

**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  
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OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (Ph.D) IN  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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## 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.

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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.