

**TERRORISM IN NORTHERN NIGERIA; EXPLORING ITS HISTORY, CAUSES
AND POLITICAL IMPACTS**

A PAPER BY

CHIEDOZIE ATUONWU, (ASS. PROF.)

**History/NIGERIAN PEOPLES AND CULTURE UNIT, SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES,
MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA.**

AND

EMEROLE, WALTER GINIKANWA (PhD.)

**HISTORY/NIGERIAN PEOPLES AND CULTURE UNIT, SCHOOL OF GENERAL STUDIES,
MICHAEL OKPARA UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, UMUDIKE, ABIA STATE, NIGERIA**

Abstract

Terrorism as seen today in Northern Nigeria has unfortunately taken a dramatic dimension, thus evolving into a complex and stubborn threat that undermines national security, social cohesion, and political stability. Based on a combination of historical, socio-economic, political, and religious reasons, the threat posed by the acts of terrorism has, in contemporary Nigeria, assumed rather deadly and life threatening form with the appearance of multiple extremist groups such as Boko Haram and the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP), whose emergence on Nigeria's geopolitical environment has compounded the existing threat, thus leading up to acute food shortages and the resultant famine due to threat to agricultural practices. Vexed therefore by the socio-economic and political destabilization to which the activities of insurgent groups have caused the Nigerian nation, the present scholarly exercise is an attempt to historicize the origin, causes and impacts of the activities Boko-Haram and its associate terror groups on Northern Nigeria in particular; and Nigeria in general. Interestingly however, the study attempts unearthing possible solutions to the menace of insurgent groups in Northern Nigeria, as it also strives to fill the vacuum in conflict studies which are largely silent on salient areas of Boko-Haram activities in Northern Nigeria. More so, the study is an effort to contribute to the world of scholarship by providing source materials to both students and free-lance readers who may be interested in this branch of study. It is therefore hoped that the information contained in this study will be of immense benefit to military strategists, policy makers, peace and conflict study analysts in their strive to minimize or eradicate threat, conflict and crisis in Northern Nigeria, as a way of bringing the much needed peace for development and peaceful inter-group relations. To achieve the laudable objectives of this study, historical and thematic methodologies were adopted, as efforts were made to employ data from primary and secondary sources in its interpretation and reconstruction.

Keywords: Terrorism, Instability, Insecurity, Poverty, & Socio-political Implication