

ETHNO-RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND THE QUEST FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION

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Abstract

The over one hundred years of Nigeria's nationhood have been a mixed bag of fragile unity and mutual suspicion coloured by bitter rivalries among the various ethnic and religious groups. Thus, this paper is premised on the dire need to explore the possibility of harnessing the ethno-religious diversities in Nigeria to foster a genuine and sustainable national unity devoid of rancour and acrimony bearing in mind the implications it has the teaching and learning of Social Studies in schools. In realizing this objective, the paper surveys various views and opinions of scholars on the Nigerian experience of ethno-religious rivalries on one hand, and some concerted efforts made in the remote and immediate past which was aimed at achieving national unity on the other hand. The paper concluded with recommendations among others that, public office holders should as much as possible resist the temptation of using state resources and privileges to the advantage of one ethnic or religious group at the expense of