

**Ethnicity, Party Politics and Democracy in Nigeria:  
Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as Agent of Consolidation?**

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**KEYWORDS** Politics. Democracy. Ethnicity. Democratic Consolidation. Political Parties

**ABSTRACT** Since the enthronement of democracy, especially the western-liberal variant, as the “only game in town”, every tribe and clime has struggled not only to be democratic but also have it sustained and consolidated in line with America (the Apostle of democracy) model. But, with the deleterious implications of ethnicity in Nigeria, which to an extent has had negative impact on our efforts at political stability and development since independence; attempt at democratic consolidation has also been a mirage. Though, with Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the saddle of leadership for upward of seven years with membership cutting across the climes and sections of the country, a new assessment of party politics and democracy seems to be an interesting thrust for scholars and political observers. This paper therefore examined the capability of the dominant party to aid consolidation of democracy in a heterogeneous and ethnically sensitive Nigeria.