

CORRUPTION AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: A CASE STUDY OF HALLIBURTON

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ABSTRACT: Nigeria has experienced grave vicissitudes throughout its socio-political history. Unfortunately, after almost 60 years of political independence, Nigeria still lags behind the comity of Nations in development. Despite Providence's concentration of human and natural resources, Nigeria's basic development indices remain low, and there have been a series of inquiries to uncover the causes, magnitude, and dimensions of the paradox of underdevelopment in Nigeria, which has left over 180 million people in an enclave of backwardness. This particular concern propelled this research, which seeks to uncover the gamut of this ugly trend using Dependency World system theories and history as a guide. The design adopted was a survey design. The study population consisted of 5000 individuals, of whom 200 were selected. The data collected were presented in a table and analyzed using simple percentages. The findings indicate that corruption is prevalent in Nigeria's underdeveloped society. It was recommended that action be taken to curb the menace of corruption.

Keywords: Corruption, Underdevelopment, Nigeria, Halliburton, Bribery

INTRODUCTION

Corruption and economic underdevelopment are sine qua non for Third World Countries (TWCs), also referred to as developing Nations of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean (Ikegwuoha, 2016). This is because most of the nation's belonging to this group are either traditional or are caught up in the process of Advancement/growth, which are not peculiar to the culture, values, and norms prevalent in their different societies (Rostow, 1960). Just as all hands are not equal, likewise, countries of the world are not on the same pedestal in terms of development and its attendant practices. The administrative and political practices prevalent in TWCs may not be acceptable or feasible in developed countries worldwide. This explains why scholars and analysts from diverse backgrounds have sought to interpret these concepts and assess their impact on TWCs such as Nigeria.

Since the evolution of society, man has always been in the business of improving his lifestyle, environment, and his relationship with his fellow man (Eke, 2016). Throughout history, man has employed various techniques, instruments, institutions, structures, and forms just to outsmart his fellow man. He may not be successful, but the instruments or techniques employed, which may be virtue or vice in the process, always have a lasting effect on both the parties involved and the environment upon which the contract is negotiated. When it is virtue, the impact is positive, but

when it is vice, such as bribery and corrupt practices, it negatively affects the entire fabric of the society (Sanderson, 2007).

Nigeria is one of the African countries considered underdeveloped. This is because, since her independence in 1960, she has been quintessentially hungry despite abundant resources. Nigeria manifests underdevelopment and corruption throughout its length and breadth. A country where oddities walk on two legs, the result is the vicious circle of poverty, ignorance, diseases, greed, insurgency, civil unrest, etc, Ayittey (1998). Situated on the Western plains of Africa, with Togo, Niger, and Cameroun on its borders to the West, North, and East, respectively, and the Atlantic in the south, Nigeria, since its independence, has been grappling with the menace of corruption in both the public and private sectors of the Nation. Moreover, this anomaly has truncated every effort (reasonable effort) at positioning the Nation on the developmental path the citizens yearn for and duly aspire to, Garuba (2012). Different government regimes and administrations have at one time or another been involved in one corruption scandal or have mounted a disjointed and failed effort to rescue or obliterate the menace of corruption on Nigerian society, all to no avail (Cameron, 2016).

The Halliburton bribery scandal, one of the biggest in Nigeria's history, is the focus of this research. How government officials in Nigeria together with a law firm in London and the banks in Switzerland collaborated to dupe the resources of Nigeria in a contract with \$6 billion (six billion dollars) over a period of eight years, and despite spirited effort by good natured officials to bring those involved in the perpetration of this heinous act in the country to justice, it has never materialized. This is the same act that has earned over \$1.5 billion (one billion, five hundred million) in fines and penalties for companies involved in the United States and Europe (Ribadu, 2015).

Given that development is a crucial factor globally, the next question is how Nigeria can develop when such material resources are lost or have been lost on a large scale. This research aims to explore both the causes and effects of the Halliburton bribery scandal on Nigeria's development since its independence.

Statement of Problem

Nigeria is one of the largest countries in Africa, which is why it is often called "the Giant of Africa." She is undoubtedly blessed with a vast and valuable concentration of human, natural, and material resources spread across the territory (Olusanya, 1986). Coal in Enugu, limestone in Nkalagu, tin in Jos, crude oil in Yenagoa, groundnut in Sokoto are just a few examples. Despite this, the citizens of Nigeria still live in poverty and extreme hardship, struggling to survive under difficult conditions below the poverty line. Nigeria has become an undeniably clear example of underdevelopment resulting from socio-economic, political, technological, and educational backwardness, combined with corrupt practices by government officials, an unfavorable balance of payments and trade, and the primitive accumulation of public wealth by officials (TICPI, 2008). Historically, successive governments have attempted to fix the broken state, but with little impact.

Both the military and civilian administrations in Nigeria have adopted various development policies aimed at harnessing its potential, but the situation continues to worsen as days go by (Ake, 1981).

Scholars from the dependency school argue that the poverty of countries in the periphery is not due to their integration into the world system, but to the way they are integrated into the system (Wallerstein, 1971). This explains Nigeria. It can be observed in how we provide our natural resources, cheap labour, and other assets to developed nations in exchange for technology and innovation, among other things. We often act with selfish motives above national interest, just as government officials involved in the Halliburton Bribery Scandal did, which has turned Nigeria into a laughing stock and a perpetual beggar in the community of nations.

Research Question

1. Is corruption responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment?
2. Is the persistence of corruption in Nigeria linked to external factors?
3. Can deregulation curb the menace of corruption and engender development in Nigeria?

Objectives of the Study

1. To discover if corruption is responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment
2. To ascertain if the persistence of corruption in Nigeria is linked to external factors.
3. To determine if the deregulation policy is capable of curbing the menace of corruption in Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

The researcher has proposed the following hypothesis:

H₁: Corruption is responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment

H₀: Corruption is not responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment.

H₂: There is a close link between external factors and the persistence of corruption in Nigeria

H₀: There is no close link between external factors and the persistence of corruption in Nigeria

H₃: Deregulation is capable of curbing the menace of corruption and engendering development in Nigeria

H₀: Deregulation is not capable of curbing the menace of corruption and engendering development in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Corruption

Scholars from different disciplines often have diverse views and understandings of corruption and underdevelopment. They also see its causes and effects differently. To support the study's

objectives, it is necessary to review existing literature to provide a solid background. This review will help identify gaps in previous research and demonstrate how the current study can add to the existing literature. In his book *Corruption In A New Colonial State: The Nigerian Experience* (1998), Ebenezer asks: What causes corruption, and why have various policies against corruption in Nigeria failed? He responds by arguing that our leaders failed to understand the true causes of corruption.

He emphasized that corruption is a clear-cut product of Neo-colonization, which bases its economic program on capitalist development. Further stressing this, he examined why these approaches are flawed. According to him, they fail because corruption often reflects deeper issues within societies where it is widespread, typically coexisting with other social problems. To this researcher, Ebenezer's analysis is plagued by the same problems, one of which is his inability to highlight the deeper issues he views as symptoms of corruption. He did not understand the historical background of the different ethnic nationalities that make up the country (vis-à-vis) Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba, and the middle belt regions. The writer also failed to recognize that corruption is a universal problem found in both developed and underdeveloped nations; therefore, Neo-colonialism and capitalism do not influence or determine its process and effects.

Okadigbo (2000) stated that when a regional leader is in charge of a nation's affairs, where loyalty to an ethnic group overrides national loyalty, and where the national treasury is viewed as the conqueror's domain in Lagos, the situation arises where the winner takes all or seeks to do so without remorse. When citizens are indifferent to how wealth is acquired but are more concerned with whether the state's political and economic conditions are complete, corruption becomes widespread from top to bottom, and vice versa. What Okadigbo meant was that in Nigeria, the phenomenon of corruption requires more in-depth analysis, as Nigerians generally focus less on what is stolen and more on who stole it and their background. It is by uncovering the extent of theft, mismanagement, or embezzlement abroad that citizens can begin to understand the link between corruption and underdevelopment, since the resources squandered could have fueled economic growth and promoted the country's socio-economic and political development.

Okadigbo's argument is valid, but how can citizens ask the right questions when they are either illiterate or misinformed? Studies show that 15% of children in the country can barely eat, let alone attend school. In Nigeria, basic education is for the privileged few, and when obtained at a very high cost, the focus shifts from the means to the end, from the process to the product. Moreover, what about those who have asked boldly? People like Dele Giwa, Harry Marshall, Bola Ige (SAN), Prof. Dora Akunyili, Nnamdi Kanu, and others—whose whereabouts are unknown or who have been killed or assassinated because they asked the right questions or are protecting resources from corrupt perpetrators.

In their work *Corrupt Histories: Studies in Comparative History* (2007), Kreike and Jordan define corruption as breaking the rules related to a specific office. It can be viewed economically and as acting against the general interest or against what the public considers integrity. There is an issue with these definitions. If we define corruption as breaking rules related to a particular office, we are using a modern "Weberian" concept of the phenomenon. However, Weberian bureaucracies were largely absent in the past and remain scarce in many countries. Moreover, breaking rules can

sometimes be a practical necessity; public officials do it from time to time without necessarily being corrupt. If we define corruption economically, we might be applying a modern public-private dichotomy that is foreign to past societies, and the concept of the general interest falls short because there is no genuine general interest—only private interests claiming to represent the public good. The same applies to public opinion, as societal groups have vastly different views on corruption, and these views are highly changeable. What is accepted as a norm in Nigerian society may not be acceptable in other developing societies like Malaysia, South Africa, or Brazil.

What then is Underdevelopment?

Many scholars have offered various interpretations of this concept. According to Ikegwuoha (2016), citing Todaro (2000), underdevelopment is an economic condition characterized by consistently low standards of living, absolute poverty, low per capita income, sluggish economic growth, and low consumption levels. It also includes poor health services, high mortality rates, high birth rates, dependence on foreign economies, and limited freedom to choose among activities that fulfil human needs and desires. He emphasized that no nation is truly underdeveloped, as every country endeavours to develop its economy and infrastructure.

From an individual perspective, if no nation is genuinely underdeveloped, then there would be no need for research on this topic, and other scholars would not have dedicated significant efforts to exploring it. This indicates that every nation strives for growth regardless of its current level of development. Developed countries seek further advancement, while underdeveloped nations implement policies aimed at development. As for issues like low living standards, poverty, high mortality, and birth rates, these are often symptoms of ineffective policies by governments and can be observed even in developed countries, such as Greece in 2008 and Russia in 1999.

Ake (1981), in his Political Economy of Africa, dwelt extensively on the contemporary features of the African economy and how they might be changed in the future. In his opinion, more often than not, the plan is not a strategy for development but an aggregation of projects and policies that may be incompatible. He agreed that Africa's underdevelopment is the result of its prolonged contact with capitalism and pointed out that the national bourgeoisie contributes significantly to its underdevelopment through their connivance with the international bourgeoisie, which applies wrong and incompatible policies. Further, the state is highly developed and acts as an instrument of wealth accumulation, naturally resulting in a bitter struggle to gain control of it. Thus, in Africa, those in office do all they can to perpetuate their hold on it, while those out of office do all they can to get it. There is hardly any restraint to struggle because the boundary between the state and the ruling class is blurred. According to him, the implication is that the high premium placed on political power and the class struggle involving the state and government make political power in Africa highly authoritarian, as the hegemonic faction of the bourgeoisie adopts a siege mentality. In conclusion, he recommended Socialism but went on to say that the state of the production forces in Africa will be detrimental to the attainment of socialism, and that the interaction of external forces will also be an obstacle.

In his book *Forms of Fanonism* (2010), Rabaka sought to analyse the causes of underdevelopment by citing Fanon (1961). He argued that the Third World is literally the creation of Europe. The wealth accumulated is stolen from underdeveloped people. He cited Fanon,

we should not tremble with gratitude when help comes from Europe. This should be the ratification of a double realization. The realization by the colonized people that it is their clue and the realization by the capitalist power that, in fact, they must pay.'

According to Rabaka, Fanon believed that Africans should realize that they created Europe and should therefore ignore anything that comes to them in the form of gifts or aid. He listed the criminal activities of colonialists in their thefts in Africa, including deportations, massacres, forced labor, and slavery. These were methods used by capitalism to increase its wealth, gold, diamond resources, and to establish power. He also detailed how European activities undermined African development both mentally and physically through the imposition of Western culture.

To this researcher, this has been an age-old argument, now lacking evidence and energy; Africa was indeed robbed of its resources, agreed. But does this explain why they still cling to backwardness while others have moved forward? The Middle East, Asian Tigers, Brazil, and China all experienced the same phenomenon but are now on the verge of development, while Africans continue to cling to outdated events as an excuse for their underdevelopment. This is unacceptable. Also, Fanonism was presumed dead with the fall of the Berlin Wall, as all struggles and revolutions justified then have been sacrificed on the altar of peace and global development. Furthermore, the European adventure in Africa may have served as a wake-up call or watershed in Africa's history, and if gifts or aid are accepted as repayment for past wrongs, then no gift or aid can substitute for the lessons learned from those experiences. African nations accepting such aid are gullible, greedy, and will never achieve the growth they strive for. Arghiri (1972), as cited in Brolin (2009), proposed a thesis that underdeveloped countries are exploited through unequal exchange. In international trade, when developing nations sell commodities below their value and buy above it, this creates a powerful means of impoverishment. This indicates that exchanges are unequal between rich and poor countries due to lower wages and profit rates in poor nations.

However, this thesis by Arghiri has its flaws of which are- The world capitalists system of division of labor restrict the under developed countries to the production of industrial goods that is the immediate advantage derived from specialization determines the direction of development between two countries in such a way that one agrees to specialize in the less dynamic branches of production will lose by doing so in the long run.

Also, this thesis does not explain unequal exchange in terms of the operations of merchant capital, which is crucial to the perpetuation of exploitation, dependence, and underdevelopment. This thesis is construed as a formalistic absurdity, as it attempts to understand traffic laws without reference to the car (Amin, 2011). While disagreeing with most of this thesis's assumptions, I still believe that unequal exchange is an undeniable factor in the underdevelopment of peripheral countries. This is because, upon examining the theory of unequal exchange, it appears that these theories move in different directions.

However, what they have in common, as rightly observed by Boxborough (1979), is the proposition that labor is rewarded unequally in different parts of the world. This is to say that similar commodities may embed;/ different amounts of socially necessary labor time. The by-product of inequality of exchange is that it works to the great disadvantage of the underdeveloped countries.

In his book *The West and The Rest of Us* (1975), Chinweizu accurately places our conditions as African people within the context of a conquered nation. He makes it clear that we do not suffer from a 'colour" problem; we suffer because we cannot protect our nation from attack. This understanding is a key component in recognizing our true allies and/or patriots in the struggle for our liberation, because we will stop assuming that people with darker hues than Westerners will be natural allies in the process of restoring the African nation. By solely focusing on the color of one's skin, we will never be able to explain and understand the Africans who hold African people with contempt.

Chinweizu also argued that the Arab colonization and Islamization of Africa are no different from European imperialism. The violent conquest, forced conversions, and slavery perpetuated by European Christians were also perpetuated by Arab Muslims. In fact, the colonization and enslavement of Africa by the Arabs began before the Europeans and continues to this day. To this researcher, Chinweizu's analysis still dwells on the already decaying facts and evidence. If the deeds of several centuries ago could still be held for African backwardness, then Africa and Africans will never develop. The time has come for Africa and its leaders to take the bull by the horns and chart a course for its people to follow, just as other developing societies in East Asia, Brazil, etc., are doing.

In his paper titled "Human Rights Issues Surrounding the Non-Return of Assets to Countries of Origin," Human Rights lawyer Femi Falana SAN (2015) has indicted Western Countries as being partners of treasury looting in Africa. Delivering a speech organized by Human and Environmental Developmental Agenda (HEDA), Falana said, 'African governments and anti-corruption bodies should stop labelling Africa as a continent of corrupt people, as London is the centre of global corruption'. The banks of Western countries receive and keep stolen wealth from Africa and other developing countries. The laissez-faire attitude of Western leaders encourages corrupt leaders from Africa to use stolen wealth from their various countries to establish a presence in their economies, buying shares in major Corporations, mansions and other landed properties, yachts, planes, etc. 'Why have corrupt political leaders in Africa and their stolen wealth not been punished or sanctioned as those of Iran or Russia? It is simply because corrupt money originating from Africa and elsewhere had long been considered a victimless crime. There was, after all, no one visibly hurt, no building being blown up, no planes flying into high-rise buildings, etc. It is seen as just another typical third-world malaise. Well, not anymore, the nexus between stolen wealth and human rights is now clear. It was at the intersection of poverty and international human rights principles that he stretched further.

Stolen wealth is not an abstract idea dangling in the air; it fosters poverty, deprivation, and underdevelopment. African countries should lead a campaign to classify grand corruption as a crime against humanity, to be tried by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Loopholes in the financial system should be blocked to prevent capital flight and money laundering. Banks and other financial

institutions aiding money laundering should be sanctioned and made to pay aggravated and exemplary reparation, he boldly concluded.

Halliburton: A Brief Overview

Halliburton is an American Multinational Corporation. One of the world's largest oil field service companies, it operates in more than 70 countries. It has hundreds of subsidiaries, affiliates, branches, brands, and divisions worldwide and employs approximately 50000 people. The company has dual headquarters located in Houston and in Dubai, but remains incorporated in the United States. Halliburton's major business segment is the Energy Service Group (ESG). ESG provides technical products and services for petroleum and natural gas exploration and production.

In 1919, Erie P. Halliburton started the New Method Oil Well Cementing Company. In 1920, he brought a wild gas well under control using cement for W.G. Skelly near Wilson, Oklahoma. On March 1, 1921, Halliburton's method and means for excluding water from oil wells were granted a U.S. patent. Halliburton invented the revolutionary cement jet mixer to eliminate hand-mixing of cement, and the measuring line, a tool used to guarantee accurate measurements. By 1922, the Halliburton Oil Well Cementing Company (HOWCO), incorporated in Delaware, was prospering from the Mexia, Texas, oil boom, having cemented 500 wells by late summer.

On July 5, 1961, the company changed its name to The Halliburton Company. In 1995, Dirk Cheney replaced Thomas H. Cruikshank as Chairman and CEO. In 1998, Halliburton merged with Dresser Industries, which included M.W. Kellogg (the subsidiary indicted in Nigeria for the scandal).

The Ills of Halliburton in Nigeria

The presence of a prominent foreign multinational corporation investing in a developing country such as Nigeria should typically be viewed positively. However, this incident is an exception. The Halliburton scandal dates back to 1994, when the Nigerian government initiated an ambitious project to develop the Bonny Island Natural Liquefied Gas Plant. Investigations revealed a complex network of clandestine banks and offshore tax havens used to channel approximately US\$182 million in bribes to Nigerian officials. In return, an international consortium, including a then-subsidiary of Halliburton, Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR), received approximately US\$6 billion in engineering and construction services. Leaked documents from HSBC, a major global bank based in London, provided further insights into the mechanisms behind these operations. These records, obtained by the French newspaper Le Monde and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), establish connections between lawyer J. Tesler, based in London, and senior Nigerian officials who either facilitated or collaborated in the scandal.

In May 2003, Halliburton disclosed in SEC filings that its KBR subsidiary paid a Nigerian official \$2.4 million in bribes to obtain favorable tax treatment. However, records indicated that the actual amount exceeded \$200 million, leading the company to settle with the U.S. Department of Justice for \$382 million. The company's involvement extended to the Deepwater Horizon explosion, and it allegedly collaborated with facilitator J. Tesler to influence election outcomes in favor of a specific political party, as well as to expedite capital flight from Nigeria to Europe and the United

States. These episodes exemplify significant cases of greed and corruption, which have hindered development.

According to Dauda Garuba, Nigeria coordinator at the Natural Resource Governance Institute, 'In terms of personalities and the amount of money involved, it is probably the biggest scandal in Nigerian history.' Halliburton's issues extend beyond Nigeria; federal prosecutors are investigating the company's circumvention of U.S. sanctions against Iran, its misconduct in Iraq, the Horizon explosion, violations of trade barriers in Libya, and oil spills in Sweetwater County. In an era marked by egregious corporate misconduct, a few companies have come to symbolize systemic problems in both American corporate culture and underdevelopment in the Global South. By 2004, Halliburton had become a prominent example of these issues.

Halliburton Bribery, Corruption, and Nigeria Underdevelopment: The Connection.

'The white man is clever. He came quietly and peaceably with his religion. We were amused at his foolishness and allowed him to stay. Now he has won our brothers, and our clan can no longer act like one. He has put a knife to the things that held us together, and we've fallen apart. Achebe,(1958)

The quote above exemplifies the true impact of what could be termed the 'Scandal of the Century' by Nigerian standards. When Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR), a subsidiary of Halliburton, teamed with a consortium of three other firms—Technip of France, Snamprogetti of Italy, and Japan's Gasoline Corporation—they embarked on a bid to construct a gas project at Bonny Island. While many perceived this development as beneficial, it ultimately proved detrimental to Nigeria's economic growth. These four companies, collectively known as TSKG, along with their representative Jeffrey Tesler and HSBC acting as an intermediary, orchestrated the deposition of a travel bag containing \$100 million in the foyer of a luxury hotel—where nightly rates can surpass Nigeria's average annual income of \$3,000. According to official reports, the cash was intended for Nigeria's ruling party via the state-owned Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). Subsequently, the country experienced its most divisive and controversial elections, plagued with malpractice, irregularities, fraud, and violence—resulting in at least 100 deaths—and saw the ruling party declared victorious.

As of today, with few exceptions among government and NNPC officials, no one in Nigeria is aware of the actual revenue the country derives from the oil sector. For instance, if crude oil is sold in naira today and payment is received ninety days later when the dollar rate has increased, the figures publicly released in Abuja are based on the lower naira value at the time of sale. This raises the question: what happens to the difference in revenue? Only NNPC officials and a select group of government representatives are privy to this information and determine the handling of the discrepancies. This lack of transparency became evident at the start of 2012 when the federal government announced the withdrawal of oil subsidies, triggering a crisis that impacted the entire Oil and Gas industry and the nation. In the wake of nationwide protests, many stakeholders attributed the issues to secrecy and corruption in the government's subsidy management process.

There have been calls for a comprehensive review of the subsidy system and the prosecution of beneficiaries involved in the Halliburton bribery scandal.

Furthermore, following the bribery scandal, it has become an open secret and routine first to bribe government officials (what we call Egunje, Akaazu, in several Nigerian dialects) before any attention is given to one's prospectus. This unofficial solicitation or bribe—done by individuals, institutions, agencies, and companies—has caused confusion about the difference between bribery and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), which is a requirement for companies operating in the country to serve their host communities. Some multinational corporations exploit the notion of corporate responsibility (CSR) to commit atrocities, corruption, and bribery to secure favorable tax policies, levies, or a friendly business environment by bribing and corrupting government officials and civil servants across nearly every sector of the economy.

Theoretical Framework

Having carefully and painstakingly reviewed the study's topic, it became highly important to adopt a theoretical framework to guide the description, analysis, interpretation, and prediction of phenomena. This theoretical guide will also act as an arbiter in legitimizing the review.

World Systems Theory

World System Theory, also known as World System Analysis or World Systems Perception, is a multidisciplinary, macro-scale approach to world history and social change that emphasizes the world system as the primary but not exclusive unit of social analysis. 'World System' refers to the inter-regional and transnational division of labor, which divides the world into core, semi-periphery, and periphery countries. Core countries focus on higher-skill, capital-intensive production, while the rest of the world focuses on low-skill, labor-intensive production and raw material extraction. This division constantly reinforces the dominance of core countries.

Nonetheless, the system has dynamic characteristics, partly because of revolutions in transport technology, which allow individual states to gain or lose their core, semi-periphery, and periphery status over time. The division of labor unifies this structure. It is a world economy rooted in capitalism. For a time, certain countries become the world's hegemon; over the last few centuries, as the world system has expanded geographically and intensified economically, this status has shifted from the Netherlands to the United Kingdom (UK), and most recently to the United States (US).

The American Sociologist and Social Scientist Immanuel Wallerstein developed the best-known version of the World System approach. Wallerstein offers several definitions of a World System. In 1974, he defined it briefly as 'a system is defined as a unit with a single division of labor and multiple cultural systems'. He also offered a longer definition: a social system, one that has boundaries, structures, member groups, rules of legitimating, and coherence. Its life is made up of the conflicting forces that hold it together by tension and tear it apart as each group seeks eternally to remodel it to its advantage. It has the characteristics of an organism in that it has a life span over which its characteristics change in some respects and remain stable in others.

In 1987, Wallerstein defines it again as 'not the system of the World but a system that is a World and which can be, most often has been, located in an area less than the entire globe.

In Wallerstein's view, there have been three types of historical systems throughout human history: 'Mini systems,' which anthropologists refer to as bands, tribes, and small chiefdoms, and two categories of World Systems: one politically unified and the other not. That is, Single-state World Empires and multi-polity World Economies. He identified four temporal features of the World System: Cyclical Rhythms, Secular Trends, Contradictions, and Crises. He argued that efficient division of labor is the unifying element across these different units and that it is also a function of capitalism, a system based on competition between free commodities.

Free, meaning available for sale and purchase in a market. Although other commentators refer to Wallerstein's project as World Systems Theory, he consistently rejects that term. For Wallerstein, World Systems analysis is a method that aims to go beyond the structures of knowledge inherited from the 19th century, especially the definition of Capitalism, the divisions within the Social Sciences, and those between Social Science and History. For him, then, World System Analysis is a 'Knowledge Movement' that seeks to understand the whole of what has been labelled as the Human Sciences and well beyond. These theories support the idea that Nigeria, as an underdeveloped and dependent country, relies on Western nations and their allies (Multi-national Corporations, MNCs) for survival. These MNCs are very aware of this and use any means at their disposal to either strengthen their control or oppose policies. This is evident in Halliburton's activities in the country, such as when the company resorted to shady dealings to secure the construction contract at Bonny Island by inflating figures and bribing government officials.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The researcher used the survey method to collect data due to the study's structural setup. This is important because it allows for effective investigation and is one of the best available methods in social research. Therefore, a descriptive questionnaire and a structured interview were used in this research.

Area of Study

The area of study for this research work was the capital city of Imo state, Owerri. This is because of the city's large concentration of public officials.

Population of the Study

A population of about 5,000 individuals and a sample size of 200 respondents were selected. The number of public servants in Owerri did not solely determine the sample size. This is due to limiting factors such as costs, time constraints, etc., encountered during the conduct of interviews and distribution of questionnaires.

Sample Size and Sampling Technique

Sample size: The optimal number of sampling units or elements to be sampled or interviewed, or those that could be useful in the survey. For this research, a sample size of 200 respondents was chosen (120 males and 80 females) regardless of ethnicity (race, creed, tribe, color, or religion).

Sampling Technique: The Sampling technique used for this research work was simple random sampling, in which every element in the population has an equal chance of being included in the sample. This implies that no choice forces or determines another choice of being included in the sample, and no choice is pre-determined by another.

Method of Data Collection

To prevent ambiguity or misunderstanding, it is important to specify the data sources for this research. The researcher used primary data, including a questionnaire and structured interviews. The structured interview became necessary because the research work (Corruption and Underdevelopment in Nigeria: A Case Study of Halliburton) required experts in the field and individuals with detailed knowledge of how the episode or phenomenon occurred. The questionnaire was carefully designed to align with the statement of the problem, the hypothesis, and the research questions essential to this work. The questionnaire consists of 20 questions, including demographic data.

Technique for Data Analysis

The data collected for this study were analyzed using a tabulation chart, simple percentages, and the hypothesis will also be tested using simple percentages. The purpose of the tables is to show the relationship between variables, and simple percentages will make it easier to read and understand.

Instruments for Data Collection

One important way to ensure that the data used are high quality is to improve the quality of the measuring instrument. This is determined by their validity and reliability.

Validity of Instrument: Validity refers to the extent to which a study accurately measures the specific concept it aims to assess. In this research, efforts were made to ensure that all questions in the questionnaire fully cover the aspects implied by the research questions and hypotheses.

Additionally, the supervisor reviewed and corrected the questionnaire. **Reliability of Instruments:** The reliability of a research instrument refers to the extent to which a measure, procedure, or instrument produces consistent results over repeated trials (Alugbuo et al., 2012). The questionnaire was carefully structured and designed to yield reliable, easy-to-interpret results. It consisted of questions with at least two options for respondents to choose from. To ensure the instrument's reliability, some questions were repeated in different forms within the same questionnaire, and the

responses were consistent across these repetitions. This consistency confirms that the instrument used was reliable.

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Presentation and Analysis of Data

To achieve the objective of this research, which is to determine whether corruption is responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment, this chapter was introduced to present and analyze the data collected for this purpose systematically. The data were analyzed using percentages, with scores converted and displayed in tables. Additionally, the questionnaire, which is the primary tool for data collection in this study, was administered to 200 respondents. These respondents included experienced public officials and educated citizens of Owerri with in-depth knowledge of the research topic: "Corruption and Underdevelopment in Nigeria: A Case Study of Halliburton." The questionnaires distributed to respondents were collected for analysis.

Demographic

Table 1: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	120	60%
Females	80	40%
Total	200	100%

Table 1 shows that of 200 respondents who completed the questionnaire, 120 were male (60%), while 80 were female (40%).

Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
21 -25	6	3%
26 - 30	21	10.5%
31-35	89	44.5%
36 - above	84	42%
Total	200	100%

Table 2 shows that out of the 200 respondents, 6 of them, representing 3%, were between 21 and 25 years old; 21 respondents, which is 10.5%, were between 26 and 30 years old; 89 respondents, representing 44.55%, were between 31 and 35 years old; while 84 respondents, representing 42%, fall under 36 and above.

Table 3: Working Category of Respondents

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Public servants	135	67.5%
Not servants	65	32.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 3 shows the category of respondents, whether they are public servants or not. 135 respondents, constituting 67.5%, were public servants, while 65 respondents, representing 32.5%, were not.

Table 4: Marital Status

Status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	146	73%
Single	54	27%
Total	200	100%

Table 4 shows the marital status of the 200 respondents: 146, or 73%, are married, while 54, or 27%, are single.

Table 5: Respondents' Corruption Existence Level

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	200	100%
No	-	-
Total	200	100%

Table 5 shows the level of corruption in Nigeria. Our study indicates that 200 respondents, representing 100%, agree that corruption exists in Nigeria.

Table 6: Knowledge about the Halliburton scandal

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	115	57.5%
No	85	42.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 6 shows that 115 respondents, or 57.5%, have heard about the Halliburton Bribery scandal, while 85 respondents, or 42.5%, have not.

Table 7: Corruption level of officials

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	83	41.5%
No	117	58.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 7 indicates that 83 respondents, constituting 41.5% agree that government officials are corrupt, while 117 respondents, constituting 58.5% do not.

Table 8: The bribery scandal stunned the development of Nigeria

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	162	81%
No	38	19%
Total	200	100%

Table 8 shows that 162 respondents, representing 81%, agree that the bribery scandal hindered Nigeria's development, while 38 respondents, representing 19%, disagree.

Table 9: Menace of Corruption

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	147	73.5%
No	53	26.5%
Total	200	100%

Table nine indicates that 147 respondents, constituting 73.5% agree that corruption is responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment, while 53 respondents, constituting 26.5% do not.

Table 10: Trial of Offenders

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	153	76.5%
No	47	23.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 10 shows that 153 respondents, representing 76.5% believe that the perpetrators should be tried, while 47 respondents, representing 23.5% do not.

Table 11: External factors linked to corruption

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	174	87%
No	26	13%
Total	200	100%

Table 11 indicates that 174 respondents, representing 87%, believe that the persistence of corruption in Nigeria is linked to external factors, while 26 respondents, representing 13%, do not.

Table 12: Deregulation as a pointer to development.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	126	60.5%
No	74	39.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 12 shows that 121 respondents, constituting 60.5% believe that deregulation of the petroleum sector can curb the menace of corruption and engender development in Nigeria. 79 respondents, which is 39.5% do not.

Table 13: Quality of Leaders

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	93	46.5%
No	107	53.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 13 shows that 93 respondents, representing 46.5%, think Nigeria has the leaders it deserves, while 107 respondents, representing 53%, do not.

Table 14: Are our Resources a curse?

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	32	16%
No	168	84%
Total	200	100%

Table 14 indicates that 32 respondents, or 16%, believe that the abundance of natural resources in the country is a curse, while 168 respondents, representing 84%, do not.

Table 15-17 assesses the reliability of the research instrument (questionnaire) by showing that questions were repeated in the same questionnaire in different forms, and responses given in each were consistent.

Table 15: External factors linked to Corruption

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	26	13%
No	174	87%
Total	200	100%

Table 16: Underdevelopment in Nigeria is a product of Colonialism

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	53	26.5%
No	147	73.5%
Total	200	100%

Table 17: Nigeria should quit dealing with multinational companies

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	174	87%
No	26	13%
Total	200	100%

Table 18: Degree of function of anti-corruption agencies

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	104	52%
No	96	48%
Total	200	100%

Table 18 shows that 104 respondents, representing 52% agree that anti-corruption agencies are really working, while 96 respondents, representing 48% do not.

Table 19: Degree of development

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	42	21%
No	158	79%
Total	200	100%

Table 19 indicates that 41 respondents, representing 21%, believe that Nigeria is a developed nation, while 158 respondents, representing 79%, do not.

Test for Hypotheses

The research hypotheses that will be tested are:

1. Corruption is not responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment.
2. There is no close link between external factors and the persistence of corruption in Nigeria

Test of Hypothesis 1

Responses of the respondents to question 9 will be used.

Hypothesis 1: Corruption is responsible for Nigeria's underdevelopment

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	147	28.5%
No	53	26.5%
Total	200	100%

$$\text{Formula: percentage} = \frac{F}{N} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Where F = Frequency (Number of cases in my category)

N = Number of cases in all categories

\therefore = Percentage for YES responses in Hypothesis 1

$$= \frac{147}{100} \times \frac{100}{1} = 73.5\%$$

\therefore = Percentage for NO responses in Hypothesis 1

$$= \frac{53}{200} \times \frac{100}{1} = 26.5\%$$

Decision Rule:

The proportion of affirmative responses is 73.5%, which exceeds the 26.5% of negative responses. Accordingly, I accept the hypothesis that corruption contributes to Nigeria's underdevelopment.

Test of Hypothesis 2

The respondents' responses to question 12 of the questionnaire in Table 11 will be used.

Hypothesis 2: There is a close link between external factors and the persistence of corruption in Nigeria.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	174	87%
No	26	13%
Total	200	100%

$$\text{Formular} = \text{Percentage} = \frac{F}{N} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Where F = Frequency (number of cases in any category)

N = Number of cases in all categories

∴ = Percentage for YES responses in Hypothesis 2

$$= \frac{174}{200} \times \frac{100}{1} = 87\%$$

∴ = Percentage for NO responses in Hypothesis 2

$$= \frac{26}{200} \times \frac{100}{1} = 13\%$$

Decision Rule:

The proportion of affirmative responses, at 87%, exceeds the proportion of negative responses, which is 13%. Consequently, I support the hypothesis suggesting a significant association between external factors and the persistence of corruption in Nigeria.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

From the research, we can conclude that corruption exists throughout Nigerian society, from the top to the bottom. Its effects are being felt by every individual, family, institution, and agency, negatively affecting them. If not adequately addressed, this menace could lead to the disintegration of the country.

The research also shows that the Halliburton bribery incident is well known among the citizens. They feel the impact of the scandal on their nation's image and wonder what might have happened if the roles were reversed. They also strongly urged that the perpetrators be brought to justice to serve as a lesson for future generations.

The research further highlights a shortage of quality leaders in the country. The individuals currently leading are not the most suitable for the job. The study agrees that if and when the right people are selected for governance, the country will gradually progress toward development.

Finally, though the research was conducted with a specific set of citizens due to structural constraints that cannot be exhaustively shared right now, it is obtainable, whether working or not, public servants or not, married or not, male. Female, age, colour, creed, and so on must not be dealt with kid's glove but with percussion, no matter whose ox is goad.

Conclusion

The issue of corruption transcends nearly every structure of Nigerian society. Its causes vary depending on one's perspective. For the poor or those who cannot afford the necessities of life, it is justified to resort to corruption, no matter one's small capacity, as a way of addressing the prevalent inequalities. For others, corruption stems from the degeneration and shaky foundations of citizens' moral upbringing. The situation is so bad that corruption has been institutionalized to the point where it almost passes for official policy in both the private and public sectors of National life. The socio-economic and political systems appeared to be built and thrive on corruption, and even the churches and other religious organizations are not entirely free of corrupt practices. The resultant effects are poor healthcare delivery services, a poor, decaying educational system, non-payment of salaries/ wages, bad roads, epileptic power supply, etc, coupled with the lack of political will on the part of our leaders to prosecute those indicted in the act of corruption, irrespective of the avenues (anti-corruption agencies) made available by the state.

Recommendations

To ensure that corruption is a thing of the past and that proper development is engendered in the country, the following steps are recommended:

1. The excessive concentration of power/responsibilities in the Nation's apex body (the central government) should be reduced, and the devolution of powers should be properly practiced in the country to curtail the gluttonous and avaricious nature of our leaders.
2. The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), which has been debated for over a decade, should be passed as a law.
3. The bill, which seeks to establish a framework for the creation of commercially-oriented and profit-driven petroleum entities, to ensure value addition, efficiency, and an effective governing institution, will serve as a bulwark for the transparency and accountability the oil sector needs.
4. Education and massive dissemination of proper information should be made a priority not only by the government but also by the citizens. It is when citizens are properly educated about the country's happenings that they will fully participate in ensuring the nation's survival.
5. The anti-corruption agencies, together with the judiciary, should live up to their billing. They should do the jobs they have been set up to do independently and effectively. This

might work if and only when the executive hands off the appointment of individuals to head these organizations.

6. Finally, Nigerians should discard this attitude of apathy towards most things and start getting involved, asking questions, because it is by being involved that we can truly call Nigeria our own. As no one allows his/her property to be destroyed, so we should not allow our dear nation to crumble for lack of will to act.

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