

The Economics of Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta

Christopher N. Ekong, Ph.D
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The book cover features a dark, high-contrast illustration. In the upper half, there are silhouettes of several people, possibly young men, looking upwards. Behind them, there are faint, stylized images of what appear to be Nigerian Naira banknotes, with the number '500' visible. The overall tone is somber and evocative, suggesting themes of economic struggle and youth unrest.

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CHRISTOPHER N. EKONG, PH.D., ETTAH B. ESSIEN, PH.D., & KENNETH U. ONYE



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Dedication

This work is dedicated to the good people of the Niger Delta Region whose lives were innocently taken while struggling for the economic emancipation of the Region.

Foreword

The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has recently come under intense and careful consideration and discussion internationally. The region's rich natural resource endowments, including oil and gas, had been echoed in all development fora and development discussions in the world. In the front row of discussions about the region, as the authors also indicate, is the sustainable use of the region's resource.

In this text, the authors have taken time off to show an evolving strategy for the development of this strategic partner.

The comprehensive nature and structure of this text is shown in its profound style and deepening. The text introduces its savvies by exploring the general background of the oil and gas resource infrastructure in the country. Taking into perspective a very broad and detailed view of what the sector entails, without even limiting its analysis to the Niger Delta Region, it proceeds to review the totality of the Nigerian economy with particular reference to the stylised facts and the behaviour of the macroeconomic variables of the economy. The text indicates oil and gas sector as the major revenue earner to the Nigerian Federation. It therefore goes to show how the macroeconomic variables behave *vis-à-vis* the oil and gas sector performance.

The national outlook of events is thereafter disaggregated to renew and investigate what happens in the region in which the totality of oil produced in the country is domiciled—the Niger

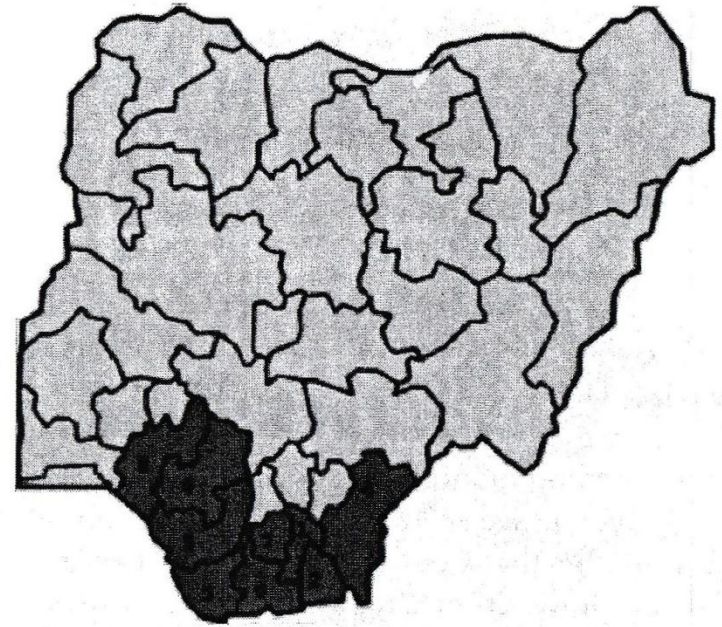
Delta Region. It is interesting to notice the novel approach the text is taking by deviating from the conventional economic methodology to discuss the history and socio-economics of the Niger Delta Region. It also discusses in detail the resources of the region including both renewable and non-renewable natural resources. This exposition shows how diverse and rich the Niger Delta Region is in terms of resources endowment.

Following the tone the text set in totally understanding the environment she desired to study, it followed up with the reasoning for youth restiveness in the Niger Delta. The root causes of youth restiveness are therefore brought up clearly and distinctively. The text, judging from a practical view of events that led to restiveness in the region, from its analyses, submits that there were some benefits, as derivatives from restiveness: The closing of income inequality gap in the region and improvements in socio-economic statistics were of significant importance to note. The text, however, went on to show the very bad and sorry side of restiveness, which gave room for comparison. Kidnapping, hostage taking, and other crime types that perpetuated the region in the active restive period are recorded and they are mind-blowing. Also, the loss in revenue to the nation has been indicated by the text to be monumental. The cost of restiveness is thus shown by the text to quite outstrip its benefits, thus the need to eradicate restiveness. The text goes to suggest far-reaching and novel ideas and methodologies to eradicate or bring to minimum the spate of restiveness in the Niger Delta Region. It is a book that seeks attention. Attention should be accorded it.

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We wish to acknowledge, in great depth, the suffering masses of the Niger Delta people who have weathered the storms of lack in a coarse and very difficult environment to eke life out of almost nothing, notwithstanding the plenty that is daily collected from the deep of its land. Their plight inspired us to do this work. We thank our colleagues in the Department of Economics, University of Uyo, whose constructive reviews of our work yielded this piece. We wish to greatly acknowledge the agencies that afforded the Lead author the opportunity of field research whose report we adopted to strengthen the analytical base of the text. We appreciate our families for their patience and support even as we used their time to do this work. We greatly acknowledge God Almighty from whom we drew our strength for this task.



Map of Nigeria numerically showing states typically considered part of the Niger Delta Region: 1. Abia, 2. Akwa Ibom, 3. Bayelsa, 4. Cross River, 5. Delta, 6. Edo, 7. Imo, 8. Ondo, 9. Rivers

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Suggestions for further improvement of the book from fellow teachers and students will be heartily welcomed and can be done through ch_ns_ekong@yahoo.com and/or kennethonye@yahoo.com

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The *Economics of Youth Restiveness in the Niger Delta* outlines the important issue of restiveness, which has led to kidnapping, hostage taking, and other crimes perpetuated in the region that have resulted in a monumental loss of revenue for Nigeria.

This economics text book is certainly not boring! The Niger Delta Region of Nigeria has recently come under intense and careful scrutiny and discussion internationally. The region's rich natural resource endowments, including oil and gas, have played a large part of the discussions about the region and its sustainable environment. The text explores the general background of Nigeria's oil and gas resource infrastructure as well as the effects these are having on the Nigerian economy.

The book discusses in detail the resources of the region, including renewable and non-renewable ones. The root causes of youth restiveness are also discussed. Judging from a practical view of events that led to restiveness in the region, the book's analyses submits that there were some benefits deriving from restiveness: The closing of income inequality gap in the region and improvements in socio-economic statistics are of significant importance to note.



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