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If you're looking for a brief overview of the leading causes of underdevelopment in Africa, this article is perfect for you. The following blog post will highlight the most important reasons African countries have not developed. It is an informative article that can help you understand more about this topic. It will also analyze how Africans can solve these problems and what needs to happen next. After reading this article, you will determine which factors have contributed to a lack of development in some African countries and how they can overcome these problems. Finally, a list of valuable resources at the end if you want to read more on this subject or learn how to contribute! One of the biggest problems in Africa today is corruption. Corruption can take many forms, and it might be challenging to understand what counts as corruption and what doesn't. In this context, I mean the abuse of a position of power by public officials for private interests or personal gain. This happens when people entrusted with power use their authority for their benefit. What happens is that government and people become disconnected. The problem is that many African governments have implemented policies that prevent the continent from developing. These governments are often responsible for economic crises and political instability. Many governments either fail or refuse to sustainably solve domestic problems, such as poverty, unemployment, and hunger. This is because African countries often lack the resources to govern themselves effectively. There are many civil servants in some African countries where the state is involved in every aspect of society. The result is terrible management or even incompetence because corruption hinders good governance. It is estimated that 60% of the African population is between 15 and 24 years old, which creates a 'youth bulge.' This means there are many young people in Africa today. These youth are not employed or have no work experience. This causes severe social problems because young people become frustrated when they do not develop their lives. This frustration grows when they see other people succeeding without working hard, which means enormous pressure on some individuals to succeed in Africa today. Most African countries have insufficient infrastructure. This refers to roads, railways, and airports that are not adequate to allow trade or tourism. It's also about having an electricity grid that allows the population to use appliances like washing machines and computers. The lack of infrastructure in Africa today is a significant obstacle to development because it limits people's ability to do business across borders. This means there are fewer opportunities for work, which leads to unemployment and poverty throughout the continent. Although many African countries have compulsory primary education, this does not apply to secondary and tertiary education. Many parents do not send their children to school because they need them to work and contribute to the economy. Many African countries also have problems with teachers who are not adequately trained or paid enough money. Students do not receive proper lessons and get a good education. Illiterate citizens in Africa today, limiting the development of the country through illiteracy. Many African businesses operate in poor working conditions. On one hand, many countries have abundant natural resources and business opportunities for investors. On the other side, African companies face high taxes and high-interest rates, poor infrastructure, and insufficient access to financial services such as loans and credit cards. Another cause of underdevelopment in Africa today is the lack of skilled workers. Most African countries do not have enough qualified teachers, doctors, engineers, etc., so many Africans cannot offer their services in these parts of society. There are often too few job opportunities for well-qualified professionals to make a living in Africa today, so they must look elsewhere. This shortage also means that education and health care in Africa is often unsatisfactory. It is often said that building a road in Africa is easy but challenging to maintain. Poor supervision means many African countries have roads, railways, and other infrastructures that are not maintained or abandoned. This leads to bad conditions for transport throughout the continent, limiting trade development between African countries. This is one of the significant causes of underdevelopment in Africa today. Many African governments are not fully committed to using the resources available to improve living conditions throughout the continent. This means that much-needed international aid money intended for development is misappropriated and used dubiously, or there may be a lack of investment in necessary infrastructure. In addition, politicians sometimes misuse public funds when they are holding office. This often leads to a lack of transparency and undermines good governance, which is an essential factor in development on the continent today. 10. Excessive Regulation Many African countries have laws and regulations that make it hard for businesses to succeed (or even do business) throughout the continent. While these measures are designed to improve safety and the standard of living, they often have the opposite effect because they are poorly implemented or too strict. The good news is that African leaders are aware of the problems in Africa today. They are gradually making improvements that are easier for African countries to develop and become more competitive over time. Underdevelopment in Africa will only end when African leaders do more to improve living conditions by working together and making political progress. Worldwide, several organizations support African development. These organizations provide training for children in Africa, help create job opportunities, improve road safety, encourage good governance, and much more. In addition to supporting these organizations, which help Africa today, you can support African countries by making an effort to buy and use products and services from the continent (or from Africans living in other countries). This will make it easier for these businesses to improve their operations and provide more opportunities. It's also an excellent way to show your support for African development! Africans need to be more involved in improving living conditions throughout the continent. They should make an effort to support good governance, create job opportunities, and ensure that they earn enough money for their families by working hard or starting their own businesses. These are all ways that Africans can help fight underdevelopment in Africa today. These steps will also lead to more opportunities for Africans throughout the continent with time. This is why it's so important that African countries move forward with political and economic development initiatives and work together to improve the standard of living in Africa. Read Also: JUDE ORINYA AZUKADEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHYNNADI AZIKIWE UNIVERSITY. AWKA08030441373judeazuka@gmail.com AbstractThe increasing wave state failures since the end of the Cold War have become a disturbing phenomenon. This paper examines the causes and effects of state failure in Africa. It employs analytic method to critically examine the different views on state failure. The work argues that the faulty foundation on which most African states were built on is one of the major reasons why African states are the major victims of a failed state in the world. A look at the recent ranking of failed states in the world reveals that African states dominate the first thirty countries in the Fragile State Index (FSI). The paper however suggests that authentic education, real independence and rediscovering of Africa's lost identity will be a necessary alternative to restore Africa's battered structure, authority, law and political order have fallen apart. According to Robert Rotberg, state failure occurred because they can no longer deliver positive political goods to their people. These governments were governed as they please. The issues that arise from this colonial haphazard creation of states are numerous. The first problem is that they lumped many ethnic nationalities together. In Nigeria for instance, there are over 250 ethnic groups with Hausa, Fulani, Yoruba, Igbo, and Ijaw the major ones. The possibility of achieving a common national goal becomes difficult since most ethnic nationalities will always seek the interest of their ethnic group. Furthermore, after the independence of most African states, some of the states with many ethnic groups like Nigeria started playing ethnic politics. Although political party formation from the pre-independence era tried to be national in outlook with the formation of the National Council of Nigerian Citizens (NCNC), it later changed to a regional party because some saw it as a party principally for the eastern region. This led to the formation of the Action Group party (AG) for the western region and the Northern People's Congress (NPC) for the northern region respectively. This became the bane of national integration and the foundation of state failure because ethnic rivalries will not give way for any sustainable development. Even the new parties formed presently in Nigeria, APC, and PDP which its members cut across all the ethnic groups are not left out from the infection of this ethnic virus. Simbine observes that "The People's Democratic Party (PDP) the erstwhile governing party formed in 1998 with a membership that cut across all the ethnic groups in the country eventually became bogged down by vicious factional wrangling that often assume ethno-religious and regional dimension". This is why they now try to introduce zoning within the party to forestall ethnic and religious disputes within the party. But even at that, there are still problems and disagreements as some ethnic groups try to dominate the other. Every election in Nigeria now is always seen from an ethno-religious angle and this continuous fanning of the embers of ethnicity will eventually lead to the collapse of the state. All these were as a result of how the country emerged. Looking at the most stable countries of the world like Finland, Norway, Denmark, Switzerland, etc. one can discover that there is none of the ethnic complications as we have in Nigeria. Furthermore, their emergence was not as a result of colonial amalgamation. Thus as one people they can work together in achieving a common goal. Resource Curse: This might sound strange because most people will argue that the abundance of resources should be a blessing rather than a curse. However, research has shown that in recent times the abundance of natural resources especially oil has been attributed to poverty, violence, and conflicts. Some countries that have oil or people that have oil in their hands will have preferred it was not there because of the situation it has placed them. Wars have been fought, land rendered useless, waters and water bodies polluted because of oil. In some countries where this oil exists, African Journal of Philosophy and Studies. Vol. 4, 2021 extracted from, the people live in a very deplorable condition and their means of livelihood are destroyed. In a research carried out by Collier and Hoeffler (1998, 2002, 2004) they discovered that commodity exports increase the possibility of civil war. In their most recent work which covers 161 countries of the world and 78 civil wars between 1960 and 1999, the claims that the state's commodity for export has a major impact on the likelihood that a civil war will begin in the next five years. They suggest that oil abundant less developed countries generate valuable rents and the existence of these rents often leads to violent forms of rent-seeking that take the form of 'greed-based' insurgencies. 10. This will increase the risk of civil war. For them, most of the states with oil as their resources are prone to fighting secessionist wars as the people that have the largest deposit of oil seek to break away and control the resources themselves. This is the problem we are facing in Nigeria with the militancy in the Niger Delta and the call for a Niger Delta Republic. Collier and Hoeffler argue that natural resources offer rebel groups a funding opportunity because they produce rents that are location-specific and can be looted on a sustained basis. The possibility of looting money from manufacturing firms is less because these firms are more mobile. 11. When rebels are not settled oil companies may be attacked to stop them from mining, the kidnapping of oil workers and full-blown militancy may set in. The Niger Delta part of Nigeria is a practical example. Their lands are polluted by the global health emergency of epidemics like AIDS, Lassa fever, and Corona Virus, such states have experienced a very high casualty rate because the existing health infrastructure is often overwhelmed. The life expectancy rate in failed states is very low because the situation of the country places the citizens at a very high risk of passing at any time. On the other hand, most stable countries in Europe and Asia like Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, China even America have little or no oil deposits. And yet they are technologically advanced more than Africans that are sitting on the oil. Although we can attribute the resource curse as a major cause of state failure, we may not conclusively say that it is in all situations. Some other states that still have oil, gold, diamond, and another natural resource have managed it well to provide important political goods to its citizens and make life better. Saudi Arabia for example has a large deposit of oil and they are stable. Thus, the management of resources should be a major concern, not the resources itself. Population: This might sound strange but you cannot rule out population explosion as one of the factors that contribute to state failure. This is because none of the highly populated countries in the world falls in the top ten of the most sustainable countries in the Fragile State Index. However, Nigeria is far below the table because of multiple internal contradictions caused by ethnic and religious differences. Due to the diverse historical and ideological experiences, in countries like Nigeria with over two hundred million people, there are bound to be clashes of interest resulting from individual differences especially when the differences are irreconcilable. With the vast population, there will be shortages in resources to sustain the teeming population and this will result in conflicts and clashes which will lead to the failure of the state. With this huge population, the government will struggle to share the social goods and because it may not go through they may be tempted to attend to their own people first. This may be seen as favoritism by the other people who may also revolt. Countries with a very high population like Nigeria, India, China, etc. end up migrating to other countries around the world in search of greener pastures. Nigeria for instance is a country that has its citizens all over the world. Population and underdevelopment of African countries because it is often misunderstood. Thus, before African countries ask for aids, they must be ready to curb the insatiable greed of their leaders and to use the available resources to transform the lives of their poor citizens. Real independence and meaningful development can take place in any society where the fundamental economic constraints are basic, but temporarily or situationally weak because of internal nationalism, management flaws, greed, desperation, or external attacks; and a mixture of the two. Weak states typically harbor ethnic, religious, linguistic, or other inter-communal tensions, that have not yet or not yet thoroughly become overtly violent. 13. Logos: African Journal of Philosophy and Studies. Vol. 4, 2021, in a failed state, urban crime rates tend to be higher and increasing. In weak states, the inability to provide adequate measures of other political goods are diminished or diminishing. 14. Furthermore, the physical infrastructural networks in failed states are in shambles, this is very glaring in the poor state of schools and hospitals in such state. 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In a failed state, we have bad road networks filled with potholes, dilapidated and ill-equipped hospitals, poor communication networks, epileptic power supply, poorly structured and unequipped schools, etc. There is a high rate of corruption in public and private places and leaders and those in positions of authority siphon funds from the state coffers into their personal accounts. All these make life unbearable for people living within the state and most of them who could not survive the hardship will seek to go out of the country for greener pastures. Robert explains that: When the state has failed or is in the process of failing, the effective education and health systems are privatized (with a resulting hodgepodge of shady schools and questionable medical clinics in the cities), or the public facilities become increasingly decrepit and neglected. Teachers, physicians, nurses, and orderlies are paid late or not at all, and absenteeism increases. Textbooks and medicines have become scarce. X-ray machines break down and are not repaired. Reports to the relevant ministries are ignored. Citizens, especially rural parents, students, and patients, slowly realize that the state has abandoned them to their own devices and to the forces of nature. 18. When states fail, the unity of power is lost, because the whole institution collapses and the state will be prone or open to different attacks both from outside and from within. In cases of health emergencies or epidemics like AIDS, Lassa fever, and Corona Virus, such states have experienced a very high casualty rate because the existing health infrastructure is often overwhelmed. The life expectancy rate in failed states is very low because the situation of the country places the citizens at a very high risk of passing at any time. Poverty and illiteracy rates are high, corruption flourishes, this manifests itself in "kickbacks on anything that can be put out to take tender (medical supplies, textbooks, bridges, roads, and tourism concessions), unnecessarily wasteful construction projects arranged so as to maximize the rents that they generate; licenses for existing and non-existing activities; and persistent and generalized extortion". 19. The gradual decline of real national and per capita income levels of annual GDP. Logos: African Journal of Philosophy and Studies. Vol. 4, 2021, the total collapse and failure of a state. This economic crisis led to inflation, deflation, and food shortages. Finally, state failure has many indicators, but in order to rank the severity of state failure, Robert suggests that there is a hierarchy of positive state functions. These include: 1. Security; 2. Institutions to regulate and adjudicate conflicts, rule of law, secure property rights and contract enforcement; Political participation; and Social service delivery, infrastructure, and regulation of the economy. From his analysis, strong states scores very high marks, and all these indicators whittle away or failed states perform abysmally poor. Prospects against State failure in Africa: The solution to state failure in Africa is not going to take a straight perspective. There is need to approach it from a foundational angle, this is because if the healing do not start from the root, afterwards will just be like window dressing the major issue. Authentic Education: The failure of states in modern Africa can also be attributed to the type of education that the Africans received from their colonial masters. This type of education is what wretser to as "inauthentic education". Walter Rodney called it "Education for underdevelopment". Education is very crucial in any society because it is through education that the values and beliefs of the people are transferred from one generation to another. It can either be formal or informal. However, in Africa, informal education is the first and most important part of education because young people start learning from their parents and the community itself. Given this, there is an urgent need to change the Euro-based curriculum which the colonialists left us with, from the primary, secondary to the university level. African cultures, values, and history must be taught to students from the elementary stage. Njoku rightly states that, "every university in Africa must be involved in Africa a deep and fundamental sense. Like universities everywhere, universities in Africa must represent the focal point of the culture of the society of which they are a part". 24. The urgency for this change is because the African child who is a product of the colonial school is a marginal child who belongs to neither Europe nor Africa. Ezeani submits that: It is baffling that African art, African literature and African history are still strange to many Africans. Ironically, the people seem to be more familiar with the European music, arts, culture and history. Since schools are today the principal agents which transmit culture, it is time that schools in Africa began to spend more time on African culture. 25. When this change is made and Africans taught in the context of their own culture and values, only then will the African child bridge the gap between school and African society. And that is when he can provide solutions to the problems bedeviling the continent, especially the problem of underdevelopment. Little wonder why, despite billions of dollars that flowed to the poorest part of Africa, yet they are getting poorer and their economy is not getting any better? William Easterly proved in his work The White Man's Burden that over 1950-2001 among the poor countries, countries with below-average foreign aid had the same growth rate as countries with below-average foreign aid. 26. This means that poor countries without foreign aid had no problem having positive economic growth. This goes a long way to show that aids do not affect investment and economic growth. When the foreign aids come and disappear, everyone will be wondering, where did the money go? In countries like Nigeria, there have been many cases where stories of Annals like snakes, monkeys, and even rats swallow billions of Naira. These stories are made up to cover the stealing and diversion of the commonwealth into the private purse. Foreign aid usually finds its way into the pockets of corrupt leaders and their allies. 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In a failed state, we have bad road networks filled with potholes, dilapidated and ill-equipped hospitals, poor communication networks, epileptic power supply, poorly structured and unequipped schools, etc. There is a high rate of corruption in public and private places and leaders and those in positions of authority siphon funds from the state coffers into their personal accounts. All these make life unbearable for people living within the state and most of them who could not survive the hardship will seek to go out of the country for greener pastures. Robert explains that: When the state has failed or is in the process of failing, the effective education and health systems are privatized (with a resulting hodgepodge of shady schools and questionable medical clinics in the cities), or the public facilities become increasingly decrepit and neglected. Teachers, physicians, nurses, and orderlies are paid late or not at all, and absenteeism increases. 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