orientation, equity, respect for the rule of law, and accountability, as well as efficient social service delivery inherent in the Nigeria political structure.

Although this study intends to develop a standard political structure in the Nigerian context and fill the gaps in literature on the global paradigm shift in the citizens' trust regarding political decisions and promises, the study is new and has not been given adequate attention from the Nigerian context, thus limited literature in respect to the issue.

Conclusion and Suggestions

The political structure in Nigeria has been abused and turned into a corrupt architecture. Today, no sector in Nigeria is corrupt-free. A country where only selected individuals to control the national economy and enslave the citizen to the poverty line, thus manipulating their (citizens') thinking and opinion and deciding what they want, where they want it, and how they want it. The political structure in Nigeria gave birth to poverty, destroyed the economy, promoted corruption level, hindered national/infrastructural development, and encouraged electoral fraud. From the review of relevant literature, for Nigeria to successfully combat corruption, her political structure needs a reformation.

This article tends to fill the gap (Peters et al., 2018) in the political space of Nigeria regarding the political structure and good governance. There is a global negative shift in the citizens' believability and trustability in political decisions and promises, especially in Nigeria. Figure 1 explains what Nigeria's political structure represents. However, figure 2 predicts recommendations for a better political structure that will give birth to a new Nigeria. Figure 3 points the factors that decide the fate of Nigerians.

This article provides significant insights to helping political practitioners and policy-makers develop a specific effective political structure that will provide benefits of democracy and maintain rule of law among political leaders. Again, it will help political officials to make proactive and protective decisions and provide equity and justice for all. Furthermore, regarding suggestions and recommendations, the authors highlighted a few foundations for a good political structure.

Theoretically, the authors employed a scoping review of studies on Nigeria's political structure and corruption, recommending possible solutions for a better structure that will take the country out of mental, economic, and infrastructural decay. However, we did not use meta-analysis in the review. The application of systematic review methods minimizes bias that might arise from the identification and inclusion of the studies.

Therefore, future studies are recommended to use meta-analysis to confirm results consistency concerning finding a solution to Nigeria's ill-political structure, which is lacking in the political literature. Additionally, prospective scholars should consider conducting quantitative or qualitative studies on the best possible political structure among political leaders that will take Nigeria out of the deep sea of corruption.

Significantly, the findings from this review arouse the awareness of Nigerian citizens and political decision-makers on the evils associated with Nigeria's political structure, thereby, providing valuable recommendations on the way forward to redefining Nigeria's political architecture and minimizing corruption. This review served as a subsequent reference point

for Nigerian political leaders and other global government decision-makers on a political structure that will reduce corruption, promote national development and security, and improve good governance and the economy.

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