

Title of Article: Perverse Polity and Resurgent Nationalism: The Case of Biafra in Nigeria

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Outlet: Conference Attended with papers Presented: paper presented at the 17th Annual ASEN Conference, London School of Economic and Political Science date of Publication: April 17-19, 2007,

Date: 2014

Abstract: Nationalism arises in a context of perceived deprivation and subordination of a group in a heterogeneous polity. Nigeria has been characterized by social inequities in the distribution of power and resources. These inequities rooted in the foundation of Nigerian state led to a civil war in which the Igbo, one of the major ethnic groups were defeated by a coalition of others. The end of that war marked the beginning of systematic and calculated policies by the victors to keep the race down, enhanced because of the fact that the heroes of the war dominated politics for a long time. But, the widened democratic space in 1999 gave rise to a renewed expression of Igbo rejection of the socio – political and economic conditions. This nationalism resurgence has elicited responses from the democratic government which seemed to have relapsed to the old order of violent repression which has been counter productive.