

**Cultural Nationalism, Democratization, and Conflict in Yoruba
Perspectives: Focus on O'odua Peoples' Congress (OPC)
in Nigerian Politics**

Aderemi Suleiman Ajala

*Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
E-mail: asajala@yahoo.co.uk*

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ABSTRACT This paper is generated from hard data collected in Southwestern Nigeria, on cultural nationalism through violence in a democratic consolidating state of Nigeria. The heterogeneity of Nigeria operating under repressive conditions towards cultural aspirations and goals provoked violent cultural nationalism, as manifested in the operation of O'odua Peoples' Congress among the Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria. The incidence is gruesome for the democratic consolidation in Nigeria, thus, the rationale for interrogating violent cultural nationalism as a social critique. The paper discusses how Yoruba historical consciousness works to aggravate social tension against the Nigeria as a State and argued that cultural nationalism is imperative in heterogeneous democratic consolidating states, because it gives strength to democratic development, but should be devoid of violence. Consequently, for cultural nationalism to promote sustainable democratic development there is a need for harmony, trust and confidence among the various ethnic groups constituting a heterogeneous state, while negotiating for power and seeking access to resource control.