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**Abstract:** No doubt the multicultural nature of the Nigerian state has been a fundamental factor in the make-up of the policy environment as well as policy frameworks of national leadership from independence. Multiculturalism could be a uniting or divisive factor, and for Nigeria, it has been more instrumental in the challenge of nationhood, culminating in a Civil War, agitations for state creation, sovereign national conference, rotational presidency, and zoning and in recent times, ethnic and religious insurgency as well as terrorist violence. National integration thus becomes far-fetched as it yet remains a quest by successive administrations and non-state actors who are stakeholders in the Nigerian project. But has the context of the external influences and concerns such as migrants, foreign visitors unaccounted for, and unwanted aliens as well as their activities been well examined? This paper examines the historical and new issues of multiculturalism in the challenge of national unity, with particular attention on the security dilemma for Nigeria in the 21st century, paying attention to the growing influence of the unchecked aliens in the swelling question and graver dangers of insecurity posed by non-patriotic aliens who flock into the nation through the porous borders. A descriptive-analytical approach is applied, while the data are basically collected from texts and academic journals. The Nigerian state requires an overhaul of its security machines within and at its borders, while also taking a second deeper look at its immigration system.

