



JOURNAL OF LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Volume 1, Number 1 (June, 2025)

ISSN: 1595-9457 (online); 3093-0618 (print)

Website: <https://jppssuniuyo.com/jld> Email: jppssuniuyo@gmail.com

Received: June 19, 2025 Accepted: July 13, 2025 Published: July 21, 2025

Citation: Phinos, Naomi A. & Opara, Augustine Ukachukwu (2025). "The Impact Analysis of Goodluck Jonathan's Foreign Policy on Economic Development in Nigeria." *Journal of Leadership and Development*, 1 (1): 184-194.

Article

Open Access

THE IMPACT ANALYSIS OF GOODLUCK JONATHAN'S FOREIGN POLICY ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

Naomi A. Phinos ¹

Agustine Ukachukwu Opara ²

Department of Political Science and International Relations, University of Abuja, Nigeria ^{1 & 2}

Email: naomi.phinos@uniabuja.edu.ng ¹

Abstract

This paper examined the impact analysis of Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy on economic development in Nigeria. During Goodluck Jonathan's administration, Nigeria was an important participant in global affairs while also tackling pressing economic issues at home. The administration placed a strong emphasis on economic diplomacy, regional stability, and international collaboration. The specific objective of the paper was to; investigate how Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy decision during his tenure impacted on economic development in Nigeria and ascertain how Nigeria diplomatic relations with major economies impacted on economic development in Nigeria. Liberal institutionalism theory is used as the theoretical framework. The finding shows that Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy decisions during his tenure had a notable impact on Nigeria's economic development and Nigeria's diplomatic relations with major economies had a significant impact on her economic development. The paper recommended that, Nigeria Government should continue to build robust diplomatic relations with key global economies while also exploring new markets and continue to actively engage and broaden her diplomatic relations with major economies. Secondary sources of data were used in the study.

Keywords: Foreign Policy, diplomatic relations, major economies, National interest, economic development.

Introduction

Under the leadership of Goodluck Jonathan from 2010 to 2015, Nigeria's foreign policy sought to establish the country as an important participant in global affairs while also tackling pressing economic issues at home. The administration placed a strong emphasis on economic diplomacy, regional stability, and international collaboration. Their main goals were to attract foreign

Copyright © 2025 By JLD. Publishers: Omega Books

This is an open access article which permits unrestricted use provided the work is properly cited.

investments, strengthen trade links, and improve Nigeria's reputation on the global stage. Nigeria had a complex international landscape during this period, which presented both opportunities and challenges. The administration aimed to allure international investment, foster commerce, and enhance Nigeria's economic connections with other nations. An essential element of this approach involved the enlargement of Nigeria's diplomatic posts and the revitalization of its global reputation. The government sought to cultivate more robust alliances with major global powers such as the United States, China, and the European Union, acknowledging the significance of these collaborations in stimulating economic expansion. China became a significant partner throughout Jonathan's time in office. Nigeria utilised its advantageous alliance with China to secure substantial investments in infrastructure, energy, and technology. The trade between the two nations experienced significant expansion, with China emerging as one of Nigeria's major trading allies. Chinese corporations engaged in numerous industries, including telecommunications, construction, and manufacturing, contributing to economic development and employment creation in Nigeria (Adeniyi, 2014).

Under Jonathan's leadership, Nigeria enhanced its engagement with international organizations and adopted multilateralism as a cornerstone of its foreign policy. Nigeria actively participated in the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and other global institutions. This participation attempted to guarantee that Nigeria's voice was heard on crucial global problems, including climate change, trade negotiations, and global health. Nigeria's involvement in international organizations also facilitated access to development assistance and technical skills. For instance, cooperation with institutions like the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) offered financial backing for numerous economic reform programs. These collaborations enabled Nigeria enact policies aimed at increasing fiscal discipline, enhancing transparency, and fostering sustainable development (Ogunnubi & Isike, 2015). The Jonathan administration made various steps to boost commerce and investment. The establishment of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) and the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) sought to streamline investment processes and enhance exports. These agencies tried to encourage foreign direct investment (FDI) by giving incentives, removing bureaucratic bottlenecks, and establishing an investor-friendly environment. One major milestone was the signing of the Nigeria-South Africa Bi-National Commission Agreement, which aimed to improve economic cooperation between the two largest countries in Africa. This agreement encouraged trade, investment, and tourism exchanges, boosting bilateral relations and offering new economic prospects for both countries (Adeniyi, 2014).

Statement of the Problem

The impact of Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy on Nigeria's economic development is a key topic requiring thorough research. During his tenure, Jonathan promoted economic diplomacy, regional stability, and international collaboration to attract foreign investments and enhance trade. However, the effectiveness of these strategies in supporting sustainable economic growth remains controversial. Key difficulties, such as corruption and security threats, persisted, possibly undermining these advances. Understanding the extent to which Jonathan's foreign policy actions contributed to Nigeria's economic progress is vital for evaluating the performance of his administration and determining future policy approaches. The impact of Nigeria's diplomatic relations with foreign economies on its economic progress under Goodluck Jonathan's government is a key subject of study. Jonathan prioritized establishing ties with countries like the United States, China, and the European Union to attract investments and promote commerce. Evaluating how these diplomatic efforts translated into concrete economic

advantages, such as increased foreign direct investment, infrastructure development, and industrial expansion, is vital. Additionally, recognising the hurdles faced in exploiting these partnerships for sustainable economic development would provide vital findings for guiding Nigeria's future diplomatic and economic initiatives.

Objectives of the Study

The broad objective of this study is to examine the impact analysis of Goodluck Jonathan foreign policy on economic development in Nigeria. While the specific objectives are to;

- i. investigate how Goodluck Jonathan foreign policy decision during his tenure impacted on economic development in Nigeria?
- ii. ascertain how Nigeria diplomatic relations with major economies impacted on economic development in Nigeria

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

Foreign Policy : There is no agreed-upon definition for what "foreign policy" is. The abundance of definitions offered by experts in international relations is the cause of this. Therefore, an action, strategy, or tenet that directs how governments engage with one another is referred to as foreign policy. The idea of foreign policy is to be a tool for conducting or controlling relations between entities. It is a plan of action or set of guidelines that a state develops to specify and guide its relations with other states, nations, or international organisations. Hermann (1988) defined foreign policy as the external objectives of a country and the means by which they are pursued. His definition places a strong emphasis on the goals a country seeks to accomplish on a global scale as well as the strategies used to get there. It includes international agreements, military involvement, economic assistance, and diplomacy. Furthermore Holsti (1992) explains A state's foreign policy consists of the tactics and measures it uses to further its own interests and shape those of other states. In the international arena, a state takes strategic measures to protect and advance its national interests, influencing the activities of other states to coincide with its own goals. This is emphasised in his definition. Franke (1963) defined foreign policy as a state's set of measures to uphold its interests at home and further its objectives abroad. This definition emphasises how foreign policy is methodical and ongoing, with a focus on upholding national interests and accomplishing particular objectives on the international scene. Modelski (1962) established. The system of actions that communities have developed to influence other governments' behaviour and adapt their own actions to the global context is known as foreign policy. Modelski defines foreign policy as a system that changes to influence other nations and adapt to the global environment, with a focus on its dynamic and adaptive aspect.

In order to increase trade and draw in international investment, economic diplomacy was a key component of Goodluck Jonathan's foreign policy. Jonathan's administration realised that a major factor in Nigeria's economic success may be cultivating strong business links with foreign nations. This strategy included engaging in international economic forums, negotiating trade agreements, and pursuing foreign direct investment (FDI). The improvement of Nigeria's ties with China was one of the major accomplishments in this field. During Jonathan's presidency, Nigeria-China bilateral commerce increased significantly as a result of Chinese investments in vital industries including oil and gas, telecommunications, and infrastructure. China promised to build four airport terminals in Nigeria for \$1.1 billion in 2013 and another \$500 million for other infrastructure projects (Adeniyi, 2014). China's investment inflow was essential to Nigeria's economic growth, especially in terms of infrastructure development. Jonathan's administration also aimed to lessen Nigeria's reliance on oil in order to diversify the

country's economy. Efforts to advance industrialization and increase agricultural productivity mirrored this goal. To encourage investment in these areas and boost economic growth, the government introduced programmes including the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP) and the Agricultural Transformation Agenda (ATA) (Central Bank of Nigeria, 2015).

National Interest

Every organisation in the global society has some kind of national interest or goals, regardless of geography, economic status, political stance, or history. Scholars and political analysts view the notion of national interest differently, depending on their areas of expertise. Different academics and foreign policy observers have defined national interest in different ways. There is no widely agreed definition for the controversial concept. The phrase "national interest" refers to a state's overall desires or interests, which include the pressing needs of the individuals and communities that fall under its purview. When a nation engages with other nations in the international system, it determines its foreign policy objectives based on these requirements or interests. Mazrui (1986) defined national interest as the strategic aims and objectives that a country pursues in order to preserve its development, security, and sovereignty. Gambari (2008), A state's priorities for maintaining its existence, sovereignty, and growth in the world community are referred to as its "national interest." Gambari highlights the importance of the state in establishing survival and advancement-ensuring priorities. This includes plans to strengthen Nigeria's economic expansion, internal unity, and geopolitical power. Jonathan presided over the 2011 general elections, which were viewed as a critical milestone in the consolidation of Nigerian democracy. Even with all of the difficulties - including claims of violence and electoral fraud—the elections showed that the democratic process had improved from years prior. Gaining international credibility and improving Nigeria's political stability depended heavily on this development (Lewis, 2011). However, Nigeria's political stability and internal security were seriously threatened by the emergence of the Boko Haram insurgency. The way the insurgency was handled by Jonathan's administration drew criticism because it resulted in a great deal of violence and displacement, especially in the northeastern area. In spite of heightened military endeavours and global collaboration to counter Boko Haram, the organization's operations persisted in jeopardising Nigeria's stability (Adebayo, 2015).

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Foreign Direct Investment is now required in Nigeria due to its underdeveloped economy, which ultimately slowed down the country's rate of economic development. Aremu (1997) emphasised that Nigeria, one of the world's developing nations, has implemented a number of policies meant to quicken the pace of economic growth and development at home, including attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). World Bank (1996) defines foreign direct investment (FDI) as an investment made with the intention of acquiring a long-term managerial position (often 10% of voting shares) in a company or enterprise that operates in a different nation than the investor's home country. However, because it influences economic growth by promoting domestic investment, increasing capital formation, and facilitating technology transfer in the host countries, foreign direct investment (FDI) is frequently viewed as a significant catalyst for economic growth in developing nations, (Falki, 2009).

According to Khan (2007), although their share of FDI in the global distribution has remained small or even decreased, FDI has become the most significant source of external resource flows to developing countries over time and has become an important part of capital formation in these countries. It is often known that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays a significant role in promoting growth in emerging economies. In his discussion of the advantages

and benefits of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the host economy, Falki (2009) pointed out that the consequences of FDI on the host economy are generally seen as: increased employment, increased productivity, increased exports, and expedited technology transfer. Potential benefits of foreign direct investment (FDI) to the host economy include: making it easier to use and exploit local raw materials; introducing contemporary management and marketing techniques; facilitating access to new technologies; allowing foreign inflows to be used to finance current account deficits; and increasing the stock of human capital through on-the-job training. The Nigerian government's substantial and practical economic changes since the mid-1980s have been directed by the realisation of the significance of foreign direct investment.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted and anchored on the Liberal institutionalism theory as its theoretical framework. Liberal institutionalism is a key theoretical perspective in international relations that emphasizes the role of international institutions and organizations in fostering cooperation among states, thus promoting global peace and stability. A key proponent of modern liberal institutionalism is Robert Keohane, who argued that states could achieve sustained cooperation through international institutions even without a dominant hegemonic power. The adoption of liberal institutionalism as an analytical framework is crucial because it highlights how international cooperation and institutional engagements can drive economic development. Jonathan's foreign policy aimed to integrate Nigeria more deeply into the global economy, enhance its diplomatic relations, and attract foreign investment. By aligning with international norms and participating in global institutions, Jonathan sought to create an environment conducive to economic growth and stability in Nigeria. One significant aspect of Jonathan's foreign policy was Nigeria's increased participation in international organizations such as the United Nations, the African Union, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Liberal institutionalism posits that such involvement in international institutions can mitigate the anarchic nature of the international system by providing frameworks for cooperation and reducing uncertainty. For Nigeria, this meant leveraging these platforms to promote economic interests, secure foreign investments, and enhance trade relationships. By being an active participant in these organizations, Nigeria aimed to ensure that it had a voice in international economic policies and decisions that could impact its economy.

Jonathan's administration also prioritized economic diplomacy, seeking to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) by showcasing Nigeria as an attractive destination for investors. Liberal institutionalism underscores the importance of economic interdependence, where mutual economic benefits create incentives for cooperation and peace. Jonathan's efforts to build stronger economic ties with major economies and international corporations were aligned with this principle. By fostering economic interdependence, Nigeria could benefit from technology transfers, job creation, and increased capital inflows, all of which are critical for economic development. Moreover, Jonathan's foreign policy emphasized the role of international trade agreements in promoting economic growth. His administration worked towards negotiating and signing trade agreements that would open up new markets for Nigerian products and services. According to liberal institutionalism, international trade regimes create a stable and predictable environment that facilitates cooperation and economic interdependence. These trade agreements were designed to reduce trade barriers, increase market access, and promote the competitiveness of Nigerian industries on the global stage. The relevance of liberal institutionalism to this study lies in its emphasis on the role of international institutions and

cooperation in achieving economic development. Jonathan's foreign policy initiatives were rooted in the belief that active participation in global institutions and fostering international cooperation would lead to economic benefits for Nigeria. By adopting liberal institutionalism, this analysis can effectively capture how Jonathan's engagement with international institutions, economic diplomacy, and trade agreements contributed to Nigeria's economic development

The Administration of Goodluck Jonathan (May 6th 2009- May 29th 2015)

Jonathan embarked on a number of diplomatic shuttles, following Yar'Adua's demise to reaffirm Nigeria's commitment and standing in the Comity of States. It was a fiercely disputed polity for Jonathan to seek election, after completing Yar'Adua's term. Jonathan improved the voting procedure and won one of the fairest elections in Nigeria in 2011. Campbell (2011) likens Jonathan to Harry Truman, who became the president of the United States when his predecessor died in a natural death. He was uncharismatic, opaque but did effectively. In the first 100 days of his administration in 2011, Jonathan commissioned the Presidential Advisory Council on International Relations to oversee the revamping of Nigeria's foreign policy to be economic cooperation and investment-driven. He spent time with Nigerians in diaspora and prepared for Nigerians in Diaspora Commission to take care of Nigerians abroad as reservoirs and assured effective use of their inputs in development agenda. His government's foreign policy focused on improved relationships with other military forces to build peace, improved bilateral and multilateral trade relations, cooperation and assistance in curbing health challenges as well as promotion of the welfare of Nigerians abroad to ensure they are treated with respect and dignity (Boma et. al., 2015).

Dora Akunyili, the Information Minister in Yar'Adua and Jonathan governments began the "Rebrand Nigeria" project to mend Nigeria's tattered image which according to Akunyili, was vital as Nigeria's progress is tied to it. At this period, the Department of Homeland Security Special Screening of passengers on international flights to US targeted Nigerians, following Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's attempted bombing of a US-bound plane in 2009. Jonathan's meeting with the American President led to delist of Nigeria from the list (Boma et.al, 2015; Obayiuwana, 2009). Jonathan signed the inaugural Nigeria-United States Bi-National Commission, as a framework for continued bilateral, high-level contact to foster diplomatic, economic and security ties. The domestic components covered good governance, transparency and anticorruption, investments, etc. This fed into the government's foreign policy initiative, the Transformation Agenda (Alao, 2011; Gyong, 2012) aimed to combat the poor living circumstances and entice investors to Nigeria. Jonathan remarked that as the major function of government is to promote peace, progress and economic development, foreign policy should be utilised to assist these aims and diversify the economy. Foreign policy was therefore redirected to boost internal projects and eliminate poverty (Ashiru in Ojeme, 2011).

Jonathan appointed experienced Nigerians into his cabinet. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, a former World Bank Managing Director was the Finance Minister. Okonjo-Iweala was the Finance Minister of the Obasanjo regime of 1999-2007 and had departed freely when she was reassigned to Foreign Affairs Ministry. In Jonathan's government, Okonjo-Iweala served as the Coordinating Minister of the Economy (Alinyeji, 2011). Olusegun Aganga took Trade and Investments while Oruma Otteh, a former Vice, African Development Bank headed Nigerian Stock Exchange. The former director of Nigerian Food Drugs Administration and Control, Dora Akunyili who recorded tremendous success in the fight against fake drugs (Land, 2008; Larkin, 2006; Lemonick and Gilbert, 2005) retained her position as the information Minister where she continued with the Rebrand Nigeria Project. Akinwunmi's success in the agriculture sector gained

him the Headship of African Development Bank and Noble Prize for Agriculture 2017. Jonathan's administration also reorganised the Foreign Service and empowered the diplomatic missions to work as operators of foreign policy and look for chances and ideas that will improve the situation in Nigeria. Jonathan's administration involved the Organized Private Sector: Nigerian Association of Chambers and Commerce, Industries Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Nigerian Association of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises-NASME, Manufacturers Associations of Nigeria (MAN), Nigerian Association of Small-Scale Industries (NASSI), etc. in trade and investment initiatives.

The administration also mobilised Nigerians in Diaspora to support development and investment at home. He also conducted meeting with the over 4000 Nigerians working in the United Nations and asked their ideas in development concerns. Jonathan's administration reestablished diplomatic agreements with many nations, including Czech Republic in 2011. The government simplified immigration laws and signed various Bi-National Commissions-with Canada, Germany, Australia to further strengthen economic links and collaboration. Nigeria-China link was also increased under his reign as investment worth \$25 billion was agreed on and five bilateral agreements were inked (Abati, 2012; Akinterinwa, 2014; Boma et.al, 2015; Jayi and Ayotunde, 2016). The government practiced reciprocity in positive and negative shape in her foreign contacts to an extent. In nations where Nigerians were not exposed to abuse in visa applications, Nigeria provided same treatment. In countries where visa applications by Nigerians were hampered by constraints, delays and maltreatment, Nigeria followed comparable technique in her dealings. When Muammar Gaddafi declared that Nigeria should divide up into Muslim north and Christian south, Jonathan recalled Nigerian ambassador in protest and emphasis on Nigeria's unity (Boma et al, 2015).

Nigeria as ECOWAS chairman engineered the ouster of Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire when he refused to surrender office after losing election. Although the African Union opposed foreign interventions in Libya, in 2011, Nigeria along with Gabon and South Africa and other members of the Security Council voted in favour of the UNSC Resolution 1973 which was the legal platform for NATO intervention in Libya and the eventual oust of Muammar Ghaddafi. Again, in August, Nigeria joined the Western countries to recognize the rebels in Libya, but was alone since the AU and South Africa refused. In December 2014, Nigeria under Jonathan also voted on the Palestinian statehood. The vote generated an imbalance in votes and shows to an extent that Nigeria was offering diplomatic latitude to Western states (Akomolafe, 2015). The last three months of Jonathan's term was marred by violent attacks and bombings by boko haram insurgents compounded by Chibok girls abducted. Efforts to purchase weapon to face the insurgency was hindered by America while South Africa also seized the available cash meant for purchase in South Africa which left the government with little hope in defeating the militants (Boma et.al, 2015). In his address, Jonathan stressed that his goal is not worth fighting the results of the 2015 elections despite evidence of malpractices (Associated Press, 2015).

Economic Diplomacy of President Goodluck Jonathan

President Jonathan's foreign policy thrust was anchored on the much-publicized slogan, Transformation Agenda, put in place to transform and energize the critical sectors of the economy, especially public expenditure management, macroeconomic framework and economic direction, job creation, health sector, information and communication technology. Others include Niger Delta issues, transformation of foreign policy, and maintaining the tempo of economic diplomacy. However, at the opening of a retreat on the review of Nigeria's foreign policy organized by the Presidential Advisory on 1st August, 2011, President Jonathan declared

inter alia: At a time of massive poverty and youth restiveness in our country, we have no choice but to adjust and adopt the way we conduct foreign policy. As we respond to the forces of globalization, perhaps more than ever before, our diplomacy must be put at the service of our domestic priorities(Akpokighe, & Ejovi, 2020).

Nigeria under President Jonathan gave direct donations to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea to contain the spread of Ebola pandemic. The UN applauded all these kind gestures by President Jonathan. The then UN Secretary- General, Ban Ki-Moon in 2011 paid a colourful official visit to President Jonathan in Nigeria, apparently to commend and encourage him not to relent in piloting the country's leadership role in Africa. With a sense of elation fulfillment, President Jonathan in his book, *My Transition Hours*, made reference to the election of Nigeria into the Security Council of the UN at two different times during his tenure as president of the country: 2009-2011; and 2013...2015 out of the five times Nigeria has so far been elected into the Security Council since attaining independence in 1960. To crown it all, the appointment of a Nigerian, Akinwumi Adesina, as President of African Development Bank on 28th May 2015, 24 hours to the end of President Jonathan's tenure, came as a welcome relief to the elated President who saw the appointment as a personal diplomatic triumph and a parting gift to Nigerians.

In all, President Goodluck Jonathan was able to prove his mettle in the prosecution of Nigeria's foreign policy and in projecting the image and status of Nigeria's foreign policy and in projecting the image and status of Nigeria despite the daunting challenges that trailed his government in both the domestic and external environments. Nigeria's foreign policy is now anchored on the realization of this transformation agenda through the attraction of direct foreign investment. Under the new policy thrust, our diplomatic missions abroad have been directed to focus more on attracting aid to support the domestic programmes of government. In any case, President Jonathan's foreign policy thrust did not depart radically from that of his former boss, President Yar' Adua. Under President GoodluckJonathan, some marginal gains were recorded in terms of economic growth to the extent that Nigeria's economy was in 2014 declared the strongest in Africa, beating Egypt and South Africa to it. However, under him corruption in public places and the activities of Boko Haram still reared their ugly heads, thereby constituting clogs in the wheel of progress at the domestic level and in the conduct of progress policy. Potential foreign investors were scared of coming to Nigeria to do business due to the ruthless activities of Boko Haram. Just like under his predecessors, Jonathan's spirited efforts to formulate and implement a robust and pragmatic foreign policy were bedeviled by formidable economic problems at home.

Bilateral Agreement Between Jonathan and other World Leaders

The administration of Jonathan Goodluck related well with ECOWAS member states as well as with the rest of African countries and indeed the whole world. Jonathan, in collaboration with France and the authorities of ECOWAS, succeeded in forcing out the sit-tight President of Cote d'Ivoire, Laurent Gbagbo, from power to pave way for the duly elected person, Alasane Quattara, to be installed as the authentic president of that country following his decisive victory over Gbagbo. Jonathan's administration contributed significantly to the restoration of peace in Guinea Bissau and Equatorial Guinea. He also played a key role in helping Sierra Leone and Liberia to conduct credible elections to usher in democratic governance in those countries. In the spirit of Nigeria's Afrocentric posture and leadership on the continent, President Jonathan in 2012 waded into the Malian crises with military and logistical support to help restore peace in that country following the military coup d'état that destabilized that country in that year. In

Nigeria, President Jonathan succeeded in breaking the links between Mali and Boko Haram religious sect, thereby weakening the military strength of the terrorists in the country. President Jonathan was honoured with the highest national honour in Mali, the Great Cross of the National Order of Mali, in recognition of the leading role he played in the resolution of the Malian crisis. He also showed sincere commitment to the resolution of crises in Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Arab Spring which affected Egypt and Libya in addition to helping to tackle the menace of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

There was an element of backlash of intolerance in Jonathan's foreign policy as exemplified by the expulsion of 80 South Africans from Nigeria in reaction to the deportation of 125 Nigerians from The Republic of South Africa with the flimsy excuse that the yellow fever certificates of the Nigerians were fake. The xenophobic attacks in South Africa which resulted in the death of several foreigners, including innocent Nigerians, created another round of diplomatic row between the two countries. However, with tact and astute diplomacy, President Jonathan was able to resolve the imbroglio with the government of South Africa. Similarly, there was a protracted diplomatic impasse between Nigeria and Libya rising from Gaddafi's provocative call for Nigeria to divide herself along religious lines, aggravated further by the killings of Nigerians during the political unrest in that country. All these irritated the government and people of Nigeria to the extent that President Jonathan in anger ordered the evacuation of Nigerians from Libya. It must be admitted that despite all the daunting challenges, President Jonathan fared well, on the whole, in the area of bilateral and multilateral relations with the US and her allies. Jonathan saw to it that the tension that arose from the listing of Nigeria as a terrorist country by the US was finally relaxed as the US under President Obama removed Nigeria's name from the watch-list of supposedly terrorist countries. The signing of an agreement between Nigeria and the US in April 2010 to set up a Bi-national commission "aimed at ensuring good governance and fighting corruption, improving diplomatic and bilateral relations, economic and security cooperation between the two countries" (Nwafor, & Chima, 2023) greatly improved diplomatic relations between both countries.

However, the US refusal 'to sell arms to Nigeria to crush the Boko Haram terrorists on the one hand and the refusal of Nigeria to subscribe to the campaign for "same sex marriage" being orchestrated by the US, UK and other western powers, on the other hand, soured what, on the surface of it, looked like flourishing bilateral relations between Niger and the US. Nigeria's quest to procure military hardware, especially jet fighters and attack helicopters from the US to conquer the Boko Haram terrorists was turned down by President Obama who made reference to the Leahy law relating to human rights violations as an alibi for his refusal to sell arms to Nigeria. Besides, during much of Jonathan's tenure, the US under President Obama drastically and inexplicably reduced the purchase of crude oil from Nigeria. Curiously enough, the US and Britain expressed dismay over the 2015 presidential election in Nigeria that was shifted forward for security reasons. In the face of the US unfriendly disposition to Nigeria, President Jonathan, like General Abacha, made a detour to China and other Eastern European and Asian countries as if to say that Nigeria had an alternative to the US and her allies. Following that, a number of mutually beneficial agreements covering vast areas were signed between Nigeria and China, including: economic and technical cooperation, preferential buyer for credit for Nigeria's four airports expansion project, mutual visual exemption for holders of diplomatic and official passports, and agreement on the prevention of the theft, illicit import and export of cultural property (Ukhami, et al, 2021).

Besides, according to Ogunoiki (2015, p 12), "Jonathan was to secure \$1.1 billion low interest loan for the improvement of Nigeria's hydro power, road transportation and high-rail

system as well as airport terminal infrastructure". The cordial relations that flourished between Nigeria and China under President Goodluck Jonathan overshadowed alleged cases of maltreatment of Nigerian migrants to that country. To crown it all, China in 2009 joined other countries to give Nigeria the needed support to triumphantly secure a non-permanent seat on the Security Council of the UN for the fifth time. In terms of functional cooperation, Nigeria under President Goodluck Jonathan showed strong presence and active participation in the affairs and meetings of EWOWAS, the African Union, the Commonwealth of Nations, and the United Nations. Between 2010 and 2014, Nigeria actively participated in every African Union summit, presenting its positions on conflicts in Africa, the spread of illicit small arms, gender equality, and climate change. Under President Goodluck Jonathan, Nigeria supported UN peacekeeping efforts by deploying troops to several African countries and beyond, reinforcing its role in promoting regional stability and development. The country also backed key UN conventions on climate change and biodiversity, reflecting its commitment to global and continental peace, security, and environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

Jonathan's foreign policy actions were essential in boosting Nigeria's economic progress. The administration's proactive approach in creating and strengthening diplomatic ties resulted in higher international investment and trade opportunities, which helped to the country's economic growth and diversification. These efforts underline the vital significance of effective foreign policy in affecting economic outcomes. The diplomatic efforts of Nigeria in forging strong links with key world economies were important for its economic progress. These partnerships permitted considerable foreign investments, enhanced trade dynamics, and reinforced economic stability. Nigeria was able to strengthen its economic performance and lay the framework for sustained prosperity by establishing international cooperation and partnerships.

Recommendations

- i. Nigeria should continue to build robust diplomatic relations with key global economies while also exploring new markets. additionally maintain and enhance a transparent and business-friendly regulatory environment to attract foreign investment and support sustainable economic development.
- ii. Nigeria should continue to actively engage with major economies while also seeking to diversify its diplomatic and trade partners. Additionally, focus on strengthening institutional frameworks and regulatory environments to attract more foreign investment and support long-term economic growth.

References

- Abati, R. 2012. Nigeria's Foreign Policy Focus is to Attract Greater Investment –Jonathan, Vanguard Newspaper October 1, [online] <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/10/nigeriasforeign-policy-focus-is-to-attract-greater-investment-jonathan/> accessed 24/02/2018;
- Adebayo, A. (2015). Security and Economic Growth in Nigeria: The Boko Haram Insurgency. *Journal of African Development Studies*, 10(3), 45-67.
- Adeniyi, O. (2014). Nigeria and China: Bilateral Trade and Economic Relations. *African Journal of International Affairs*, 9(2), 123-138.

- Akinterinwa, B. (2004). Concentricism in Nigeria's Foreign Policy. In: B. A. Akinterinwa (Ed.), *Nigeria's New Foreign Policy Thrust: Essays in Honour of Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji*. Ibadan: Vantage Publishers Limited;
- Akomolafe, F. (2015). Two Men, Two Visions, and Foreign Policy, *Nigeria Election Special* New Africa February;
- Akpokighe, R., & Ejovi, A. (2020). Youth restiveness in Nigeria: Implications on sustainable national development. *UJAH: Unizik Journal of Arts and Humanities*, 21(3), 66-89.
- Alao, A. (2011). Nigeria and the Global Powers: Continuity and Change in Policy and Perceptions. *South African Foreign Policy and African Drivers Programme, Occasional Paper Series No 96*, Johannesburg: SAILA;
- Associated Press, (2015). Goodluck Jonathan Concedes Nigeria Election to Muhammadu Buhari, CBS NEWS, March 31, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/goodluck-jonathanconcedes-nigerian-election-to-muhammadu-buhari/> accessed 21/02/2018;
- Central Bank of Nigeria. (2015). Annual Report. Retrieved from <https://www.cbn.gov.ng>
- Gyong, J. E. (2012). A social analysis of the transformation agenda of President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. *European Scientific Journal*, 8(16).
- Jayi, R. Ayotunde, A. (2016). The Contours and Depth of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Under Goodluck Jonathan, *International Affairs and Global Strategy*, 48;
- Land, T. (2008). A Deadly Trade: a Nigerian Matriarch Wages War on Counterfeit Drugs, *Contemporary Review*, 290 (1691), 460-464;
- Larkin, M. (2006). Interview: Dora Akunyili: Battling Against Counterfeit Drugs in The Lancet Infectious Diseases 6 (9), 554-555;
- Lemonick, M.D., Gibert, D. C. 2005. Dora Akunyili, *Time International* (South Pacific Edition): Issue 44, 52-54, July 11;
- Nwafor, L. C., & Chima, G. I. D. (2023). Leadership and Diplomacy as Effective Tools for Advancing the Principles of Good Governance and Sustainable Economic Development: A Comparative Examination of Nigeria and Rwanda. *International Journal of Professional Business Review: Int. J. Prof. Bus. Rev.*, 8(11), 32.
- Obayiuwana, O. (2009). Rebranding Nigeria "Good people, Great Nation" *New Africa*, April 40-44;
- Ukhami, E., & Doumbia, L. (2021). Multinational corporations, trafficking of small arms and intractable conflicts in Africa. *The Palgrave Handbook of Small Arms and Conflicts in Africa*, 585-607.