

History and The Niger Delta:

Oil, Politics and Culture

Festschrift in Honour of
Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino



Editors
Chukwuma C.C. Osakwe
L. E. Odeh

E/GAH



Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino FHSN

**HISTORY AND THE NIGER DELTA:
Oil Politics & Culture**

**Festschrift in Honour of
Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino**

Editors
Chukwuma CC Osakwe Ph.D.
Lemuel E Odeh Ph.D.

© Chukwuma CC Osakwe, Lemuel E Odeh.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without either the prior written permission of the Publisher.

The Editors and Publisher are not responsible for the content of third party internet sites.

Publishers: Nigerian Defence Academy Publishers

ISBN: Hardcopy: 978 – 978 – 982 – 592 – 9

E-copy: 978 – 978 – 982 – 593 – 6

Printed and Bound in Nigeria
Using environmentally sustainable paper materials
By Pyla-Mak Publishers Ltd.
Kaduna, Nigeria.
Tel: 08023633763

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Festschrift in Honour of Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino would not have been possible without the contribution and support of many dependable academics. Therefore, the editors wish to acknowledge and appreciate all those who contributed chapters to the festschrift within the submission deadline.

The editors also commend the peer-reviewers for their meticulousness in reviewing the articles which added value to the quality of the festschrift.

This publication would not have been possible without the contributions of many who worked behind the scene. Therefore, while appreciating a number of our colleagues who worked behind the scene to give life to this project, we also wish to convey our gratitude to our publishers for their dedicated editorial work and attention to fine details. The synergy of the dedicated workers at the Nigerian Defence Academy Publishers is unparalleled.

FOREWORD I

When political independence was granted Nigeria by the British colonialists on October 1960, very few people doubted the prospects of the country. Blessed with both human and natural resources, all that was required was a leadership that was committed, focused and patriotic; to actualize the development of aspirations of its citizens. History tells us this was on the way in the first few years of the decade of the 1960s, when the country was described as one of the fastest growing economies in the world. Thus, despite their numerous challenges at the time, Nigerian citizens had unflinching faith on the prospects of the country and its capacity to deliver on the promises of the independence struggles.

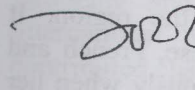
Those were the days when the postcolonial Nigerian State and its ruling elite were committed to the Nigerian project and demonstrated the requisite political will to uphold and defend it. It was not as if we had arrived where we wanted to be as a nation then, but at least there were demonstrable signs that we were positively heading somewhere. These positive signs were however short-circuited and eventually atrophied in the decades that followed. A combination of a weak state structure, poor, very poor and bankrupt leadership, a disempowered, traumatized and an almost conquered followership; an unending social injustice, rising insecurity and collapsed institutions have reinforced the narrative of underdevelopment in contemporary Nigeria. Increasingly, citizens are losing faith in the nation and its capacity to rise above self-afflicted afflictions.

It is against the above background that the significance and import of the book titled, *History and the Niger Delta: Oil, Politics and Culture* edited by Professors Chukwuma C. C. Osakwe (who unfortunately exited on 19th December, 2020) and Lemuel E. Odeh, written in honor of Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino, comes into sharp focus and should be understood. The book, which is a collection of fifty-seven chapters from scholars researching the oil-bearing Niger Delta and the crisis of development in has continued to face due to sustained crude oil exploration and exploitation by global oil multi-national and local corporations and the attendant pervasive environmental challenges on the people; explains the many dimensions of the Nigerian Question and its intersections with the struggles for injustice in the operations of the federal system over the years. The Niger Delta, the precarious state of its peoples and their livelihood; the rascality of the postcolonial Nigerian State and its debauched ruling elite (in league with some sons and daughters of the region); as well as the agitations of the people against an unjust system; represent the many dimensions and phases of the development crises contemporary Nigeria is hemmed in. In doing justice to the subject matter of the book, chapter contributors have also advanced practical solutions to the problem and challenged the State and its operators to make haste while the sun is still shining; for a stitch in time, they say, saves nine.

I am delighted and indeed grateful to the editors and chapter contributors to have chosen me to write the foreword to this very important book written in

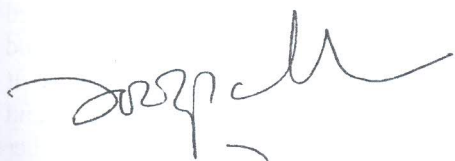
honor of my v
Historical Soci
Ibadan, during
close contacts
issues. I can
consummate ac
whose concern
severally in the
which the dilem
volume is there
and high rega
consider him. In
to have people
respect, especia
country where t
that, teachers m
rewards.

Undoubt
increasing litera
and largely anch
addition, the issu
between scholar
makers, civil soc
many more that
understanding the


Professor Okpeh
National President

honor of my very good friend, himself an eminent Historian and Fellow of the Historical Society of Nigeria. Since our paths crossed in 2005 at the University of Ibadan, during the Annual Congress of our dear Society, we have maintained close contacts and compared research notes on a wide range of development issues. I can testify that Professor Aghalino is a committed intellectual, consummate administrator and a politically savvy and resourceful personality whose concern for his people and Nigerians is profound and this has manifested severally in the dogged way and manner he has engaged the National Question to which the dilemma of his people in the Niger Delta is an important part of. This volume is therefore one in the many modest demonstrations of the esteemed way and high regards Professor Aghalino's students, colleagues and associates consider him. In this particular sense I must add that, Professor Aghalino is lucky to have people who would publicly accord him this kind of love, honor and respect, especially at a time true heroes and patriots are never recognised in the country where teachers' rewards are believed to be in heaven; literally implying that, teachers must first die to access their well earned encomiums and other rewards.

Undoubtedly, this volume will be a useful addition to the rapidly increasing literature on the Niger Delta. The chapters are elaborate, informative and largely anchored on the most current data on the themes they explored. In addition, the issues they have thrown up would be the subject of intense polemic between scholars and students in our institutions of higher learning, policy makers, civil society organisations and social workers. It is for these reasons and many more that I unequivocally recommend the book to all those interested in understanding the critical issues in the Niger Delta and the plights of its peoples.



Professor Okpeh O. Okpeh, Jr. FHSN
National President, Historical Society of Nigeria

FOREWORD II

This is a forward to a book with a difference. The Editors, Prof. C. C. Osakwe and Dr L.E. Odeh, put so much intellectual energy into the editorial works of this fantastic book. I know Osakwe personally as a distinguished historian and the Head of Department of History and Military Studies of the prestigious Nigerian Defence Academy. Dr Odeh is a seasoned historian and currently, Acting Director, University of Ilorin Archives and Documentation Centre. When Prof Osakwe requested me to do the Forward to a book in honour of Prof. S. O. Aghalino, a giant of a historian, I did not hesitate to accept. But now, I requested the editor, Prof. C. C. as we fondly called him, to furnish me with the Table of Content on Wednesday, 16th December, 2020. He promised to oblige me with the details. Alas, I never heard from him. He died on Saturday 19th December, 2020. The same week, Prof. B. O. Oloruntimehim, my teacher at the University of Ibadan and Prof. Moses Tedheke, Department of Political Science, my mentee at the NDA also died. I lost three colleagues within 7 days!! What a week to begin writing a foreword to a book on Niger Delta, in honour of Prof. S. O. Aghalino, born, lived, studied, researched, examined and devoted his academic life to the Niger Delta Question in time and space. In pains and grief have I coupled myself together to do this Foreword in memory of a celebrated distinguished colleague Prof. C. C. Osakwe, on one hand and in commemoration and adoration of a mentee, Prof. S.O.Aghalino.

The Niger Delta holds a peculiar position in Nigerian history and contemporary existence of Nigeria as a corporate political entity. From the evolution of individual communities, kingdoms, city-states to the slave trade era, the political economy of Niger Delta peoples stands tall. The Niger Delta played a key role in the revolution of the palm oil trade that impinged on trade and politics, state formation; and of the social engineering of the region. It encountered the first arrival of foreign intruders – the Portuguese, French and British Marauders and empire builders; it reasserted itself vigorously when her economic and political independence was threatened and produced such potentates and personalities such as the Brave City State, Jaja of Opobo, Nana, the Itsekiri Prince of the Niger, Overanmi of Benin and many other proto-nationalists of Nigeria. The engagement with the First Oil, the palm oil, translated into imperialism, which eventually ended up in colonialism and First fall of Nigeria. The Second oil, the black gold, otherwise known as oil and gas or petroleum ushered Nigeria from its colonial experience to its independence sovereign state in an encounter with emergent Nigeria rulers whose main focus has been-self aggrandizement, accumulation of wealth without conscience and the infamous international oil companies. The First oil and the second oil experiences have made Niger Delta subjects of national and international exploitation to the detriment of their political and economic destinies.

Recall the Willinks Commission that specifically characterized the Niger Delta as a peculiar region with difficult terrain, and therefore needed special attention; recall Isaac Boro of the *Twelve Day Revolution*; recall Saro Wiwa and MOSOP; recall Kaiama Declaration; recall Odi massacre; recall the graphic exploitation of the entire Niger Delta; recall large scale environment degradation; recall Jesse fire disaster. Recall, recall how a region endowed with natural wealth has over the years been ravaged by international exploiters and internal/domestic regimes of double colonialism. When you recall all these and many more, you will understand the essence and significance of this book in honour of Prof. S.O. Aghalino.

The conceptualization, collation, editing and publication of this book is most timely, apt and fortuitous. Yes, it is a book but its more than the usual book. This work is a profound Encyclopedia, a living library of the Niger Delta region of Nigeria. In its geographical, historical, economic and political colouration, the Niger Delta hosts a special space in Nigeria's continued existence and survival. This book is a glorious harvest of serious-minded academics, historians and historical scholarship at its best. The book also testifies to Aghalino's academic outreach. With 57 well-researched original chapters divided into six sections, the contributors cut-across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones and elicit scholars in historical science, politics, economic, geography, law and jurisprudence, boundaries scholars, sociology etc. from several Universities and other tertiary institutions. You can see Aghalino's leverage as former Director of University of Ilorin Archives and Documentation Centre, his profound contributions to the affairs of the Historical Society of Nigeria, as a Vice President and a Fellow.

The contributors to this epic volume run across the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria, signifying the seriousness with which Niger Delta issues, problems and challenges are taken across Nigeria. Aghalino's association with Nigeria Defence Academy and other institutions as External examiner as a historian of international repute is clearly manifested in the quality of scholars who contributed chapters to this book. Furthermore, the book rightly demonstrates the centrality of the Niger Delta in the political, economic, strategic and financial resilience of the Nigeria Nation and why the Niger Delta issues, problems and challenges will continue for a longtime to attract focus in myriads of relevant scholarship. In addition, the book has demonstrated how petro-dollar crisis, low-level warfare and historical revisionism prompted by the curious economic and socio-political condition will continue to attract national and international attention.

A thorough reading of the book reveals why minority nationalities in the Niger Delta will continue to cry for an end to exploitation, domination and the spirit of Divide-and-Rule of the majoritarian ethnic group's mentality in a false, uneven democratic dispensation anchored on a federal structure designed to fail. This book is a loud and clear cry for political and socio-economic restructuring of the Nigerian polity. I strongly recommend this book to all tiers of government,

policy makers, multinational oil companies in the Niger Delta and scholars committed to the resolution of the issues in contention in the region.

Prof. AE Ekoko, *FHSN*.
Uzere, 2020.

CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	iii
Foreword I	iv
Foreword II	vi
Contributor's	xv

SECTION A: DYNAMISM OF NIGER DELTA HISTORY, OIL, ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino: An Encounter with the Gown and the Town <i>Orji Boniface Ifeanyi and Oren Ajiri Joseph</i>	1 3
2. Oil Politics in the Niger Delta since the 19th Century <i>Chris B.N. Ogbogbo and Fidelis Enang Egbe</i>	9
3. From (Palm) Oil to (Crude) Oil: The Changing Phases of the Niger-Delta Oil Economy <i>Aboyaji Adeniyi Justus</i>	25
4. Political Developments of Western Niger Delta: A Historical Survey From the Earliest time till 1960 <i>Awofisayo Oladipupo Albert, Fakayode Michael Folusho and Onaolapo Foluso Anna</i>	49
5. The International Relations of the Niger Delta City States, AD 1500-1900. <i>Keke Reginald Chikere</i>	65
6. Crude Oil Exploration and its Ecological Impact on the Indigenous Economy of the Eastern Niger Delta Region of Nigeria. <i>Odeigah Theresa Nfam</i>	87
7. An Exegesis of Agriculture, Oil And Corruption in Nigeria: A Parable of the Golden Goose and a New Bride <i>Osho, Osaretin Akinola</i>	101
8. Pre-Colonial Economic Relations between the Isoko and Her Neighbours: A Lesson for Contemporary Niger Delta. <i>Uwomano Benjamin Okpevra</i>	117

9. Development of Underdevelopment of the Rich
Oil Niger Delta Region in Nigeria. A Paradox of Parody
Chinnah, Promise Chinwe 133
10. Oil and Environment
Sambo Joses Garuba 153
11. The Environment and Oil Activities in Nigeria:
An Impact Assessment of Oil Exploration and
Exploitation on Nigeria's Niger Delta Region, 1956-2016
Eduvwe Avi Nyerohwo and Ozinna Tochukwu Ntukogu 167
12. The Niger Delta and Nigerian Economy: Transition From
Agrarian to Oil Economy: Some Matters Arising
Aboyaji, Oyeniya Solomon 185

SECTION B:

NIGER DELTA ECOFEMINISM

13. Oil and Gender Vulnerability in Niger Delta during
Conflict in the Nigerian Fourth Republic
Orji Ifeanyi Boniface and Asenebi Henry D. 199
14. Remembering Edimini Kambasa: The First Queen
from the Niger-Delta
Zara Emmanuel Kwaghe and Amin Zaigi Ngharen 213
15. Women And Conflict In The Niger Delta
Bridget Oghale Omoruyi and Mary Uhunoma Isibor 227
16. Women in the Face(s) of Niger Delta Conflicts:
A Human Security Analysis, 1999-2009
Haruna Tsingari Warasini 241

SECTION C:

PETRO-VIOLENCE: STATES, FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS AND MULTINATIONALS INTERVENTIONS IN THE NIGER DELTA

17. Assessment on Niger Delta Conflict: Rethinking the
Situation, Drivers and Solutions
Adewale Adepoju and Ogunsakin Oluwasegun Dare 259

18. Issues and Discourse Surrounding Institutional Frameworks for Environmental Remediation in the Niger Delta Area: 1992-2020 <i>Olubiyo Kolade Gabriel and Mahmud Mohammed Momoh</i>	275
19. From Resource Curse to Blessing: Options for Sustaining Peace in Post-Amnesty Niger Delta <i>James Okolie-Osemene</i>	295
20. An Appraisal of the Federal Government of Nigeria's Responses to Agitations, Conflicts and Crises in the Niger Delta Region from 1960 to 2016. <i>Julius O. Unumen and E. C. Emordi</i>	311
21. Petro-Violence and The Nexus Between Poverty and Environmental Pollution In The Niger Delta <i>Nseobong Nkanga</i>	327
22. Niger Delta Community and The Burden Of Oil Industry: A Case Study Of Oloibiri <i>Ekine Euphemia and Yiolorokun Isaac Babatunde</i>	341
23. Another Failed Promise or another Food for the Boys?: Oil Spillage, Impacts and (Un)Cleaning-Up Responses in Ogoni Land, Niger Delta <i>B. O. Ibrahim</i>	355
24. Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Resource Transparency and Niger Delta Crisis (2004-2019) <i>Yemisi Olawale I.</i>	369
25. Rethinking Developmental Challenges in the Operations of Multinational Oil Corporations in Nigeria's Delta Region <i>Alex Amaechi Ugwuja and Nwachukwu Obiakor</i>	389
26. Gas Flaring and the Prospect of Chinese International Oil Companies (IOC) in the Niger Delta Region <i>Odeh. L. E., and Oyekanola. A. K.</i>	405

SECTION D:

**YOUTH RESTIVENESS, MILITANCY AND POPULAR
CULTURE IN NIGER DELTA**

- | | |
|---|-----|
| | 421 |
| 27. Tackling Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta Region
through Holistic and Sustainable Empowerment Models
<i>Angela Ajodo-Adebanjoko</i> | 423 |
| 28. Piracy as a Land Based Crime: An Assessment of Piracy
In the Niger Delta region of the Gulf of Guinea
<i>Udeagbala Lawrence Okechukwu and
Ubong Ituen Ituen</i> | 439 |
| 29. The Implication of Pidgin English in Teaching and
Learning in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria
<i>Uchechukwu Orji and Ifunanya Ichie</i> | 559 |
| 30. Oil Business, Youth Restiveness and Militancy in the
Niger Delta Region of Nigeria
<i>Shuaibu Ibrahim and Bem Japhet Audu</i> | 463 |
| 31. Niger Delta Poetry: Trauma, Blues and Bibliotherapy
<i>Emmanuel Babatunde Omobowale and
Stephen Ese Kekeghe</i> | 481 |
| 32. Cultism beyond Campuses: A Historical Analysis of Street
Cultism in Ikorodu Local Government Area of Lagos State
<i>Boge, Faruq Idowu and Nnaemeka Uwakwe Itiri</i> | 505 |
| 33. The Heroes of the Niger Delta in Postcolonial Popular
Culture
<i>Stephen Ogheneruro Okpadah</i> | 523 |
| 34. Socio-Political Activism and Nationhood in the Poetry
of Odia Ofeimun
<i>Peter E. Omoko</i> | 535 |
| 35. Education and Youth Empowerment in Nigeria:
An Appraisal
<i>Ngozika Anthonia Obi-Ani and Mathias Chukwudi Isiani</i> | 553 |
| 36. Towards a Theatre of the Niger Delta
<i>Stephen Ogheneruro Okpadah</i> | 569 |

SECTION E:

**POLITICS OF RESOURCE CONTROL AND PEACE
BUILDING INITIATIVES IN THE NIGER DELTA**

- | | |
|---|-----|
| | 581 |
| 37. The Demand for Resource Control by Nigeria's
Niger-Delta: Dimensioning the Hysteria
<i>Kenneth T. Azaigba</i> | 583 |

38. MOSOP and Rights Claims: Reflections on the Relative
Deprivation Theory of Social Movements
David Lishilinimle Imbua 595
39. Amnesty Programme and Militancy Resurgence in the
Niger Delta: A Reassessment of Roadmap to Peace
Building
Ogunniyi Olayemi Jacob and Akpu James Onochie 613
40. Oil Politics and the Reinvention of Minority Identity
in Post-Independence Nigeria's Niger Delta
Fred Ekpe F. Ayokhai 631
41. Screening the Risk Factors in Development
Intervention and Peacebuilding Initiatives in the Niger
Delta Region
Mathias Jarikre 647
42. Oil Politics and Agitation for Resource Control in the
Niger Delta, Nigeria: An Appraisal (1960-2015)
*Aregbesola Opeyemi Glory and
Odeh Lemuel Ekedegwa* 661
43. Land Tenureship and Oil Ownership in Nigeria:
Legal Ambiguity and Economic Injustice in the
Niger Delta
Williams Ehizuwa Orukpe 679
44. International Reactions to the Niger Delta Agitations in
Nigeria
Ineke, Ugbede Joseph 699
45. Orogun Oil Producing Community in the Niger Delta:
The Price of Oil Stakeholders Neglect
Omonigho, Amos Owem 715
46. Niger Delta: A Historical Appraisal of Niger Delta
People's Volunteer Force in the Struggle for Resource
Control.
Akinwale Fehintola Tunbosun 735
47. Resource Control or Nation's Control: Niger Delta
Avengers and the Renewed Militancy in Nigeria during
the Buhari Administration
Ajibola A. Abdulrahman, and Shola John Olarenwaju 757

48. National Insecurity and Leadership Change: A Study of the Niger Delta Militants in Nigeria, 2009-2016
Afolabi, A. S., Thompson, O.O. and Alakija, I. O 775

SECTION F:

INTER/INTRA-GROUP RELATIONS

49. Alami Sise: Interrogating Espionage System and Intelligence Gathering In Precolonial Ibadan War 1877-1893
Chukwuma C.C. Osakwe and Olawale Abayomi Adeniji 789
50. The 'Global Land Grab': Why Africa is (and May Remain) a Critical Target
Akachi Odoemene 791
51. Dynamics of Communal Conflicts between Itu and Odukpani over Mbiabo Area
Afaha Philip 811
52. Exploring the Dynamics of Ilorin War Weapons in the Nineteenth Century
Alabi Oladimeji Mohammed 827
53. Colonialism and Taxation in Ewugi District of Agaie-Lapai Division
Terhemba Wuam 839
54. Gains and Discontents of Import Control in Colonial Nigeria, 1939-1960
Ayodele Samuel Abolorunde 859
55. Colonial Regime as Underdevelopment of Indigenous Beverage Industries in Nigeria
Nwosu Ezekwesiri Okebugwu, Musa Helen and Nwaoha Chimaroke Chizoba 881
56. Impact of Colonialism on the Activities of Traditional Bone Setters in Ilorin Emirate, 1900 - 1960
Onagun Rasheed 895
57. Nigerian Workers' Resistance to Neoliberalism, 1980-2015
Emmanuel Nwafor Mordi 907
- 923

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Aboyeji Justus Adeniyi Ph.D. is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria. His research interests straddle Inter-group relations, economic and diplomatic history, with particular reference to the Igbomina sub-group of the Yoruba. This interpolative bearing is not unconnected with the socio-economic and political changes that have come to bear on the Igbomina people. He obtained his Ph.D. in History and has published widely in national and international indexed journals and publications, including notable chapters in scholarly books. He has attended both National and International conferences with papers read. He is also a visiting faculty/lecturer to other institutions.

Aboyeji, Oyeniyi Solomon holds Ph.D. Degrees in History from University of Ilorin, Nigeria. For a decade, Dr. Solomon taught History and Citizenship Education at the Kwara State College of Education, Oro, Nigeria. He presently lectures in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin. His research interests include: Cultural Studies, Religion and Society as well as Igbomina Studies. He has a number of scholarly publications in local, national and international peer-review journals.

Adewale Adepoju is a lecturer at the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State, Nigeria

Abiodun S. Afolabi obtained Ph.D. in History from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His area of doctoral research is economic history, focusing on tax-related revolts in Southwestern Nigeria. He was a 2008 Codesria Fellow for a Writing Workshop in Uganda and a 2011 Fellow, American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). He was until October, 2012 Head, National Archives of Nigeria, Abeokuta, Ogun State, Nigeria. He currently teaches History in the Department of History and International Studies and doubles as Chief Archivist of the Archives and Documentation Centre (UADC) of the same university. He has credits in reputable academic journals and books.

Ajibola A. Abdulrahman, is of the department of History Kwara State University Malete. He is currently doing his Ph.D. program in the United States of America.

Akachi Odoemene Ph.D. is a Professor of African History and Head, Department of History and International Studies, Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State, Nigeria. He is the National Secretary of the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN) and a Research Fellow of the Collaborative Working Group of the African Peacebuilding Network (APN), Social Science Research Council (SSRC), New York, USA (2018-2020) among others. Professor Akachi

Odoemene's research focuses on African Social History, Peace and Conflict Research, African Historiography, and Development Studies.

Akinwale, Fehintola Tunbosun is with the Department Of History, University of Ibadan

Akpu, James Onochie is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, Ultimate University of Science and Management Technology, Adjarra, Porto Novo, Benin Republic

Alabi Oladimeji Mohammed Ph.D. is currently a Lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Alakija Oluwafunmilayo 'Bode is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication of Moshood Abiola Polytechnic, Abeokuta, and Nigerian. Generally, her research interests include Migration, Diaspora, Diasporic Media, Cultural Studies and Globalization. She is one of the coordinators of MAPOLY Research Centre, a member of the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Association of Communication Scholar and Professionals in Nigeria, Women in Technical Education, ASWAD, and the International Association for Media and Communication Research. She has published various articles in journals on Media and Historical Trends in Nigeria.

Alex Amaechi Ugwuja Ph.D. is a military and strategic historian. He is a Senior Research Fellow both of the French Institute for Research in Africa, (IFRA), Ibadan, and the Centre for Multidisciplinary Research and Innovation (CEMRI), Finland. He teaches history and international studies at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State.

Amin Zaigi Ngharen, PhD earned his PhD in History and International Studies from the University of Jos. He is currently an Associate Professor in History and lectures at the Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State. He has served as a visiting Lecturer in History in a couple of universities across the country. Though an Economic Historian, his research interest spans different areas but particularly Cultural History. He has authored several books and published extensively in both National and International Peered Reviewed Journals. He has managed and continues to manage many several academic journals that publish highly rated academic papers.

Angela Ajodo-Adebanjoko PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Federal University of Lafia, where she teaches Political Science and International Relations. A trained mediator, Ajodo-Adebanjoko is well published with articles in reputable international and national academic journals.

Her research interests include gender studies, conflict and security studies, development studies and foreign policies.

Aregbesola, Opeyemi Glory is a Researcher/Content Creator. She has a B.A and an M.A degree in History and International Studies from Kogi State University, Anyigba and the University of Ilorin respectively. She is currently running her PhD program in History and International Studies at the University of Ilorin. Her research focus is on International Economic Relations.

Asanebi, Daupamowei Henry is a lecturer at the Department of History and International Studies, Federal University Otuoke, Bayelsa State.

Awofisayo, Oladipupo Albert Ph.D. is the Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos State his Areas of Specialization are in Economic History, Social History and Historiography, Economics of Education and Public Administration.

Ayodele Samuel Abolorunde (formerly ABORISADE), is a budding scholar who holds a Ph.D. in History. He is a lecturer with the History Department at Ibadan and had served in different administrative positions in the Department. These include: examination time-table coordinator, undergraduate, 2015-2018, B.A project coordinator, 2015-2018, deputy postgraduate coordinator, 2017-2018 and currently the Department's Distance Learning Centre (DLC) Coordinator. His area of research interest is economic history with special focus on Nigeria's Import Control History from the colonial to post-colonial era. His research also focuses on other aspects of Nigerian economic history and Nigeria's international economic relations

Azaigba, Kenneth T. PhD, is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of History & Strategic Studies, Federal University Dutsin-Ma (FUDMA), Katsina State. He is widely published in both national and international journals with over 60 academic papers to his credit. His research interest spans Politics, Conflict, Security and Development. He was Deputy Dean, Faculty of Arts, (FUDMA) 2017-2019. He is also the EDITOR, FUDMA Journal of ARTS, A publication of the Faculty of ARTS.

Bem Japhet Audu Ph.D., is a lecturer in the Department of History and War Studies, and Research Fellow, Centre for the Study of Leadership and Complex Military Operations, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna, Nigeria.

Boge Faruq Idowu is a lecturer at the Department of History, Faculty of Arts and Humanities Lagos State University Foundation Programme, Badagry Campus, Lagos.

Bridget Oghale Omoruyi is currently a Lecturer II in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City. Her research interests are in the areas of Women Studies, Rural and Development Studies, and Peace and Conflicts Studies.

C.B.N. Ogbogbo, is a professor of African History at the Department of History, University of Ibadan, with research interest on Niger Delta studies. He is a fellow and the immediate past President of the Historical Society of Nigeria. He is also a former head of Department of History, University of Ibadan. He is currently the Director of research and Innovations, Nigerian Army Resource Centre, Abuja.

Chinnah, Promise Chinwe, is a Doctoral Student of Political science (Public Administration) Ignatius Ajuru University of Education. An Astute Administrator, Broadminded Analyst, Theorist. Member of Nigeria Political Science Association [NPSA]. Fellow Ife Institute of Advance Studies (OAU), Member Association for the Promotion of African Studies (APAS) (Unizik) Member Senior Civil Servant Association of Nigeria. Currently working with National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) as Head of Community Development Service department in Rivers State secretariat, Port Harcourt. With passion and natural talent for academics. An author of three books with 18 articles in both national and international academic journals of peer review, and has participated in many conferences and workshops.

Chukwuma C.C. Osakwe, Ph.D., is a Professor of Military History and the Head, Department of History and War Studies, and the Centre for the Study of Leadership and Complex Military Operations, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna. His research interest and publications include Military History, American History, Intelligence and Security Studies. He is also a Member of the Historical Society of Nigeria.

David L. Imbua Ph.D. is a Lecturer at the Department of History and International Studies, University of Calabar. He has been quite prolific in scholarly output and in participation in academic conferences, seminars and symposia around the world. Dr. Imbua is the author of several books, which traverse history and historical fiction, book chapters and articles in learned national and international journals. He has carried out various assignments for UNESCO and currently a contributor to the UNESCO project, General History of Africa.

Eduvwie Avi Nyerohwo is a PhD candidate in the Department of History and War Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

Ekine Euphemia is with Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Port Harcourt.

Emmanuel Babatunde Omobowale is a Professor at the University of Ibadan, and happens to be the first Nigerian Professor of Literature and Medicine in 2010. Twice, in 1999 and 2010, Professor Omobowale was a recipient of the University of Ibadan's Senate Research Grant. In 2002, he was awarded the Fogarty Fellowship, which facilitated his training as a Bioethicist at Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland. Between 2006 and 2008, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the McLaughlin-Rotman Centre for Global Health, which was affiliated to the University of Toronto, Canada. He has published over fifty sole authored articles in several books and reputable journals. He has also published a number of joint articles with his students and professional colleagues. He is a member of the Association of Nigerian Authors, the English Studies Association of Nigeria, the American Studies Association as well as the West African Bioethics Programme.

Emmanuel Nwafor Mordi, is from Delta State University Abraka

Fakayode, Michael Folusho Ph.D. History Department, School of Arts and Social Sciences, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto/Ijanikin, Lagos State. His area of interest are in African and Culture History, History and Policies of Education.

Fidelis E. Egbe, MHSN, is a professional historian of African history with expertise and research interest in Niger Delta Studies, Social and Environmental History, Conflict Resolution and Peace Management, and African Historiography. He plies his craft in the Department of History and International Relations, Veritas University, Abuja. Dr. Egbe is currently the Deputy Director of Academic Planning and Quality Assurance of Veritas University. He is also the current National Public Relations Officer and Webmaster of the Historical Society of Nigeria.

Fred Ekpe F. Ayokhai, Ph.D. is a Lecturer and the immediate past Acting Head, Department of History and international Studies, Federal University of Lafia, Nasarawa State, Nigeria. He holds a Ph. D and Master of Arts degrees in History from the Department of History, Nasarawa State University, Keffi in addition to a Postgraduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) from the Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto and a Bachelor of Art (Hons) Degree from the Bendel State University, Ekpoma, Nigeria. He is also the immediate past Acting Chairperson of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Federal University of Lafia Branch and a member of the Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN). His research specialization is in African Economic and Development History. He has also minor interest in peace, conflict, women, security and Niger Delta studies. He is the major editor of a book titled Concepts in Historiography: Essays in Honor of

Olayemi Akinwumi (2008). He has published over fifty essays in both local and international peer reviewed academic journals and books.

Haruna Tsingari Warasini teaches at the Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies of the Adamawa State Polytechnic. She obtained her BA History in the University of Maiduguri and MA in History and International Studies from the University of Ilorin, Kwara State. She has carried out seminal works on gender studies especially in the areas of Women in politics, Women in Boko Haram conflicts, Woman in Nigeria and Africa. She's a member of many professional bodies including the Historical Society of Nigeria; she has served in many organizations, and attended numerous conferences and seminars. She's an intrepid advocate for the empowerment of women.

Ibrahim, Bashir Olaitan Ph.D. is the acting head of department and a senior lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies of University of Ilorin, Nigeria. He is an economic historian with special interest in Industrialization. He has handled many research projects and taught many courses on economic history. Some of his research findings have been published in reputable journals. Dr. Ibrahim belongs to many professional bodies which includes International Research and Development Institute and Research and Development Network among others. He is a sports man of note.

Ifunanya, Ichie holds a B. Ed and M. Ed from the Department of Education English, Faculty of Education University of Nigeria Nsukka, (UNN)

Ineke Ugbede Joseph is an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, Kogi State University, Anyigba and a doctoral student at the Department of History, University Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria. His research interest centers on Economic History, Food Economy and Political-Economy. Ineke is a fellow of the Ife Institute of Advance Studies and a member of the following professional bodies: The Historical Society of Nigeria (HSN), the Global – Africa Development Network (G-AND), the Central Nigeria Study Group and the African Network of Environmental Humanities (A.N.E.H).

James Okolie-Osemene, is a Lecturer in the Department of International Relations, and Coordinator of the General Studies Unit, Wellspring University, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria. He is alumnus of Pan African Doctoral Academy, University of Ghana; Research Fellow, French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA-Nigeria), and a graduate of History and International Studies, Imo State University, Owerri. He is widely published in local and international peer reviewed scholarly journals and contributed chapters to several books. He has presented numerous papers at international scientific conferences within and outside Africa. He is Associate Member of the Society for Peace Studies and Practice. Okolie-Osemene won the Best Masters Project in IFRA-Nigeria 2012

Grants for Field Research in the Social Science and the Humanities.

Keke, Reginald Chikere, Ph.D. lectures at Department of History and International Studies, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Admiralty University of Nigeria, Ibusa/Ogwashi, Delta State.

Mahmud Mohammed Momoh lectures at Prince Audu Abubakar University, Anyigba in Kogi State. He holds a B.A. in History. He is currently working on his Master thesis at the Umaru Musa Yar'adua University, Katsina state. His areas of interest include environmental studies, industrial history, as well as economic and political history.

Mathias Chukwudi Isiani is with the Department of History and International Studies University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Mathias Jarikre is a faculty member in the Department of Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, National Open University of Nigeria. Presently serving as Director, Emevor Community Study Centre of the university. He holds a PhD. in Peace and Conflict Studies from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is also an alumnus of the Summer Peacebuilding Institute of Eastern Mennonite University and Summer Institute (Teaching Peace in the 21st century) of Kroc Institute of International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, both in the United States of America. He is a member of various professional bodies, and is currently the second vice president of Society for Peace Studies and Practice (SPSP), Nigeria. His research interest is in the area of peacebuilding.

Musa Helen is a lecturer in the Department of History, Kaduna State University, Kaduna.

Mordi Emmanuel Nwafor, Ph.D. Teaches in the Department of History and International Studies, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. He was the foundation Acting Head of the Department between 2004/2005 and 2008/2009 Academic Sessions. A Member of The Society for Army Historical Research (SAHR), London, Lagos Studies Association and the Historical Society of Nigeria since the 1980s, Dr Mordi has many years of university teaching experience. His articles have appeared in major journals including the Journal of Contemporary History the Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History and Itinerario. His current research interest, the neglected West African, including Nigerian forces in the Second World War and its aftermath, is supported with a grant from the Nigerian Tertiary Education Trust Fund (Tetfund).

Ngozika Anthonia Obi-Ani is with the Department of History and International Studies University of Nigeria, Nsukka

Nnaemeka Uwakwe Itiri, Ph.D. is a Principal Research Officer, National Examination Council, Nigeria.

Nseobong Ekong Nkanga, Ph.D. is a Lecturer with the Department of History and International studies, Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano-Nigeria. She specializes in Economic History and Diplomacy. Her interest areas include Environmental History, Conflict and security.

Nwachukwu J. Obiakor Ph.D. is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of History and International Studies at Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka. He is an economic historian with a bias for comparative federalism and development studies. He represents the Southeast Zone at the Council of the Historical Society of Nigeria.

Nwaoha Chimaroke Chizoba is a lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, AlvanIkoku Federal College of Education Owerri. He Holds A BA (Ed) In Education and History and MA in History from University of Nigeria, Nsukka and PhD from Ahmedu Bello University, Zaria. He has a Number of articles Published in National and International Journals to his credit. His research interest is Economic and Social History, and Security Studies.

Ntukogu OzinnaTochukwu obtained his BA Hons in History/English in the prestigious University of Nigeria Nnsukka (UNN). He obtained his MA degree in Military History under the department of History and War Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy (NDA), Kaduna, Nigeria. He is currently a PhD candidate and an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History and War Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

Nwosu Ezekwesiri Okebugwu is a Lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, AlvanIkoku Federal College of Education Owerri. He has Many Articles Published in National and International Journals and a Textbook to his Credit. He Teaches History of Russia and Trade and Urbanization in Africa. He is a doctoral student in the Department Of History A.B.U. Zaria.

Odeh Lemuel E. Ph.D. (MHSN) is an Associate Professor and the immediate past Head of Department (HOD) of the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin. He is currently the Director University of Ilorin Archives and Documentation Center, and a former national PRO Historical Society of Nigeria. He graduated from the Lagos State University with Honours in B.A. History then went ahead to acquire his M.Sc. in International Relations and Strategic Studies and Ph.D. In History from the Benue State University.

Odeigah, Theresa Nfam, Ph.D. is a lecturer at the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin.

Ogunniyi, Olayemi Jacob is a lecturer at the Department of International Relations, Faculty of Social Sciences, ICON University of Management Science & Technology, Seme-Podji, Republic of Benin.

Ogunsakin Oluwasegun Dare lectures at Institute of Peace, Security and Governance Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, Nigeria.

Olarenwaju Shola John is of Landmark University, Omu Aran, Kwara State

Olasupo Thompson is with the History and International Studies Unit, Department of Communication and General Studies, Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. His area of specialization is African History with focus on health/medical history, social history, women history, international studies and vulnerable population.

Olawale Abayomi Adeniji, holds a Masters Degree in History and an Assistant Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Leadership and Complex Military Operations, Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna. His areas of expertise & research interests include Military and Social History, Intelligence and Security Studies. He is a member of the Historical Society of Nigeria, (HSN) and British International Safety Organisation.

Olubiyo, Kolade Gabriel lectures at Prince Audu Abubakar University, Anyigba: Kogi State. He holds B.A. and M.A in History. He recently defended his PhD thesis at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna. His areas of interest include Gender Studies, African and Military History.

Omonigho Amos Owem teaches history at the Federal College of Education (Special), Oyo. He is currently a Ph.D. student of the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin.

Onagun Rasheed is a lecturer at the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin.

Onaolapo, Foluso Anna Ph.D. Department of History, Adeniran Ogunsanya College of Education, Oto/Ijanikin; Lagos State. A former Head of Department (H.O.D.) her area of interest are African History, Social/Cultural History, Environmental History, Gender (Women and Development).

Oren Ajiri Joseph, BA, (Hons) English, is a freelance writer based at Ugheli, Delta State.

Orji Boniface Ifeanyi Ph.D. (MHSN) is a lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies, College of Liberal Studies Bowen University, Iwo, Osun State Nigeria. He is member of professional bodies including HSN, LSA, IFRA, among others. His areas of interest include Economic and Social History, Igbo Studies, Migration and Diaspora Studies; Peace and Conflict Studies, Lagos Studies among others. He has published widely in National and International indexed and Peered Reviewed Journals and Publications, including notable Chapters in scholarly books. He has attended both National and International Conferences with Papers read.

Osho, Osaretin Akinolais a serving member of the Nigeria Police Force, attached to Command Finance Office, Department of Finance and Administration, State Headquarters, Diamond Hill, Calabar, Cross River State. He is also a PhD candidate in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin. His area of interest is African History with focus on Police and Economic History.

Oyekanola A. K. is a Post-Graduate student of the Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, where he attained his B.A. and M.A. in History.

Peter E. Omoko (Ph.D) is a playwright/scholar who teaches African oral literature, creative writing, African and European literatures at the Department of English, University of Africa, Toru-Orua, Bayelsa State-Nigeria and whose research interest focuses on translation, fieldwork/folklore studies, popular culture and African drama. He has published in a wide range of scholarly journals, as well as several national and international essay collections. He currently serves as the Secretary of the Nigerian Oral Literature Association (NOLA), Associate Editor, *Nigerian Journal of Oral Literature* and Assistant Marketing Editor, *ARIDON: The International Journal of Urhobo Studies*.

Philip Afaha Ph.D is an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies University of Abuja. His area of research interest includes intergroup relations, conflicts and diplomatic studies.

Joses Sambo Garba holds a M.Sc.in Public Health. from the University of East London, England. He is currently a teacher (Education officer) under Kaduna State Government at Government Secondary School, Kagarko, Kaduna State.

Shuaibu Ibrahim PhD is an Associate Professor and a serving military officer. He was formerly Head of Department History and War Studies, Nigerian Defence Academy, former Registrar, Nigerian Army University, Biu and currently the Director General, National Youth Service Corps, Yakubu Gowon House, Abuja.

Uhunoma Mary Isibor is currently a Lecturer II in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City. Her research interests are in the areas of Women Studies and Socio-Economic History.

Ubong Ituen, he is a Ph.D. student at the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Uwomano Benjamin Okpevra, Ph.D. is a Senior Lecturer with the Department of History and International Studies, Delta State University, Abraka, Nigeria. His research interest is in the area of History and International Studies, conflict History and Intergroup Relations. He is an Associate Editor with Common Ground Publishing, University of Illinois Research Park, U.S.A. and Editor-in-Chief, International Scholar Journal of Arts and Social Science Research (ISJASSR), and Member Editorial Board, CARI Journals. He is a member of the Historical Society of Nigeria, (MHSN) and Fellow Ife Institute of Advanced Studies, (FIAS). Email: ubokpevra@gmail.com

Williams Ehizuwa Orukpe is a Lecturer II in the Department of History and International Studies, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies and Diplomacy and a Master of Arts degree in History from the University of Benin. He is currently a Doctoral student. His areas of research specialisation include Development Economics History, Socio-Political History and International Relations.

Yemisi Olawale Isaac holds Bachelor of Arts Degree in History and International Studies from Osun State University, Oshogbo. He is currently a Post-Graduate Student, Department of History and International Studies, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria.

Yiolokun, Isaac Babatunde is with the Department of History and Diplomatic Studies, Federal University Wukari.

Zara Emmanuel Kwaghe studied History at the prestigious Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. She obtained her Master's Degree at the University of Maiduguri in 1997. In 2003, she joined Adamawa State University Mubi (ADSU) as a lecturer. In 2010, she obtained her PhD in Social History. She joined the Department of History and International Studies of Federal University Lafia in 2015. She is currently an Associate Professor in the Department. Zara Emmanuel Kwaghe has interest in Social History, Gender Studies and Economic History. Zara has attended several national and international conferences and has published in both local and international journals.

Professor Samuel Ovuete Aghalino:

SECTION A

DYNAMISM OF NIGER DELTA HISTORY OIL ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

6

CRUDE OIL EXPLORATION AND ITS ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THE INDIGENOUS ECONOMY OF THE EASTERN NIGER DELTA REGION OF NIGERIA

Odeigah, Theresa Nfam, Ph.D

Introduction

This paper examines how crude oil exploration affected the ecology of the Eastern Niger Delta area to the detriment of the indigenous economy, using primary and secondary sources. The paper argues that the decline of the indigenous economy in the Eastern Niger Delta was as a result of the crude oil exploration activities in the area that damaged the ecosystem resulting in lack of growth and development. The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is made up of swampy mangrove forests and rain forests. The region that was once vibrant, with enormous indigenous economic activities and was capable of exporting its indigenous products to other regions has been rendered incapacitated because of oil exploration activities (Omojimite 2011: 47- 49). Crude oil production activities over the years in the Eastern Niger Delta region have increased the numerous ecological problems, creating a lot of obstacles and leading to devastating effects on the indigenous economy (Omofonmwan and Odia: 2017). Many problems have emanated as a result of crude oil production namely destruction of the rain forest, mangrove swamps, fresh water, the entire ecology, structures and eventually the livelihood of the inhabitants.

For instance, adequate production of food crops and sea foods has been prevented by crude oil production because the devastating effects on aquatic life and biodiversity generally had drastically reduced the soil capacity for the production of food crops and the general development of the indigenous economy (www.offshore-technology.com). While the survival of the people that largely depend on the indigenous economy which in the past contributed immensely to the growth and development of the area became threatened (Kadafa: 2012); the offshore and onshore oil exploration activities in the Eastern Niger Delta region has brought huge revenue and foreign exchange earnings to the Nigerian government and the multinational oil companies leaving the indigenous people in poverty. ExxonMobil with its exploration activities in Eket had in many ways polluted the land and rendered the indigenous economy unproductive (Odeigah: 2018, 58-62). The paper is divided into six sections: the introduction, the indigenous economy of the Eastern Niger Delta before the rise

of the oil economy, oil production activities in the Eastern Niger Delta, ecological impact of oil production in the area, recommendations and conclusion.

The Eastern Niger Delta Indigenous Economy before the discovery of Crude Oil in 1956

Oil was discovered in the Niger Delta region in 1956 at Oloibiri in the present day Bayelsa State, but before this era of crude oil the Eastern Niger Delta indigenous economy had flourished. The Eastern Niger Delta is a coastline and has a network of rivers, creeks and also a belt of tropical rainforest with mangrove swamps in abundance. However, the Northern part of the Eastern Niger Delta has savannah grassland which is a semi-desert, making the soil fertile for the production of agricultural produce. It is important to note that in the Eastern Niger Delta there are two types of seasons, the rainy and the dry seasons and this understanding had contributed to growth and development of the indigenous economy even before crude oil exploration activities began (Eduok, 2020). There were different economic activities that encouraged the growth and development of the area before the exploration of crude oil. These could be grouped in four major categories; Arable agriculture, fishing, trade and the indigenous technology.

Arable Agriculture

Right from the inception of humankind in the area, agriculture has been the mainstay of the people and has contributed to the economic development of the area (Agnes Njagu: 2020). Agricultural resources contributed to the wealth of the people of the Eastern Niger Delta area, because of the arable land that was fertile. The hinterland areas such as Ogoja, Obudu, Ikom, Obubra, Ugep and Biase among other notable towns were active in the production of yams, cassava, banana, plantain, maize, and palm oil, among other domestic produce. Some of these produce were domestically consumed and some sold to neighbours. Palm oil was a very vital product that was exported even during the colonial period. Cultivation of farm produce remains a dominant occupation of the hinterland people to this day. These produce were not only consumed by the farmers, but also were taken to the markets and this contributed to the livelihood and economic development of the people from far and near who came to purchase them. The economy provided a good source of revenue for the people because the land was naturally fertile, enhancing crop production and this added value and sustainability on the long run (Odeigah: 2018, 393-955).

There were various methods used in ensuring effective cultivation and good yield of crops. One of the effective measures was crop rotation. This process of farming gave room for crops to be grown and for the soil to remain fertile as well as the soil nutrients to be maintained during the next cultivation. This also encouraged shifting cultivation which allowed the soil some years for recovery. This opportunity of shifting cultivation came to be as a result of the abundant land in the area. Basically this also gave room for mixed cultivation of

different crops in a specific piece of land, whereby yams, cassava, melon, pepper, okra and maize among others were all planted on same piece of land. Land was available for those who had the capability to farm and land was mostly demarcated for different uses such as planting of food crops and cash crops among others (Eduok: 2020).

In the process of farming, labour was a necessary factor. Labour came in different forms: it was either by hire, age groups or by family. Family labour basically involved family members, the husband, wife, children, slaves or relations. Hired labour was a paid labour which involved payment in pounds and shillings. There were other economic activities that complimented farming such as hunting. Ikot-Ekpene was known for palm oil production and this industry was mostly organised by men, supported by their wives. Hunting was a part time occupation for the men that gave room for the economic development of the people through boosting the indigenous economy (Njoku: 2001, 11).

Fishing

Fishing was a major occupation of the coastal people before the exploration of crude oil in the Niger Delta area. However, the people did not have to spend a lot of money to practise aqua-culture in raising fish in the area because there were a lot of water ways such as seas and streams. The fish were vital to the diet of the people while also contributing significantly to their economic activities through sale at the local markets and also distant markets in Okundi, Ugep and Ogoja among other major towns. This occupation was given appropriate attention by both the women and the men. All the instruments used for fishing were manufactured by the indigenous people of the Eastern Niger Delta region. The fishing tools such as canoes were all manufactured through local technology. Some of the canoes were built at Oron while some were bought from the other parts of the Niger Delta region.

Technology

The Niger Delta people had a vast technological base, which supported the indigenous economy. Apart from canoe building mentioned above, another indigenous economic activity that made the economy vibrant was the traditional industry such as raffia fibres production and Craftwork among others. Some places such as Ikot-Ekpene and others were known as raffia towns. This is one of the ancient historic towns in the Eastern Niger Delta area that was well known for the production of raffia fibres and most of the commercial activities kept the place vibrant. There were other communities that were also known for basket weaving, mat making that contributed to the economic growth of the area (Akpan: 2020).

There were also other activities such as salt production which was a valuable commodity across the different parts of the Eastern Niger Delta and beyond. Salt production was common as a result of the surrounding seas in the

area and the Niger Delta as a whole. Some of the seas were naturally salty and salt therefore was easier to produce (Effiong: 2020).

Indigenous technology such as blacksmithing was another important activity that was tailored to meet the needs of the people. Blacksmithing and other related works were specialised and carried out by the men. Even during the colonial period the indigenous economy was strong in blacksmithing. Blacksmithing thrived in the area with mining of iron that was used to manufacture implements for farming, hunting and fishing activities in the area. These implements included fishing hooks, kitchen wares, local guns, traps, hoes and spears. The blacksmiths in the Eastern Niger Delta like their counterparts in other communities fabricated several weapons that the communities used to prosecute inter-tribal wars. Apparently craftwork stood the test of time in the Eastern Niger Delta area and also oral evidence revealed that the organisation of craftwork was a full time occupation while some took the occupation as part time. In Ikot-Ekpene, raffia palms were used in the roofing of houses, making of mats, hats and baskets.

The men in craftworks engaged the assistance of apprentices and therefore they built a lot of capacity in this field. Apprentices were persons who were trained by their masters and the training was solely determined by their masters (Bassey: 2020). Canoe building was another very important craftwork among the people of Oron, it became lucrative because it was used for transportation between Oron and Calabar and other riverine areas within the Eastern Niger Delta area. Canoes were mainly used in carrying people and their goods to riverine markets and also in connecting communities. Canoe was also important and suitable because of its high carrying Capacity (Effiong: 2020).

Trade was one of the occupations of the people of the Eastern Niger Delta area. Trade was taken as a part time occupation, because there were individuals who traded within their communities and still combined it with farming activities. This occupation was categorized into two forms, local trade and long distance trade and local trade was an old form of trade that still exists till date. People still sell produce such as pepper, okra and vegetables around their communities and some of the produce were taken to markets within their locality for sale. Long distance trade has to do with people taking their goods outside the shores of the Eastern Niger Delta area and commodities such as yams, palm oil, fish, plantain and banana were taken to places such as Oturkpo, Kano, Onitsha and Jalingo. Even with the advent of the Europeans, indigenous trade thrived and contributed significantly to the Eastern Niger Delta economy (Ecoma & Ecoma: 2020, 311-336).

Crude Oil Production in the Eastern Niger Delta Area

According to the World Bank, oil exploration in the Niger Delta began as far back as 1903 during the period of the British Mineral Survey Company established solely for mining activities in the country. In 1914 the British government fast-tracked a bill on mineral oil ordinance, mainly for their own

interest and benefit, and this was because the previous bill had excluded the non-British subjects from any oil exploration activities in the Niger Delta region (World Bank: 2000). The bill also facilitated the activities of the Shell Petroleum Development Company in Owerri. This license gave the company the opportunity to begin oil exploration as well as giving way to other countries such as the Germany-Nigeria Bitumen Corporation and the British Colonial Petroleum Company to begin oil exploration in the Niger Delta region (Echendu, Iledare, Onwuka: 2012). Other Companies such as Exxon Mobil began operations in 1946. All these oil exploration activities began when even the Nigerian government had no definite policy on oil exploration and the environment.

This was actually the genesis of the reduced emphasis on the indigenous economy of the area (Iledare, 2007: 22-23). As mentioned above, oil was discovered in commercial quantity in Oloibiri in present day Bayelsa State in 1956, by Shell Darcy whose name was later changed to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited. Exxon Mobil is one of the major oil producing companies in the Eastern Niger Delta area. In 1970 oil exploration was increased rapidly as a result of the Middle East conflicts. The "Oil shock" of 1973, used to describe the oil crisis of that period resulted in the quadrupling of oil prices from \$3 per barrel to \$12 per barrel. The volume of oil production and export in Nigeria doubled between 1971 and 1973 and between the years 1969 to 1974 the volume oil production and export of crude oil from Nigeria to other countries quadrupled as shown in Table 1 below.

Increase in Petroleum production and export in Nigeria, 1969-1974.

1969	197, 204,486	197,245,641
1970	395835,689	383,458,353
1971	558,678882	542,545,131
1972	643,206,685	650,979,689
1973	750,593,415	723,822,998
1974	823,317,838	795,710,044

Table 1; Source: Aghalino, S. O. (2009), P.103

This rise in oil price was mainly brought about due to the embargo on oil exports to several countries that was imposed by the Arab oil producing companies, so that they could influence Western policy. This decision by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) was a move to influence and dominate the oil market (www.sciencedirect.com). This increased oil demand resulted in increased oil price and by 1974 crude oil earnings constituted 80 per-cent of Nigeria's revenue and during this period the economy transformed from an indigenous economy to the oil economy. Since over three decades, Nigeria has depended on crude oil production earnings which over the years has generated billions of naira to the Federal government of Nigeria and contributed close to 95 percent of the national budget (khan, 1994: 189-190).

It is important to note that the production of crude oil in the Eastern Niger Delta area over the years has not really improved the lives of the people of the area (Nweke: 2013). The Eastern Niger Delta people have been impoverished as a result of the activities of the Multinational Oil Companies and poor governance by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Oil exploration activities with oil spillage had destroyed the indigenous economic activities of the Eastern Niger Delta (Eluozo: 2018). These scenarios of oil exploration and oil spillage have lingered on till date in the area without any significant and successful remediation programme. The oil companies in the Eastern Niger Delta area have not demonstrated enough commitment to corporate social responsibility and this has been accompanied by a strained relationship with the indigenous people.

The Ecological Impact of Crude Oil Exploration on the Indigenous Economy of the Eastern Niger Delta

It is important to note that the ecological consequences of oil exploration by the oil companies cannot be over emphasised. The inhabitants of oil producing communities and their neighbours have suffered damages to their economy from recurrent oil spillage and gas flaring and this has also affected their social lives and health. This has hindered natural agricultural activities which led to the loss of income by the people (Aghalino, 2009: 127). Because of oil exploration activities over the years in the area, the soil became polluted making agriculture not profitable. This therefore, has made the ecology and the soil generally unproductive and therefore the indigenous economy crumbled (Kadafa: 2012, 4625). The unquantifiable damage to the ecology had also hindered fishing activities in the area. The deterioration of the ecosystem as a result of the production of oil has caused the inhabitants of the area to deemphasize agriculture, salt production and fishing among others, causing poverty among the people (Kadafa: 2254).

In other countries of the world where oil is explored, oil is used to boost their indigenous economy, but in Nigeria, oil exploration has rendered the indigenous economy and the land unproductive to the detriment of the people. In places such as Eket almost 250 companies are providing support services such as export, catering, transportation, security and flight services among others, which have caused problems to the indigenous people because instead of emphasizing agriculture some of the indigenes went after white collar jobs with the oil service companies. Eket is one of the communities that were known for fishing in the Eastern Niger Delta area and the people were very industrious in nature (en.m.wikipedia.org).

The drilling of oil in the area and the resultant pollution of the streams, causing the water to be stagnated had also fostered the breeding and growth of mosquitoes causing Malaria and some other tropical diseases infestations and infections (Aghalino:115). It is important to also note that toxic substances are released during drilling at the extraction points and these toxic substances are harmful to human health (Worgu: 2000). Benzene and Sulphur dioxide are some

