Social- Intercultural Appraisal of Religious Fundamentalism in Southeastern Nigeria

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In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Intercultural Studies

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Certification

This is to certify that Emmanuel Enyinnaya Onuoha (LCU/PG/001670) carried out this research work titled **"Social-Intercultural Appraisal of Religious Fundamentalism in Southeastern Nigeria"** in the Department of Religious and Intercultural Studies, Lead City University, Ibadan, for the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Intercultural Studies and that this has not been previously submitted.

_____ _____

Prof Donald A. Odeleye **Date**
(Promoter)

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Assc. Prof Samson O. Ijaola **Date**
(Head of Department)

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to all who labour night and day to be pilgrims and to the loving memory of my father, Sir Reuben Chiabuotu Onuoha.

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Acknowledgement

My appreciation goes to Lead City University, Ibadan, for the privilege of passing through this institution of academic excellence for my postgraduate studies. I am grateful to The University Library, other libraries, authors, and authorities consulted during the course of my research. I also want to appreciate the Postgraduate College Compliance team for their diligent effort in perfecting my work.

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons assisted in the conduct of this research, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in this work.

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Abstract

This study is on Social-Intercultural Appraisal of Religious Fundamentalism in Southeastern Nigeria to examine the intricate dynamics influencing this phenomenon. The region is known for its religious diversity, with Christianity, Islam, and traditional worship being the dominant religions. The study aimed to explore the factors contributing to the rise of religious fundamentalism, considering intercultural dynamics, historical contexts, and political influences. The study follows a descriptive survey research design; purposive sampling was used to select religious and community leaders from Anambra, Enugu and Imo States in Southeastern Nigeria. The research instruments used included a questionnaire and interview guide for Christian leaders, Muslim leaders and Community Leaders. The reliability of the research instruments was established through a pilot study, and the data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The findings indicated that the interplay between globalization, local cultures, and the growth of religious fundamentalism in South-eastern Nigerian is significant. The majority of the respondents agreed that people could only stay on the correct path out of fear of God, and that disobedience to religious teachings would result in God's wrath. They also thought that Satan was behind all attempts to discredit the existence of God and that those who follow the correct path do so in anticipation of receiving a reward in paradise Additionally, religious fundamentalism was perceived as a global challenge. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the interplay between globalization and local cultures contributes to the growth of religious fundamentalism in South-eastern Nigeria. The study highlights the need for selective exposure to media and technology, good governance, and economic justice and international diplomacy to address the situation.

Keywords: Religion, Fundamentalism, Church, Nigeria, Southeastern Nigeria.

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