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Dependency and Third World Underdevelopment: Examining Production-Consumption Disarticulation in Nigeria

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Abstract

This paper examined the crises of underdevelopment in the third world with specific reference to Nigeria arising from colonially imposed economic dependency and inherent disarticulation in its production and consumption patterns as measured by its recent import and export trends. The paper adopted the dependency theory as its theoretical framework. The paper largely adopted the library research method as secondary data were utilized and content analyzed. Also descriptive tools such as tables and charts were used to corroborate analyses. The paper concludes that the colonially imposed export oriented production and import oriented consumption economy of Nigeria has negative implications on the overall socio-economic development of Nigeria as reflected in its weak industrial base, food insecurity and dependence on foreign capital. Following these submissions, the paper recommends that the Nigerian government should pursue diversification of the Nigerian economy from oil, while vigorously enhancing rural development and promotion of internally oriented regional trade amongst the African Union countries.

Key words: Dependency, Production-Consumption Disarticulation, Under Development, Nigeria

Introduction

The crises of underdevelopment in the third world have been a subject of discourse amongst social scientists, national governments and international development organization for several decades. Largely countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are wallowing in mass poverty and socio-economic underdevelopment. According to Abraham (2010), third world countries are economically poor and technologically backward and largely characterized by under-developed structures, high maternal mortality, high child mortality, lower mass literacy, large rural population and so on. The situation in Nigeria is no different; with a population of over 170 million people, the United Nations Development Programme most recent Human Development Index Report ranked Nigeria 152 out of 187 countries with a HDI value of 0.514 (UNDP 2015). This shows that the country is struggling with low human development with a huge disparity between economic growth and social welfare. The report in its list of low human development countries also ranked Nigeria at number 9 among 42 countries with Nepal, Pakistan and Kenya coming as the first three and Central African Republic, Congo, and Niger as the last three. The prevailing underdevelopment in the third world generally and Nigeria specifically, have been historically linked to inherent colonially imposed dependent economic structure within the third world states. This entails the historical fusion of the third world economy to the global capitalist economy and the subsequent dependence on the Western economies (Stokes & Anderson, 1990; Ake, 2002). Associated with dependency is structural disarticulation which further impedes socio-economic development in the third world. In establishing this fact, Haung (1995) averred that one contributing factor to third world underdevelopment is that of structural disarticulation: which is an economic and social feature manifested by uneven sectorial development and lack of correspondence between domestic production and consumption patterns. In view of these arguments, this paper hence was initiated to contribute to the theoretical and empirical literature of development crises in Nigeria arising from dependency and the inherent structural disarticulation as seen in the production and consumption incoherence measured by recent trends in Nigeria's foreign trade (import and export) patterns.

Third World Dependency– A Theoretical Perspective

This paper is anchored on the dependency theory of underdevelopment. This perspective was chiefly developed and popularized by Andre Gunder Frank (1976, 1981) and Samir Amin (1976; 1974). According to Dos Santos (1970), dependency is

> an historical condition which shapes a certain structure of the world economy such that it favours some countries to the detriment of others and limits the development possibilities of the subordinate economies...a situation in which the economy of a certain group of countries is conditioned by the development and expansion of another economy, to which their own is subjected.

In buttressing this, Ake (2002) posited that "an economy is dependent to the extent that its position and relations to other economies in the international system and articulation of its internal structure make it incapable of auto-centric development" (p. 55). In essence, economic dependency refers to the lack of capacity and inability of a country to control its productive processes such that the country's economy depends on foreign economy for direction and control through regulations and foreign economic institutions which directly or indirectly regulates its growth or expansion.

Historically, third-world economic dependence is tied to Western European capitalist expansion and Imperialism. European capitalist expansion was necessitated primarily by the internal contradictions of capitalism in Europe, or what Lenin (1917) referred to as the crises of profitability as reflected in reducing consumption capacity of the ever increasing mass production of goods; increasing cost of labour and increasing cost of raw materials. The panacea for these profitability crises according to Lenin (op cit.) required economic expansion overseas to open up new regions for investments, which will in turn guarantee cheap source of raw materials, access to cheap foreign labour and access to new global consumer markets. This process culminated to the integration of the hitherto self-sufficient third world countries into the world capitalist system and subsequent exploitation and underdevelopment of the third world. However, on the flip side this same process aided the growth of industrial capitalism in the West in a bid to meet the aforementioned needs at the expense of the third world (Webster 1989:70). In examining this dynamics, Frank (1981) asserted "development and under development are two different sides of a universal historical process". To him the same process of capitalist expansion which led to development in Europe and America, led to underdevelopment in the third world or what he termed the 'development of underdevelopment'. Webster Andrew (1989) and Kwame Nkrumah (1965) delineated this process into historical epochs namely: Mercantile Capitalism (1650-1850); Colonialism (1850-1960s) and Neo-Colonialism (Post Independence).

In his analysis of third world dependency, Frank (1976) divided the world capitalist economy into two major components namely the metropolis and satellite. This typology is synonymous with Immanuel Wallerstein's center and periphery world systems classification (1976). The thrust of the dependency theory is the position that third world or peripheral countries are underdeveloped and poor because their economy were fused into the center capitalist economy through the aforementioned historical processes thereby leaving them dependent on the core economies (Randall and Theobald 1998, 120). The capitalist world economic system is organized to ensure a perpetual domination of the periphery by the core and dependence of the periphery on the core thereby ensuring a continual flow of economic surplus from the satellite/periphery to the metropolis/center (Eme, 2013).

The dependency perspective suggests that periods of mercantile capitalism and colonialism forced specialization of production on the third world countries that was primarily export oriented of limited range and geared to raw material needs of imperial powers (Webster 1989). Hence Frank (1976) averred that there exists a '*chain of dependency*' running from the highly advanced centers of the world, a hierarchy of 'metropolises' with their subordinate 'satellites' through which the economic surplus is passed upwards within a nation and then internationally (Webster, op cit.). In buttressing this, Walter Rodney (1972; 2005) with reference to the African experience posits that "the operation of the imperialist system bears major responsibility from African Economic retardation by draining African wealth and by making it impossible to develop more rapidly the resources of the continent and secondly the emergence of an elite class in the third world known as compradors who benefit from the exploitation of the third world has compounded the development crises of the satellites".

The dependency syndrome has several manifestations in the third world, and accordingly Eme (2013) identified four possible dependency mechanisms most frequently suggested in the current dependency literature and these include exploitation through repatriation; elite complicity; structural distortion/disarticulation; and market vulnerability. The implications of dependency on third world development is numerous and one of such is that whereas countries of centers can develop through self-growth, the third world since they are dependent can only possibly expand if the dominant metropolis expands and such expansion is regulated and controlled by the metropolis since any expanded surplus will be automatically pass upward from the satellite to the metropolis. Against this backdrop, for the dependency theorists, the only way forward is for the third world to break the chain of dependency through which surplus is transferred to the West. This is to be achieved by the third world working class through a socialist revolution which will remove the comprador elite, the weak link in the chain (Webster, 1989:86; Rodney 1972).

Economic Dependency and Underdevelopment in Nigeria

The Nigerian economy has over the decades been characterized by galloping inflation, unequal foreign exchange rate exasperated by devalued currency and persistent dependence on importation, widespread unemployment, and dilapidated infrastructures among others (Eme 2013). These features clearly portray the development challenges Nigeria faces which historically is hinged on dependence on foreign capitalist economies of North America and Europe and further worsened by leadership crises as evidenced in corrupt and inept leadership (Nnadozie 2010). The reasons for this gory situation of the nation's economy and overall socio-economic underdevelopment are not far-fetched. According to Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) a comprehensive analysis of Nigeria's economic crisis reveals a relationship between the periods of slavery, colonialism, and neo colonialism and the backwardness or distortion of the Nigerian economy. Likewise, Babawale (2007:1) argues that the history of economic crisis in Nigeria can be traced to the period of British colonialism which led to the disruptions and dislocation of the country's pre-colonial mode and relations of production. For him, colonialism brought about distortions into the economy and deepened the country's dependence on the metropolis. Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012), further stressed that colonialism saw the incorporation of Nigerian peasant producers into the world market, removing millions of Nigerian from the comfort and stability of subsistent and semi-subsistent production and placing them in the web of an uncertain, volatile, and exploitative world market, which ensures a systematic subjugation of raw-material producers to the forces and vagaries of the world market. Ake (2002) supported the above when he averred that:

> …the contradictions of capitalism not only transform it; they also transplant it. The transplanting of capitalism arises from those contradictions which reduce the rate of profit and arrest the capitalization of surplus value. Confronted with these effects, it was inevitable that the capitalist, forever bent on profit maximization,

> would look for a new environment in which the process of accumulation could proceed apace. Capitalist turned to foreign hands attacked and subjugated them and integrated their economies to those of Western Europe. To date, the experience of Western imperialism, particularly colonization, remains the most decisive event in the history of Africa.

In the colonial period, the British dominated and controlled the Nigerian economy as it favoured production of cash crops and other raw materials as tin, columbine, gold, for British industries and importation of manufactured goods (Adeyeri and Adejuwon, 2012). Colonial protectionist policy ensured that Nigerian exports are restricted to the Britain only and through the aid of colonial merchants' companies such as the United African Company (UAC), the United Trading Company (UTC), African Timber and Plywood Company (ATP) the colonial export – import policy was implemented. These companies monopolized trade and commerce at the expense of the local merchants. In his analysis of British colonialism and its overall impact on Nigeria's underdeveloped Nnoli (1981) asserts thus:

> ...the policy of the integration of pre-colonial Nigeria into the global capitalist economic system, as a peripheral member by the colonialists, caused the destruction of the society's rich and varied political systems, and social structure, and the creation of new productive economic activities based on the need of foreign capitalist countries. It diverted attention away from local creative potential and resources by focusing on the production of primary resources needed by Europeans.

In colonial times, the Nigerian economy according to Ahazuema and Falola (1987) depended on three major export crops - cocoa, palm produce and groundnuts accounting for about 70% of Nigeria's total export. According to Falola (2007, p. 38) the value of the export commodities were very high, the palm produce evacuated from Nigeria was about 66,000 tons in 1901; which later rose to 272,000 tons in 1921 and 497,000 tons in 1951. He further stressed that, Palm oil alone fetched £981,330 for 110,243 tons in 1938. In the same year, 180,136 tons of groundnuts valued at £1,305,828 and 97,100 tons of cocoa valued at £1,305,828 were evaluated. The greater percentage of this revenue according to Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) was either sent to the Imperial Treasury or overseas banks as reserves or used in serving the colonial administration in terms of salaries, provisions of infrastructures and so on.

The implication of this situation on the economic system of production is that the colonial economic structure made it impossible for the Nigerian economy to be self-sufficient. The economy rather become absorbed into the world capitalist system in which it serves as mere agent of Europeans economic institutions (Adeyeri &

Adejuwon 2012). The direct outcome of this is that the country is now dependent on externally oriented export–import foreign trade, characterized by foreign domination of the local economy, and the appropriation of surplus value by foreign firms (Falola, 2007, p. 39; Aghahowa & Ukpebor, 1999, p. 152). At independence, Nigeria according to Babawale (2007, p. 1) was bequeathed an economy that was not only distorted but also responsive to the vagaries in the international capitalist system into which it had been incorporated and it is characterized by a low productive base, with poorer technology, dependence on a narrow range of cash crops and later crude oil. The post-independence period as rightly observed by Adeyeri and Adejuwon (2012) has witnessed the Nigerian economy to be perpetually dependent on foreign markets, foreign aid and foreign technology

Production-Consumption Disarticulation in Nigeria

One of the major development crises associated with the colonially imposed externally oriented system of production is the disarticulation or dislocation of the Nigerian economy. Ake (2002, p. 43) averred that disarticulation implies incoherence in the backward and forward movement of a nation's economy. He asserted thus: ''…. a disarticulated economy is one whose parts or sectors are not complementary". For him, in a coherent economy there is regional and/or sectorial complementarity and reciprocity. For example, one region specializes in agriculture while another supplies the agricultural sector with manufactured goods, this kind of interdependence will ensure a sectorial reciprocity of exchanges characterized with a forward and backward linkages in production. The colonial and by extension the postcolonial Nigerian economy lack these linkages, complementarity and reciprocity generally. This is so because the inherited colonial economic policies favored production of selected raw materials and cash crops not for local industrial production but for foreign European industries. This situation inhibited local industrialization in Nigeria and also the fall out was a distortion of local food production. According to Ake (2002) local food producers grow food for subsistence hence food production was and still is mainly for use-values as opposed to exchange-values resulting in limited exchanges and weak market mechanisms. This situation for Okosun et al. (2016) has had negative implications not only for the country's manufacturing capacity but her inability to surmount her food insecurity challenges for her ever teeming population. As noted by Amin (1976), disarticulated economies in the least developed countries are characterized by '*extroversion*' meaning economic production focuses mainly on exportables and durable goods demanded by foreign markets. According to Haung (1995), when selling in the domestic market, the prices of these exportables and durable goods are so high that they often outstrip the purchasing power of the vast majority of the population. Such a lack of correspondence between production and consumption patterns in the least developed countries does not stimulate consumer spending, inevitably blocking the overall growth of the economy. In essence, this lack of correspondence between production and consumption stifles the driving forces of economic growth, crippling overall economic and social progress (De Janvry, 1983 cf. Haung 1995). This phenomenon best explains why the Nigerian economy is monolithic relying only on crude oil and a few cash crops as its major source of foreign exchange earner with low capacity for manufacturing and food production.

Materials and Methods

This study due to its nature adopted the library research method. The study relied on secondary data and these were sourced from several periodicals, newspapers, journals and archives including the National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports. Data gathered were analyzed using the content analysis method. The study is also descriptive in nature as data analyses were corroborated by the use of tables and charts. The study was however constrained by inaccessibility to data hence its scope of data collection limited between 2008 and 2015.

Discussions

In an attempt to analyze economic dependency and the production-consumption disarticulation in the Nigerian economy, the study reviewed the production and consumption patterns in Nigeria between 2008 and 2015 as presented by its most recent foreign trade trends, export earnings, import priorities and most trading partners.

Table 1 above presents Nigeria’s top export commodities; it reveals that Nigeria’s export of Petroleum and other mineral oils ranked first with Natural Liquefied Gas ranking second within the period under review. This corroborates the findings of the study by Adsuyi and Odeloye (2013) which suggested that ever since the oil boom in the 1970s the oil and gas sector dominates export accounting for over 80% of foreign exchange earner. This shows the high rate of dependence on the oil sector for survival of the economy. Also, raw Cocoa beans, roasted Cocoa beans, Sesamum seed, natural Cocoa butter, Cigarettes containing tobacco, natural Rubber and Tanks/Drums dominated the non-oil sector ranking third, sixth, fifth, twelfth, ninth fourteenth, and fifteen respectively. This implies that largely Nigeria’s export commodities are reflective of the colonially imposed production of raw materials exported to foreign capitalist industrial production. The impact of this is limited internal industrial and manufacturing capacity and limited food production capacity for local consumption.

Table 2 which shows Nigeria’s top import commodities during the period under review, reveals that motor spirit otherwise known as petrol ranked first on the table. This implies that comparatively, whereas Nigeria exports crude oil and she imports refined motor spirit which best explains the disarticulation between production and consumption pattern in the country reflecting the forward and backward linkage disconnect thereby corroborating the colonially imposed dependency and structural disarticulation arguments of Ake (2002) and Haung (1995). The non-oil imported products include wheat which ranked second and cycles, motorcycles and all kinds of electronics ranking third, showing the limited domestic production of food and household items. Other products include sugar, powdered milk and cream, plates, tires, and motor vehicles for transport, ranking fifth, ninth, sixth, twelfth and fourteenth respectively.

Table 3 below presents Nigeria's total export by region during the period under review. The data reveals that Nigeria's total export in 2008 to America is ₦4,933,644.6 more than three times higher than that of Africa and Asia, and two times higher than Europe with ₦1,098,003.6, ₦1,138,257.9 and ₦2,089,193.3 respectively. However, in 2009 Nigeria's total export to America decreased to ₦3,304,644.2 but still higher than that of Africa, Asia and Europe. The total export of Nigeria to Europe also took a down turn from ₦2,089,193.3 to ₦1,750,615.7 in 2009. The American region experienced a marginal increase from ₦6,122,850.7 in 2010 to ₦7,874,922.0 in 2011 and ₦7,196,118.7 in 2012 and then drastically reduced to ₦2,917,283.4, ₦2,238,112.2 and especially ₦1,294,832.6 in 2013-15 respectively, with Asia and Europe increasing to ₦2,188,596.2 and ₦1,750,615.7 respectively while African Region has maintained an increasing trend from 2008 to 2010 with ₦1,098,003.6, ₦1,261,083.3 and ₦1,547,937.2 in the respective years then increased in 2011 and 2012 by ₦2,027,545.5 and ₦2,118,676.1 respectively. It however, decreased again and returned to its initial trend in 2013 to the end of the period under review. While that of Asia in 2012 increased by ₦4,347,383.0 then decreased by ₦2,894,482.463 in 2013, with a ₦4,649,231.9 increase in 2014 then further decreasing to ₦2,908,834.7 in 2015.

The European region however took a wholesome increase to ₦8,227,090.0 in 2012, less than the increase of N5,678,238.4 in 2011. However, the total export to Europe took a downturn from ₦8,227,090.0 in 2012 to ₦6,079,150.5, N6,881,169.9, and reduced drastically to ₦3,812,573.3 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. This implies that by regional analyses Nigeria exports a large chunk of its commodities to the American continent especially the USA, followed Europe, Asia and Africa in that order. This equally tends to show Nigeria's place as a mere supplier of raw materials in the world system.

Table 4 shows Nigeria's total import by region during the period under review. Nigeria imported a total of ₦654,198.8 from the America region in 2008 which further increased to ₦1,071,063.5, ₦1,992,692.4, in 2009 and 2010 respectively which doubled to ₦2,706,119.6 in 2011. This increase didn't last for long since the import from America dropped to ₦1,421,885.0 in 2012 which further declined to ₦913,465.1,

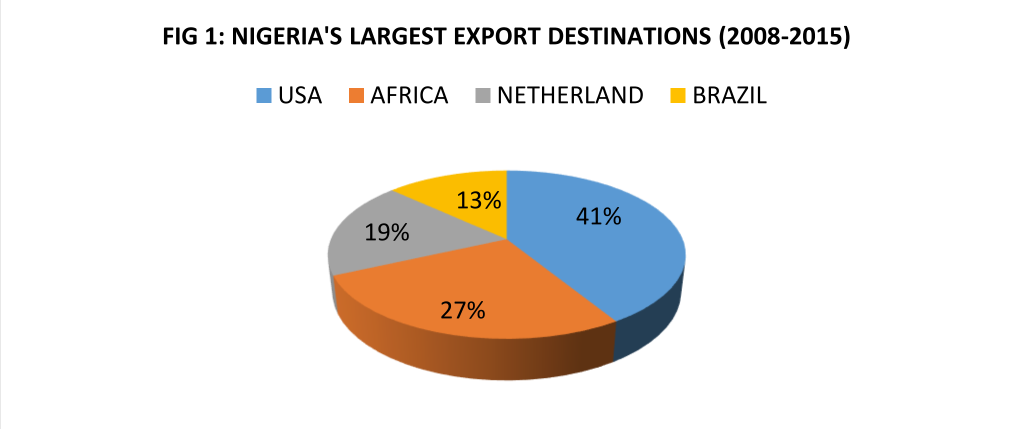
₦1,049,436.8, and ₦871,275.5 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively. The total import from Asia and European region of ₦1,162,073.8 and ₦1,223,725.9 respectively was much higher than that of America and Africa with ₦654,198.8 and N218,687.2, respectively in 2008. While import from Asia increased to 3,237,722.8 in 2011, that of America and Europe increased by ₦2,706,119.6 and ₦2,549,550.5 in the same year respectively, but still lower than that of Asia. By 2014, the import from the European region had increased to ₦3,022,645.0, still higher than that of Nigeria's import from America of N1,049,436.8 in 2014 and ₦871,275.5 in 2015.

However, Nigeria's total import from African region remained persistently low during the period under review. From the analysis, Nigeria had her highest total import from Africa in 2011 with ₦819,797.9 and her lowest in 2008 with ₦218,687.2. This trend can be explained by the fact that just like Nigeria, other African countries lack the capacity to produce manufactured goods, with the availability of limited quantities of the manufactured goods required by Nigerians, not just Nigeria but the entire African continent had to look outside of its shores to import consumables. This confirms the dependency perspective arguments that the world capitalist system merely reduced Nigeria to an importer of manufactured goods.

Furthermore, table 5 below shows Nigeria's top annual export partners during the period under review. The United States of America came first for five consecutive years starting from 2008 with ₦4,051,344.8, ₦2,026,629.5, ₦4,471,385.3, ₦4,381,268.2 and ₦3,969,537.9 respectively in years, with Africa ranking second in the same vein with ₦1,098,003.6, ₦1,261,083.3, ₦1,547,937.2, ₦2,027,545.5, ₦2,118,676.1 and ₦1,792,866.8 in six consecutive years. In 2014, Africa ranked first with ₦1,925,853.1 and returned to second in 2015 with ₦1,390,297.7. Netherland however came first in 2013 with ₦3,969,537.9 followed by India with ₦1,779,694.3.

It can be deduced from the statistics that Netherland has no consecutive trend as it is spread out in all four positions, ranking second in 2014 and third in 2012 and 2015 with N1,662,857.8, N1,718,892.7, ₦1,136,267.4 and fourth in 2010 with ₦591,606.2. However, Brazil ranked third in four consecutive years (2008-11) with 620,773.8, 593,511.2, 908,020.1 and 1,632,808.9 respectively then interrupted by Netherland in 2012 and ranking third in 2013 with ₦1,348,918.1, followed by Spain with ₦1,517,985.0. The fourth position comprises of France with ₦394,192.0 and ₦407,357.8 in 2008 and 2009 respectively, followed by Netherland in 2010 then UK in 2011 with ₦1,210,609.4 and Brazil with ₦1,692,116.9 in 2012. More so, USA came fourth with ₦1,203,834.3 in 2013 followed by Brazil with ₦1,317,850.2 in 2014 with Brazil having ₦908,937.1 in 2015.

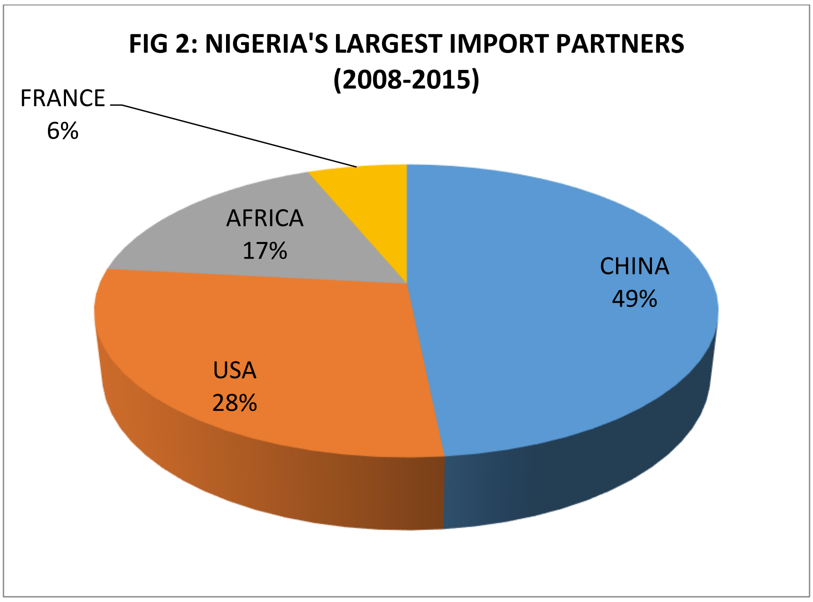
Similarly, figure 1 below presents the percentages of Nigeria's largest export destinations under the period being reviewed. The data it revealed that Nigeria's largest export destination was the United States of America with 41% of total export valued at ₦20,104,000.00, followed by Africa with 27% valued at ₦13,162,263.30 and Netherland with 19% with value ₦9,079,162.00 and lastly, Brazil with 13% of total export valued at ₦6,421,882.30 during the period under review.



Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 6 below shows Nigeria's annual top import partners in rank during the period under review. From the table it can be seen that China was Nigeria's top import partners for three consecutive years starting from 2008 with ₦502,302.3, ₦893,194.7 and ₦1,100,780.5 respectively, followed by USA in 2011 with ₦1,606,829.3.

However, in 2012 through 2015 China dominated the first position with ₦1,209,780.1, ₦1,475,928.3, ₦1,616,790.9 and ₦1,567,686.1 respectively before falling to second position in 2011 with ₦1,362,713.2. USA however maintained a second position from 2008 through 2010 with ₦267,722.0, ₦303,733.6 and ₦1,192,835.3 respectively and later ₦766,284.1 in 2012 after China interrupted that position with ₦1,362,713.2 in 2011 and Africa in 2013 with ₦673,255.8, then USA maintained her second position for the two consecutive years of 2014 and 2015 with ₦750,880.8 and ₦581,996.2 respectively before declining to the third position in 2013 with ₦612,661.1. Coming third position in 2008 was Germany with ₦223,026.7, followed by Africa in three years from 2009 to 2011 with ₦360,001.4, ₦429,562.4 and ₦819,797.9 consecutively, and then with ₦522,036.3 and ₦420,379.0 in 2014 and 2015 before declining to fourth position with ₦218,687.2 in 2008. Furthermore, France maintained a low but stable fourth position of 2009 through 2011 with ₦292,084.1, 388,674.4 and ₦559,448.0 respectively. While UK, Oceania, Netherland and India appeared for the first time in fourth position with ₦370,157.7, ₦434,887.7, ₦450,431.1 and N408,572.2 in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015 respectively.



Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015.

Figure 2 above shows the percentages of Nigeria's largest import partners under the period reviewed. Nigeria's largest import partners was China with 49% of total import valued at ₦9,729,176.10, followed by USA with 28% valued at ₦5,685,893.20. Africa represents Nigeria's third largest import partners with 17%, valued at ₦3,443,720.00, followed by France with 6% of total import valued at ₦1,240,206.50 during the period under review.

On the overall, the statistics presented above show that Nigeria largely depends on export of crude oil to the USA, Europe and other African countries for its foreign exchange earnings with the USA serving as its largest market. On the other hand, the country imports prime motor spirit, food items, electronics and other consumables from the USA and Europe. This portrays the dependency syndrome historically rooted in colonially imposed disarticulated economy showing the obvious incoherence in the production and consumption sectors of the economy. Furthermore, suffice it to state here that it is not surprising China is Nigeria's largest source of import in recent times as China has become the fastest growing economy in the world second only to the USA; it has shown large interest in the African market and recently signed a bilateral trade agreement with the President Muhammmadu Buhari led Federal Government of Nigeria.

Conclusion

There is no gain saying that the socio-economic development of Nigeria has been characterized by a stunted trend over the decades. From the arguments and facts presented it is clear the Nigerian economy portray an unproductive, externally oriented, dependent and a monolithic structure that lacks not the potential to develop forward and backward linkages of production and consumption patterns but the political will to produce the necessary goods and services for domestic consumption over time. The reasons behind such are not far-fetched as it is historically rooted in structural disarticulation and economic dependence. The Nigerian economy which has been colonially structured to be externally oriented has been designed to produce what is not locally consumed and consume what is not locally produced. The production of cash crops and raw materials exported to European and American markets remains the pattern obtainable. With an import-driven consumption pattern mainly composed of final goods, the country has become import-dependent and economically defective. The implications of this trend on the overall socio-economic development in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Firstly, a large percentage of the nations' income which is been spent on the international market in the form of importation of final consumable goods, if invested locally on local production will provide employment, increase income level and living standards of the masses. Secondly, operating a monolithic oil economy and reliance on imported food supply has marred the growth of the agricultural sector. This has had severe implications for the country as I struggle to feed its people thereby worsening food security challenges in the country. Thirdly, the sole dependence on oil and gas production as major foreign exchange earner has equally impeded the country's strive for sustainable development as seen in the colossal environmental degradation in the Niger Delta region. Consequent youth restiveness and armed struggles in the region over the years and the post amnesty resurgence of militancy has further increased mass poverty and portends severe human security challenges for the country generally. The paper therefore concludes that if this trend of dependency is not done away with, the overall socio-economic development of Nigeria will continually be compromised and remain elusive.

Recommendations

This paper deducing from the discussions and conclusion hence recommends that:

i. To break free from the chain of dependency, it is recommended that the African sub-region should encourage internal trade among African Union countries as this will increase their comparative advantage in the international market and make the African economy stronger. The recent launch of the African Union passport is a commendable step in this direction.

ii. The Nigerian government should rely less on oil by diversifying the economy and improving agricultural development, tourism and so on.
iii. The refineries in the countries should be made to work and if possible new ones built to meet Nigerian high demand for motor spirit as against importation
iv. Production-Consumption disarticulation can be corrected with an overhauling and redirection of the economy through a back ward and forward linkage of all the sectors of the economy especially agriculture and manufacturing as this will ensure self-sufficiency, employment creation and capital flight reduction.
v. In order to redress the inherent structural disarticulation, the government at all levels should pursue rural development as majority of the populace are rural dwellers.

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Appendix: Tables

Table 1: Showing Nigeria's Top Export Commodities (2008-2015)

RANKING	PRODUCTS
1st	Petroleum oils and oils obtained from bituminous minerals, crude.
2nd	Natural gas, liquefied.
3rd	Superior quality raw cocoa beans.
4th	Other petroleum gases etc. in gaseous state.
5th	Sesamum seeds, whether or not broken.
6th	Roasted cocoa beans.
7th	Butanes, liquefied.
8th	Other Liquefied petroleum gases and gaseous hydrocarbons.
9th	Cigarettes containing tobacco.
10th	Propane, liquefied.
11th	Aluminum alloys, unwrought.
12th	Natural cocoa butter.
13th	Cocoa paste, wholly or partly defatted.
14th	Technically specified natural rubber, in primary forms/plates, etc.
15th	Tanks, Gasks, drums, cans (excl. for gas) of iron\steel

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 2: Showing Nigeria's Top Import Commodities (2008-2015)

RANKING	PRODUCTS
1st	Motor Spirit ordinary
2nd	Durum wheat (Not in seeds)
3rd	Imported motorcycles and cycles, imported CKD by established manufacture.
4th	Other machine-tools for working stone, ceramics, concrete.
5th	Sugar
6th	I\steel structures & parts there of; plates, roods.
7th	Machines 4 the reception, conversion & transmission/regeneration of voice.
8th	Polypropylene, in primary forms
9th	Milk & cream in powder>1.5% fat not contain sweetening matter.
10th	Mixtures of odoriferous substances of a kind used in the food or drink industry.
11th	Lubricating oils to be mixed
12th	New pneumatic tyres, rubber of a kind used on buses or lorries.
13th	Reception apparatus for television, coloured, Presented CKD
14th	Motor vehicles for transport of>10=<22 persons, petrol fuel engine, fully built.
15th	Polyethylene having a specific gravity <0.94, in primary forms.

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 3: Showing Nigeria Total Export by Region (2008-2015)

REGION	EXPORT (₦' MILLION)							
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
AFRICA	1,098,003.6	1,261,083.3	1,547,937.2	2,027,545.5	2,118,676.1	1,792,866.8	1,925,853.1	1,390,297.7
AMERICA	4,933,644.6	3,304,644.2	6,122,850.7	7,874,922.0	7,196,118.7	2,917,283.4	2,238,112.2	1,294,832.6
ASIA	1,138,257.9	1,069,928.0	2,188,596.2	3,088,998.4	4,347,383.0	2,894,482.463	4,649,231.9	2,908,834.7
EUROPE	2,089,193.3	1,750,615.7	2,995,789.2	5,678,238.4	8,227,090.0	6,079,150.5	6,881,169.9	3,812,573.3

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 4: Showing Nigeria Total Import by Region (2008-2015)

REGION	IMPORT (₦' MILLION)							
	2008	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013**	**2014**	**2015**
AFRICA	218,687.2	360,001.4	429,562.4	819,797.9	245,605.0	673,255.8	522,036.3	420,379.0
AMERICA	654,198.8	1,071,063.5	1,992,692.4	2,706,119.6	1,421,885.0	913,465.1	1,049,436.8	871,275.5
ASIA	1,162,073.8	1,896,085.9	2,496,640.9	3,237,722.8	2,319,882.6	2,617,974.0	2,693,980.4	2,833,528.7
EUROPE	1,223,725.9	1,223,725.9	1,618,626.3	2,549,550.5	1,490,398.0	2,376,232.1	3,022,645.0	2,501,649.4

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 5: Top Yearly Nigeria Export Partners (2008-2015)

YEAR	POSITION (₦' MILLION)			
	1ST	**2ND**	**3RD**	**4TH**
2008	USA: 4,051,344.8	AFRICA: 1,098,003.6	BRAZIL: 620,773.8	FRANCE: 394,192.0
2009	USA: 2,026,629.5	AFRICA: 1,261,083.3	BRAZIL: 593,511.2	FRANCE: 407,357.8
2010	USA: 4,471,385.3	AFRICA: 1,547,937.2	BRAZIL: 908,020.1	NETHERLAND: 591,606.2
2011	USA: 4,381,268.2	AFRICA: 2,027,545.5	BRAZIL: 1,632,808.9	UK: 1,210,609.4
2012	USA: 3,969,537.9	AFRICA: 2,118,676.1	NETHERLAND: 1,718,892.7	BRAZIL: 1,692,116.9
2013	NETHERLAND: 3,969,537.9	AFRICA: 1,792,866.8	BRAZIL: 1,348,918.1	USA: 1,203,834.3
2014	AFRICA: 1,925,853.1	NETHERLAND: 1,662,857.8	SPAIN: 1,517,985.0	BRAZIL: 1,317,850.2
2015	INDIA: 1,779,694.3	AFRICA: 1,390,297.7	NETHERLAND: 1,136,267.4	SPAIN: 908,937.1

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015

Table 6: Top Yearly Nigeria Import Partners (2008-2015)

YEAR	POSITION (₦' MILLION)			
	1ST	**2ND**	**3RD**	**4TH**
2008	CHINA: 502,302.3	USA: 267,722.0	GERMANY: 223,026.7	AFRICA: 218,687.2
2009	CHINA: 893,194.7	USA: 303,733.6	AFRICA: 360,001.4	FRANCE: 292,084.1
2010	CHINA: 1,100,780.5	USA: 1,192,835.3	AFRICA: 429,562.4	FRANCE: 388,674.4
2011	USA: 1,606,829.3	CHINA: 1,362,713.2	AFRICA: 819,797.9	FRANCE: 559,448.0
2012	CHINA: 1,209,780.1	USA: 766,284.1	BRAZIL: 449,641.1	UK: 370,157.7
2013	CHINA: 1,475,928.3	AFRICA: 673,255.8	USA: 612,661.1	OCEANIA: 434,887.7
2014	CHINA: 1,616,790.9	USA: 750,880.8	AFRICA: 522,036.3	NETHERLAND: 450,431.1
2015	CHINA: 1,567,686.1	USA: 581,996.2	AFRICA: 420,379.0	INDIA: 408,572.2

Source: Computed by Authors from National Bureau of Statistics Foreign Trade Reports, 2011; 2012; 2014; 2015