

# **Non-alignment and Nigeria's foreign policy, 1960-1979: A historical perspective.**

Ajayi, Adegboyega Isaac

M.A. History

Department of History

Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, Nigeria

1985.

**Abstract:**

This study is aimed at finding out the extent to which policy pronouncements by Nigerian foreign policy decision-makers on non-alignment coincided with or diverged from concrete policy actions in the period, 1960-1979. At independence, in 1960, Nigeria adopted the policy of not aligning with any power bloc 'as a matter of routine' - a deliberately vague, and perhaps confusing, hint at non-alignment.

However, as a result of her colonial heritage and the inability, even unwillingness, of the ruling elite to struggle for national economic self-reliance, Nigeria was unable to maintain a clearly non-aligned posture in her external relations. The balance of her foreign relations weighed more in favour of the western-bloc. The level of commitment to the 'West' was such that Nigeria's anti-imperialist and anti-apartheid drives were severely handicapped.

Therefore, throughout the period studied (though to a lesser extent since the end of the Nigerian Civil War) there was always a wide gap between policy pronouncements and concrete actions. Nigeria's experience throughout this period shows that an economically dependent nation cannot exert much influence (especially on a continuous and consistent basis) in international affairs.

**Keywords:** Anti-imperialist/ Anti-apartheid drives/ Independence/ Colonial-heritage

**Supervisor:** S.O. Osoba

91p

For more information, please contact [\*\*ir-help@oauife.edu.ng\*\*](mailto:ir-help@oauife.edu.ng)