

Title of Article: "Conflicts and Inter-Group Relations in Nigeria: What Way Forward?"

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Abstract: Nigeria existed as tribal groups before the colonial era. With the diplomacy of the British coupled with the Berlin Conference of 1885, the partitioning of Africa for great exploitation, ethnic groups and ethnic rivalries emerged as part of colonial creations. The disarticulation, disorientation and perpetual subjugation suffered by the people culminated in a style of governance which metamorphosed into great enmity, distrust and suspicion among the major regions of the country. Today, this has resulted to an acceptable constitution, to issues of boundary adjustments, challenges of resource allocation, and scramble for the nation's resources, followed with the question of leadership at the highest level. This forced cohabitation has led to many crises as witnessed in the Nigerian civil war, ethnic and religious militias, the Niger-Delta situation, the Bakassi Peninsula, for which there seems to be no clear solution in sight. This paper examines the dangers of perceived breakups and fragmentations, which could lead to vulnerability from external aggressors. It considers the fact that unity, tolerance and peaceful co-existence could be the way forward for a better, stronger and prosperous Nigeria.