The Impact of Arab Spring on Nigeria's Democracy 2010-2022

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Abstract

The Arab Spring's revolutionary wave had far-reaching consequences beyond the Middle East, influencing democratic movements globally. This study examines the effect of the Arab Spring on Nigeria's democratic state, focusing on the period between 2010 & 2022. However, the study is aimed at investigating how the Arab Spring inspired Nigeria's civil society, influenced electoral reforms, and shaped the country's democratic discourse. This study is therefore, important as it will bring to the lime light the impact of the Arab Spring to the global environment. This study used multi-disciplinary approach to generate data, and the qualitative method was also adopted in the analysis of the data generated. The research findings reveal that the Arab Spring emboldened Nigeria's civil society, leading to increased protests and advocacy for democratic reforms, prompted electoral reforms, through the introduction of card reader technology, fostered a growing awareness of democratic rights and civic engagement among the Nigerian youth. However, this study also

highlights the challenges which includes: the Nigerian government's repression of protests and civil society activism, the persistence of electoral violence and manipulation, and the complex interplay between ethnicity, religion, and politics in Nigeria's democratic landscape. In conclusion, this study has contributed to the understanding of the Arab Spring's global impact and Nigeria's democratic trajectory. It recommends strengthened international cooperation, civic education, and institutional reforms to consolidate Nigeria's democratic gains.

Keywords: Arab Spring, Nigeria, democracy, civil society, institutional reforms,

Introduction

The Arab Spring, a series of pro-democracy protests and uprisings that swept across the Middle East and North Africa beginning in late 2010, has had profound implications not only within its immediate geographical context but also beyond it, influencing political dynamics in various regions, including sub-Saharan Africa. In Nigeria, a Nation characterized by its complex ethnic diversity and historical struggles with governance, the echoes of the Arab Spring resonate through its ongoing quest for democratic consolidation. The events that unfolded during this period sparked discussions about governance expectations, civil society engagement, and the role of youths in advocating for political change. The Arab Spring was ignited by widespread dissatisfaction with authoritarian regimes, economic hardship, and demands for greater political freedoms. This wave of uprisings led to significant changes in countries like Tunisia and Egypt, where long-standing leaders were ousted. The success of these movements inspired similar sentiments in Nigeria, where citizens began to express their frustrations against corruption, poor governance, and lack of accountability from their leaders. The protests highlighted a growing awareness among Nigerians about their rights and the importance of civic engagement in shaping their political landscape.

In Nigeria, the Arab Spring served as both a warning and an inspiration. While it underscored the potential for mass mobilization against oppressive regimes, it also illustrated the risks associated with such movement’s namely violent crackdowns and instability. As Nigerian citizens observed the outcomes of protests in other nations, they became increasingly vocal about their demands for transparency and reform within their own government structures. This period saw a rise in activism

among youth groups who utilized social media platforms to organize demonstrations such as the #EndSARS movement against police brutality and #EndBadGovernment against harsh governmental policies such as removal of fuel subsidy which resulted to hardship. Despite these movements toward democratization inspired by the Arab Spring, Nigeria continues to face significant challenges. Issues such as entrenched corruption, ethnic tensions, and inadequate infrastructure hinder progress toward a fully functional democratic state. Moreover, while there is a vibrant civil society pushing for reforms, many governmental responses have been repressive rather than accommodating. The lessons learned from the Arab Spring highlights both the potential for change through collective action and the necessity for sustained efforts to build resilient democratic institutions. While the Arab Spring has provided valuable insights into citizen-led movements for democracy worldwide including Nigeria it also serves as a reminder of the complexities involved in achieving lasting political change. As Nigerians continue to navigate their democratic journey amidst various socio-political challenges, understanding these dynamics remains crucial for fostering an environment conducive to genuine reform.

Keywords

The Arab Spring

The Arab Spring refers to a wave of anti-government protests and uprisings that swept across the Middle East and North Africa from 2010 - 2012 demanding democratic reforms, human rights and social justice because of their discontent with authoritarian governments, economic inequality, corruption, and lack of political freedom.

Nigeria

Nigeria is a vibrant country of diversity located in West Africa, known for its rich cultural heritage and bustling cities with over 250 ethnic groups and multiple spoken languages ranging from the Hausa-Fulani in the north, to the Yoruba in the southwest and the Igbo in the southeast, Nigeria's diversity is one of its greatest assets.

Democracy

Democracy is a system of government which the supreme power has vested in the people exercised by them directly through states or indirectly through a system of representation.

Civil Society

Civil society refers to the network of organizations, association and individuals outside the government and business sectors that work together to promote social, cultural and economic development.

Institutional Reforms

Institutional reform refers to the process of transferring or reconstructuring an organization or system to improve its effectiveness, efficiency and accountability.

Theoretical Frame Work

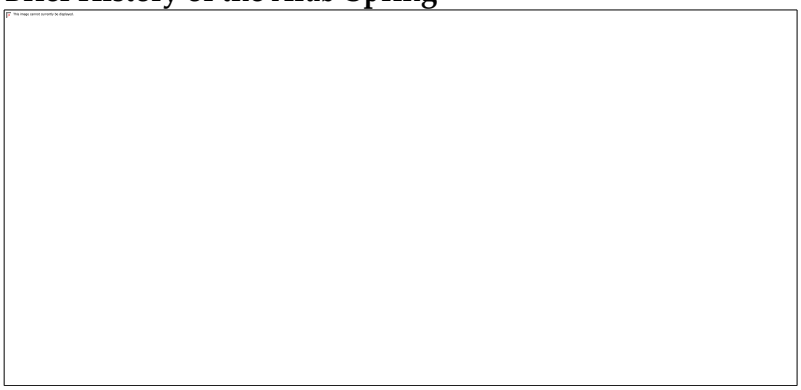
Bad Apple Theory

Theories are established facts, ideas, or principles that explain a phenomenon, it is on this premise, that this study adopted the ideas from the bad apple and frustration and aggression theory as a pointer or a road map in the discus of the topic under study. The "Bad Apple Theory," suggests that a single corrupt or oppressive leader can spoil the entire system and prompt a popular uprising. However, the study explores the bad apple theory in relation to the events of the Arab Spring and analyzes its implications for understanding political change in the region. The "bad apple theory" is a concept that suggests that the behavior of a few individuals within an organization can have a negative impact on the entire group. This theory, also known as the "rotten apple theory" or the "one bad apple theory," posits that the actions of a single individual can spread and contaminate the group as a whole. This theory is often used to explain instances of corruption, misconduct, or unethical behavior within organizations. In application of the bad apple theory in the discus of the Arab Spring, the actions of the dictators in power their repression of dissent, human rights abuses, and corruption created a sense of anger and frustration among the population, ultimately leading to mass protests and calls for regime change. This dynamic underscores the role of individual leaders in shaping the trajectory of a country, for better or for worse.

Frustration and Aggression Theory

Frustration and Aggregation theory which is associated with Dollard's, on the other hand, suggests that individuals are more likely to take collective action when they perceive that others are also experiencing similar frustrations. This sense of solidarity and shared grievances can help to mobilize people and build momentum for social movements. In relation to the Arab Spring, the use of social media and other forms of communication helped to aggregate individual frustrations and spark a wave of protests and uprisings across the region. The ability to connect with others and share information on social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook allowed individuals to spread information quickly and organize protests and demonstrations in real-time.

Brief History of the Arab Spring



In 2010, the Arab world began to experience what would be considered just one of a series of mass violent protests that would take place over the coming years. What initially began as a Tunisian man's struggle to highlight corruption in the Tunisian bureaucracy, transformed into a broader movement aimed at overthrowing Arab leaders throughout the region? This wave of mobilization has since spread throughout much of the Arab world. It was a revolutionary wave of both violent and non-violent demonstrations, protests, riots, coups, foreign interventions, and civil wars that began in Tunisia and Egypt toppled their regimes in quick succession, inspiring similar attempts in other Arab countries. Not every country saw success in the movement protest, however, and demonstrators expressing their political and economic grievances were often met with violent crackdowns

by their countries' security forces. Economic and political factors are some of the causes of the revolutions and protests like; High cost of living, Increased food grains, Under Development, Unemployment, Deprivation fundamental human rights like that of right to vote, right to liberty, right to expression and association, High level of Corruption, Economic Instability stability.



The first demonstrations took place in central Tunisia in December 2010, catalyzed by the self-immolation of Mohamed Bouazizi, a 26-year-old street vendor protesting his treatment by local officials. Mohamed Bouazizi was a street vendor who sold fruits and vegetables and had a low income. He was insulted and harassed by the police officers who demanded bribe. Mohamed Bouazizi was really mad and went to the local governor to complain but his complaint didn't get the attention of the governor. Therefore, Mohamed Bouazizi set himself in fire in front of the governor's office and as a result he got severe injuries. Mohamed Bouazizi's treatment by officials quickly became a focal point for public anger, and his struggles with underemployment and corruption came to be seen as emblematic of the economic and societal difficulties facing ordinary Tunisians, especially young people.

Not long after the incident, Mohamed Bouazizi died of his injuries on January 4, 2011. The death of Mohamed Bouazizi caused anger in Tunisian, and citizen led the protest movement known as Jasmine Revolution. Jasmine Revolution demanded the removal of President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali's authoritarian regimes that ruled in Tunisia since 1987.

Tunisia's Uprisings

The Tunisian government attempted to end the unrest by using violence against street demonstrations and by offering political and economic concessions. However, protests soon overwhelmed the country's security forces, compelling President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali to step down and flee the country on January 14, 2011. In October 2011, Tunisians participated in a free election to choose members of a council tasked with drafting a new constitution. A democratically chosen president and prime minister took office in December 2011, and a new constitution was promulgated in January 2014. In October–November 2019, Tunisia became the first country of the Arab Spring protests to undergo a peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected government to another.

Egypt's Uprisings

A crowd of demonstrators walks through Cairo to demand the end of President Hosni Mubarak's nearly 30 years in power. Internet and mobile services were disrupted across the country before a new wave of protests planned after Friday prayers. Thousands of police were ordered onto the streets of Cairo, Suez and Alexandria to quell anti-government demonstrations. Protesters continued to defy the military-imposed curfew. About 250,000 people gathered in Cairo's Tahrir Square and hundreds marched through Alexandria while hundreds of thousands of anti-government protesters gathered in Tahrir Square for what they termed the "Day of Departure". Supporters of embattled President Mubarak ride camels and horses as they clash with protesters in Tahrir. Up to 1,500 people were injured at least three deaths were reported. Amid rumours that he would be stepping down that night, Mubarak gave a televised speech that he said was "from the heart". He repeated his promise to not run in the next presidential election and to "continue to shoulder" his responsibilities in the "peaceful transition" that he said would take place in September. After 18 days of protests, Omar Suleiman, the vice

president, announced that Mubarak would resign as president and hand over power to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces.

After several days of massive demonstrations and clashes between protesters and security forces in Cairo and around the country, a turning point came at the end of the month when the Egyptian army announced that it would refuse to use force against protesters calling for the removal of President Hosni Mubarak. Having lost the support of the military, Mubarak left office on February 11 after nearly 30 years, ceding power to a council of senior military officers

Yemen Uprising

President Ali Abdullah Saleh's base of support was damaged when a number of the country's most powerful tribal and military leaders aligned themselves with the pro-democracy protesters calling for him to step down. *"Saleh needs to form a new government,"* said Mohammed Al-Ashwal, the director of political affairs for Yemen's Islamic party, Islah. *"We've had enough of being left on the sidelines. Let the Yemeni people decide who will rule them in clean, fair elections together we fight against poverty, corruption and injustice"*. When negotiations to remove Saleh from power failed, loyalist and opposition fighters clashed in Sanaa. Saleh left Yemen in June to receive medical treatment after he was injured in a bomb attack, raising hopes among the opposition that a transition would begin. Saleh returned to the country unexpectedly four months later.

In November 2011 Saleh signed an international agreement calling for transfer of power to the vice president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. In accordance with the agreement, Hadi took over governing responsibility immediately and formally assumed the presidency after standing as the sole candidate in a presidential election in February 2012. Unable to improve conditions or maintain stability, however, Hadi's government faced armed confrontation and rebellion that in 2014 devolved into a civil war. "Today's demonstrations send a loud and clear message that Yemen is a democratic country and that the people here are both safe and stable. It's now up to Yemen's political parties to reach an agreement and move forward," said Tariq Shami, the spokesman for Saleh's General People's Congress party.

Libya's Uprisings

Libya experienced unrest and rioting on an almost daily basis for more than two years because the country was caught up in the Arab Spring, a revolutionary wave of demonstrations and civil wars in the Arab world. Protests broke out in the Bahraini capital of Manama on 14 February 2011, against the regime of Muammar al-Qaddafi in mid-February 2011 but quickly escalated into an armed revolt when campaigners occupied an iconic landmark, the Pearl Roundabout. They wanted reform and democracy in a country that has been ruled by the royal al-Khalifa family for more than 200 years.

When the rebel forces appeared to be on the verge of defeat in March, an international coalition led by NATO launched a campaign of air strikes targeting Qaddafi's forces. Although NATO intervention ultimately shifted the military balance in favour of the rebel forces, Qaddafi was able to cling to power in the capital, Tripoli, for several more months. He was forced from power in August 2011 after rebel forces took control of Tripoli. After evading capture for several weeks, Qaddafi was killed in Sirte in October 2011 as rebel forces took control of the city. A Transitional National Council, set up by rebel forces and recognized internationally, took power, but its struggle to exert authority over the country precipitated the outbreak of civil war in 2014.

Syria's Uprising

The Arab Spring in 2011 gave hope to Syrian pro-democracy activist as they witness a successful uprisings that ended the reign of Tunisia's and Egypt's presidents. Lack of freedoms and economic woes drove resentment of the Syrian government, the harsh crackdown of peaceful protesters inflamed public anger after 15 boys were detained and tortured for writing graffiti in support of the Arab Spring. One of the boys, a 13-year-old, was killed after having been brutally tortured. The Syrian government, led by President Bashar al-Assad, responded to the protests by killing hundreds of demonstrators and imprisoning many more.

The government action draws condemnation from international leaders and human rights groups. A leadership council for the Syrian opposition formed in Istanbul in August, and opposition militias began to launch attacks on government forces. In spite of the upheaval, Assad's hold on power appeared strong, as he was

able to retain the support of critical military units composed largely of members of Syria's ʿAlawite minority, to which Assad also belonged. Meanwhile, divisions in the international community made it unlikely that international military intervention, which had proved decisive in Libya, would be possible in Syria. Russia and China vetoed UN Security Council resolutions meant to pressure the Assad regime in October 2011 and February 2012 and vowed to oppose any measure that would lead to foreign intervention in Syria or Assad's removal from power. The arrival of a delegation of peace monitors from the Arab League in December 2011 did little to reduce violence. The escalation of violence, fed by funding and arms from several rival countries interested in the outcome of the situation, culminated in a devastating civil war and a massive refugee crisis affecting millions.

Sources of the Arab Spring

There are underling factors, events and catalysts that contributed to the outbreak of the Arab Spring protest and uprisings which swept the Middle East and North Africa.

Corruption

Corruption is a known issue in many countries around the world, and Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt are no exceptions. In Lebanon, corruption has become deeply entrenched in the political system, with politicians and government officials using their power for personal gain rather than serving the interests of the masses. This has led to a lack of transparency and accountability in government institutions, and has contributed to the country's economic and social instability. Iraq has been plagued by corruption for decades, with government officials engaging in embezzlement, bribery, and nepotism. This has hindered the country's progress and development, and has fueled resentment and unrest among the population. The lack of effective governance and oversight has allowed corruption to flourish, undermining the rule of law and eroding public trust in the government.

In Egypt, corruption is widespread across all levels of society, from grassroots organizations to the highest echelons of power. Bribery and favoritism are common in both the public and private sectors, with rampant corruption stifling economic growth and hindering social progress. The lack of accountability and

oversight has enabled corrupt practices to thrive, perpetuating a culture of impunity and undermining trust in government institutions. Addressing corruption in these countries will require concerted efforts to strengthen accountability mechanisms, promote transparency, and reform institutions to ensure that public officials are held to account for their actions.

Wealth Disparity

Wealth disparity in the countries of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE is a significant political issue that has been growing in recent years. These countries are known for their vast oil reserves and extremely wealthy ruling families, while a large portion of the population still lives in poverty. The gap between the rich and the poor in these countries is staggering, with the wealthiest individuals holding a disproportionate amount of the wealth. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the ruling Saudi royal family has immense wealth and control over the country's resources. Meanwhile, many Saudi citizens struggle to make ends meet, with high levels of unemployment and limited access to education and healthcare. The situation is similar in Qatar and the UAE, where the ruling families and a small elite class control the majority of the wealth, leaving many citizens with little opportunities for economic advancement.

The wealth disparity in these countries has social and political implications as well. The lack of economic opportunities for the majority of the population can lead to feelings of resentment and unrest, which can be exacerbated by the strict control of dissent in these authoritarian regimes. Nevertheless, the concentration of wealth in the hands of a few can hinder the overall economic development of the country, as resources are not distributed equitably.

Poverty and Unemployment

Poverty and unemployment are significant challenges facing the countries of Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine. In Jordan, the poverty rate stands at around 14.4%, with unemployment levels at 19.2%. The refugee crisis has worsened the situation, with many Syrians fleeing conflict seeking refuge in Jordan. The influx of refugees has put pressure on the country's resources and increased competition for jobs, leading to higher levels of unemployment among both Jordanians and refugees. In Egypt, poverty affects approximately 32.5% of the population, with an

unemployment rate of around 9.9%. The country's economy has been struggling in recent years, with political instability and social unrest contributing to the high levels of poverty and unemployment.

The lack of economic opportunities has forced many Egyptians to seek work abroad, leading to a brain drain and further exacerbating the country's economic problems. In Palestine, poverty and unemployment are among the most pressing issues facing the population. The poverty rate in the West Bank and Gaza stands at around 25%, with unemployment levels at a staggering 49%. The ongoing conflict with Israel has severely limited economic growth and development in the region, leading to high levels of poverty and unemployment. The blockade of Gaza has further exacerbated the situation, preventing the free movement of goods and people and hindering economic development in the region. Efforts to address poverty and unemployment in Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine must focus on creating economic opportunities, promoting sustainable growth, and addressing the root causes of poverty and inequality in the region.

Income Inequality

The region has some of the highest levels of income inequality in the world, with a large gap between the rich and the poor. This has led to social tensions and unrest, as marginalized communities demand greater economic opportunities and a more equitable distribution of wealth. The protests in several Middle Eastern countries led to extreme levels of inequality are a key priority in moving toward greater political stability and democracy in the region. The increase in bread prices pushed Sudanese to take to the streets, ultimately leading to the downfall of then president Omar al-Bashir. In Egypt in September 2019, Mohammed Ali, an exiled businessman and former building contractor for the military, recorded a video describing how President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi had embezzled public funds to finance, among other things, a luxury home for himself. The video went viral and led to mass protests. In October 2019, Iraqi protesters took to the streets to demand basic services such as clean water and electricity. Around the same time, the Lebanese people revolted after the government announced a tax on WhatsApp and other mobile applications, adding to a long list of austerity measures during the year that disproportionately affected the most vulnerable among the

population. Finally, in Iran, a hike in gasoline prices led to wide-ranging demonstrations in November 2019.

Citizens were protesting declining living conditions and calling for an end to economic orders that allowed small and corrupt political classes to live at the expense of the majority, the protests were aimed at provoking a revolution of the existing political systems and ensuring a fairer distribution of national resources. Due to declining oil prices, it is no longer possible for governments to redistribute wealth by integrating their citizens into the public workforce or providing large subsidies. This has led to an increase in inequality.

High Cost of Living

The cost of living is a pressing issue in the Middle East, with many residents struggling to afford basic necessities due to high prices and limited income opportunities. The region is known for its wealth and luxury, but this wealth is not evenly distributed, leading to a stark divide between the wealthy and the less fortunate. The high cost of living in the Middle East is a multifaceted issue that is influenced by a variety of factors, including inflation, political instability, and reliance on oil revenue. One of the main causes of the high cost of living in the Middle East is inflation. Inflation rates in the region have been on the rise in recent years, leading to an increase in the prices of goods and services. This has made it difficult for many residents to afford basic necessities such as food, housing, and healthcare. Inflation is a complex issue that is influenced by a variety of factors, including government policies, global economic conditions, and the strength of the local currency. As a result, many people in the Middle East are struggling to make ends meet.

The region has a long history of political unrest and conflict, which has had a significant impact on the economy. Wars, political turmoil, and social unrest can disrupt economic activity, leading to shortages of goods and services and higher prices. In addition, political instability can deter foreign investment and tourism, leading to a decline in economic growth and job opportunities. This can exacerbate the high cost of living, making it even more difficult for residents to afford basic necessities. The Middle East is also heavily reliant on oil revenue, which has both positive and negative effects on the cost of living in the region. On the one hand,

oil revenue has fueled economic growth and development, leading to an increase in wealth and prosperity. However, this wealth is not evenly distributed, with many residents still living in poverty. In addition, the reliance on oil revenue can lead to economic instability, as fluctuations in oil prices can have a significant impact on the economy. This can lead to inflation, job losses, and a decline in living standards, further exacerbating the high cost of living in the Middle East.

Impact of the Arab Spring on Nigerian Democracy

The Arab Spring, which began in late 2010 and spread across several countries in the Middle East and North Africa, had significant implications for political dynamics beyond its immediate regions, including Nigeria. The protests and uprisings inspired by demands for democracy, social justice, and economic reforms resonated with many Nigerians who were experiencing similar grievances. Here's a detailed examination of how the Arab Spring influenced Nigerian democracy:

Inspiration for Activism

Emmanuel (2024 oral source) agreed that, the successful uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt provided a powerful example for Nigerian activists. Many young Nigerians were motivated by the ability of citizens to mobilize against entrenched authoritarian regimes. This inspiration led to increased political engagement among youth, who began organizing protests and movements demanding accountability from their leaders. The #BringBackourGirls movement organized by Ankio Briggs in 2015, which protested against fuel subsidy removals and corruption, can be seen as a direct response to the spirit of activism ignited by the Arab Spring. The Arab Spring also encouraged the growth and strengthening of civil society organizations in Nigeria. These organizations played a crucial role in advocating for human rights, transparency, and good governance. They became more vocal and organized in their efforts to hold government accountable and ensure that democratic principles were upheld within Nigeria's political framework.

Heightened Awareness of Governance Issues

Chinwe (2024 oral source) postulates that, the Arab Spring highlighted issues such as government corruption, economic mismanagement, and human rights abuses

problems that were also prevalent in Nigeria. As news of protests spread through social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook, Nigerians became more aware of their own government's failings. This awareness fostered a climate where citizens felt empowered to voice their dissatisfaction with governance and demand reforms. Like the EndSARS protest of 2022 which argued against police brutality in Nigeria. He further agree that as news spread about the consequences faced by regimes that failed to heed public demands during the Arab Spring, Nigerian leaders became more aware of the potential repercussions of ignoring citizen grievances. This led to some degree of responsiveness from government officials who recognized that public dissent could escalate into larger movements if left unaddressed. Consequently, there were attempts at reform within certain sectors, including law enforcement and governance practices.

Political Reactions from Leadership

Biobele (2024 oral source) opined that, in response to the wave of protests across the Arab world, Nigerian leaders became increasingly cautious about public dissent. The government implemented measures aimed at quelling potential unrest, such as increasing security presence during protests and employing tactics to discredit opposition movements. For instance, during the #EndBadGovernment protests, organized by Nigerian youths there were reports of police brutality against demonstrators, reflecting a fear among authorities about losing control similar to what was witnessed in other countries during the Arab Spring. According to Otonye (2024 oral source) the events of the Arab Spring highlighted the importance of civic engagement and activism in effecting political change. In Nigeria, this led to an increase in political participation among citizens, especially young people who utilized social media platforms to mobilize support for various causes. The #EndSARS movement against police brutality that emerged in 2020 can be seen as a direct continuation of this trend towards active citizenship inspired by earlier movements like those seen during the Arab Spring.

Electoral Reforms and Political Change

In view of Tunde (2024 oral source) the events of the Arab Spring prompted discussions around electoral reforms in Nigeria. In 2011, Nigeria held elections that were considered more credible than previous ones due to pressure from civil society groups advocating for transparency and fairness in the electoral process.

While these reforms were not directly caused by the Arab Spring, they were influenced by a broader regional context where citizens demanded better governance.

Inspiration for Democratic Movements

Fumilayo (2024 oral source) opined that, the Arab Spring served as a powerful source of inspiration for various civil society groups and activists in Nigeria. Observing the successful ousting of long-standing authoritarian leaders in Tunisia and Egypt motivated Nigerian citizens to demand greater accountability from their government. This inspiration was particularly evident during protests against corruption and poor governance, which gained momentum following the Arab Spring. The Nigerian youth, who were increasingly disillusioned with political leadership, began to organize more effectively, drawing parallels between their struggles and those witnessed in North Africa.

Global Solidarity Movements

Idris (2024 oral source) assert that, the global nature of the protests during the Arab Spring fostered a sense of solidarity among activists worldwide, including those in Nigeria. This interconnectedness allowed for shared strategies and resources among different movements fighting for democracy and human rights across borders. Nigerian activists learned from both successes and failures experienced by their counterparts elsewhere, refining their approaches to advocacy.

Challenges to Democratic Consolidation

Abdukareem (2024 oral sources) opine that despite some positive influences from the Arab Spring on Nigerian democracy such as increased civic engagement the aftermath also revealed challenges that persisted within Nigeria's political landscape. The rise of Boko Haram and other insurgent groups highlighted vulnerabilities within Nigeria's democratic framework that could lead to instability if not addressed adequately. The fear of violent backlash against protest movements also created an environment where dissent could be stifled under the guise of maintaining national security.

Conclusion

In conclusion, Nigeria's journey towards democracy is complex and ongoing, it is clear that the Arab Spring had a positive impact on Nigeria's democracy by inspiring civic engagement, increasing political activism among youth, pressuring government accountability, strengthening civil society organizations, and fostering global solidarity among democratic movements. Also it is an agreeable fact that, the Arab Spring did not directly transform Nigerian democracy into a fully functional system or lead to regime change as it did in some countries like Tunisia or Egypt, but, it undeniably played a role in energizing civil society movements within Nigeria. It encouraged greater political participation among citizens who sought accountability from their leaders while simultaneously prompting governmental responses aimed at suppressing dissent.

Recommendations

To every challenge, problems or difficulties there are also solutions or ways out. Impact of Arab Spring on Nigerian democracy is a study that fills the gab for the Nigerian government and policy makers to critically take home lessons that will advance improve and better the lives of the ordinary citizens of this country. Hence the study recommends that in order to avoid the reoccurrence of protests, agitations or demonstrations of any kind certain policies will need to be in place that will directly have positive impact on the citizen.

a. Diversification of the economy, investing in agriculture, manufacturing and technology.
b. Infrastructure Development. More investment should be given to the deplorable roads and public transportation system by diversification into other means of transportation.
c. Support Entrepreneurship and reduce heavy Tax burden on small businesses. The government should easy access to funding and loans, mentorship and training.
d. Strengthen law enforcement with intensive training and modern equipment for border control, combat crimes on terrorism and smuggling.

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Chinwe Amadi	F	Married	Business Woman	Port Harcourt	7/8/2024
Biobele Omubo	M	Married	Politician	Lagos	8/9/2024
Fumilayo Adebayo	F	Married	Civil Servant	Abuja	4/10/2024
Idris Steven	M	Married	Self Employed	Lagos	9/10/2024
Abdukareem Abiodum	M	Single	Banker	Lagos	16/9/2024

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