A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO’S FOREIGN POLICY UNDER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION

BY

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A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, SCHOOL OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, COLLEGE OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D) IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

AUGUST, 2015
DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this doctoral thesis, “A Comparative Study of Olusegun Obasanjo Foreign Policy Under Military and Civilian Administration”, submitted to the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, was carried out by me, under the supervision of Professor Kunle Amuwo and Dr Sherrif Folarin of Covenant University respectively.

It is also important to note, that no part of this study has been submitted here or elsewhere in a previous application for award of a degree. All sources of knowledge used have been duly acknowledged.

_________________________________________  __________________
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CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that this doctoral thesis was carried out by Olorunyomi, Bankole Robert (Matriculation Number: CUGP060178) of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria, under the Supervision of Professor Kunle Amowo and Dr. Sheriff Folarin.

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DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to God-the Father, God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit. To him alone is all the glory.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I use this opportunity to express my gratitude to God, our Maker and father, who has taken me this far. Without you Lord, this feat would have been an illusion. Blessed be God forever! May God’s blessing always be upon our Chancellor, Bishop David Oyedepo, who has always been a source of inspiration to me. His prayers and words of encouragement have been very impactful in my career. May God continue to enlarge him in greater wisdom and long life. Amen.

I equally thank the management team of Covenant University, including the Vice Chancellor, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Registrar, and the Dean of College of Leadership and Development Studies, Professor Charles Ogbulogo. The Dean’s support was particularly immense and far-reaching. May God bless him.

Special appreciation and thanks to Professor Kunle Amuwo, my main Supervisor, who until the tragic event in May 2015, took me like a brother and worked that this study was successfully completed. May God grant you eternal rest. To my Co-Supervisor, Dr. Sheriff Folarin, may God bless your labour of love and meet you at every point of your need. And may the blessings of Almighty God come down from heaven and descend on you and your household in the mighty name of Jesus! Amen. Also, I will always be grateful to Professor Kayode Soremekun, who started this journey with me, and carved the path for the breakthrough in the doctoral work.

My special appreciation also goes to my former Head of Department, Dr. Moses Duruji who saw this work to a successful conclusion. I really appreciate your love and concern. To the current Head of Department, Dr. Jide Ibietan, I am grateful for the support.

Again, I will always owe my gratitude and unreserved respect to all these people that have contributed in one way or the other to this study, Professor Rotimi Ajayi, Professor K. S. Adeyemi, Professor Daniel Gberevbie, Dr. Jegede Ebenezer, and
also, Dr. Ogunnaike Olaleke, Dr. Mosun Adeyeye, Dr. Ehimare Alex Omankhanlen, Dr. Sola Oyero and Dr. Olurin.

I also use this medium to appreciate my colleagues in the Department, for their love and support throughout this study. These include Dr. Fayomi, Dr. Alabi, Dr. Oni Samuel, Dr. Segun Joshua, Dr. Felix Chidozie, Dr (Mrs) Fadeke Owolabi, Dr. Agbude, Mr. Wogu, Mrs Deborah Udoh, Mrs Lady Ajayi, Mr Ajayi, Mr and Mrs Olarewaju, Mr Ilemobola Olarewaju, Miss Adeola Oyeyemi, Miss Rosemary Popoola, Mrs Oluwatobi Njoaguni, Mrs. Excellence-Oluye, Mr Ugochukwu Abasilim and Mr Loremeke. God bless you all.

I will not forget to mention the support of Department Administrative Secretary, Mr. Alabi Enoch, and all the people that have worked in the departmental secretariat. May God bless you all and grant all of you your heart desires, in the mighty name of Jesus. Your labour of love will not be in vain in Jesus’ name. Amen.

My profound gratitude also goes my family God bless my mum, Mrs Olorunyomi for her love and concern. I also appreciate my brothers and sisters. God be with you all. I equally appreciate my friends, who have shown love and kindness to me throughout the duration of this study. Our Heavenly Father will reward you all.

My deepest appreciation goes to my wife and sweetheart, Taiwo Olorunyomi. I thank you so much for the encouragement and your shower of love. May God bless you with long life and prosperity. Amen.
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Abstract

The study examines Nigeria’s foreign policy under Olusegun Obasanjo’s military and civilian administration. The work focuses on a single person under different political templates namely, military and civil rule. Olusegun Obasanjo happened to have governed Nigeria both as a military Head of State and a civilian President. Therefore, this work interrogates in comparative terms, how Obasanjo’s regimes formulated and implemented Nigeria’s foreign policy as well as the internal and external environments of Nigeria’s foreign policy during these periods. Furthermore, it assesses the impact of Obasanjo’s personality on policy-making, during both his military and democratic tenures. To successfully accomplish this task, both primary and secondary data were collected. Interviews conducted with principal actors and secondary data obtained from books, journals, magazines, bulletins, newspapers and government records were analysed to achieve the objectives of the study. Among other findings, the study observed that there were totally different structures put in place for Nigeria’s foreign policy processes under Obasanjo’s military and civilian rule. It is important to note also, that the actual foreign policies formulated were dictated primarily by Obasanjo’s personality and executive leadership decisions. The internal environment also played little role in Obasanjo’s foreign policy making and implementation. However, the external environment played a significant role in the sense that Nigeria expended her resources on African causes during Obasanjo’s regimes. Obasanjo exhibited the same overbearing personality both as military and civilian leader. The study therefore recommends, among others, that strong institutions should be put in place to facilitate foreign policy making and execution, the demands of the internal environment should form the basis of foreign policy pursuit by foreign policy makers and not the other way around and that while the personality of a leader will have an impact on the nation’s external relations, there should be standard operational procedures in foreign policy making and execution that would strengthen institutions and limit personalities.