

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF STATE CREATION AND SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The study is a longitudinal historical analysis of state creation exercise and its potentials for jumpstarting socioeconomic development among the people of benefiting areas in Nigeria. From the perception of both the government and agitators for creation of states in Nigeria, the exercise is perceived as a conveyor belt of development to the hitherto underdeveloped areas of the country. It is also expected that the exercise was capable of promoting even development and could facilitate the spread of socioeconomic amenities and opportunities to the new states particularly the capital cities, urban towns and rural areas in that order. It has been proven, however, that the state creation exercises of the past had led to the rural-urban drift because developmental attentions are concentrated on the urban centres to the neglect and disadvantage of the rural areas. The notion that state creation is an agent of socioeconomic development must have catalyzed the virulent and incessant agitation and demands for states by the sections of the country.

Keywords: State Creation, Development, rural-urban, Underdevelopment.