

THE NIGERIA STATE-CITIZENS RELATIONS AND DEMOCRATIZATION, 1979-2012

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the relations between the Nigeria state and its citizenry, from 1979 to 2012, in the light of state high-handedness. It exposes the extent to which the use of undemocratic approaches by various civil governments in Nigeria over the years has created avenues for suppression and massacre of innocent Nigerians. The central objective is to create consciousness in good governance by realigning the political leadership to the virtues that promote democracy and good governance, such as dialogue and persuasion, instead of intimidation and brutalization of the same people that government vowed to protect. It is therefore the position of this paper that, government should imbibe positive methods to resolving its face-off with Nigerian citizens, either as individuals or groups to provide for the social, economic and political development of the nation.

Keywords: Nigeria, Citizens, Relation, Suppression, Democratization.