

## **A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE NIGER DELTA CRISIS IN NIGERIA AND THE LAND REFORM PROCESS IN ZIMBABWE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The pursuit of equality and social justice remains a fundamental ideal for many societies today. Social justice as a concept may be applied to policies and actions taken by governments, agencies, and organizations. The study weighs the agitations of the ex-militants from Niger Delta, Nigeria and the plight of the former commercial farm workers against social justice principles given the role of their respective governments in implementing fair policies that safeguard all individuals against violation of their basic rights and civil liberties. Accordingly, the experiences of the ex-militants of the Niger Delta, Nigeria were compared with that of the former commercial land owners in Zimbabwe. The purpose of the comparative analysis was to examine the similarities and differences between the two cases with the goal to determining the extent of their resistance to the perceived oppression. The social implication of this study is that the findings exposed glaring social policy gaps, including a broad range of human rights and social justice violations in both cases. The significance of this study is that the findings may be useful in contributing to the development of policies that address political, economic, and social issues in African countries, particularly in Nigeria and Zimbabwe. Similarly, key stakeholders equipped with such vital information derived from the result findings may understand, appreciate, identify, and develop appropriate strategies and guidelines that can be used to address the feelings of oppression. The study recommends the need for policy makers and key stakeholders to focus on empowerment, including providing basic education, training, health care facilities, decent housing, and modern infrastructural amenities. These areas will have an immediate positive social impact, address the perception of oppression, and also improve the quality of life of the former commercial farm workers and residents of the Niger Delta region. Empirical evidence gathered from both the doctoral dissertations of Tobor (2014) and Muzorewa (2013) inform the paper.

**Keywords:** Empowerment, equality, ex-militants, Fast Track Land Reform Program, human rights, informal settlements, land redistribution, Niger Delta, Nigeria, social justice, Zimbabwe.