

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE CRISIS OF NATION-BUILDING  
IN AFRICA: THE CASE OF OIL AND VIOLENCE IN THE NIGER  
DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA**

**A research report submitted to the Political Studies  
Department, Faculty of Humanities of the University of the  
Witwatersrand, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for  
the Degree of Master of Arts (MA) in Political Studies.**

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**BY**

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**APRIL, 2011.**

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to the government and people of Rivers State, and to the genuine struggle for the emancipation and socioeconomic growth of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.

## PLAGIARISM DECLARATION

1. My name is Kingsley Stephen Orievulu and I declare that I know that plagiarism is wrong. Plagiarism is using another's work and to pretend that it is one's own.
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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

All glory and honour belongs to the Almighty God who has led me through storms, through thorns and bringing me safely to this point. Deo Gratias!

I remain forever grateful to my supervisor and academic mentor Prof. Anthony Butler (Head of the Department of Political Studies University of the Witwatersrand) for his critical but friendly approach to my research report. I am also indebted to Professors Gilbert Khadiaghala, Rupert Taylor, Sheila Meinjtes and Rod Alence; Mr Michael Jana and Ms Ayesha Kajee for their roles in moulding my academic personality through their teaching and academic opinions with regards to my research.

I am eternally grateful to my lovely family here in South Africa comprising of Prof. Vincent Nmehielle, Mrs. Nkechi Nmehielle, Vincent Junior, Sharon, Shalom, Immanuela and Danielle.

I owe a great deal of thanks to my family (nuclear and extended) back home in Nigeria; to my parents Dr and Mrs Boniface Orievulu; my Uncles, Barr and Mrs LCO Nmehielle and family, Mr and Mrs James Nmehielle and, Mr and Mrs Felix Nmehielle and family, Cletus, Charles, and War Orievulu and their families.

I am also very grateful to my friends here at Wits and back home in Nigeria. I am grateful to Anandini Padayachee, Sifiso Ndlovu, Russel Muusha, Nompumelelo Melaphi, Dikeledi Mokoena, Nicole Beardsworth, Patrick Obua, Faith Tay, Nfii Faith, Fr. Benjamin Emmanuel, Brightlyn George, Aداugo Onyenze (Amara), MaryRose Uju and Mary Nwigwe.

I acknowledge the efforts of the administrator of the department of Political Studies, Ms Gillian Renshaw, in the making of this research report and my entire success story in the department. I am indeed grateful to you.

I am thankful for the gift of Av-Placii, Nkesi, Chinwe, Amina, Confidence, Nene, Smile, Glory, Joy, and ALL my other siblings, cousins, nephews and nieces, who tirelessly prayed and worked to ensure a fruitful future for me.

Finally I am grateful to all those who contributed in any way to my success story, I pray that the measure that they sacrificed for my sake will be bountifully rewarded.

Meka! Siyabonga!! Danke!!! Imela!!!! Thank you all!!!!

## **ABSTRACT**

The preponderance of intrastate violent conflicts in natural resource rich states has been attributed to a number of causal mechanisms. Theorists of conflicts thus tend to explain these conflicts using different approaches, notably path dependency and rational choice. These approaches examine issues such as ethnicity and political marginalization, weak but repressive state capacity, strategic dilemmas, foreign instigators of conflict, and the very pervasive theory of the resource curse. Natural resources usually lie at the heart of many of these conflicts and the resource curse theory has helped explain the effects of states' dependence on the primary resource sector. This resource curse is therefore corroborated by the rational choice approach which insists that economic incentives explain the upsurge in rebellious activities within natural resource rich but poor and dependent states, especially in Africa. This research interrogates the rational choice approach of Collier and Hoeffler against the backdrop of issues in the Niger Delta conflict. It argues that the greed versus grievance theory remains inadequate in the light of the historical and sociological circumstances underlying political struggles in the region. The research report concludes that an integrated but eclectic approach be applied in the study of this crisis.

**KEYWORDS:** Conflict, Greed and Grievance, Niger Delta, Nigeria, Oil, Resource Curse, Youth Militancy.

## **ACRONYMS**

C&H MODEL – Collier and Hoeffler Model

DRC – The Democratic Republic of Congo

EBA – Egbesu Boys of Africa

EFCC – Economic Financial Crimes Commission

EITI – Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

ICPC – The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission

IYC – Ijaw Youth Council

MEND – The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta

MND – The Ministry of the Niger Delta

MNOCs – Multi-National Oil Corporations

MOSOP – The Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People

NDDB – The Niger Delta Development Board

NDDC – Niger Delta Development Commission

NDPVF – The Niger Delta People’s Volunteer Force

NDV – The Niger Delta Vigilante

NEITI – Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

OMPADEC – Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission

PTF – Petroleum Trust Fund

SIPRI – Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

SPDC – Shell Petroleum Development Company

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