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### NIGERIA-BRITISH RELATIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA IN THE POST-BREXIT ERA

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#### **ABSTRACT:**

The United Kingdom is number one of Nigeria's closest allies, the reason being that Britain, after colonizing Nigeria for about fifty (50) years after the 1914 Amalgamation, left behind a legacy that has continued to influence most aspects of Nigerian national life. Against this backdrop, this paper seeks to examine Nigeria-British relations in the post-Brexit era and its impact on Nigeria in particular. The paper relies on secondary data and utilizes the content analysis for interpretation of data collected. The social contagion effect was adopted as the theoretical framework of analysis. The paper, therefore, concludes that the United Kingdom's exit from the European Union (EU) will have negative implications for Nigeria in the long-run. In the final analysis, it recommends among other things that, the two nations should always emphasize factors that promote understanding in their relations for the mutual benefits of both countries.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The consequences of the Brexit vote will take many years to unfold because the United Kingdom's decision to exit the European Union (EU) is fraught with political, economic, diplomatic and immigration implications that would spread far, beyond the borders of the Island nations. There have been some controversies over Britain's membership of the EU; the current economic challenges flowing from the Brexit will not go unnoticed globally, especially among her large economic and political allies, including Nigeria. According to Frost (2019, pp. 169-197), Brexit "constitutes a retrograde step in promoting a political and socio-cultural climate which could in the worst case become similar to that of Apartheid South Africa. For example, in policing

borders and forming a reserve-pool of migrant labourers which can be admitted or not, depending on the national interest, thus, depriving this globalized lumpen-proletariat of basic individual rights, declassing it in terms of racist, religious and gender and denying basic rules of the global free market of goods to human beings. The outcome of all these might very well include severe conflicts within the state and between states when radical right-wing nationalist start to defend their perceived legitimate interest with violent means/ including neo-fascist militias like in pre-war Europe in the 1920s. The Backlash well turn to asymmetrical warfare, labelled as 'terrorism' by the populist majority". Thus, Brexit is "a signal that political unions can no longer be seen as self-perpetuating, ultimate" (Ogbinye & Okereke, 2020, p. 315). According to Namusoke (2016, p. 472), Britain exit from EU "was suggested by the British racism and xenophobia".

However, the consequences of the Brexit vote will take many years to unfold because Britain's decision to exit the European Union (EU) is fraught with political, economic, diplomatic and immigration implications that would spread far, beyond the borders of the Island nations. There have been some controversies over Britain's membership of the EU. Moreover, the current economic challenges flowing from the Brexit will not go unnoticed globally, especially among her large economic and political allies, including Nigeria.

Nigeria's economic and political ties with Great Britain can go a long way to her colonial era and experience. However, Nigeria-British relationship in recent times revolves more around economic relations and other areas of mutual interests. Nigeria is today the second Britain largest trading partner in Africa, after South Africa, with trade worth 6 Billion British Pounds (about N2.4 trillion or \$8.52 Billion) in bilateral trade volume by 2016 (Ukwu, 2016 cited in Ogbinye & Okereke, 2020, p. 306). In 2019, UK indicated that "in a case of a no-deal Brexit, it would reduce almost 90% of tariffs to zero, excluding explicitly agricultural products such as dairy and beef as well as butter which Nigeria exports to the UK. Though she promised that least developing countries would get special preferential access to the UK post-Brexit, Nigeria was not on the list of African counties labelled as a least developing economics to which such a treatment would apply (Editorial, 2020).

Today, Nigeria-British relations remain an important research area for scholars in Nigeria. This is for the obvious reason that the relationship between the two countries cannot be treated with levity by either country. In his scholarly work, Westcott (2018, p.12) posits that "for Africa and other developing countries, Brexit is a golden opportunity to secure better access, greater protection and more aid from Britain". Langan (2018) on the other hand, holds that Brexit will open up many potential hazards. Thus, the trust of this paper is to critically analyze the Nigeria-British relations in the post-Brexit era and its implications on Nigeria's national life.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This paper adopted a qualitative research design as it relies on secondary data collected from documentations through published books, journal articles and

internet sources, and were content analyzed about the scope of the paper. That is a systematic review of the extant literature on the Nigeria-British relations in the post-Brexit era and its implications on Nigeria national life.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

### *Brexit*

The term 'Brexit' is used to describe Britain's (United Kingdom) decision to exit the European Union (EU). According to Gadu (2019, p.17), the term 'Brexit' is "a Slogan for Britain's quest to exit the EU to which it has been a member since 1973 during the conservative government of Prime Minister Edward Heath. Its relationship with the EU has been highly acrimonious due to some differences ranging from immigration, agriculture, monetary and financial to governance politics". However, Dennison and Carl (2016, p. 1) hold that "there are more remote causes to the Brexit vote other than the immediate causes (dissatisfaction with Britain's EU membership and xenophobia). But, Britain is the least well-integrated EU member states; essentially the least European country and has a comparatively less European self-identity and lower trust in the EU". This is a fact that stems from certain historical features, namely: (i) Britain is the only allied European power not to have occupied the position of power during the Second World War, (ii) it has its legal system which contrasts with the civil law system of continental Europe, (iii) it has an established church which caused most British Christians to own their allegiance to a national institution headed by the Monarch rather than to an international institution headed by the Pope, (iv) Britain is an island whose surrounding waters have partially isolated it from cultural development on the continent and (v) the rise in EU immigration which began in the late 1990s and the Euro-zone debt crisis which precipitated mass unemployment across Southern Europe.

In the view of Riley and Ghiles (2016, p. 1), Brexit was "influenced by the following extremely damaging blows: (i) the economic crisis of 2008, (ii) the self-inflicted damage from failure to deal with the flaws of the Euro following the crisis, (iii) Russian success in upsetting the post-Cold War balance of power in Europe, (iv) terrorist attacks from ISIS and immense migration flows into the Union and (v) Britain's history which differs from that of its European neighbours and its position as an unconquered island nation". Thus, Britain was never that sympathetic to the European ideal but only joined rather because there did not seem to be any other option than joining the then more prosperous Western European Democracies. Igbini, Oluka and Oharisi (2020, p. 2) and Ogbinyi and Okereke (2020, pp. 311-312) noted that "Britain has always found herself being caged by EU's policies. Outlining its grievances upon Brexit, Britain alludes to sovereignty and immigration as the major reasons for exit. The first factor follows from the data collected and collated from the polling team of Lord Ashcroft, who questioned 12, 369 of the voters of June 23, 2016 referendum. The poll showed that about 49% (nearly half) of the 'leave' voters said the biggest single reason for wanting to exit the EU was 'the principle that decisions about the UK should take n in the UK. The poll also revealed that 33% of the leave voters said their main reason was that leaving offered the best chance for the UK to regain control over immigration

and its borders". However, Britain exit from the EU was not without consequences.

### ***Effects of Brexit on Britain***

The Britain exit from the EU took place on January 31, 2020, as administered by the withdrawal agreement signed on January 24, 2020. The agreement provides for a transition period until December 31, 2020, to renegotiate the long-term relationship between the UK and the EU. At this point, it is important to note that the EU is a political and economic union of twenty-eight (28) countries that promote ease of trade and free movement of people between member states. It was set up as a leading agent state. It was set up as a leading agent of peace, an antidote to the extreme mercantilism, nationalism or realism which had pervaded Europe, causing bloody wars between neighbours, and which culminated in the Second World War. The main objectives of EU include but not limited to the following: to develop an international single market through a standardized system of laws and bring about political and economic integration, cooperation and interdependence among member states - for the promotion of peace, the liberalization of trade, opposing tariff barriers, domestic subsidies, sanctions and other economic tools that distort the free flow of trade and investment capital a goal which was mutual with that of Britain. Thus, the philosophical root of EU according to Ogbinyi and Okereke (2020, p. 307) is "liberalism, a Doctrine of International Political Economic, incubated by David Hume and later, developed by Adam Smith in his work 'Wealth of the Nation'. For liberals, the goal of economic policy is to create a maximum total wealth by achieving optional efficiency".

Brexit has political implications which suggest a resurgence of political realism and this is contrary to the liberal undertones of the European Union. According to Irwin (2015, p. 5), Brexit "favours economic nationalism, mercantilist doctrines of protectionism an emphasis on national interest over international interest. This will distort the harmony and peace that was sought for in the European Union. It also has economic implications for other states". However, Riley and Ghiles (2016, p. 1) posit that "Brexit may mark the beginning of the end of the European Union as we have known it. They further argued that the process of UK exit from the EU is likely to fragment union solidarity, opening fissures that will be difficult to close". However, the following are the effects of Brexit on Britain: (i) the UK becomes less attractive as a gateway to Europe, as a base for Corporate Head Quarters and as a location for investment from Europe, (ii) The UK loses influence over EU's regulation without gaining much freedom to regulate independently, (iii) the UK will find it harder to resolve trade disputes, (iv) the UK will lose the benefit of being able to influence both in and through the EU, impacting on economic and foreign policy interest and (v) the UK will gains flexibility over industrial policy but loses the benefits from scale and influence (Irwin 2015 p. 6).

The impact of Brexit on the UK was made worse by the Covid-19 pandemic. UK trade with the rest of the world was badly affected by the Corona crisis with large falls in both the import and export of fuels, cars, clothing and works of art (Office for National Statistics of London, 2020). The potential negative

economic effects of the Brexit on the UK (Kohnert, 2020, p. 2) would further aggravate the looming economic recession, mass underemployment and unemployment. Also, Helm and Makie (2020) penned that a no-deal Brexit would wreck the UK's chance of leading Covid-19 global research. Nobel Scientist, Andre Geim at Manchester University warned that UK will lose 'superpower status' if access barred to the EU's EURO 85billion research funding scheme, Horizon Europe, which will run from 2021-2027. Also, the UK's ambitions concerning the opening up of African markets is even more doubtful, because the remaining 27 European Union's members do not lie low.

### ***Nigeria-British Relations: Implications for Nigeria in the Post-Brexit Era***

Nigeria is a member of the British Commonwealth and is equally UK's second-largest trading partner in Africa after South Africa with EURO 6billion (about N2.4 trillion) in bilateral trade volume by 2016 (Ukwu, 2017) and EURO10billion (about N4.3 trillion) in 2019 (Igbin *et al.*, 2020). However, the main concerns of Nigerian observers, analysts and scholars are not Britain's exit from the EU, but the implications of the Brexit on the existing political and economic ties, between Britain and Nigeria which is the second close alliance and mutually dependent country to Britain after South Africa and the Commonwealth Nations. Thus, there no doubt that the sustenance of post-Brexit would dependent on actions and policies which differ significantly from the Pre-Brexit epoch that could create challenges in the existing diplomatic relationship between EU, UK and African commonwealth countries especially Nigeria. This may also extend to the other member of EU, USA, etc, who is also Nigeria's trade partners. Langan (2016, p 477) posits that "Brexit, on balance, offers fewer opportunities for commonwealth African nations' trade positions' trade position vic-a-vis European partners while opening up many potential hazards". In short, Brexit could bring increased ambiguity and resilience, new opportunities and investments, but there are some negative implications for Nigeria in the Post-Brexit, which is the mainstream of this paper. In the view of Razzaque and Vickers (2016, p.3), "the prospect of the UK formulating new trade policies in the post-Brexit era would have damaging implications on the existing Economic Partnership Agreement between EU and the African Commonwealth countries, especially Nigeria. Thus, Nigeria is likely to face more critical issues in her foreign policy formulation and implementation in the post-Brexit era due to her close ties with Britain and the EU member states that have bilateral economic ties with Nigeria. Therefore, the effects of Brexit on Nigeria are as follows:

#### ***i. Economic Effects***

Apart from South Africa, Nigeria is the most important African trading partner with Britain. Since 1973, Nigeria has been the fourth-largest supplier of crude oil to Britain providing an annual average of 12million barrels. The UK government in 2017 claims, that the liberalized post-Brexit trade policy would enhance the sales prospects of African economics (RAS-APPG, 2017). However, the Britain-African investment summit, in London on January 18, 2020, provided Premier Johnson with the opportunity to explain his vision of an enhanced partnership with African countries in the post-Brexit era. It appears that Nigeria and Britain are not close trading partners. Nigeria accounts for less than 0.5% of the UK's trade, and reserves less than 3-4% of

Nigeria's goods trade. On the contrary, UK trade is dominated by China (15%), India (12%), Netherlands (8%) and USA (8%) which also account for around 40% of Nigeria's total goods trade (Editorial, 2020; Kohnert, 2020). Today, Nigeria follows a strategy of Import substitution and 'catching-up-development' and thus prefers to strengthen its manufacturing sector itself rather than to help UK boost its manufacturing sector and exports within the framework of a post-colonial division of labour where the former colony would serve as a supplier of raw materials, notably oil and oil products which still account for 98% of Nigeria's exports to the UK. Now, Nigeria's government under President Buhari administration offers to extend agricultural exports to the UK which languished about 2% up to date, but unfortunately, agriculture is probably the last sector to which the UK would be opening up its border (Editorial, 2020).

Moreover, Igbini *et al.* (2020, p. 3) affirm that "since the UK has been the biggest market for Nigeria, Nigeria may face much higher tariffs in her exports to the UK and other EU member states following Brexit. This means that Nigeria may also experience double impacts in its trade relations with the UK and EU respectively. Also, since Nigeria's economic stability to some extent is tied to the provisions of the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS), and further externally to the umbrellas of the Commonwealth, EU and UK relations, Nigeria's economy may be threatened by post-Brexit diplomacy". Though, UK boasts of protecting nascent African industries with its post-Brexit policy in contrast to the EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs). However, the case of 'no-deal' Brexit, all African nations will no longer have preferential access to the UK if Britain does not succeed to negotiate new bilateral trade agreements in post-Brexit. Although, UK government pledged to maintain quota-free, duty-free access for all least developed countries (LDCs) to the UK market under the Everything but Arms (EBA) agreement (Westcott, 2008). But this pledged can only be achieved if the UK get its priorities right, concentrating its negotiations first on the biggest Commonwealth players like Canada, Australia, South African and Nigeria. However, "within the remaining EU member states, the African Commonwealth countries may lose the UK as intermediary and advocate for which UK accounts for about 25%-30% of their exports to the EU. This could result in a stronger Francophone and Lusophone bias of the EU's Africa trade relations at the expense of the African Commonwealth. On the other hand, the EU is unlikely to re-negotiate EPAs in near future to adapt it to Brexit" (Bishop & Clegg, 2018, p.5). Besides, it is doubtful whether the UK on its own could compete better with other trade interests in the global run for African's resources such as China, India etc, than within the EU partnership (Kohnert, 2018, p. 6).

In the views of Oyedoyin (2020, p. 7), Brexit is "a second chance for the UK to re-launch herself into the global arena as an independent developed nation in this era of competitive globalization and multi-polar world order. Moreover, Britain going global on an independent level will no doubt open a new and better frontier for the commonwealth and African countries such as Nigeria. In this new age of advanced technology coupled with rising demand for technology transfer, Nigeria is in a good position to make genuine gains but

only if the government can solidly reposition itself and have good negotiations with UK and EU that are likely to focus their attention in Africa. The Nigerian government has a better opportunity to address the issues affecting its commodity produce in terms of quality and international standardization that would meet the UK as well as other partners import regulatory systems". However, with the event of Brexit, the bilateral trade between Nigeria and the UK, currently valued at EURO 6billion (about \$8.2billion) and projected to reach EURO 20 billion by the end of 2020 will be disrupted as trade agreements made under the auspices of the EU have to be renegotiated, especially at a time when the Nigerian government is trying to fix an economy on the brink of a recession by removing subsidies (Ogbinyi & Okereke, 2020, p. 315).

Today, UK is the leading global hub for 'Financial Technology' (Fintech) which contributes over EURO 5billion to the UK's economy yearly and Nigeria is at the forefront of Fintech innovation in West Africa. For equitable Nigeria-Britain relations in post-Brexit, there is need for duty-free access and quota-free between both countries.

## *ii. Political Effects*

Nigeria's ties with the UK go a long way to her colonial experience. The fact that Nigeria has adopted a lot of the UK's political and social values is more of a blessing than a curse. However, Brexit intensifies nationalistic pressures among Nigeria's disparate ethnicities. It has heightened secessionist in Nigeria (Ukwu, 2017). In line with the Brexit referendum conclusion on June 23, 2016, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) an Igbo South-East sect agitating for an independent state of Biafra, launched a campaign slogan 'Biafrexit' to give a fillip to their cause. The spoke-persons of IPOB, Dr Chukwuemeka Clifford Ifoanya and Mr Emma Nmezu applauded Brexit in their speech following the 'leave vote'. They said that "the IPOB congratulates the government and good people of Britain for organizing the Brexit vote and applauds the British government for respecting the wishes of her citizenry" (Ukwu, 2017, p. 6; Ogbinyi&Okereke, 2020, 315). Also, the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition (NAFSN) has been assigned a prominent role in post-Brexit Global Britain-plans, especially in African too. However, it has been widely condemned by the Civil Society Organization (CSOs), the European parliament inquiry and the media because of the labour and human right abuses, land grabbing, forcibly displacing local peasants. Thus, in African commonwealth states such as Nigeria, Mozambique, Tanzania and Ghana, the NAFSN could be considered a Trojan horse for the corporate takeover of African agriculture (Langan, 2016, p. 485; Sokin, 2018).

Also, Price (2018) and Bishop and Clegg (2018) posit that the UK condoned at least implicitly, more or less veiled connections to human right abuses, global corruption, illicit financial flows and money laundering. Despite EU warnings, it is not to be excluded that this support will continue or even be reinforced after Brexit, just as the ongoing commitment of the British government to neo-liberal ideologies, which radical economists scholars considered as a representation of British post-colonialism.

It is no longer news that Britain granted political independence to Nigeria in 1960 and the Nigerian nationalists who had their tutelage under British administrators are corrupt and ride on ethnoreligious sentiment to attained political relevance. Thus, a failed, corrupt and inept leadership coupled with the inclement domestic socio-political environment have plunged development performance in Nigeria into the abyss even after 60 years of political independence. Indeed, Nigeria-Britain relations in the post-Brexit may heighten corruption, human right abuses, illicit financial flows and money laundering among Nigerian politicians. This is because the history of Nigeria is tainted with the absence of good moral and ethical values in the conduct of the Nigerian ruling elites even to date.

### *iii. Security Effects*

Beyond economic and political implications, Ajasa, 2016 cited Ogbinyi and Okereke (2020, p. 315) holds that “since the UK is a key partner in Nigeria’s security, it has been crucial to drawing international attention to the Boko Haram insurgency in Northeast of Nigeria. The effect of Brexit is that the UK would become distracted from this security threat”. According to Duke (2018, pp. 44-45), the UK government has repeatedly claimed that its defence expenditures are the largest in the EU, that it has the largest defence industry, and that it has contributed to most of the operations and missions of the EU common security and Defence policy (CSDP). However, the UK has exaggerated its input deliberately to enhance its bargaining position for a new post-Brexit security partnership with the EU which would include the issues of defence, cybersecurity and external migration. The UK provided just 2.3% of the cost of all CSDP missions, or 4.3% of that operation to which it contributed, according to data from the European University Institutions”. This is considerably less, for example than France, Spain or Italy contributions to civilian and military operations. Moreover, the UK government did not contribute to most missions in Africa, apart from the mission at the Horn of Africa intended to secure the seaways from Europe to Asia. Instead, France assumed the lead in nearly all of these missions (Kohnett, 2018, p. 12).

In supporting the above view, Duke (2018, p. 45) affirms that "the former UK Ambassador to the political and security Committee admitted openly that UK's CSDP contributions trended to be more about leadership and diplomatic support than about troops". However, to avert a post-Brexit dominance of the French military approach in Africa, especially in Nigeria. It would be crucial for both the UK and the EU to find a post-Brexit agreement for the Maghreb and Sahel countries to stem irregular migration, organized crime and the growth of jihadist groups and terrorism.

### *iv. Immigration Effects*

Today, Nigerians living in the UK, as well as those hoping for visa applications to the UK, are concerned about their status. Nigeria which has larger visa applications to the UK since 1960, may now experience the strict application in the post-Brexit UK. According to Ukwu (2017), post-Brexit UK would foster anti-immigration which will affect Nigeria who has a large population of its citizens in Diaspora. Moreover, in the views of Collier (2018), the problem of migration which is inseparably intertwined with the

Brexit vote will not disappear with the UK's exit from the EU. Rebuilding economic incentives around mutual interests and reciprocity within the framework of a humane from the globalization will be one of the big relations between the UK, the EU and Africa. In fact, "the demand for lifting visa restrictions for Nigerian met with little response both by Johnson and British workers who presumably afraid of 'unfair competition' by the many informal low-paid Nigerians in their country and the latter's bad repute as drug dealers and criminals. Today, many of the Nigerians residents in Britain were afraid of a backlash against immigrants in Britain in post-Brexit when Britain has had their wish stemming the tide of immigrants to Britain (Daily Trust, 2020).

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

To Place this paper in its proper perspective, there is a need for a theoretical framework. The social contagion effect was adopted in this paper as the theoretical framework of analyzing to achieve the goal of a comprehensive review. While there are several theories which might prove appropriate for a discourse of this nature, the social contagion effect presents us with a heuristic tool for interrogating the central issue of the study. Based on the work of Blumer (1939), social contagion refers to "the relatively rapid, unwitting and non-rational dissemination of a mood, impulse or form or conduct" (Blumer, 1939, p. 176). As examples, he cited the spread of crazes, manias, fads, patriotic hysteria and financial panic, fads, patriotic hysteria and financial panic. He further maintained that social contagion occurred when collective excitement is intense and widespread and that it can attract and infect individuals who began as detached and indifferent spectators and by-standers. Reasoning along a similar line, Red (1949, p. 319) noted that "behaviours that have a high affinity to a group mood have a greater probability of contagion. This social factor determines more the 'when' and 'how far' of a contagion effect than the why'.

Today, the UK is Nigeria's largest source of foreign investment. In 2019, the UK contributed over 41% of Nigeria's foreign investment which stood at US\$7.3 billion (Editorial, 2020). With this in mind, therefore, it is not farfetched that the social contagion effect follows Brexit to Nigeria. Henokl (2017, p. 70) affirms that "Brexit will not only challenge European integration but will also put African regional integration at risk. This is because African regional trade, especially Nigeria is characterized by overlaps between regional organizations with competing agendas". According to Westcott (2018), it is unlikely that new and better deals between both the EU and Africa and the UK and Africa as a consequence of Brexit will materialize soon; the EU and the UK will first focus on their most important global, partners and competitors when reassessing their international partnerships and relationship. Under these conditions, a win-win situation and a partnership of equals between Britain and Nigeria in the post-Brexit is unlikely. Nigeria which is one of the major beneficiaries of the old world economic order may face more critical problem in her bilateral and multilateral relations in the post-Brexit epoch due to her close ties with EU member states and Britain. Therefore, the bilateral relations between Nigeria and Britain may sink to a low ebb in the post-Brexit era, because it is doubtful whether Britain will offer something

that other countries with increasing interest in Nigeria do not already have on their agenda, especially China.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Nigeria membership of the commonwealth is a major factor that has contributed, to the continued cordial Nigeria-Britain relations. Olusanya (1986, p. 8) argues that "Nigeria joined the commonwealth immediately after her independence in 1960 mainly to remain as a partner in progress with the British even at multilateral level". Today, both the Nigerian government under the Buhari's administration and a great lot of Nigerians are hopeful with the post-Brexit plans of a new deal with Britain. On January 20, 2020, Johnson maintained in an article titled 'A New Case for a Commonwealth based on Trade', that the long-standing bilateral relations between the two countries had been confirmed among others by the 2018 bilateral security pact and collaboration in anti-trafficking. A new free trade agreement would present new opportunities for both countries, notably because Nigeria's vast natural energy and mineral resources, unbarred through the ending of custom barriers could help supply the much-needed growth stimulus for companies in Britain and greater access to Britain's market would also give a stimulus to one of the world's fastest expanding consumer groups with considerable purchasing power, the Nigerian middle class. More so, the greater engagement of Britain in Nigeria's economy would generate employment to the under-tapped sector, such as manufacturing and agriculture.

However, it is clear beyond doubt that Britain is likely to shift its attention to the commonwealth which it has a dominant position, an advantage Britain may prioritize in the post-Brexit era. This is because the majority of the member countries of the Commonwealth of Nations are former British colonies and the majority of these countries are dependent economies from the South, another advantage that Britain is likely to explore in the post-Brexit trade diplomacy. Also, the economic exchange between Nigerian and Britain since 1960 have been more beneficial to Britain, yet it one goes to show that Nigeria government still has a lot to do to measure up to the development efforts and productive capacity of her former colonial master. This is a great task to our political leaders who must facilitate the political and economic development of the country. In conclusion, the UK exit from the EU will have negative implications for Nigeria in the long-run due to its ties with the UK and EU member's states. In light of the above conclusion, the following recommendations were made:

1. The two nations should always emphasize factors that promote understanding in their relations for the mutual benefits of both countries.
2. Nigerian government should a partnership of equals and currency equilibrium in the post-Brexit new deals with Britain.
3. Britain government should strive to ensure that the economic systems it put in place create shared economic prosperity in the post-Brexit era.
4. Self-preservation, not love, is the strongest force on earth. Therefore, the Nigerian government should cultivate and sustain trade relations with China, Russia, USA and France besides the UK to be more relevant and more visible in the comity of nations.

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