

THE NUANCES AND NUISANCES OF PARTY DEFECTION IN NIGERIA'S FOURTH REPUBLIC

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ABSTRACT

This essay examines one of the challenges confronting electoral democracy in Nigeria for further analysis. The way and manner politicians defect from one party to the other has continued to raise concern among Nigerian political observers; a situation that clearly lends credence to the poverty of ideology that characterizes party politics in the country. This observable development, in the first few years of this Republic, was usually excused as one of the teething problems associated with nascent democracies. Over a decade after, we still witness more of these defections that depict immaturity and lack of sense of direction among the political class. This essay interrogates the peculiar trend of party switching and defection in Nigeria and its effects on the country's democratic experiment.