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CAUSES FOR UNDERDEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA

В статье на примере Нигерии выдвигается гипотеза о том, что никакая страна никогда не увеличивает национальное богатство, экспортируя сырье, не имея промышленного сектора, и в современных условиях про- двинутой сферы обслуживания, чем больше страна специализируется на производстве только сырья, тем более бедной становится, при этом промышленность умножает национальное богатство.

The study of the economic backwardness of the developing countries of the world has been of immense interest to academics in the field of economics, development studies, and political science. This is because of the fact that most of these countries have the potentials to achieve development especially low- income Africa, Low- ncome large Asian, mid-income Latin America and East Asian countries as well as Eastern Europe countries. These countries are richly blessed with an abundance of natural and human resources with which they can achieve economic development. It is a con- ventional wisdom that natural resource possesses the potential to make resource rich developing countries able to: catch up industrially with the rest of the industrialized and developed countries around the world. Moreover, mainstream development thinkers also argue that resource wealth is advantageous to economic development. It is also worth considering that there are some countries

of the world who achieved their economic development using the wealth accrued from their natural resources.

The question becomes, how did those particular countries achieve their economic develop- ment with its resources wealth? Why is economic development eluding these other countries even with enormous natural resource wealth? For example oil rich countries like Nigeria? Why is it that the resource poor countries like Switzerland, South Korea, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Ire- land, The Scandinavians, Belgium, Holland to name but a few, economically outperformed the so called resource abundant countries? The poor economic performance of these resource rich devel- oping countries has raised concerns and arguments among economists, political scientists, and re- searchers, giving rise to the argument on resource curse. I am very passionate about the economic development of the developing countries of the world with special reference to those with enormous natural resources.

I used Nigeria as a case study. Nigeria is a country with abundant natural resources, yet when one critically and analytically evaluates the economic backwardness of Nigeria one can argue that the reason why Nigeria is still a developing country and presently suffering recession regardless of its abundant natural recourses is because of «dutch disease effects» and high level of corruption. Also the poor economic performance of Nigeria is obviously attributed to recourse curse. When you assess the economic position of Nigeria before and after the discovery of Oil in commercial quantities it evident that the economy was more diversified before the discovery of oil than after oil was discovered.

Following from the above, it is clear that economic development is very important to countries and their citizens both globally and locally.

Underdevelopment is a key geographical issue in the modern world, as it is considered to be characteristic of a country which possesses a certain number of problems. Such problems like extreme poverty or low human development index (HDI) may be seen as consequences of an underdevelopment. These countries can be classified in different groups ranging from less economically developed countries (LEDCs) to the more economically developed countries (MEDCs) according to the level of development which a country may find itself in. Each country's level of development is a consequence of its history. Low level of development is a result of specific causes that may be as simple as debt which a country encumber economically.

A first strategy for a country to develop is to therefore have a strong, growing economy. Whether it is brought through the exploitation of natural resources, a high production or an important activity in trade, a country must possess a strong, diverse economy. The Asian Tigers are examples of such economies as they were countries who did not benefit from an ever pouring quantity of oil for instance, but they succeeded in broadening their economies and they eventually established themselves as a key economical powers of the world. South Korea for example is one of the FOUR Asian Tigers, and it developed as a country by developing its economy: It first relied on manufacturing and exportation of cheap goods, but once it faced heavy competition from China, it expanded its economy towards high technology goods and ship manufacturing, being the world largest ship maker. What is significant about South Korea's rise to power is the contrast of the situation that they were in previously with which they find themselves today. South Korea is among the 13 largest economies around the world having multiplied its GDP by twenty since 1960 after the Korean War. Equally its GNP per capita has increased from \$100 in 1960 to more than \$16000 in 2010. Their strategy for development worked, and therefore a strategy which assists in enhancing and diversifying a country's economy is useful, potentially one of the most important strategies possible as a country's power is shown by its economic wealth. That is why the USA dominates as a super power today, and that is why China will dominate in the near future: they are countries who developed thanks to a strategy of economic development.

One strategy of development involves building and fortifying the infrastructure by providing a city, or even a country, with the flow of movement across the country business would literally be improved: Improved infrastructure is synonymous with improved exchange and therefore improved business. In already developed urban zones, advanced infrastructure makes the difference

between a simple region and a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) SEZs allow an economy to prosper, and the example of China's large coastal area which is filled with SEZs allows us to evaluate the forever increasing development.

China's climb up the economic ladder was largely due to their policy in allowing FDI. It proved to be an advantage to the foreign powers and a determination factor in China's access to developed world.

In conclusion, there are numerous differing strategies of development that exist in the world today, but it would be possible to consider that the strategies mentioned hereby are theoretically and potentially the most promising. A final possible strategy would be to encourage the phenomenon of brain drain, up to a certain extent. Brain Drain allows a great transfer of skills that will be remembered by the developing country, and it allows them to profit from the important bonus of remittances, and as we

know too well, money plays an extremely influential role in development. It helps eradicate poverty, which can be seen as both a cause and consequence of underdevelopment, and it helps strengthen a country.

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