STUDIES IN ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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This book project is sponsored by
Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund)

Published by
Jacob & Lydia Publishers
+234 704 296 1221, +234 806 017 1676
e-mail: stepag4peace@yahoo.com

© Communication and General Studies Department
Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, Nigeria 2015

First Published 2015

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ISBN: 978-97849953-9-9

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Introduction

The text, *Studies in Arts and Social Science*, contains the knowledge and elements of history, sociology, peace and conflict, logic and philosophy which are of great relevance to the general studies courses in higher institutions.

The book introduces readers to Nigerian history in chapter one. Included in the chapter are definition of history, sources of Nigerian history, the scientific and technological development of early Nigerian societies, Nigeria's early contact with the outside world through the Trans – Saharan trade and the Atlantic trade and the factors responsible for the British interest in Nigeria especially in the second half of the 19th century. This is followed by the exposition on the British conquest of Nigeria, the amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates, the features of colonial rule and its impact on Nigeria, the decolonization process and the factors that assisted the nationalists in their struggle for independence.

The second chapter examines the Modern Trends in Peace building. It describes the basic elements of peace building, conflict and trend in conflict resolution and peace building techniques; The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms: Mediation, Conciliation, Arbitration, Good Offices, Negotiation and impartial Fact-finding are clearly presented in the piece.

Chapter four Logic, focuses on the discussion of the basic elements of logic. In the chapter, attempts are made to explain the rudimentary issues in logical reasoning, both for undergraduate students and for general readers, who have had no background in logic and philosophy, but who are interested in the subject as beginners. Using familiar examples and definitions, the chapter introduces readers, in simplest possible language, to the often misunderstanding logical terms and topics. The aim is to demystify logic-which is often erroneously thought to be too abstract and transcendental- by bringing it to a level which undergraduate students, even those of them who are not majoring in the subject, can identify with, using simple, self-explanatory everyday examples. In all, the overarching aim is to help the reader appreciate the central role which logic play in the acquisition (and advancement) of human knowledge. To achieve this, the chapter has been arranged starting from the simple definition of logical concept and terminologies,

through hard-core deductive logic, to logical fallacies. Some of the basic logical concepts include term, proposition, premise, conclusion, and syllogism, which are explained as they are understood in logic, together with the function they perform in aids of sound reasoning.

Typologies, aetiologies and remedies of social problems in Nigeria are examined in the third chapter. It examines the two paradigms for understanding and explaining social problem within the society. While listing the palpable social problems in Nigeria, the chapter also focuses on the causes of poverty, prostitution and armed robbery among other problems in the country and advances probable solutions. Generally, this chapter seeks to expand the frontiers of knowledge regarding the understanding and resolution of social problems within the society, particularly in Nigeria.

The last chapter presents a conceptual and theoretical approach in the understanding of social problems. Sociology emerged at a time when there was intense social change attributable largely to the industrial Revolution. With the erosion of the old social structure, social theorists in Europe and America committed themselves to the study of social problems, advanced various meanings to the phenomena and suggested that they could be eliminated or alleviated by means of enlightened social policy and effective social engineering. Social problems are certainly different from individual problems and which are unique to every society. The chapter investigates social problems through informed theoretical prisms such as functional, conflict, interactionist and feminist perspectives. The chapter concludes on the need for government, private-sector and faith based organizations' engagement to resolve social problems in Nigeria.