

Nigeria-China Economics Relations: Lesson and Issues in Reforming the Unreformable

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Abstract

The phrase reforming the unreformable, expresses the challenges associated with reforming the imbalance fiscal relationships involving China-Nigeria and debt sustainability. Reforms offer opportunities for Nigeria to uphold fiscal development, decrease poverty, and develop source of revenue standards. Nigeria's economy is vulnerable due to external shocks, fluctuations in global oil prices and institutional weakness such as corruption, mismanagement of public fund. These factors make it tougher for reformer to implement and uphold reforms. In setting the stage for this discussion, we critical analysed these fundamental issues such as resistance to change due to ethno-religion dichotomy, examine institutional weaknesses, such as corruption and mismanagement of funds and/also identifying challenges affecting Nigeria-china economic relations and its pathway. The paper adopted descriptive research, which benefited from qualitative approach, this technique utilize both primary and secondary data through the instrument of focus group discussion, while secondary data were drawn from International news-bulletins, journals, books, conference and seminars paper, government publication and internet. The study utilized Marxian political economy approach; this is because the Nigeria-China economic relation in context appears to be belief in the possibility of cooperation to realize common gain (economic liberalism); but in practice and reality it is platform for economic exploitation and imperialism sustainability. The paper found that the various economic reforms that initiated Nigeria-China economic relations subjected Nigeria to a mono-economy, institutional weaknesses, bureaucratic inefficiencies, trade deficit, which increases potential for debt crisis. The paper recommends diversified economy to reduce its dependence on exports of raw materials, bureaucratic efficiencies, strong institutions and economic reforms that promote investment and industrialisation, trade balance and infrastructural development.

Keyword: Social reforms, reforming, economic relations, institution, bilateral trade and investment

Introduction

The phrase reforming the unreformable as expressed by Okonjo-Iweala, (2012), is a provoking thought that needs urgent intellectual engagement and focus. This phrase set to reveal the challenges associated with reforming Nigeria's economy. In setting the stage for reforming the unreformed, we discuss insights to economic reforms, and how has the previous reform create challenges for Nigeria-china economic relations

(Okonjo-Iweala, 2012). As matter of urgency Nigeria economy need the attention of reformer, though, even with several attempts to produce guiding manual designed for quick implementation of the reform in low income States of West Africa, yet to no avail. Although, reforming the unreformable by Okonjo-Iweala in 2012; only provided a cleaver submission by revealing challenges witness during reforming, notably weak institutions such as corruption, weighty tariff regime and inconsistency of government policies. It was on this note international community led by United State of American decide to withhold their financial aid and support to African recently.

Most West Africa states are confronted with political circumstance and critical fundamental issues such as clash of interest and ethno-religion dichotomy. Nigeria for instance, has the most checked political and economic history (Okonjo-Iweala, 2012; p.1). Despite this, it is believed that Nigeria market potential due to her population strength (about 200 million inhabitants) with 400 ethnic groups and languages is the reasons China cannot overlook her financial investment in Nigeria. So, China intention is to further consolidate its relationship with Africa States (Ishaka and Angulu, 2022). This gives opportunities to West Africa State to increase her economic relations and strategic bond with China to sustain their economic plan and reality.

China and Nigeria economic dealings offer valuable lessons in reforming seemingly intractable systems. One key takeaway is the importance to re-established strategic partnerships. For instance, Nigeria's deeper commitment during the regime of President Obasanjo's in 1999--2007 increases their economic cooperation and investment with China. According to Warisu (2018, p.1), he write that China has emerge since 1999, the fourth republic, as a player in the Nigeria economy providing much need support for the development of the national economy'. Though, before this epoch, study had shown that Nigeria have recognized a political relations with republic of china but tepid in nature. A China and Nigeria economic relationship recently, is a flawless bond, particularly in the pecuniary and trade sectors (Ishaka and Angulu, 2022). This is because in the pursuit of economic justice Warisu (2018, p.4), write that 'in a globalising world, none of traditional allies of Nigeria offered any tangible assistance to the country; rather Nigeria witness global rejection due to corruption, the surge in oil production, in conjunction with the oil shock, had profound effects on the shape and structure of Nigeria economy (Okonjo-Iweala, 2012). This further shown that Nigeria's economy is vulnerable to fluctuations in global oil prices, making it challenging to implement and sustain reforms. Still, the neoliberal agenda of the reform program had made much progress, even when it met with mixed results. Still, the dozens of public enterprise were sold. Nevertheless, the reform opened door to a new way of doing business in many sectors of Nigeria economy (Okonjo-Iweala, 2012; p: 49). These, however, attract the attentions of policies makers to thinking deeply on the current circumstances to reform the unreformable in Nigeria. Thus, Nigeria is in need of comprehensive set of economic reformer to reforming the unreformable.

This need call for economic diversification to reduce dependence on a single sector, such as oil, as such, Nigerian Chinese chamber of commerce was established to consolidate the relation between the two countries. This is with the view to set aside mechanism to fix a series of broken economy, putting in place conditionality for doing business, therefore, repositioned Nigeria's economy and creates a more diversified spur for a sustainable long-term growth.

Reforming the Unreformable became necessary with the view to offers a clue to fighting against corruption and addressing systemic issues that affected economic growth. This is with the view to implement a series of macroeconomic and structural reforms. Don't forget that many Nigeria leaders, had chose to exploit the ethnic and religion dimension to divide the country to their advantage, while ignoring several high-profile infrastructure projects in Nigeria, instead of building a strong and robust nation. This raises issues and tension that regenerate series of political instability in 1967-2025. This brunt of ethnic extremism has exploded to killing across Nigeria. So, the Ibo from eastern flank of the country, for instance, seek to be seceded as Biafran. This instability lasted for 30 months and when the hostility ceased, the reform on how

to reintegration, reconciliation and reconstruction Nigeria was consider necessary. This formed centred stage of Nigeria reformation.

In fact, Shehu, (2017) avers that armed conflict make up one of the utmost face up to societal, political and economic growth in Nigeria. Ever since 1967 to 2017, the country Nigeria is branded the centre of armed violent that experienced multiple of communal and religious conflict (Odunlami, 2017), due to mutual distrust, corruption and ethno-religion suspicious. No wonder, pages of Nigeria newspapers and empirical studies are stuffed with stories of massive killings arising from the conflicts among Nigerians. Logically, too, in the rapidly evolving international advice, reforming the unreformable became necessary for Nigeria to consolidate her economic relations plan with China during the 21st century. This is with the view to adopting new ways of doing business in all sectors of the economy and investment; while putting aside controversy and belief that this reform is a neoliberal ploy to visited Nigeria by west. It is rather a reform to open up business opportunity and improve the regulatory framework of trade regime. Since, trade is an important determinant of growth and improved living standard. This is the indicator for country's economic development (Warisu, 2018, p:7).

Nigeria is an open economy whose trade is petroleum exports, while importing wide ranges of consumer and capitals goods. Many of the problems are link with imports side, weighty tariff regime that makes it difficult for investors. However, the study encourage banned, in the importation of selected product produce by infant industries that need protection. These economic reforms offer opportunities and encourage diversified economy, reduce dependence on exports of single commodity and consistency of government policies to promote investment, industrialisation, trade balance and infrastructural development.

Methodology

The paper adopted qualitative methods. This method is based on words, feelings emotions, sound and non-numerical elements. This help to increase the validity of the study through verification of results and better explanations of phenomenon under investigation. The study focus area is about Nigeria-China Economic relations; issues and lesson in reforming the unreformable

The data for this paper was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Primarily, the paper adopted the instrument of Focus Group Discussion (FGD), to collect data from Staff of CBN, Exporters and importers respectively; which make up the samples population of the study. While the secondary data was obtained from Newspapers, Books, seminars and conferences papers and Reports of National Bureau of Statistics, 2024 (NBC).

The purposive sampling technique (non-probability sampling) was applied to select the sample size of 15 respondents, representing a cell for the Focus Group Discussion (FGD). This is to ensure that researcher applied his discretion to pick respondent from the samples population. These respondents were selected among the Staffs of CBN, Exporters and importers.

This method was selected since it permits researchers to examine the matchless historical, economic relations between Nigeria-China ties. This includes reforming the unreformable, discussing insights to economic reforms their previous economic relations and key lessons from Nigeria-china economic relations, challenges of economic reform and opportunities. Moreover, this stud explores its findings were based on descriptive analysis to analyze the paper.

Synopsis of China and Nigeria Interaction

Chinese and Nigeria collaboration have gradually increased after a while. Now, nonetheless, it became popular impetus. Between 1972 to date several administration put up efforts to give the relations a new look. Yakubu Gowon for instance, made an officially visited to China soon after the Biafra-Nigerian civil war in 1972. But his vicious government was overwhelmed by intercontinental criticism with secession, though the Abacha administration made similar trip to Beijing for direction. This decision came after the collapse of the Tiananmen Square in Beijing that basis of the partitioning of the region.

Similarly, by 2013, President Jonathan made trip of five working days to China. The major emphasize of the visit was to indicating interest and signing of \$ 15 billion Chinese loan to improve road and rail network in Nigeria, such as the expansion will also covers four of Nigeria international airports. His trip to China is massive as it intends to uphold the economic dealings between Nigeria and republic of China. Also this official visits increased close financial bond and ties with China to grow her economy; through \$ 15 billion investment in Nigeria (John: 2012). This is targeted at renovating Lagos-Kano railway line. In fact, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank economic commitment to African is much smaller than the Chinese loan to Nigeria. For this reason most African countries had resort to China loan to solve her infrastructure challenges.

In this plight, many Africa countries rely on china for financial cooperation. China is populated nation in the intercontinental system, with rapid international economic development over four decades ago. This wins her main actor in the global economic system. Its globe economy at this time is much larger than that of Japan, or other European countries. Recently, Daniels (2013) infers that China has lifted over 300 million of her citizens out of poverty; this assignment is unprecedented in the history of financial development.

Nigeria is most populated country in Africa, with huge oil and gas deposit as their reserves raw materials. Though, Nigeria is still in awful need of Chinese technical and financial assistance to developing her poor infrastructures. Similarly, Chinese are in need of Nigerian crude oil to services her economy. Nigeria is most likely the most significant market place for Chinese trader in Africa; this is her imports from China account for more than a third of its total trade with other West African countries.

Utomi, (2008) in Ishaka and Angulu, (2022) write to examine the development of trade and political ties between Nigeria and China particularly between 1999 and 2007. Utomi's submission covers his explanation on economic matter that was ignored by other contributors. Though, Utomi's study failed to acknowledge the under listed vital part, such as, military relations, way of life and politics; although, submission provides practical information on the deficiency of their bond. Umo-Udo, & Orifa, (2018) noted that over the years, China-Nigeria economic link had led numbers to signed trade contract, scientific and technological, collaboration, and extremely on tourism investments and cooperation.

Conclusively, Chinese had set up many exclusively owned industries in Nigeria vigorously engaged in the developing business around oil and gas, technological support and education sectors in Nigeria. China main exports to Nigeria comprise: auto parts, machines equipment, chemical products, cloth and textiles motorcycles, footwear and garments. Nigeria's export products comprise: crude oil, while importing manufactured goods, nevertheless, Chinese-Nigeria economic relations grow deeper daily.

Nigeria-China Economic Relations

In contrast, Nigeria economic system is undergoing development, the process China undergoes before getting to the top. China economy in the international system is ranked the most stable and robust economy. In fact, her current spot in the international system is linked with her financial contribution to poor and developing state like Nigeria (Ishaka and Angulu, 2022). This is due to her population strength and market. China is prepared to increases its collaboration on telecommunications, transportation and others critical sectors of Nigeria economy. We consider such economic and political cooperation between them as the most vital aspects of this study, especially in the areas of their bilateral relations in 2025. This is centered on the sartorial relations on crude oil sector, power generating, rail transportation, construction, telecommunication and manufacturing sectors.

According to Thula, (2006), submission on economic relations, he viewed that national economic policy objectives and plans of china, show readiness and commitment towards pursuing foreign policy objectives that are people friendly, while ignoring some of the objectives threatening the national interest of key actors in global landscape. The organization and policies of Chinese government are essential tool in achieving their objectives. Nigeria, for instance, put in place policy control measures that influence her fiscal policy of other federal state; this encompasses all the interest of government. Nwachukwu, in Thula (2006) write

that the Nigeria and China economic relations it is about economic interdependence plan, a foreign policy goals that enhances the implementation of domestic economic objectives. This is to put in order strategies to facilitate the attainment of state fiscal purpose. Ademola et.al 2009 in Ishaka and Angulu, (2022), argues that the in Nigeria-China deal is not beneficial to Nigeria for the reason that the relationship produces deterrent for the country's long term purpose of diversification.

Peter, (2013) has indicates common ground of bond among Nigeria and Nigeria, in the pursued for vigorous mutual treaties signed by the governments in 2001. He further advocates that Nigeria is China's highest trade partner in Sub-Saharan African, after South Africa, with the trade records of 1.144 billion dollars in 2001; this is highest of all time high. This fixture agricultural products and natural resources, which includes: cassava, to natural resources such as zinc iron ore; crude oil. At present Nigeria cassava export to China is bound to be the highest goods from Nigeria to be followed by cloth and textile, and foot wears exports to Nigeria. However, Chinese business partners have invested a total of \$175 million in Nigeria, mainly on oil exploration projects and road and rail network (Mahmud, Adamu , Alhaji, Suleiman & Mohammed, 2024).

Warisu, (2018; p.5) avers that 'every country tries, through her foreign policy to attract economic benefits particularly material resources to it. This is the basis of foreign policy economic urgency, which should be understood as primacy of economic and political relations'. The Nigeria-China relationship is about mutually beneficial cooperation that can drive economic collaboration and investment. China's interest in Nigeria's market and resources has created opportunities for Nigerian businesses and entrepreneurial growth. Overtime, most West African State especially in Nigeria, had witnessed infrastructure decay, such as inadequate transportation networks and energy supply, need attentions and support for economic growth. Nigeria for instance, is a producer of single commodity-raw materials. Over dependence on revenue derives from sales of raw materials, reduces them as rental state. As such, affected nation is subjected to relied on others nation's economy for expansion and development (Daniel, 1980). Following the drift of relationship amid Nigeria and China, China is making an effort to put Nigeria's development at the center of inequality, seemingly disruptive loans, unacceptable practices, and unemployed family members. So far, Nigeria bilateral trade relations, trade balance and investment dealings with China remains her priorities. This collaboration is in place to strengthening relationship between Nigerian and Chinese businesses, governments, and institutions to driven Nigeria economic growth and development. Nigeria-China economic relations have developed extensively over the years, where China becomes Nigeria's main trading partners. It means that both countries have something beneficial in the relationship, regardless their dichotomy economic allocation.

In strategic partnership, Nigeria and China have established a strategic partnership, which aims to promote cooperation in areas such as trade, investment, infrastructure development, and energy. In view of this, Warisu, (2018), write that Chi Haotian among others warmly received Nigeria delegation which visited Chinese defence established and institution to signed several agreement with them. Subsequently, Nigeria bought arms and military truck from the Chinese. Later in the year, the Chinese representative visited Nigeria and signed protocols on power generation, steel and oil. They also invested heavily in Nigeria's energy sector, including the construction of power plants and the development of oil and gas fields. Also Nigeria has also expressed concern in contributing in China's belt and road initiative, which aspires to promote economic cooperation and development among participating countries. On the similar note, Nigeria is an active participant in FOCAC, which provides a platform for China and African countries to discuss cooperation and development.

In the area of investment relations, Chinese has become the significant shareholder in Nigeria, with investments in manufacturing, energy road and rail network, Chinese companies have been involved in several high-profile infrastructure projects in Nigeria, including the construction of infrastructure.. In Nigeria energy Sector, China has also invested heavily in Nigeria's energy sector, including the construction of power plants and the development of oil and gas fields.

Conclusively, in all the various view that emerged, in response to contemporary power, a predetermined concept of growth that held all societies to progress through the same stages of expansion, that less developed countries today are in a situation similar to current developed country at some point in time. Thus, the goal of helping undeveloped country out of poverty is to grow themselves in line with this common path of development, in form of advocating for reform in a critical section of the economy and institution; including cooperation, business enterprise, economic diversification, institutional reforms, technology transfer, and global market integration.

Reforming the Unreformable in Nigeria

"Reforming the unreformable" is a phrase coined by Nigerian economist and former Minister of Finance, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, in her 2012 book. Study revealed action put in place to address defy of reforming Nigeria's institutions and economy; the significant areas of the nation's diplomacy that was ignored. This however, mismatched the social-economic confidence of Nigeria; thereby creating economic and technological partnerships challenges; which does not provide beneficial promises to Nigeria diplomatic growth and development.

Alli, (2018: p.3) has indicate areas confronting Nigeria economic development; this includes energy, manufacturing, poverty mitigation, land reform, security of lives and properties, human capital growth and enforced education for children and revolution in transportation. These aforementioned national efforts were caught up at the level of policy formulation. This is because the decision makers failed to articulate essential process for their implementation with foreign, defence and developmental structures. He argued that every major national plan should be well ground with suitable integrated discreet strategy and institutional ability to sustain its development.

In this book, we agree that most shortcomings associated with failure arising from the Nigeria-china relation is linked to weak articulate process for foreign policies implementation, here at home. This directly threatens Chinese's ability to project national development agenda in Nigeria. The above is trying to explain the problem of Nigeria in the conduct of its foreign policies in its engagement on the global stage, because it is built on a very weak domestic institutional base that need urgent reformed. In this view, Warisu, (2018) recommend strong domestic base, where States are require to serves the interest of her people abroad, by constant vigilance in search for new opportunities for trade and facilitates establish commercial intercourse.

There are many graves defies that are confronting Nigeria, these comprise inadequate physical and social infrastructure, lack of adequate resource persons to manage resources effectively, lack of industrial ability and lack of technology. Thus, lead to low economic production, challenges of food security, widespread of poverty, high level of corruption, poor democratic culture high rate of crime and criminal activities, human insecurities, weak national institution and sustainable development. These lead to weak state of national governance, which needs reformation. In view of this submission Warisu, (2018) submit that in the pursuit of economic justice in the international communities, not an iota of the conventional associates of Nigeria presented any reasonable support to the country; rather to trick Nigeria and other developing countries to take control of their natural resources. Thus, it is vital that a new appropriate paradigms on reforming the unreformable for nation's under the economic trap during their international engagement.

According to Okonjo-Iweala (2012:p.35), a successful macroeconomic stablisation was necessary to restored economic growth. This is to target deregulation and liberalization of the telecommunications sectors, the downstream petroleum sector, power sector and privatization of public sector enterprises and reform of civil services; reform of the trade, tariff custom exercise duties and restructuring of banking sectors. This became necessary as most critical sectors of economy witness unsustainability which is an indication that Nigeria is confronted with broader challenges. This had proved that government is bad managers of businesses, however, and a poor and inefficient deliverer of basic service. Consequently, Okonjo-Iweala (2012) writes that most public enterprise were constantly in precarious financial position, generating significant debts and losses; moreover, others suffers from a great deal of political interference

in the running of the affairs. Reforming the unreformable is a phrase, and this phrase refers to the challenges of reforming Nigeria's institutions and economy. Here are some key insights of the reformation that attracted the investment of both local and foreign investors in the crucial economic sector of Nigeria. This includes:

Economic Reforms

This include the clean up the mess in the banking sector, to enhances positive development and curtailed the emergency of problems in the banking sector, which in turn were worsened by the onset of global economic crisis. This was accompanied by diversification, privatization and fiscal discipline among others.

1. Diversification: Nigeria's economy is heavily reliant on oil exports. Reforms aimed at diversifying the economy, promoting non-oil exports, and developing other sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and services are essential.
2. Privatization: Nigeria's state-owned enterprises are often inefficient and corrupt. Reforms aimed at privatizing these enterprises, increasing competition, and promoting private sector development is crucial.
3. Fiscal Discipline: Nigeria's fiscal policy is often criticized for being pro-cyclical and unsustainable. Reforms aimed at promoting fiscal discipline, reducing corruption, and increasing transparency are vital.

Challenges for China -Nigeria's Economic Relations

Many of the challenges experiences by Nigeria in its relations with China are basically domestic and this was reflected in the frail governance system and institutional agenda of Nigeria. This is associated with serious weak institutional support agenda for policies implementation and economic growth. The Nigeria ill-equipped bureaucracy is motivated to drive the Nigeria agenda with china Warisu, (2018; p: 24). In spite mention above, China's funds in Nigeria is low, and/also the two countries have lopsided and imbalanced relationship. As billions of dollars-the US currency surge through Nigeria's tin-tanks, causing balances of payments problems, state-run debt, among other things. In this relationship China always gains more in the long run than Nigeria (Nwokolobia & Ikenga, 2023).

Although, construction of infrastructure had connected Nigeria-Chinese countries, especially in the construction of international airport terminals in Abuja, Port Harcourt and Kano; in fact, both had benefited from this economic relationship, these mutual relationship had created economic inequalities, a fundamental problems that must be addressed. For example, Nigeria's dependence on imported goods from China and imbalance of trade, highlight the country's economic weakness.

Following the above submission, below are the key challenges resulted from Nigeria and China economic relations:

1. The trade imbalance between Nigeria and China remains a concern, with Nigeria's imports from China exceeding its exports.
2. Nigeria's increasing debt to China has raised concerns about debt sustainability and the potential blow on the Nigeria's economy.
3. The Nigeria's economic relationship with China provides an opening for the nation to spread its economy and reduce its reliance on oil exports.

Infrastructure Development: China's investment in Nigeria's infrastructure development provides an opportunity for the country to address its infrastructure challenges and promote economic growth.

Key Lessons from Nigeria-China Economics Relations

Study has been shown that Nigeria and China had upheld strong business relations since 1971, with substantial increases in trade quantities over time (Mahmud, Adamu, Alhaji, Suleiman, & Mohammed, 2024). The bond amid Nigeria and China has been very cordial and friendly ever since the last five decades

of their diplomatic affairs. China's foreign policy is center on economic control, with a rapid growth both economically and otherwise. For example, China through her military ties had assisted Nigeria in the fight against the "Boko Haram" rebellion, especially in the area of financing and military support.

In case of Nigeria's foreign policy which is geared towards economic growth and development, Nigeria frequently turns to China for infrastructure development projects, while China sees Nigeria as an important partner in growing its influence in Africa (Mahmud, Adamu, Alhaji, Suleiman, & Mohammed, 2024). There have been unbalanced of trade amid China and Nigeria relations, though China had benefits more in their relationship. For instance, Nigeria imports from China are more than her exports to China and there have not been enough economic growth and expansion in terms of infrastructure and the standard of living in Nigerians.

The formation of the Sino-Nigerian trade bond has developed into a major political concern because Chinese exports accounted for around 80 percent of total bilateral trade volumes. This has resulted in a serious trade imbalance with Nigeria importing ten times more than it exports to China (Osimen, & Micah, (2022). Thus, lesson shown that China has been consistently, mining the Nigeria crude oil for her economic growth and this seriously made Nigeria to mislay interest in their economic relations. Nigeria domestic policies is most affected in this order of relationship that hindering the country from attaining her policy objectives. China in particular has gotten to a positive height in their economic development; Nigeria's economy is still relying on cheap foreign imports to sustain the nation's economy which has resulted in a clear decline under such arrangements.

China's charismas in Africa keep on growing, with both positive and negative effect on the country's expansion (Osimen et al., 2022). The benefits of Nigeria's connection with China have at last become clear. Nearly all Nigerian market, one may find Chinese imported commodities, such as textiles, food, pharmaceuticals, electronics, phones, laptops, and kitchen utensils. Conclusively, Chinese businesses in Nigeria also add to job creation and technology transfer, to further solidifying the corporation among the two countries.

Theoretical Framework

Marxian political economy approach is one of the most penetrating approaches to study of international relations. It is one framework that helped to systematically examine the international economic relation like in the cases of Nigeria-China relations. This process set out to exposing the inherent dynamic of imperialism which has taken such form like Neo-colonialism. The Marxian political economy approach is rooted to Karl Marx's study. He built on the study of Adam Smith, David Ricardo and among others. He attempt to re-establish the study political economy not only the management and distribution of social wealth but also the class relations that arise from such, as well as the impact of these on the development of society from one stage to the next.

It is indeed, a very useful scientific tool of analysis into many of the social, economic and political issues that affect mankind. Specifically, the Marxian political economy approach stresses the imperative role of social classes, productive forces and its affiliation to social relation of production, which constitute mode of production (Momoh and Hundey, 2001) Karl Marx perception of political economy it is the understanding about the profoundly changes in the world (Nna, 2000). He held that capitalist arrangement obviously resulted to the mistreatment and disaffection of worker, and he backed the overthrow of the system via revolution. The political economy approach continues to direct contemporary deliberations on the function of States economic relationships.

In essence, Marxian as a social theory and political doctrine comprises essential element, which analysis human society and expressed the study of the laws that control the production and exchange of tangible means of sustenance in human societies (Osimen et al., 2022). It is in this condition of study distinct human civilizations create trade and distribute their products. Nevertheless, the focus of political economics is not the process of production itself but the social relationship, which humans engage during the production,

trade, and consumption processes (Nwachukwu, 2017). It is in these social relationships that class structures, power dynamics and distribution of resources within a society are obtained. By examining these factors, political economics seeks to understand how economic systems impact social relations and vice versa. The approach thus seeks to understand the social relationships into which humans engage during the processes of production, trade, and consumption.

Political economics is the reading of production relations and their relationship with productive forces. Thus, it is the study of production relationships in all economic and social structures (Mbah, 2006). This approach prioritizes material conditions, particularly economic elements, when explaining social life.

The political economy approach is especially important in assessing Nigeria-China mutual relations, notably in terms of trade, investment, and cooperation to help drive economic growth and development. Over the last four decades, commerce between Nigeria and China has increased dramatically with China becoming one of Nigeria's largest trading partners. Political economics analyses look at how political decisions, including investment, trade agreements and policies, influence economic relations between both countries. For instance, China's desire for natural resources and Nigeria's need for manufactured goods have improved their trade relations. Moreover, strengthening cooperation and collaboration between Nigerian and Chinese businesses, governments, and institutions can help drive economic growth and development.

Chinese has been a huge shareholder in Nigeria economy, mostly in transportation, energy, telecommunications, crude oil products and agricultural products. This theory perspective is about Chinese investments in Nigeria, which include gaining access to Nigeria natural resources, growing market, and establishment of collaboration. This also examines how Nigerian government policies, laws, and political instability affect Chinese investments in Nigeria, to identify how the relationship can drive economic growth and development for the citizens and other sectors of the economy. Nigeria-China relations are beyond commerce and investment, but also include political collaboration.

Discussion of Major findings

The Nigerian government's efforts to reform its institutions, as documented in "Reforming the Unreformable: Lessons from Nigeria-China relations, demonstrate the importance of addressing systemic issues to drive economic growth. The lesson revealed that Nigeria and China have maintained strong business bond, this beneficial arrangement drive economic cooperation and investment among china and Nigeria. China's interest in Nigeria's market and resources has created opportunities for Nigerian businesses and entrepreneurs to grow. Considerable Nigeria- China relations, it highlights the need to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on a single sector, such as oil.

In all the effort, Nigeria has a trade disparity with China is high, this is due to its reliance on Chinese imported commodities. This dependency is reason for the decline in Nigeria manufacturing sector. Nigeria-China economic relations offer valuable lessons in reforming seemingly intractable systems.

In addition, Chinese investments in Nigeria have made significant contributions to Nigeria's infrastructural growth, notably in railway building and crude oil exploration. Therefore, the worries remain that the imbalance in Nigeria-China economic relations, indicate that Nigeria probably suffering the impact of economic effects from unequal trade relations.

Conclusions

China-Nigeria has the uppermost inhabitants in their respective continent of Asia and Africa. The both has a similar relation due to their narrowed past. International relations discipline revealed that foreign economic relations are understood as important instrument for forging positive relations between nation states in the global arena, which ensure states economic growth while participating actively in the global economy. This study had evaluated the challenges concerning Nigeria-China economic relation, notably, Nigeria's infrastructure challenges, such as inadequate transportation networks and energy supply.

On the problem of trade disparity between Nigeria and China, Nigeria's imports from China exceeding its exports to China; despite its abundant resources and huge income from crude oil export, Nigeria remains a dependent state and a rent seeking state. As emerging market economics like Nigeria, it failed to establish strong presences in her nation's economy. Thus, the nation takes strategic and revolutionary step via reforming the unreformable to address the situation, to raises potentials for diplomacy and economic development. So that Nigeria's economic relationship with China provides prospect for the nation to expand its financial system and reduce its reliance on crude oil exports; investment in Nigeria's infrastructure development to address its infrastructure challenges and promote economic growth.

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