**Prelude to Studying Nigerian Politics**

* Post-colonial, post dictatorial, young African mega-state of 200 million
  + Doubled since 2005. 400 mil by 2050.
  + 45% < 15
  + 50% urban and growing (Lagos 9 mil)
  + Hausa, Fulani, Igbo, Yoruba = 68%; 250 ethnic groups. 500 languages.
* Ethnoreligious & Geographical Cleavages
  + Berlin Conference 1884. Yoruba nationalist Obafemi Awolowo describes Nigeria as a "mere geographical expression."
  + Legacy of British “indirect rule”. If India was the “Jewel in the Crown”, West Africa was the “Bastard Child” of imperialism.
  + Massive northern emirates; Small kingdoms and village-republics in south and Middle Belt. Conspiracy to divide and conquer.
  + Christian-Muslim Divide. Fundamentalist, charismatic religious expressions. Shariah. Boko Haram.
  + Legacies of Biafran Civil War (1966-70)
* Corruption
  + Transparency International score 25/100. 149/179 countries. Endemic.
  + Curse of Black Gold. Top 10 Oil Producer. Rentier State. “National Cake”; Intensifies ethnic, regional, and religious divisions.
  + Clientelism. The Ogas & Beyond.
  + Rule of law. End SARS (2017-)
* Economic Distress
  + Poverty! 40% according to gov. WB argues 50% under $2 day. Children most vulnerable. Cumulative cleavage.
  + 152 out of 157 countries on the World Bank’s Human Capital Index.
  + WB Structural Adjustment Programs
* Education: 3rd best in Africa (Egypt & S. Africa)
* Patriarchy. “Dual Sex System”
* Environment. The Delta and Beyond.
* Top five strongest militaries in Africa (of 54). U.S. Aid.
* Healthy civil society and robust media
  + Regionally and ethnoreligiously segregated
  + Freedom House 50/100
  + Political Rights 25/40
  + Civil Liberties 25/60

Political Structures & Functions

* + Federalism. Promote nationalism?
  + Presidentialism. Promote C&B. Common Law. Sharia Law
  + Lacking centralized, disciplined, programmatic political parties. PDP, APC fluid and accommodating, but lacking in clear vision.
  + Coups, countercoups, civil war, secessionism
  + Democratic Consolidation. Nigeria is 60 years old. Civilian rule (“democracy”) is 20. Fraud. Democratic hopes correlated with economic performance.
  + From the “Sick Man of Africa” where “Things Fall Apart” to Africa’s Hope…and back again?
* “Hard experience shows that if you have a large number of citizens who do not yet fully grasp even the concept of the state, who are largely very poor and un­educated, who struggle daily to survive and [are] susceptible to a $5 bribe, democracy sometimes seems like a sham. And we have to think about if there are other ways. In a society, some will be more ready than others. I cannot think of an example of a reasonably successful democracy that started out with universal franchise. What I haven’t figured out yet is what should be the criteria for the franchise. - Dele Olojede, a Nigerian Pulitzer Prize–winning newspaper editor, questioned about universal suffrage at The Aspen Ideas Festival
* “It was difficult not to wonder whether [Obansanjo] would play the role of an African Mikhail Gorbachev, who, while trying to reform a rotten system, oversaw its dismemberment.” -Karl Maier from *This House Has Fallen*
* Nigeria is like being on an airplane that has just been taken over by hijackers. You do not want to compromise with the gunmen, but the prime concern is to land the plane, so there is no choice but to give in.’ – Sully Abu, Nigerian journalist