

Review of: "Government interference in election administration and lethal electoral irregularities in Africa: Evidence from Nigeria"

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The article by Uchenna C. Obiagu and Ifeanyichukwu M. Abada titled "Government Interference in Election Management: Explaining Electoral Irregularities in Nigeria" offers a thorough analysis of how interference by the government with Nigeria's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has led to electoral irregularities. The research uses a micro-level analysis to clarify the problem, drawing on key informant interviews, accessible documentation, and personal experiences.

The importance of the 1990s as a decade of democratic transformations throughout Africa, including Nigeria, is emphasized by the writers right from the outset. They place a strong emphasis on the creation of electoral management bodies (EMBs), which are important entities in charge of holding trustworthy elections. The research contends that despite constitutional protections for INEC's independence, intervention by the government in INEC's operations, finances, and membership has made it less able to guarantee credible elections.

According to the report, Nigeria's faulty elections have not only generated controversy and contention but have also descended into violence and proven fatal. It draws attention to how heavily armed elections are, how common hate speech is, and how political parties interfere with elections. The report contends that meddling by the government, motivated by a desire to hold onto power, has led to persistent voting anomalies that have weakened public faith in the democratic process.

The authors contend that Nigeria's situation serves as an example of a regime that employs democratic institutions for the aim of upholding authoritarian control by drawing on the idea of illiberal democracy. They talk about how illiberal democracies, which are characterized by rigged and manipulated elections, undercut democratic ideals and restrict the capacity of people to pick leaders based on policy concerns.

The article's conclusion emphasizes the need of changes driven by the will of the people to thwart governmental meddling in election administration. It emphasizes the need of bolstering the independence of EMBs and addressing the underlying factors behind electoral anomalies in order to push for an electoral system that is acceptable to the majority of the voting public.

Overall, the essay offers insightful information on Nigeria's electoral management issues and how government meddling

contributes to ongoing voting anomalies. To bolster its claims, it draws on a variety of data sources and analytical techniques. The study's results add to the body of knowledge on electoral procedures in developing nations and emphasize how crucial it is to run elections with independence and integrity.