

Electoral Democracy and the Breakdown of the 2019 Presidential Election in Nigeria: Issues, Challenges, and Lessons Learned

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Abstract

This study critically evaluates Nigeria's 2019 presidential election breakdown, exploring the underlying issues, structural challenges, and implications for the nation's democratic development. Nigeria, often regarded as the largest electoral democracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, has struggled with public mistrust in its electoral processes, mainly from allegations of vote manipulation, ethno-religious bias in party formation, and the pervasive influence of incumbency. Findings from the analysis reveal that voter apathy was significantly driven by a perception that powerful political actors predetermine electoral outcomes. Moreover, political parties in Nigeria continue to lack ideological foundations, aligning more with sectional and religious interests than with coherent national visions. As a result, democratic consolidation remains fragile. The study emphasizes the urgent need for ideological realignment, institutional reform, and a reorientation of the electorate toward civic responsibility and

political engagement. Only through these transformations can Nigeria move toward an inclusive, fair, and participatory democratic system.

Keywords: electoral trust, political parties, voter behavior, election rigging, Nigeria 2019 election, democratic consolidation, Sub-Saharan Africa

1. Introduction

States where government and government officers are elected by a legitimate, free, and fair election process by the people's will are known to practice electoral democracy. Africa, as a continent, is struggling to hold democratic elections. However, some African countries are making serious strides and efforts to have democracy. In politics, electoral democracy is desired by a majority of countries in the world; this is especially common with developing countries that have long been subjected to dictatorships, corruption, poverty, and diseases, such as Nigeria.

One of the reasons for this is that they believe this system guarantees freedom and liberty. In the next few days, Nigerians will elect a president, and the outcome will either be the incumbent, Mr. Atiku, or the retired army and former head of state, General Muhammadu Buhari. However, while most Nigerians will agree that these two men are entirely different in personality and leadership style, their political parties and platforms seem to mirror each other.

Ironically, in Nigeria, elections after elections from local to federal levels indicate that Nigerian voters are intentionally exposed to several instances of misinformation and disinformation that often lead them to vote wrongly and uninformed (Osho & Adams, 2025). As a result, Nigerians elect candidates with no political ideologies, leadership experience, or understanding of sound governance. The political parties have continued to deny many voters a robust political debate that could help educate them about their candidates and create better awareness of their party platforms: what they stand for, what Nigerians want as a people, and what direction the nation is heading (Adams, Osho, Woods, & Osho, 2006). Instead, a significant trend noticeable today in Nigeria's politics is political thuggery that has nothing to do with the nation's challenges; myopic stomach infrastructure on the day of election, and political character assassinations and rumors are now a function of electability. Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to examine contributing factors to vote turnout, state-by-state results, and the breakdown of the 2019 Presidential Election in Nigeria.

Most African elections often deepen the division already there, rather than build a nation with strong social cohesion. For an electoral process to be deemed democratic, it must be perceived as competitive, have a multiparty political system, and have universal adult suffrage for all its citizens. Furthermore, there must be regularly contested elections in conditions of ballot secrecy and reasonable ballot security, and in the absence of massive voter fraud. These yield results reflect the public will.

2. Prior Election Studies in Africa

Elections in Africa are usually marred by violence and loss of life, involving both political

parties. Experts sum up elections in Africa as ineffective, inefficient, and inconclusive. Some African countries have emerging democratic systems, meaning they have governments that have come to power through a legitimate process; however, factors such as a dominant political party, free but unfair elections, and a weak rule of law prevent them from being a complete democratic process. Countries like Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Kenya, and Mozambique are in this category. In contrast, countries like Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and many others have reached the electoral democratic category and are said to practice democracy.

In 2019, many African countries will conduct elections, allowing them to consolidate, institutionalize democracy, and strengthen their governance. However, this is most likely just absurdities as the previous year's elections have shown that without a governing process supported by proper separation of powers, adequate checks and balances, an independent judiciary, free press, a robust and politically active civil society, the elections will most likely have limited or no impact on the continent. For instance, the Nigerian general election, which took place in February this year, saw an incumbent president retain his seat as the country's president and was marred by violence and inconsistency. The government still faces different pressing issues, such as security, the Boko Haram insurgency, poverty, and various institutional and structural problems. Also, there are severe inequalities in wealth and income distribution, religion and ethnocultural divisions, administrative issues, and weakness in the political and judicial foundations of the states. These issues have resulted in high bureaucratic and political corruption, including public financial malfeasance. The election was quite fair compared to the previous ones conducted in the country (Centre for Public Policy Alternatives, 2005).

They conducted their elections in Cameroon in 2018, and most opposition candidates and ordinary Cameroonians saw it as a massive fraud. The election was marred by high levels of insecurity and violent extremism, which have always been the case when conducting elections in this country. The violence forced protests from teachers and lawyers against the political and economic marginalization of the Anglophones (English) by the Francophone (French) speaking people, which was described by the international community as genocide.

The United Nations' characteristics of good governance are a system that has transparency, accountability, equity, and equality. However, most African countries hardly meet the rule of law. Other aspects of effective governance include having effective electoral bodies that would conduct free and fair elections, separation of powers, particularly judicial independence, and the rights of women, children, and vulnerable groups. Good governance in Africa is more like a dream, highly aspirational, and challenging to achieve in its totality. Many countries face conflict, the fight against corruption, shady legal systems, and election malpractices. However, different sources show at various times that some countries have good governance, like Mauritius, Botswana, and Cape Verde.

Most African countries suffer during the election period due to a lack of free and fair elections that can heat domestic politics, which could lead to violence. Flawed elections, when passed as free, fair, and credible, leave citizens with little or no choice but to agitate for

regime change. Rigged elections often entrench incumbents in countries where democracy is under attack. A democracy that works scores high on good governance practices, particularly civil liberties and free and fair elections. Generally, Africa's good governance shows a steady but slow growth despite all the negativity and hiccups. The data collected previously indicates that good governance will trend in the right direction shortly.

Lewis and Kew (2015) noted that an election is the core of a democratic government, which should be transparent, fair, credible, and acceptable. The concerns are about a sustainable democracy, and all elections should be fundamental to democracy and good governance. Election is a process that should build solid structures for all democracy and nationhood. Nigeria's elections of 2015 marked a significant moment for the first time the nation obtained independence when an opposition party was declared the winner in a general election.

3. Patterns in Nigeria's Election Analysis from 1999-2017

In 1999, Nigeria hosted a presidential election that was hugely contested between General Olusegun Obasanjo and Olu Falae. Obasanjo ended up winning this election by getting 62.78% of the vote.

Table 1. 1999 Nigerian Election Result

Candidate	Political Parties	Votes	%
Olusegun Obasanjo	People's Democratic Party	18,738,154	62.78
Olu Falae	Alliance for Democratic -All People's Party	11,110,287	37.22

In 2003, Nigerian elections were organized by a civilian government for the first time. A total of 20 political parties came out to run for the position of president. The People's Democratic Party nominee was reelected to his position. He won 61.94% of the vote.

Table 2. 2003 Nigerian Election Result

Political Parties	Votes	%
People's Democratic Party	24,456,140	61.94
All Nigeria People's Party	12,710,022	32.19
All Progressives Grand Alliance	1,297,445	3.29
United Nigeria People's Party	169,609	0.43
National Conscience Party	161,333	0.41
Progressive Action Congress	157,560	0.40
National Democratic Party	132,997	0.34
Justice Party	119,547	0.30
People's Redemption Party	100,765	0.26
People's Mandate Party	57,720	0.15
All People's Liberation Party	26,921	0.07
New Nigeria People's Party	23,830	0.06
Movement for Democracy and Justice	21,403	0.05
African Renaissance Party	11,565	0.03
Democratic Alternative	6,727	0.02

Nigeria Advance Party	6,932	0.02
Better Nigeria Progressive Party	5,987	0.02
National Action Council	5,756	0.01
Liberal Democratic Party of Nigeria	4,473	0.01
Mass Movement of Nigeria	3,757	0.01

In 2007, President Obasanjo wanted to run for a third term, but was instantly blocked by the justice system from competing in the election. Nigeria conducted another successful election, which the previous administration organized. Alhaji Umaru Yar'Adua of the People's Democratic Party contested with the ruling party and won the election by taking 69.82% of the votes.

Table 3. 2007 Nigerian Election Result

Political Parties	Votes	%
People's Democratic Party (PDP)	24,638,063	69.82
All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)	6,605,299	18.72
Action Congress (AC)	2,637,848	7.47
Progressive Peoples Alliance	608,803	1.73
Democratic People's Party (DPP)	289,324	0.82
All Progressives Grand Alliance	155,947	0.44
Alliance for Democracy (AD)	89,241	0.25
Fresh Democratic Party	74,049	0.21
African Democratic Congress (ADC)	50,849	0.14
Hope Democratic Party	28,519	0.08
African Liberation Party (ALP)	22,677	0.06
African Political System (APS)	22,409	0.06
National Democratic Party	21,934	0.06
Citizens' Popular Party (CPP)	14,027	0.04
Better Nigeria Party	11,705	0.03
National Conscience Party	8,229	0.02
National Action Council	5,752	0.02
Nigerian Masses Movement	4,309	0.01

Table 4. 2011 Nigerian Election Result

Political Parties	Votes	%
People's Democratic Party (PDP)	22,495,187	58.89
Congress for Progressive Change (CPC)	12,214,853	31.98
Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN)	2,079,151	5.41
All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP)	917,012	2.40
People for Democratic Change (PDC)	82,243	0.21
People's Mandate Party (PMP)	56,248	0.15
People's Progressive Party (PPP)	54,203	0.14
African Democratic Congress (ADC)	51,682	0.14
Better Nigeria Progressive Party (BNPP)	47,272	0.12

Fresh Democratic Party (FRESH)	34,331	0.09
National Conscience Party (NCP)	26,376	0.07
National Majority Democratic Party (NMDP)	25,938	0.07
African Political System (APS)	23,740	0.06
United National Party for Development (UNPD)	21,203	0.06
National Transformation Party (NTP)	19,744	0.05
Mega Progressive Peoples Party (MPPP)	16,492	0.04
African Renaissance Party (ARP)	12,264	0.03
Hope Democratic Party (HDP)	12,023	0.03
Social Democratic Mega Party (SDMP)	11,544	0.03
Liberal Democratic Party of Nigeria (LDPN)	8,472	0.02

Former Vice President, who assumed office after the death of President Yar'Adua, ran for the election conducted in 2011 under the People's Democratic Party. The People's Democratic Party won by taking 58.89% of the votes. After being a runner-up for the previous three elections, General Muhammadu Buhari was finally elected to the office of the President. He won 53.96% of the vote.

Table 5. 2015 Nigerian Election Result

Political Parties	Votes	%
All Progressives Congress	15,424,921	53.96
People's Democratic Party	12,853,162	44.96
African Peoples Alliance	53,537	0.19
Allied Congress Party of Nigeria	40,311	0.14
Citizens Popular Party	36,300	0.13
Alliance for Democracy	30,673	0.11
African Democratic Congress	29,666	0.10
People's Party of Nigeria	24,475	0.09
National Conscience Party	24,455	0.09
Accord Alliance	22,125	0.08
United Progressive Party	18,220	0.06
KOWA Party	13,076	0.05
United Democratic Party	9,208	0.03
Hope Party	7,435	0.03

In 2019, a record 73 people contested the election. Even with the increased contestants, President Muhammadu Buhari could still retain his seat by winning 55.6% of the votes.

Table 6. 2019 Nigerian Election Result

Candidate	Party	Votes	%
Muhammadu Buhari	All Progressives Congress	15,191,847	55.60
Atiku Abubakar	People's Democratic Party	11,262,978	41.22
Felix Nicolas	Peoples Coalition Party	110,196	0.40
Obadiah Mailafia	African Democratic Congress	97,874	0.36
Gbor John Wilson Terwase	All Progressives Grand Alliance	66,851	0.24
Yabagi Sani Yusuf	Action Democratic Party	54,930	0.20
Akhimien Davidson Isibor	Grassroots Development Party of Nigeria	41,852	0.15
Ibrahim Aliyu Hassan	African Peoples Alliance	36,866	0.13
Donald Duke	Social Democratic Party	34,746	0.13
Omoyele Sowore	African Action Congress	33,953	0.12
Da Silva Thomas Ayo	Save Nigeria Congress	28,680	0.10
Shitu Mohammed Kabir	Advanced Peoples Democratic Alliance	26,558	0.10
Yusuf Mamman Dantalle	Allied Peoples' Movement	26,039	0.10
Kingsley Moghalu	Young Progressive Party	21,886	0.08
Ameh Peter Ojonugwa	Progressive Peoples Alliance	21,822	0.08
Ositelu Isaac Babatunde	Accord Party	19,209	0.07
Fela Durotoye	Alliance for New Nigeria	16,779	0.06
Bashayi Isa Dansarki	Mass Movement of Nigeria	14,540	0.05
Osakwe Felix Johnson	Democratic People's Party	14,483	0.05
Abdulrashid Hassan Baba	Action Alliance	14,380	0.05
Nwokeafor Ndubuisi	Advanced Congress of Democrats	11,325	0.04
Maina Maimuna Kyari	Northern People's Congress	10,081	0.04
Victor Okhai	Providence Peoples Congress	8,979	0.03
Chike Ukaegbu	Advanced Allied Party	8,902	0.03
Oby Ezekwesili	Allied Congress Party of Nigeria	7,223	0.03
Ibrahim Usman Alhaji	National Rescue Movement	6,229	0.02
Ike Keke	New Nigeria People's Party	6,111	0.02
Moses Ayibiowu	National Unity Party	5,323	0.02
Awosola Williams Olusola	Democratic People's Congress	5,242	0.02
Muhammed Usman Zaki	Labor Party	5,074	0.02
Eke Samuel Chukwuma	Green Party of Nigeria	4,924	0.02
Nwachukwu Nwabuike	All Grassroots Alliance	4,689	0.02
Hamza Al Mustafa	People's Party of Nigeria	4,622	0.02
Shipi Moses Godia	All Blended Party	4,523	0.02
Chris Okotie	Fresh Democratic Party	4,554	0.02
Tope Fasua	Abundant Nigeria Renewal Party	4,340	0.02
Onwubuya	Freedom and Justice Party	4,174	0.02
Asukwo Mendie Archibong	Nigeria For Democracy	4,096	0.01
Ahmed Buhari	Sustainable National Party	3,941	0.01
Salisu Yunusa Tanko	National Conscience Party	3,799	0.01

Shittu Moshood Asiwaju	Alliance National Party	3,586	0.01
Obinna Ikeagwuonu	All People's Party	3,585	0.01
Balogun Isiaka Ishola	United Democratic Party	3,170	0.01
Obaje Yusufu Ameh	Advanced Nigeria Democratic Party	3,104	0.01
Chief Umenwa Godwin	All Grand Alliance Party	3,071	0.01
Israel Nonyerem Davidson	Reform and Advancement Party	2,972	0.01
Ukonga Frank	Democratic Alternative	2,769	0.01
Santuraki Hamisu	Mega Party of Nigeria	2,752	0.01
Adesanya Olufunmilayo	Mass Action Joint Alliance	2,651	0.01
Gbenga Olawepo Hashim	Peoples Trust	2,613	0.01
Ali Soyode	Yes Electorates Solidarity	2,394	0.01
Nsehe Nseobong	Restoration Party of Nigeria	2,388	0.01
Ojinika Geff Chizee	Coalition for Change	2,391	0.01
Rabia Yasai Hassan Cengiz	National Action Council	2,279	0.01
Eunice Atuejide	National Interest Party	2,248	0.01
Dara John	Alliance of Social Democrats	2,146	0.01
Fagbenro Adesina	Kowa Party	1,911	0.01
Emmanuel Etim	Change Nigeria Party	1,874	0.01
Chukwu Chikendu	Justice Must Prevail Party	1853	0.01
Madu Nnamdi Edozie	Independent Democrats	1,845	0.01
Osuala Chukwudi John	Rebuild Nigeria Party	1,792	0.01
Albert Owuru Ambrose	Hope Democratic Party	1,663	0.01
David Esosa Ize Iyamu	Better Nigeria Progressive Party	1,649	0.01
Inwa Ahmed Sakil	Unity Party of Nigeria	1,631	0.01
Akpua Robinson	National Democratic Liberty Party	1,588	0.01
Mark Emmanuel Audu	United Patriots	1,561	0.01
Ishaka Paul Ofemile	Nigeria Elements Progressive Party	1,524	0.01
Kriz David	Liberation Movement	1,438	0.01
Ademola Babatunde Abidemi	Nigeria Community Movement Party	1,378	0.01
A. Edosomwan Johnson	National Democratic Liberty Party	1,192	0.00
Angela Johnson	Alliance for a United Nigeria	1,092	0.00
Abah Lewis Elaigwu	Change Advocacy Party	1,111	0.00
Nwangwu Uchenna Peter	We The People Nigeria	732	0.00

Nigeria had a total number of registered voters of 82,344,107. They had 73 presidential candidates and 91 registered political parties, but only two main parties, the PDP and APC. The APC won the general election by winning 19 states, while the PDP won 18.

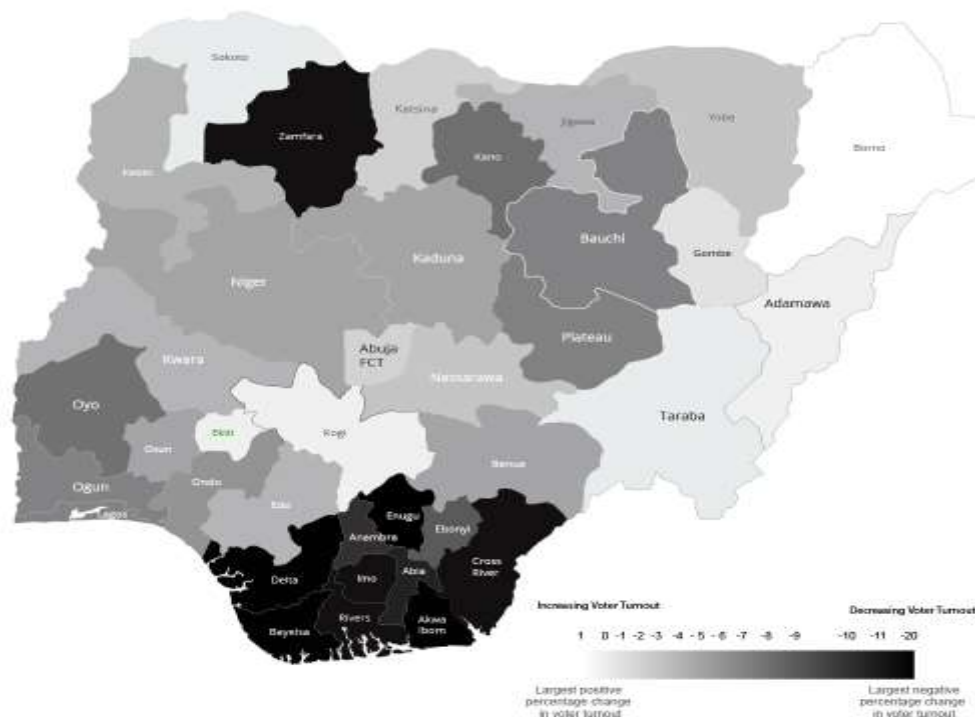


Figure 1. The 2019 State-by-State Election Breakdown

Abia

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 219,698 to Buhari's 85,058 votes. Atiku won because Abia is a state with a strong affiliation with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Abuja

In the FCT, the election went the PDP's way, winning swiftly by 259,997 to 152,224 for the APC candidate. The PDP won this because they have a solid foundation that the previous president set. This is because people will vote for the party without knowing who the candidate is.

Adamawa

Alhaji Atiku won the presidential election in this state against General Buhari. The final score was 412,266 to defeat President Muhammadu Buhari, his closest challenger, who scored 377,488.

Atiku won because this was his hometown.

Akwa Ibom

Alhaji Atiku won the presidential election in this state against General Buhari. He won by a vote count of PDP: 395,832 compared to Buhari: APC: 175,429. Atiku won because Akwa Ibom is a state strongly affiliated with the party under which he was running, the PDP.

Anambra

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 524,738 votes to 33,298 votes. Atiku won because Anambra is a state with a strong affiliation with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Bayelsa

This state comprises eight local government areas and has a total vote count of 321,767, among which 197,933 went to the PDP while 118,821 went to the APC. The PDP is the big winner in this state. Just like any other state in the Niger Delta, they feel neglected by the government and are demanding that the government do more. The PDP has always won this state in previous elections, so it is safe to say they have a firm ground in Bayelsa.



Figure 2. The 2019 Voter Turnout in the South-South States

Bauchi

General Buhari won the presidential election by a final score of 798,428 votes to beat the People's Democratic Party (Alhaji Atiku Abubakar), which scored 209,313 votes in Bauchi State. Buhari won this state because the last presidential election resulted in a stronghold state for him.

Benue

Alhaji Atiku marginally won the presidential election in this state. Alhaji Atiku won with a vote of 356,817 while Buhari had 347,668. He won because people in that state wanted change and a fresh face in the office to change the way the economy was.

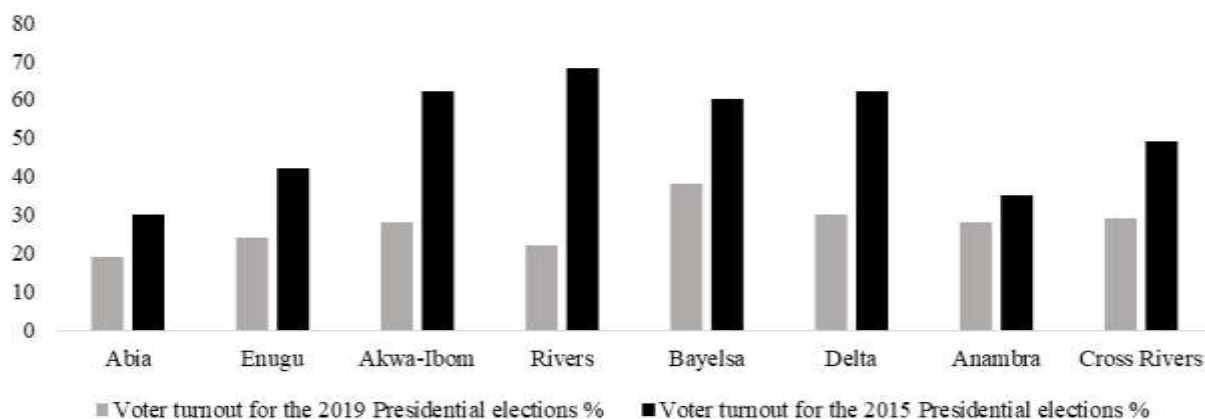
Borno

General Buhari won the presidential election in the state by 798,428 votes, while Atiku won with 209,313 votes. This state has always stayed with the ruling party, the APC.

Cross Rivers

Alhaji Atiku won the presidential election in this state against General Buhari. He won by a vote count of PDP: 295,737 compared to Buhari: APC: 117,302. Atiku won because Cross Rivers is a state with a strong affiliation with the party he was running, the PDP.

Figure 3. Voter Turnout for the 2019 and 2015 Presidential Elections



Delta

This is one of the volatile regions of Nigeria where they see neglect and rejection from the government, even though their land is the primary source of the country's wealth (Oil). In the previous election, the people argued that their lands were so poorly developed, whereas other states like the FCT are highly developed with the resources they get from the state. This area had a total vote count of 882,254, from 25 local government areas. The PDP won 13 local government areas while the APC won 12. They had a total of 594,068 while the APC had 221,292 votes. The PDP has never lost an election in this state with a strong connection to the grassroots people.

Ebonyi

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 258,573 to Buhari's 90,076 votes. Atiku won because Ebonyi is a state strongly affiliated with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Edo

Edo state is comprised of 28 local governments, and the PDP won 18 out of the total. This state is naturally called a civil servant state because all the major jobs available are government-related. They depend on the government for virtually everything, and the government has not been forthcoming in the past few years. The people will willingly vote for anybody to try someone else, regardless of the party, because they are tired of their present situation and non-payment of salaries. The PDP won with 275,691 votes to 267,842 votes for the APC candidate.

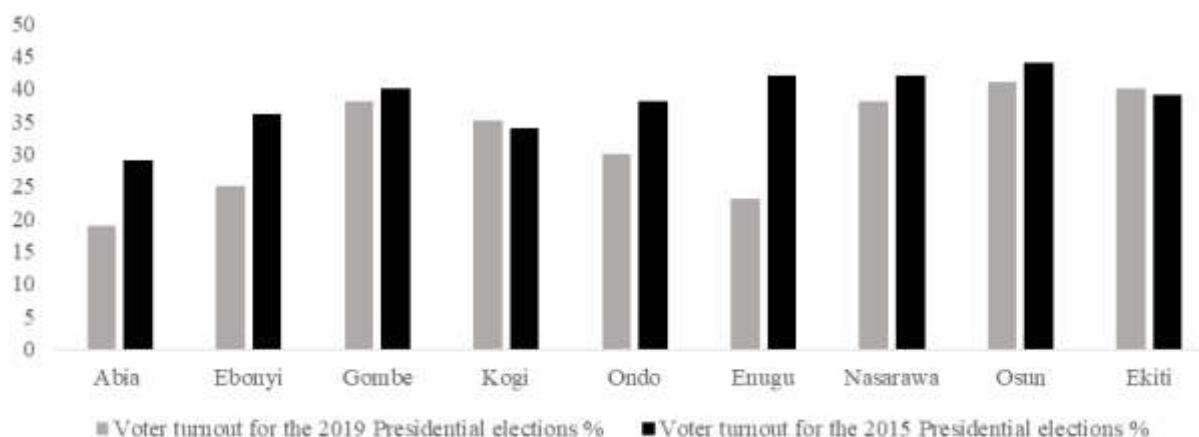
Ekiti

Ekiti is made up of 16 local government areas. This state has a total number of valid votes of 381,132. The APC won this state by 219,231 to 154,032 over the PDP. The power of incumbency is in play in Ekiti State. The APC just defected from the PDP gubernatorial ticket last year, which gives the party leverage to work with the people and earn their trust.

Enugu

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 355,553 to Buhari's 54,423 votes. Atiku won because Enugu is a state with a strong affiliation with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Figure 4. The Voter Turnout 2019 vs. 2015 Presidential Elections



Gombe

General Buhari won the state championship with a final score of 402,961, while Atiku won with a vote of 138,484. This state usually voted for PDP, but they changed their mind and decided to go with the ruling party, to keep up the good work they were doing in office.

Imo

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 334,923 to Buhari's 140,463 votes. Atiku won because Imo is a state with a strong affiliation with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Jigawa

General Buhari won the state by 794,738 votes, while Atiku won with a vote of 289,895 votes. This state is affiliated with the APC, so it would vote with the ruling party.

Kano

General Buhari won the presidential election by a landslide in this state. Buhari had a final score of 1,464,768 while Atiku won with a vote of 391,593. This state is affiliated with the APC, so it would vote with the ruling party.

Katsina

This state had a total number of registered voters of 1,555,472; the APC won with 1,232,133, while the PDP had 308,056 votes. Katsina is President Buhari's hometown, and he has constantly been gaining ground and winning elections in his home state since 2007, when he ran against the then Olusegun Obasanjo and lost, but won Katsina. In this election, he won all

34 local government areas in Katsina State. The people of Katsina are said to be pleased with his government policies and would like him to continue.

Kaduna

APC won the presidential election in Kaduna by winning 14 local governments out of 23 local governments taking part in the election. He won by 993,445 to 649,612. The president's character and achievements in these areas have earned him a comeback as proof that the people of Kaduna believe and trust him to continue on his good path. The cohesion between the Governor and the president primarily influenced these votes. They worked together and are on the same page in most project development stages, which everyone sees.

Kwara

This state has a total number of votes cast of 486,254, and the APC won 308,984 of the total votes, while the PDP had 138,984. The state has eight local governments; the APC won 6 while the PDP took two local governments. The APC party made some interesting promises that the people were looking forward to, which drew many voters to their party. The campaign touched on vital necessities that the typical individual earns in Kwara State. They were better at politicking than the PDP.

Kebbi

Kebbi is comprised of 21 local governments, and President Buhari won all 21 local government areas under the APC party. This is a state where President Buhari has personal influence and familiarity. In 2015, he won the state from the then-President Goodluck Jonathan. The total number of votes cast in the state was 803,755, and APC won 581,552 against the PDP with 154,282 votes to win the election.

Kogi

This is an APC-dominated area. It had an APC incumbent governor who was performing well. This helped in drawing people closer to the party. The total number of votes cast in Kogi was 553,496. Some ballots were cancelled due to irregularities or names not being correctly spelled. The APC won 285,894 while the PDP vote count was 218,207 amongst its 21 local government areas. They won 14 of the local government while the PDP won just 7.

Lagos

Lagos State has 20 local governments and close to 40 constituencies. The state had a total number of valid votes of 1,089,567. The APC won 15 local governments in Lagos, while the PDP had just 5. The APC's overvote was 580,825, while the PDP had 448,015 votes. The APC won in this state because of the vast and very present infrastructural development going on in the state from the federal government. Lagos has always decided the outcome of elections in Nigeria.

Nassarawa

General Buhari won in this state by a marginal result. He defeated Alhaji Atiku by a

difference of 6,056. He had a vote of 289,903 in respect to his opponent's vote count of 286,847. The state wanted the ruling party to rule for another 4 years and make Nigeria great.

Niger

General Buhari won the state by a final score of 612,371, while Atiku won with a vote of 218,052. The state wanted the ruling party to rule for another 4 years and make Nigeria great.

Ondo

This state is made up of 18 local governments with different ethnicities. The PDP won 11 out of the total local governments in Ondo, making them the election winners. The state had a total number of valid votes of 555,994, with the PDP winning with 275,901, while the APC took 241,769 votes. The APC lost the election in this state because it had an ineffective, dysfunctional party structure. They had different parts that did not help them in the long run.

Osun

The state has 30 local government areas and a valid vote of 714,682. APC won this state election with 347,634 votes and 337,377 votes for the PDP candidate. The APC won 18 out of the 30 local governments, while the PDP won 12. Osun State is filled with mixed feelings. It is tough to know where the election will swing or who has a better chance of winning because neither party has done what is needed in the state in a while. The party that knows how to convey its message to the people wins in this state.

Oyo

This state has a total of 33 local government areas and a total valid vote of 836,531. The PDP won 18 out of the 33 local government areas, with the APC having to win 15. PDP won the election in this state by winning 366,690 votes, while the APC had 365,229 votes. The APC lost the election because it had a house that was not settled. They had politicians crossing the carpet and making decisions that hurt the party.

Ogun

Ogun state has 20 local government areas, and a total number of valid votes cast was 564,256. The APC won 14 out of the local government councils, while the PDP won 6. The general count of votes in Ogun state showed APC had a comfortable win of 281,762 to 194,655 for the PDP. The APC won the election based on the people's trust in the government.

Plateau

Alhaji Atiku won the presidential election in this state. Atiku had a final score of 548,665, while Atiku won with a vote of 468,555. This state wanted a change in government because it felt that the current administration was not doing its proper job.

Rivers

Atiku won the presidential election by a landslide against General Buhari. The final score was 473,971, equal to Buhari's 150,710 votes. Atiku won because Rivers is a state strongly

affiliated with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Sokoto

NAN reports that Buhari polled 490,333 votes against Abubakar's 361,604. He won 16 out of the 21 local government areas in Sokoto. Before Election Day, the APC had been receiving defectors from the opposition party, the PDP, which was terrible and a serious cause of concern, but it was not fixed. While in office, Buhari introduced a program called "Feed the Masses". This was a social intervention to help attract young children to go to school. This program (free feeding for primary pupils still in school), the N-power program, and the FGN program were instituted to help reduce unemployment by helping to create jobs and engaging the masses in activities while unemployed. Moreover, he introduced the farmers' money and many other social interventions to the Sokoto people to help them live better. Nigerian election candidates are known for wanting to start their project and end the previous regime's project. The people of Sokoto voted for Buhari to maintain continuity in the programs he has begun and the new ones promised.

Taraba

Atiku won the presidential election against General Buhari. The final score was 374,743, equal to Buhari's 324,906 votes. Atiku won because Taraba is a state strongly affiliated with the party under which he ran, the PDP.

Yobe

General Buhari won the state by a final score of 497,914, while Atiku won with a vote of 50,763. The state wanted the ruling party to rule for another 4 years and make Nigeria great.

Zamfara

This state has a total registered voter count of 1,717,128 and 616,168, of which 616,168 are accredited. The APC won 438,682 of the total votes cast, while the PDP won 125,423 of the total votes cast. This is a state that the PDP has never won since 1999. The APC in this state has identified itself with the grassroots people, making it more popular and trustworthy regardless of the current crisis. Zamfara is a northern state, and the grassroots and some of the elite were made to believe that the APC is a northern political party while the PDP is a southern political party. Another reason is that the people see the PDP as a Christian-dominated political party, while the APC is not.

4. Conclusion

The truth about electoral democracy in Nigeria is that voters do not trust the electoral system. This has led to low turnout of voters during elections after 20 years of the country's return to electoral democracy. Political parties are formed not on any known economic, social, or political-philosophical ideology but to foster the polity's parochial, sectional, ethno/religious agenda. This anomaly led to 'national' political parties being identified with Northern/Islamic or Southern Christian interests. If political parties are formed based on conventional

ideologies known to Western civilization, like-minded individuals would aggregate across states, regions, and tribes, create national political parties, and achieve national cohesion.

In addition, every political party in power manipulates the state's electoral machinery to win elections at all costs. It perpetuates itself in power for selfish sectional interests rather than national ones. There is, therefore, a need for a reorientation of the voters and the entire citizenry on the requirement of a higher patriotic agenda of unity in diversity for the country. This could be implemented by encouraging politicians to adopt party ideologies while forming political parties. Membership in political parties will be based on individuals' ideologies in tandem with the party's ideology. This will engender ethnic harmony in Nigeria and promote peace and economic prosperity. Finally, this study concluded that parties are not formed based on uniformity in ideologies, but on ethno-religious and sectional agenda, which dominates the Nigerian electoral system. This has remained a cog in the country's political and economic progress. Hence, until these are eliminated from the electoral process, democracy may not grow in Nigeria, and thus, this implies no rule of law.

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