

**Comparative Appraisal of Nature and Management of Nagorno-Karabakh Region and
Nigeria-Bakassi Penninsula Crises**

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Certification

This is to certify that Adekunle Abdulkabir AKINLADE with matriculation number LCU/PG/005581 carried out this research titled **‘Comparative Appraisal of Nature and Management of Nagorno-Karabakh Region and Nigeria-Bakassi Penninsula Crises’** in the Department of Politics and International Relations, Faculty of Management and Social Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, for the award of a Master’s Degree (M.Sc.) in International Relations, and that this has not been previously submitted.

Dr Emma Jimo

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Dedication

This work is dedicated, first to Almighty Allah for grace, and opportunity to start this programme and finish well; to my parents - Major Adetokunbo and Mrs Patricia Akinlade, my wife - Chinenye , and our children.

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Abstract

This study investigates the complex dynamics of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the Nigeria-Bakassi Peninsula dispute, two significant territorial conflicts that share common elements despite geographical distance and highlight the interplay of historical grievances, ethnic identities, and geopolitical interests. The former primarily involves Armenia and Azerbaijan, deeply rooted in ethnic tensions about historical claims to the land, being a flashpoint since the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Ethnic nationalism and external regional powers such as Russia and Turkey, driving this conflict complicates resolution efforts, often exacerbating tensions while attempting to mediate peace. The latter centres around ambiguous colonial-era borders, and competing claims over the resource-rich Bakassi Peninsula, which is strategically important for both Nigeria and Cameroon. Three theories are adopted to espouse the work, relying on ample utilisation of secondary data, and content analysis as potent instrument for achieving the comparison. The pivotal 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was in favour of Cameroon. Findings from this comparative analysis reveals broader geopolitical implications of both conflicts and emphasises the necessity for inclusive dialogue that considers local perspectives. Effective conflict resolution requires not only legal and diplomatic interventions but also an understanding of the historical and cultural contexts that underpin these territorial disputes. Russia's historical ties to Armenia and Turkey's support for Azerbaijan illustrate how external interests can hinder progress. Recommendations include using education to address historical narratives and national identities, promoting long term reconciliation and cultural identities, integration of economic development strategies, prioritising inclusive dialogue and negotiation. Ultimately, this research contributes to understanding of territorial conflicts, illustrating the interplay of local, national, and international dynamics.

Keywords: Colonial Legacies, Conflict Resolution, Ethnic Identity, Geopolitics, External Factors, Resource Control

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