

Nigeria's Relations with Her Neighbours

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ABSTRACT This study examines Nigeria's relationship with immediate neighbouring countries like Cameroon, Chad, Republic of Benin, Equatorial Guinea and the Niger Republic. These countries like Nigeria are vestiges of colonial creation. Nigeria is an English-speaking country (British), while her other neighbours, with the exception of Equatorial Guinea (which is a former Portugese territory), are historically French colonial territories hence, their political, cultural, military and economic affinities with France. These varying background accounts, for the series of crises experienced in the sub region within the past three decades. Strategically, the study posits that neighbouring countries had over the years been engaged in series of exploitation of Nigeria's natural and economic resources and the encroachment on her territorial frontiers. This is why various Nigerian governments have perceived these infringements as threats to the country's national security. In examining the importance of government's response to the various threats posed by the activities of her neighbours, the study observed that the in spite of its policy of restraint and caution, which has resulted in the lack of firmness and of definitive tactics in stemming the tide of violations of her sovereignty, the Nigerian government had in over the past couple of years, continued to make attempts at fostering better relationships with her next door neighbours.