***Press Performance and the Multi-ethnic Challenges in Lagos State of Nigeria (1999-2003)***

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In V. Aghayere, et al. (eds), Nigerian Political Economy.

Published in Benin By Hems Academic Publishing

Pp.309-317.

Between 1999 and 2003, Lagos State witnessed a series of ethnic clashes, many of which turned violent, leading to several deaths. For instance, members of the Hausa Community who hailed from the northern part of the country (Nigeria), especially those living in the Idi Araba area of Lagos State accused the Odua People’s Congress (OPC), a Yoruba socio-cultural organizations several times of being intolerant of other ethnic groups. Moreover, the Igbo traders from the eastern part of the of the country also alleged on a number of occasions that the social miscreants , popularly called “Area Boys” and majority of whom were Yoruba, were disturbing their businesses and making life difficult for them. Such allegations and accusations often turned bloody… A strong impetus was therefore created for this work to examine the contribution of the press in the quest for unity in Lagos State of Nigeria.