

**Social, Cultural and Geographical Considerations as
Determinants of Governmental Power Equation in Fourth
Republic of Nigeria**

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Abstract

The study examined the social, cultural and geographical considerations as determinants of governmental power equation Fourth Republic Nigeria. Three (3) research questions and three hypotheses were answered and tested in the study, respectively. The design of the study was correlational, with the population as the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria. These Local Government Areas have 774 Chairmen and Chairmen of Caretaker Committees, from which 387 (50%) were selected as sample using the

simple random sampling technique. Respondents of the study responded to 2 sets of instruments. These were the 21-item Social, Cultural and Geographical Considerations Scale (SCGS) and the 8-item Governmental Power Equation Inventory (GPAI), designed by the researchers in the modified 4-point Likert scale model, with reliability indices of 0.84 and 0.89, respectively. Simple regression was used in answering the research questions while z-test associated with simple regression was used in testing the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study show that social, cultural and geographical considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria and that there is a significant determination of social, cultural and geographical consideration of governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. Consequently, the study concluded that social, cultural and geographical variables play strong roles in determining governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. Recommendations made are that stake holders should come out with appropriate parameters when using these variables in determining governmental pendulum.

Keywords: Social, Cultural, Geographical, Consideration, Governmental, Power Equation.

Word Count: 178

Introduction

Most countries in Africa are generally and characteristically multi-ethnic and therefore made up of multiplicities of ethnic nationalities, who were brought together by colonial powers or came together as accidents of history by virtue of language, proximity, types of occupation and other social affinities. Countries like Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania, Sudan, Libya, Nigeria, among others, are largely ethnic. In the case of Nigeria, Nnoli (1980) has confirmed Nigeria to be an ethnic oriented enclave by virtue of her being an amalgamation of more than 250 ethnic groups with the large one, being Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Ibibio and the Edos, among others. Each of these groups have their social, cultural and geographical

peculiarities, but have come together as one nation by colonial proclamation and name, Nigeria.

As a country, which gained independence from British Authorities in 1960 and attained the republican status in 1963, Nigeria has remained a single nation albeit some agitations, one of which resulted in the Nigerian-Biafran War, fought between 1967 and 1970 and presently the struggle for recognition as separate countries by some cultural and ethnic contractions. It has gone through four republics; First (1960-1966), Second (1979-1983), Third (1992-1993) and presently the Fourth Republic, which began in 1999, with former Nigerian military Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo as President.

In these different republics, guided by political zonings and permutations, political leaders have handled statecrafts with perfections, though with some acrimonies, which are seen to be normal in national political administration. These leaders make sure that, they share political positions, giving considerations to social attributes, cultural characteristics and geographical affiliations and in some instances, considerations are given to professional callings of the appointees to fit the appropriate office to be assigned to the appointees.

On the foregoing, renowned professor of Political Science, U. Ikpe (Personal Communication, August 10, 2005) hold that, when political offices are shared to appointees or people are elected from certain zones, using certain agreed criteria which may not be constitutional, it brings about governmental power equation. In quite a different entry, S.B Nwideduh (Personal Communication, January 10, 2022) prefers to refer to such as attempts at balance of state power.

According to Claude (1962), balance of power is one of the oldest concepts of international relations. For the scholar, this could be explained in the fact that, it can provide an answer to the problem of war and peace in international history and is regarded as the universal law of political behaviour, basic principle of every state, foreign policy for ages and describes a significant pattern of political action in the international field. Summarily, scholars among them Thompson and Morgenthau (1950), Morgenthau (1967), Palmer and Perkins (1970)

and Dickinson (1926) as cited in Political Science View.com (2022) present, the meanings and usages of balance of power to include a balancing system, establishing and distribution of powers amongst state, equality or equilibrium of power among state, distribution of power, a policy aimed at a certain state of affairs, an actual state of affairs, an approximate equal distribution of power and at any distribution of power. Though given international colouration, balanced of power can be internal, national, state and local government politics where peace is envisioned.

So far, presentations in the previous paragraphs have centered on the nature of African nations and the concept of balance of power. However, it is important to note that, through balance of power has international colouration, it can be used internally in national, state, local government, clan and village and even larger family administration, where offices are shared to different spheres of interest in order to strike a balance.

In doing this, certain criteria are adopted and utilized. These criteria include social, cultural and geographical characteristics. Social criteria or determinants of balance of power or equation refer to those social characteristics of individual that can be considered for them to hold contain political offices in any group or community. In underdeveloped, developing and developed nations, these criteria accommodate physical strength, wealth, level of education, professional calling, fame, acceptable, gender, religion, values and relationships.

On the cultural front, cultural determinants represent features by which basic differentiation of culture is possible and use in determining the possibility or not of somebody getting placed in society (Spring, 2008). In the position of some scholars, among them Eboh, Akpabio and Udoukpong (1987), Eboh and Ukpong (1993) and others, culture is a way of life. These characteristics include size, strength, geography, history, religion language, religious beliefs, social grouping and other cultural attributes (Evypana, 2020; Mortazari, Rezakhani & Mohagheghmia, 2018).

One other group for consideration in national power balance is the question of geography. Geography, literary relates to the issues connecting the physical environments of man and the conditions which it presents. Schlovin (2016) argues that, geographical conditions constitute a set of opportunities and constraints, are a set of structure that are independent of agencies. Little wonder, Lisbdnet.com (2021) adds that, these components make geography a key component in many political decision and actions. Information gathered from the forgoing academic sources list the geographical factors to include the burden of community, location of natural resources, access to ports and the designation of voting districts. Others include the topography of the land, its fertility, climates, location, and mode of transport, disease burden and agricultural production.

From the literatures presented, three larger critical for consideration in power balancing or power equation have been probed into. However, they are mainly theoretical contributions, which require investigation. This gave the researchers from the diverse disciplines the natural propensity to propose the study.

Statement of the Problem

Social, cultural and geographical considerations are lauded as best, when zonings political offices in most countries that is multi-ethnic or multi-cultural in composition. This proposition has informed the ways and manners political leaders handle pre and post-election activities, to ensure that, considerations are given to all conditionalities. Despite these, it appears that successive governments since Fourth Republic Nigeria began in 1999 do not find it easy, making choices as there seems to be all sorts of actions and inactions, among them public fights in legislature, attempts to impeach and impeachments and other attempts at destabilizing the polity. These actions bring to question the conditionalities usually considered in sharing political offices and bothered the researchers, who decided on finding empirical solutions to social, cultural and geographical considerations as they may act as

determinants of governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The study examined the extent to which social, cultural and geographical considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i) ascertain the extent to which social considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.
- ii) establish the extent to which cultural considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.
- iii) find out the extent to which geographical factors determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were answered in the study:

- i) To what extent do social considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?
- ii) To what extent do cultural considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?
- iii) To what extent do geographical considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the study:

- Ho1: There is no significant determination of social considerations on governmental power equations in Fourth Republic Nigeria.
- Ho2: There is no significant determination of cultural considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?
- Ho3: There is no significant determination of geographical considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?

Methodology

The design for the study was correlational, with the population as the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria. These Local Government Areas have 774 Chairmen or Chairmen of Caretaker Committees, from which 387 (50%) was selected as sample, using the simple random sampling technique. Respondents of the study responded to 2 sets of instruments. These were the validated 21 item Social, Cultural and Geographical Consideration Scale (SCGCS) and the 8-item Governmental Power Equation Inventory ((GPEI), designed by the researchers in the modified 4-points Likert Scale model with reliability indices of 0.84 and 0.89, respectively. Simple Regression was used to answer the research questions while z-test associated with simple regression was employed in the testing of the hypotheses at a 0.05 level of significance.

Results

The results of the study came from the answers to the research questions and tests of hypotheses, thus;

Research Question I: To what extent do social considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?

Table I: Simple Regressions Analysis on the Extent Social Considerations Determine Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?

Model	R.	R. Square	Adjusted Square	R-	Standard Error of the Estimate
I	.899 ^a	.809	.808		.37182

a Determinants: (constant) Social considerations

b Dependent Variable: Governmental Power Equation

Data on Table I shows that, there is a strong determination of social consideration on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria, with a positive correlation coefficient (R) of 0.823 with an adjusted squared regression of (R^2) of 0.677; it implies that social

considerations determine governmental power equation by 67.7% as evident in the coefficient of determinism. This suggests that the remaining 32.3% could be accounted for by other factors not known, here.

Research Question 2: To what extent do cultural considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria?

Tables 2: Simple Regression Analysis on the Extent Cultural Consideration Determine Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

Model	R.	R. Square	Adjusted Square	R-	Standard Error of the Estimate
1	.85 ^a	.725	.724		.48277

- a. Determinants: (constant) cultural consideration.
- b. Dependent Variable: Government Power Equation.

Date on Table 2 shows that, there is a strong determination of cultural factors on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria, with a positive correlation co-efficient (R) of 0.851 with an adjusted squared Regression (R^2) of 6.725, it implies that, cultural considerations determine governmental power equation by 72% as exemplified in the co-efficient of determinism. This result is suggestive of the fact that, the remaining 27.6% could be accounted for by factors not investigated, here.

Research Question 3: To what extent do geographical considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria?

Table 3: Simple Regression Analysis on the Extent Geographical Considerations Determine Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

Model	R.	R. Square	Adjusted Square	R-	Standard Error of the Estimate
1	.899 ^a	.809	.808		.37182

a Determinants (constantly Geographical Consideration

b Dependent Variable: Governmental power equation

Data on Table 3 show that. There is a strong determination of cultural factors on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria with a positive correlation co-efficient (R) of 0.899. With an Adjusted Squared Regression (R^2) of 0.809, it implies that, geographical considerations determine governmental power equation by 0.81%, as exemplified in the co-efficient of determinism. This result suggests that, the remaining 19.2% could be accounted for by other factors that have not been investigated, here.

H_0 : There is no significant determination of social considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Table 4: t-test Associated with Simple Regression on the Determination of Social Considerations on Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

Model	Unstandardized B	Co-efficient Standard Error	Standardized Co-efficient	t	Sig
Constant	.276	.106	.	2.597	.010
1 social consideration	.899	.032	.823	27.686	.000

a Dependent variable: Governmental Power Equation $y = 0.276 + 0.899x$

Data on Table 4 show that, the standardized beta co-efficient is 0.823 indicating the determination of governmental power equation. The regression equation on the table shows that, an increase in the value of social consideration may possibly results in an increase in governmental power equation. The value of 27.686 associated with simple regression is significant at 0.000 when subjected to statistical test of Alpha level of 0.05.

This shows that, there is a significant determination of social consideration on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. Therefore the hall hypothesis stands rejected.

H₀₂: There is no significant determination of cultural considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Table 5: t-test Association with Simple Regression on the Determination of Cultural Considerations on Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria

Model	Unstandardised Co-efficient		Standardised Co-efficient	t	Sig
	B	Standard Error			
Constant	.616	.084	Beta	7.299	.000
1. Cultural Consideration	.838	.027	.051	30.997	.000

Date on Table 5 shows that, the standardized beta co-efficient is 0.851 (indicating the determination of governmental power equation). The regression equation on the table shows that, an increase in the value of cultural considerations may possibly results in an increase in governmental power equation. The value of 30.997 associated with simple regression is significant at 0.000, when subjected to t-statistical test at the alpha level of 0.05. This shows that, there is a significant determination of cultural considerations on governmental power equation on Fourth Republic Nigeria. Therefore, the null hypothesis stands rejected.

H₀₃: There is no significant determination of geographical considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Table 6: t-test Associated with Simple Regression on the Determination of Geographical Considerations on Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria

Model		Unstandardized efficient B	Co- Standard Error	Standardiz ed Co- efficient	T	Sig
Constant		.179	0.78		2.312	0.21
1	Geographical consideration	.967	0.25	.099	39.275	000

a Dependent Variable : Governmental Power Equation
 $Y=0.179+0.967x$

Date on Table 6 shows that, the standardized beta co-efficient is 0.899(indicating the determinations of governmental power equation). The regression equation on the table shows that, an increase in the value of geographical consideration may possibly results in an increase in governmental power equation. The value of 39.275 associated with simple regression is significant at 0.000 when subjected to t-statistical test at the alpha level of 0.05. This shows that, there is a significant determination of geographical considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. Therefore, the null hypothesis stands rejected.

Discussions of Findings/Implications Social Consideration as Determinants of Governmental Power Structure in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

The first finding of the study is that social considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria by 67.7%. Also, a corresponding finding from hypothesis testing establishes that,

there is a significant determination of social considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. These findings are confirmatory of Ekong (1990) and Afangideh (1995). A possible explanation for the trend in the findings may be in the fact that, since 1999, when the Fourth Republic started, all political leaders at the local, state and federal levels, be it in the Legislature, Executive and Judicial arms and Forth estate have been people of good social standing in terms of educational background professional applications, general acceptability, among others. These findings imply that, in societies, where there is equitable power sharing on the basis of social standing, there is bound to be peace in state administration when cultural considerations are determinants of governmental power equation.

Cultural Considerations as Determinants of Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

The second finding of the study in that, cultural considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria by 72%. Also, a corresponding finding from test of hypothesis establishes that, there is a significant determination of culture considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. These findings are in tandem with EvyPanda (2020), Monazavi; Rasakhani and Mohaghegharia (2018). These scholars and academic outfits, have in their presentations establishes that, cultural considerations or factors among them size, strength, geography, history, religion, language, religious beliefs, social grouping and other cultural attributes are taken into consideration, during power sharing. This may be explained in the fact that, since Fourth Republic Nigeria began in 1999, considerations have been given to culture characteristics when zoning political offices and positions. These findings are suggestive of the fact that, governmental power equation can be carefully determined when considerations are given to cultural characteristics.

Geographical Consideration as Determinants of Governmental Power Equation in Fourth Republic of Nigeria

The third finding of the study is that geographical considerations determine governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria by 81%. Also, a corresponding finding from hypothesis testing establishes that, there is a significant determination of geographical considerations on governmental power equation in Fourth Republic Nigeria. These findings agree with Schlovin (2016) and Lisbdnet.com (2021). These scholar and outfit have in their scholarly contributions, list geographical consideration, among them borders of the community, location of sources, access to ports and the designation of voting centers or districts, topography of the land, land fertility, climate, location, and mode of transportation, disease burden and agricultural production. A possible explanation for this may be in the fact that, zoning of political offices since 1999 have been on the basis of geography, taking region (North or South) into account the South East, South South, South West, North West, North Central, and North East geopolitical zones. These results suggest that governmental power equations are significantly influenced by regional factors.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that, social, cultural, and geographical variables play strong roles in determining governmental power equations in Fourth Republic Nigeria.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study, the discussions on them, the implications of the findings and the conclusion drawn, and the following recommendations are offered.

- 1) Stakeholders in state administration should continue to use social consideration in determining governmental power equation and also set the appropriate social criteria for use at each moment.
- 2) Participants in state administration should continue to use cultural underpinnings in determining governmental power equation and also the appropriate cultural indices at each time.

- 3) Stakeholders in statecraft should continuously use geographical considerations in determining power equation and also ensure that the required geographical factors are properly identified.

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