

Election Governance and Consolidation in Nigeria: An Assessment of the 2011 and 2015 Presidential Elections

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Abstract

This paper attempts to examine election governance and democratic consolidation through the instrumentality of the 2011 and 2015 elections in Nigeria. Since 1999, Nigeria has progressively worked towards the entrenchment of the ethos of democracy. The question is whether the Nigerian political system has entrenched the essential elements of democratic practice to signpost growth towards consolidation. Using secondary data and anchoring its theoretical explanations on prebendalism, the paper notes that politics in Nigeria, as demonstrated by the 2011 and 2015 elections, is governed by the overriding principles of power acquisition to satiate narrow interests. The paper contends that a major condition for democratic consolidation is the improvement of election governance system.

Keywords: Elections, Election Governance, Democratic Consolidation, Prebendalism, General Elections, Nigeria.