



**TRAJECTORY**  
**To INDUSTRIAL**  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
**In Nigeria**

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## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: ACHIEVING THE BRASS TACKS

Imhonopi, D. O. and Urim, U. M.

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### **Chapter Synopsis**

Nigeria offered the continent and blacks everywhere a future that was promissory, resplendent and anchored on a vision of rapid development when it achieved its independence in 1960. Adopting an eclectic collection of industrial development strategies or policy thrusts over the years, the country has nevertheless failed to measure up to equals such as Israel, South Korea, Japan, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, Botswana, Singapore and others, countries that were at the same development threshold with it in 1960. Nevertheless, industrialisation has remained the sine qua non for economic growth, long-term poverty reduction, job creation and the transformation of a traditional and agrarian society to a modern and industrial society. In this chapter, authors have perused industrial development in Nigeria from the belvedere of some fundamentals that can underprop the process. Making these brass tacks available will be and should be the focus of serious-minded, responsive and responsible governments. The present Goodluck Jonathan Administration will show more seriousness about its transformation agenda and the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan it just choreographed by achieving these essential ingredients that can facilitate and act as a linchpin for industrial development in Nigeria.

### **Introduction**

Nigeria is a richly endowed country with formidable natural, physical and human resources. Joining the league of newly minted states in 1960, Nigeria offered the continent and blacks everywhere a future that was promissory, resplendent and anchored on a vision of rapid development. Like many Third World countries, Nigeria adopted an eclectic collection of industrial development strategies or policy thrusts over the years, namely, the import substitution industrialisation, export promotion, structural adjustment programmes, exchange rate adjustment and sometimes a combination of these industrial development pills in order to achieve industrial development. However, presently, countries that shared the same development threshold with Nigeria in the 1960s and 70s such as Israel, South Korea, Japan, the People's Republic of China, Indonesia, India, Botswana, Singapore, Malaysia, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and South Africa, and others, seem to have outperformed and outclassed the country in the development race. In fact, some of these states and many others in the West are now advanced industrial economies with some having entered the post-industrial era and

leading the charge in the present knowledge economy. These countries boast a prodigiously developed industrial infrastructure and deliberately stylised enabling ambience which have contributed to the needed catalysation of innovation in their societies.

Emerging markets such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and other industrialised societies have all shown that industrialisation is sine qua non for economic growth and for long-term poverty reduction, job creation depending on the pattern of industrialisation, and transformation of a traditional and agrarian society to a modern and industrial society (Downes, 2004; Imhonopi, 2004).

Industrial development is central to the process of structural transformation which characterises economic development. According to Kniivilä (2007), industrial development is responsible for the economic growth of countries like China, the Republic of Korea (Korea), Taiwan Province of China (Taiwan), and Indonesia. Along with accelerated growth, poverty rates have declined in many of these countries. Some countries have managed to achieve growth with equity, whereas in others, inequality has remained high.

Industrial development, currently, points to the new challenges and opportunities facing modern industrialisers as a result of globalisation, technological change and new international trade rules. The emergence of Southern multinationals and South-South investment, for example, is one new phenomenon that has caught the attention of scholars of economic development. Knowledge intensity is increasing across all spheres of economic activity, including agriculture and services which can offer promising development paths for some developing countries.

In this chapter, there is a compelling interest to examine the rubric of industrial development in Nigeria with focus on how to achieve the brass tacks. Industrial development is known to be tethered to such fundamentals as availability of modern technology, congenial industrial environment, internal security, favourable industrial policies, energy robustness and access and other pivotal prerequisites which are needed to reinforce industrialisation in any country. For instance, industrial development cannot happen in a country with spotty power supply or with poor internal security systems. Making these brass tacks available will be and should be the focus of serious-minded, responsive and responsible governments. This is why this chapter seeks to pitch the understanding of industrial development in Nigeria within the context of the brass tacks that are essential for it to happen.

### **Understanding Industrial Development**

Industrialisation or industrial development, and this will be used interchangeably in this chapter, has attracted different connotations. According to Imhonopi and Urim (2013), industrial development signifies the progress made in the expansion of the economy and commercial activities in a country through massive industrial production of goods and services. It includes the transformation of raw materials into consumer goods, new capital goods which permit the production of more consumer goods and social overhead capital, which together with human resources, provide new services to both individuals and businesses. Arrey (2013) shares this observatory but adds that industrialisation is a process that engages human and mechanical resources in the transformation of raw materials for immediate consumption or for further production and leads to the heavy dependence on mass production of goods and services manufactured within the territory of a country. Thus, industrial development is focused on the use of technology and science in fostering a country's capacity to transform raw materials into finished goods or manufacture intermediate and capital goods for consumption or for further production. Mobarak (2001) pitches industrial development within two grooves: first is the establishment of new technologically competitive industries, and the second is



the expansion and renovation of existing industries to increase their productivity. He defines industrial development as the mainstay for establishing a country's production base and maximising the export capabilities of the national economy. He argues that this is why industrial development enjoys top priority in orchestrating a competitive economy in the face of international variables and economic groupings of industrialised states.

Onyeonuru (2005) has identified the elements of industrialisation in an economy to include the availability of technologies with capacity for large scale production; existence of a wide range of raw materials used for production purposes; abundance of complex technical division of labour supporting production; presence of a complex cooperation and coordination of specialised tasks aiding production; and the availability of catholic but relevant industrial skills within a nation's workforce.

Imhonopi and Urim (2013) opine that industrial development is an important mode of production in a modern society and is the process that provides livelihoods for millions of people all over the world because it creates a massive pool of employment opportunities for citizens. They also contend that the level of industrial development is what pigeonholes countries into developed, underdeveloped or emerging economies. Without gainsaying the fact, Nigeria possesses the ingredients that it requires to become a leading industrial economy in the global market and supported by its massive population of close to 180 million people, its domestic market swarms with a ready army of consumers for its industrial goods and services.

### **Theoretical Construal**

This chapter has adopted two models in a *mano a mano* dialectic with the goal to point to the trajectory of industrial development in Nigeria. These are: the World System Theory and the State Theory. The World System Theory is akin to the Modernisation Theory developed by W. W. Rostow. The theory as proposed by Wallerstein (1974) pontificates that the countries of the world belong to either the metropolis (developed or core states) or the periphery (developing or satellite states). While the metropolis are capable of dynamic development and responsive to their internal needs, the periphery are states that possess a reflexive type of development, one constrained by its incorporation into the global economic system and which results from its mere adaptation to the requirement of the expansion of the metropolis (Imhonopi & Urim, 2010). Furthermore, while the metropolis are technologically advanced, pay higher wages, have relatively powerful states and a relatively free market, in contrast, the periphery are relatively backward and possess simpler technology infrastructure, pay very low wages, and are weak and fragile states with cheap labour. This status quo is partly cited to rationalise the byzantine weaknesses and inefficiencies faced in the industrial sector of most developing countries, including Nigeria, causing these countries to malfunction, and necessitating them to embrace inevitably the Western-midwifed modernisation process with its liberal orthodoxies Xeroxed from advanced industrial economies to power weak and developing economies for growth and development.

State theorists are antipodal to the viewpoints and central postulations of the World System theory. This theory argues that because the economy is enmeshed in and shaped by politics, therefore, the take-off period in development is unique to each country. The theory emphasises the effects of class relations and the strength and autonomy of the state on historical outcomes (Imhonopi & Urim, 2010). For State theorists, development involves interactions between the state and social relations because class relations and the nature of the state impact the ability of the state to function. Development is dependent upon the stability and influence of the state and a state can only develop when it takes control of its development process. Rather than succumb to the "history or geography"



is destiny" thesis, polemicists of the State paradigm contend that developing economies have hope of turning around the fortunes of their economies and the polity by pursuing internal growth through strengthening of institutions and agencies of government, putting in place a value system to which all stakeholders must subscribe and committing to the development agenda of government. Consequently, instead of subscribing to the polemic that the periphery should mimic the metropolis if the former intends to achieve industrial development, State theory proponents see development as a unique process that is far from being unilineal but is unique to each state's internal make-up or dynamics.

This chapter identifies with the intellectual ratiocinations on the achievement of industrial development as proposed by the State theory. As opposed to development as a unilateral, Western-enabled and teleological process (that is, African states are purposed or designed to be dependent on the West and the West are supposed to be overlords in the global market ecology), State theorists advocate that developing nations can be coxswained towards industrialisation by pursuing internal growth, which could also mean providing the fundamentals needed for industrial development to be engendered. While authors do not dispel the idea of a composite approach to industrial development, which means imbibing an amalgam of approaches (import substitution, export strategy, exchange rate adjustment, technology adaptation/transfer and cloning and all that) to achieve this idyll as was successfully done by China and South Korea, authors believe that Nigeria cannot reach its goal of becoming a modern industrial society if it fails to put in place what they call "the brass tacks" that should fortify this process. Simply put, can industrial development happen in an environment of epileptic power supply, water shortage, poor infrastructure, insecurity of lives and property, weak and compromised institutions, absence of home-grown or adaptable technology framework, lack of political will, absence of leadership by example, and those factors that should become infrangible prerequisites for industrialisation to happen in a country? Therefore, rather than bemoan the wasted years of national inertia, protracted years of monocultural resource curse, colonial rapacity, long years of statocratic interregnum of the development process and other worrisome dysfunctions of and within the Nigerian state, if Nigeria is to become an industrialised economy and one of the leading coxswains of the development process in Africa, then present government at all levels must henceforth be committed to turning the ideals of industrial development into realities. Government needs to provide industrial development brass tacks.

### **Challenges facing industrial development in Nigeria**

The impediments to industrial development in Nigeria include the following:

First, industrial development, over the years, has been challenged by lack of political will or courage to bring about industrial transformation in Nigeria. The experiences of countries such as China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and India, among others, show that these nations took actions based on conviction and courage as inspired by their visionary political leadership. In Nigeria, the absence of political will has hampered the full implementation of its industrial policies which could have turned around its fortunes. In some instances, it has led to half-hearted or poor implementation of these policies or led to lack of an integrated industrial policy framework for the country. Without such visionary plans, the debouchment of Nigeria as a dominant industrial economy in the global market has remained at best a work in progress and at worst a fantasy.

Second, while the present political leadership has continued to controvert the slew of accusations cast at it and its members for corruption, diurnal events in the political and economic life in the country have further reinforced the belief that a generality of the people have that corruption has become a hydra-headed monster that must not only be put on a leash, but must also be decapitated

if the country is to experience any progress in its industrial development strides. Imhonopi and Urim (2013a) have argued elsewhere that although corruption is not a Nigerian phenomenon, it haunts the nation as a spectre and has permeated the entire fabric of state acting as a devious albatross to national development. The several avatars of corruption in the public realm in Nigeria such as outright bribery and inducement, patronage, nepotism, influence peddling, use of one's position for self-enrichment, bestowing of favours on relations and friends, abuse of public property, leaking and/or abuse of government information, embezzlement of state funds particularly earmarked for development purposes such as road reconstruction, national electrification projects, diversion of funds meant for the iron and steel sector and the provision of social overhead capital viz. education, health, security and others have remained a vicious rape of the commonwealth. For many years, corruption aided by dwindling national resources, has incapacitated government, making it unable to fund development projects that could have supported industrialisation in the country.

Third, as a country of scholars, bright minds and technocrats, Nigeria does not lack the constant introduction of industrial policies since its inception as an independent nation-state. Rather, each government in power introduces its own supposedly well thought-out industrial policy which is immediately replaced when that government exits the corridors of power. These constant backflips and somersaults that industrial policies in the country are subjected to do not help the country to effectively try out one policy before it is replaced by another. Thus, as these policies come tumbling down, industrial development in the country suffers suislides.

Fourth, the preference of politicians for technocrats has remained the bane of Nigeria's industrial development. Where a lawyer occupies the seat of a Minister of Power or a lawyer or lowly qualified teacher occupies the seat of a Minister of Education, what should be expected of their performance? Mediocre results! Over the years, meritocracy in the selection of leaders into such important offices was compromised, giving way to the induction of people who have no business leading the ministries they were assigned to. In one of the recent elections in the Southwest, a Governor-elect boasted that when he is sworn in, his government would be constituted of mainly politicians, i.e. those who were in the trenches with him during the heat of the electioneering period and not some technocrat. Such statements give Nigerian politicians away as individuals whose desire is just to consolidate political power and enjoy political capital within their constituencies ad nauseam.

Fifth, over the years, the budget for the education ministry has continued to parachute. Government has failed to honour his agreements with the nation's university lecturers, polytechnic and secondary teachers. Public education has shamefacedly become underfunded. The infrastructure needed for effective teaching and instruction in the classrooms, for instance, is either outdated, insufficient or absent. Laboratories do not have simple reagents for experiments, engineering workshops are empty and when they are full, they are adorned with archaic equipment and aging tools while the introduction of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) into the public school system has remained rather snail-paced. This has resulted in the procreation of a new generation of half-baked Nigerian graduates who are unemployable as well as uncompetitive. Since human resources are drivers of industrial development in any economy, the poor quality education and training citizens get create a mismatch between human resources needs within industry vis-à-vis available workforce.

Sixth, internal security has also remained a huge challenge to industrial development in the country. Obviously, security is inevitable for embedding any form of development in a society. Without internal security, there cannot be free flow of goods and services between and among different locations in the country and foreign investors will look elsewhere to engage their idle capital. From kidnapping to militancy to terrorism, Nigeria has come face to face with entrenched



security upheavals which are not only threatening the cord of unity binding the component units in the nation but are also decreasing the amount of FDI that would/should have come into the country.

Seventh, another challenge beleaguering industrial development in Nigeria is the issue of the absence of an enabling infrastructure. For many years, Nigerians have been subjected to the embarrassment and pain of living in a country where basic infrastructure is a luxury. For example, it was a luxury making a phone call some years ago, an elitist preserve, but the government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo worked very hard to liberalise the telecom sector. Nowadays, Nigerians belonging to different rungs of the social pecking order, including those unbelievably thought in the past not to be worthy of owning a phone now own a mobile phone, phablet or tablet that helps them stay in touch with their friends, families and colleagues. Bad roads, poor sanitation, poor water supply, spotty electricity from the national grid leading to the heavy and heartbreaking dependence on fossil fuel to generate electricity for homes and businesses and others have become the pictures that adorn the infrastructural fabric of the country.

Eight, another challenge that has affected industrial development in the country is the lack of long-term perspective necessary for the emplacement of industrial development in Nigeria. Without this perspective, successive governments over the decade seemed to have been visionless, directionless and unable to steer Nigeria's towards the trajectory of industrial development.

Ninth, sociocultural strangleholds have affected industrial development negatively in Nigeria. A situation where the maxim "dignity in labour" no longer holds any form of fascination but instead microwavable wealth creation paths are now desirable such as internet fraud business, kidnapping, pimping, and other unlawful businesses, the culture of building and growing small businesses patiently seems to lose its allure. Young Nigerians belonging to the millennial and microwave generations are drooling on the sudden wealth and influence of politicians, arrivistes and violent criminals such as political thugs, militants, illegal oil bunkerers, kidnappers, carjackers, terrorists and others and now seek ways to devise their own escape hatch from the precariat trap to which many are entangled. Following the path of building businesses or supplying goods and services as back-end supports in the industrial value chain seems far-fetched to them.

Tenth, during the era of the military, having a national foreign reserve for the country was a favour rather than a necessity by government. Lack of national savings put the economy of Nigeria in precarious situations and with the continuous plundering of the national till, Nigeria became a weak and banana economy for a very long time until the reprise of democracy. Of course, within this context, the country was effete and thereby unable to fund any industrial development initiative that its think-tank technocrats might have created.

High interest rates charged by Nigerian banks and financial institutions generally have not helped to support the growth of the country's industrialisation. The real sector has been badly hit by this practice. These lending rates are unsustainable to support meaningful industrial development as the tenures on available credit facilities are typically not provided over long enough maturities (NIRP, 2014). Therefore, in Nigeria, only expensive short-term credit facilities, which can support a trading company, but not a manufacturing concern, are available.

Lastly, low patronage of made-in-Nigeria goods is one bane of industrial development. Before Taiwan and China became Asian economic powerhouses that they are today, their products were not as standardised like those from North America or Western Europe. But because of the colonial hangover which makes Nigerians, and indeed Africans, think that white is always right while black always lacks, is dark and backward, they bought these goods with gleeful contentment. But Nigerians feel averse towards goods made in Aba, Onitsha, Kano, Lagos Island, Ijebu and Yenagoa because they consider them substandard goods. This proclivity towards foreign goods while showing aversion



to home-grown products and services has provided jobs for manufacturers of goods in Asia, Europe and America while starving the domestic economy of the needed foreign exchange that could further prop up the country's economy and support its industrialisation.

### **Industrial Development in Nigeria: Providing the Brass Tacks**

As the State theory canvasses, every country's development is unique and can be endogenously choreographed. To achieve industrial development in Nigeria, this chapter argues for the need to provide what it considers the essentials or "brass tacks" that are sine qua non to achieve this idyll. The following points have been carefully considered in this direction.

First, there is need for government to make infrastructural facilities available in the country. The reason there have not been telltale business miracles in the country can be associated with the lack of access to basic infrastructural services and facilities such as power, adequate water supplies, public transportation, good roads and others. One way to support any society's industrialisation efforts is to build a vibrant middle class. Currently, the artisanal business sector is in disarray because there is no power for their work. Many welders, panel beaters, automobile mechanics, fashion designers, hair salon operators and others run their businesses providing their own power, water and small business finance through their thrift cooperative societies. Their privately owned diesel or petrol generators release much carbon into the air, cause a lot of discomfiting din in the neighbourhood and cost them a large part of their profits. Same for businesses in the small medium enterprise sector like bakeries, restaurants, cobblers, small iron fabricators, small product manufacturers and others who run their own generators, supply their own water, provide their own security and create their own small business finance to keep their outfits alive. Without infrastructure, government's National Industrial Revolution Plan may just go the way of its earlier primogenitors.

Second, all the emerging economies of Asia and Latin America such as Brazil, Mexico and Chile are given to technological development and innovation. Government needs to pay more attention to the country's technological development. As NIPR (2014) observes, innovation is what underpins sustainable evolution, modernisation, and improvements in industrial activities. Innovation and the manufacturing sector work hand in hand. While the manufacturing sector needs innovation to flower, it is also a key source of innovation as well. Lack of innovation is one of the drawbacks of the manufacturing sector in the country because it hinders the sector from using technology to solve other problems the country faces. Government needs to create an enabling environment that supports the study of *science, technology, engineering, and mathematics* so that products from the country's secondary and tertiary institutions can form the bulk of the scientific community that would create the future hardware and software for industrial and social uses.

Third, the use of technocrats in government has become imperative. The impact of such technocrats in the present government of President Goodluck Jonathan such as the Coordinating Minister of Finance and the Economy, Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Olusegun Aganga, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina and numerous other talented technocrats, has added quality, direction, results and given great bite to the transformation mantra of the administration. The development and launch of an integrated Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan in 2014 under the aegis of the Dr. Aganga-led Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment has demonstrated the technocratic brilliance that choreographed the production of that very lucid and ambitious industrial blueprint for Nigeria. If the government of President Jonathan can pay more attention to the finer details of the document and this consciousness is cascaded down the governance ladder, Nigeria could emerge an industrial giant sooner than economic futurologists might have presaged.

Very importantly, no country can truly develop if its people are uneducated, ill, face untoward and poor living conditions and are unempowered. Therefore, government must work at offering universal education at the primary and secondary levels while funding and subsidising public university education. By so doing, government will be raising the next generation workforce who will man the various industrial processes to be put in place in the country. The public health system must also be improved upon while focus should shift from high standard of living to high quality of life for the people. Government should ensure that the life of every Nigerian has value and that it does all it can to spread development across the rural and urban settings so that every citizen can feel the presence of government and have access to basic infrastructural services and facilities. Government should also be committed to the empowerment of the vulnerable population made up of women, children, youth and seniors.

Fifth, there is need for the government to overhaul the security apparatuses of the nation to ensure that the country's internal and external security measures can envisage and stem domestic and foreign security challenges. Since security is fundamental to peace and development, government from the Goodluck Jonathan administration must professionalise the police force and the armed forces and recruit the best hands possible to man the sensitive areas in the security architecture of the nation. As criminals and terrorists are becoming high-tech, the security establishment can no longer afford to condone mediocrities in its officer and rank and file cadres. Government must also invest to equip the police, the military and other paramilitary institutions with the right military hardware, software and tools to do their work efficiently and professionally.

Sixth, government needs to continue to tinker with the existing policies and regulations undergirding industrial activities in the country. Just as the Corporate Affairs Commission is working to make registration of businesses and filling of returns an easy exercise, government must extend its eagle eyes to those policies that are still inimical to industrial growth and development in the country.

Seventh, without gainsaying the fact, the SME sector is critical to the success and rapid development of the industrial sector. SMEs are known to provide support services, intermediate goods and raw materials needed for the production activities within the industrial sector. Funding the SME sector so that it becomes vibrant, robust and healthy will also lead to a healthier industrial sector and climate in Nigeria.

Eight, studies have shown that SME finance or provision of industrial capital is essential for industrial development. Government must monitor the activities of its parastatals such as the Bank of Industry (BOI), the Nigerian Export Import Bank (NEXIM), the National Economic Reconstruction Fund (NEFUND) so that these institutions established to support industrial development are not hijacked by a rapacious and desperate cabal whose only intent is to colonise these institutions and privatise access to them for themselves, their cronies, relations and hangers-on. In making cheap funds available to genuine business people, government must mind the sociocultural hurdles women face in their bid to access finance for their business ideas. By making access to funding gender-neutral, government will succeed in empowering half of the population with its attendant benefits of increasing the health, well-being and quality of life of many Nigerian families.

Again, there is need for government to provide the enabling environment for industrial development to happen in the country. Young people should be motivated right from their primary schools to start thinking of the contributions to make to the economy by way of product or service creation. They must be raised to think like entrepreneurs and not just job seekers, a situation that has resulted into the present unemployment crisis facing the nation. Tied to this, the current

curriculum across the educational continuum must be re-evaluated and refashioned to provide skills, training and tuition that will be useful in industry.

Lastly, the political leadership must, by itself, lead by example. Government must patronise the country's local rice farmers, buy the country's fabrics and wear them on very important occasions, and mandate its ministers, commissioners and all those in elective and appointed positions to do the same. By supporting local patronage of goods and services, more money is paid to local producers and service providers, jobs are created in the domestic economy, prosperity is made wholesale and angry members of the population are reduced because their hunger is attended to.

### **Benefits of Industrialisation in Nigeria**

There are numerous obvious benefits that industrialisation will portend for Nigeria. It will lead to massive job creation and reduce the present unemployment scourge and its negative impacts of youth restiveness, juvenile and violent crimes and antisocial sentiments by the vulnerable in the society. Also, through industrialisation, industrial skills development and knowledge will be diffused across a large segment of the population. This situation will birth more entrepreneurs and SME operators, further expanding the economic opportunities available to citizens.

There are also value additions that come with industrial development. Raw materials are refined or transformed into semi-finished or finished goods, thus increasing the value addition of these products and attracting more benefits and income to producers across the value chain.

Industrialisation also promotes economic prosperity and raises the quality of life of citizens.

With industrial development comes an increase in the production and service capacity of the country which supports the export market. With increasing export of goods and services, there is also increase in the foreign exchange earned in the process and the country and its citizens are better for it.

Industrialisation also helps to decrease the imports gap across all sectors. It also provides greater optimal performance for institutions across such sectors as education, health, manufacturing, technology and others because with innovations and technology infusion in these sectors, problems are solved, constraints are managed and efficiency and productivity are spurred.

### **Recommendations and conclusion**

The present administration of President Goodluck Jonathan must strive to conclude the reforms in the power sector and hasten the ongoing infrastructural transformation going on across the nation. Secondly, his government also needs to continue to pay more attention to the need to diversify the resource base of the country away from oil. Like the government itself admitted in a report, "...Nigeria can use its oil, to diversify itself away from oil" (NIPR, 2014, p. 20). Therefore, enough of the effect of the Dutch disease caused by oil to the rest of the economy. Effort must be put in place to build a vibrant economy that exploits all the available resources in the country to generate income for the nation and create myriad economic opportunities for its citizens. Very importantly, government must lead by example. Building an industrialised society is not a day's job. Government must imbibe fiscal discipline measures, adopt a lean management approach to its workforce and effectively manage the resources of the country so that it can have enough resources to engender the dream of Nigeria becoming an industrialised economy. Tied to this, government must patronise made-in-Nigeria goods, show greater probity in the governance processes, make sacrifices and commitments to industrialisation in Nigeria.

Fourth, there must be political will and courage to follow through with the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan. As the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, Dr. Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga



affirms, "national development cannot be imported; it must come from within.... we become knowledgeable by learning from others, but we only become wise by understanding ourselves" (NIRP, 2014, p.5); also, Nigeria's leadership across board must understand that to achieve industrial development in the country, concerted efforts in this direction must be sustained and aggressively pursued.

There is also the need to align all the industrial policies in place and to fully implement what is working while discarding what is not. Fifth, government needs to show more seriousness to the implementation of the policy and constitutional changes mooted at the just concluded National Conference in Nigeria. Those policy and constitutional recommendations must be given great thought at both the executive and legislative arms as the conference delegates were feted on tax payers' money to come up with those brilliant initiatives they developed based on deep conversations they had on how to move Nigeria forward. Draft submissions given to government at the end of the conference must not allowed to gather dust on some air-conditioned desk or furniture in Aso Rock or the hallowed chambers of the legislature.

If there is anytime government needs to be seriously committed to the issue of human development, it is now. Nigeria is no longer in competition with its West African and African neighbours but with the rest of the globalised world. Government must embrace technology education, invest in its health and education sectors and seek ways to empower its youths and citizens.

Government must also pursue labour-intensive industrialisation to solve the country's employment albatrosses.

Industrial development in Nigeria has remained illusory for a long time. While the present administration of President Goodluck Jonathan seems to be working in the right direction by engaging a technocracy that has continued to choreograph development initiatives that can take the country out of the woods, the President and his team must not go the way of past leaders who used such projects to either syphon public funds or as a smoke screen to perpetuate themselves and their cronies in government for the sake of power and its accoutrements alone. History's pages are open and the President has the opportunity to write his name wherever he wishes whether on the positive side or the dark side.

Nigeria cannot afford to tag along behind countries that it started the development race with, especially countries that are not better than its people and that do not have more resources than it does. The country must shake itself out of slumber and take pragmatic steps that can engender industrial development and trigger social change for its citizens and the unborn generation of Nigerians. Government will show more seriousness about its transformation agenda and Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan by achieving the provision of the brass tacks for industrial development to happen in Nigeria.

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# TRAJECTORY To INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT In Nigeria

## About The Book

Nigeria's industrial development has lingered. Many countries like Israel, South Korea, Japan, China, Indonesia, India, Botswana, Singapore and South Africa that were at the same development threshold in 1960 when Nigeria gained its political independence all seem to have outperformed and outclassed Nigeria in the area of economic development presently. In fact, some of these states and many in the West have now entered their post-industrial era and are leading the charge in the present knowledge economy, having developed their industrial infrastructure and created an enabling ambience for the catalysation of innovation within their societies.

Nigeria has continued to engage in what seems to be duplicitous, bombastic and mere paper industrial development. Without industrial development, Nigeria will remain import dependent, consumerist, export shy and a monocultural economy in a fast-changing world that is technology-motored and industrial in nature. As part of the ongoing efforts by the President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan's government to embed Nigeria within an Industrial Revolution paradigm, the need to midwife this book to further broaden and enrich this conversation led to an invitation to scholars to provide their various but nuanced intellectual ratiocinations on the subject of *Trajectory to Industrial Development in Nigeria*.

This book is stylised to provide present and future political and economic managers of the state, policy engineers, academics, professionals, civil society watchdogs, civil servants, Nigerian students and other publics with diverse ideas that could guide or provoke greater interest in achieving and sustaining industrial development in Nigeria.



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