

**Nigeria in Search
of
A Political Order**

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NIGERIA IN SEARCH OF A POLITICAL ORDER

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by

Professor Ayodele Awojobi

I. OUR MILITARY EFFORT IN THE SEARCH FOR A POLITICAL ORDER

In these early days of the Second Republic, it seems to me appropriate in this second series of lectures to turn the searchlight of national issues on the fundamental problem of POLITICAL ORDER in Nigeria.

The series is founded on the primary proposition that whilst acknowledging our past efforts as a nation in search of a political order the best of these efforts is not good enough because it falls far short of what is best for Nigeria and only the best achievable internal political order can guarantee the continued existence and survival of Nigeria as a corporate entity amidst the pressures and uncertainties of world political order.

This proposition, in turn, rests on an observation that all underdeveloped countries of the world today are like insects trapped in the intricacies of the cobweb of world economic order, socio-cultural philosophies, political quagmire, diplomatic intrigues, religious intrusions and technological warfare.

The mighty cobweb envelopes the whole globe and is continuously spun by the giant sun-spiders located in Washington, Moscow and Peking with perturbations continually produced by planet-spiders spinning from factories in London, Paris, Bonn and Tokyo with satellite-spiders in Ottawa, Canberra, Havannah, Pretoria and Tel-Aviv.

It is inherent in the proposition that Nigeria stands a good chance, among all underdeveloped countries of the world, to be extricated from the menace of this global cobweb by becoming an independent spinner of her own special web of political order — the necessary forerunner of socio-economic development of any nation.

The proposition is capped by a confidence that we, as Nigerians, are capable of achieving the best for Nigeria if only we dispassionately assess and draw from our rich stock of varied experience beginning with the last days of colonial rule through our first experiment of total self-government in the First Republic to the baptism of fire through military intervention and seizure of democracy punctuated by a gruesome Civil War with its disastrous consequences to life, property and progress of Nigeria.