

**INSTITUTIONS, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES VERSUS
DISCIPLINE IN HISTORY**



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First Published: December, 2023

Published by
SADAQATU TAYYIBATUN FOUNDATION

Post Office Box 2630,

Minna, Nigeria.

nigerians.sadtayyfoundation.org

jimada.sadtayyfoundation.org

sadtayyfoundation.org

INSTITUTIONS, STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES VERSUS DISCIPLINE IN HISTORY

Institutions are simply organizations. However, whereas an organization can be for a specific, immediate or temporary purpose or objective, in the case of an institution, it is a more permanent organization with or for running and continuous pursuit of defined purpose(s). This difference can be overcome with time, where a temporary chain of activities become conventional and get adopted as a standard.

An example is that a belief system like Islam and Christianity are organizations. For Islam or Christianity, you cannot be a Muslim or Christian without a declaration of faith. And it does not stop there. There are tenets you require to uphold. There are also canons and rites for practice by members.

Both have the institution of Marriage and the Family. It is a sub organizational practice. This is what makes coupling of humans legal and the platform for recreation as well as possible expansion of the organization or religion.

However, with time, humans generated organizations that have transformed into bold institutions. The best example is the schooling system. The phenomenal role of time can be appreciated, when compared with Governance as an institution. While schooling is a development and extraction out of religion, governance is more of a development from both religion and human ambition. This is best reflected in the creation of military institution.

This leads to the common characteristic of organizations that have adopted institutional form. They will have attendant structures for operation. For example, a university is an organization of high level courses of instruction, in an Identity building with buildings of administration and faculties of departments. Governance

has State House, ministries, departments etc. Islam has Mosques. Christianity has Churches.

Therefore, in comparison, man-made extractions and creations are structurally more elaborate. The institutions of governance are the most elaborate. Between Islam and Christianity, the Roman Catholic Church is most structured.

Take the governance of Nigeria. The institution of governance through time, has involved structuring from kingdoms to regions. This was later adjusted to states and additional states were created, along with a federal centre. Similarly, we have come up with ministries, commissions and boards at federal and state levels. The most expansive is the schooling structures, involving the federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector. For political leadership, we have political parties, Legislature, judiciary, the media. For our economy, we have oil and gas industries, oil and gas government organizations, banks, factories, etc. Schooling and training for socialization over the family. The economy for subsistence, survival and development. Politics for peace and prosperity.

In relation to Nigerians, the ultimate goals of peace and prosperity cut across the institutions and structures of religion and governance. However, the character and methods of pursuing the same goals are not strictly the same.

For governance, they are created by men and known as processes and procedures defined by laws, rules, regulations and conduct. The constitution is one. The acts establishing universities is another. The peculiarity of this is that, because man is imperfect and continues to discover the inadequacy of his standards, they are subject to expirations and irrelevance. Amendments are therefore admitted from time to time. The examples of states creation and drawing of constitutions apply to governance. Ministries have either been created, merged or even abolished.

Recapitalization has led to some banks being bought over. Schools have been upgraded. **For the successful service of these institutions, structures and processes, the men who are deliberately engaged to submit to them as they operate them, are required to at least do the right things, most of the times.** This is why trainings, monitoring, inspections, rewards and sanctions are always in company to the institutions. These are commonly known as conditions of service. With most things working right and well, the institutions, structures and processes by men, it is logically and sensibly expected that, the realization of the goals of peace and prosperity will be more smooth than rough, more satisfying than frustrating and confusing.

But unfortunately, throughout our history of independence to date, it has been an increasing embarrassment, failure, frustration, crisis and confusion. The standard explanation has been **corruption**. And by this it is meant, **abuse of the processes, the rules, the regulations, by the conduct of the men.** Indeed, the audits, visitations, probes, investigations, prosecutions and the outcome of these have often been a failure in different forms. The first is that the checks are not even done. The second is the checks fail to establish the corruption. A third is that the covered corruption is certified as the truth with the seal of professionalism. The fourth is that lesser cases are sanctioned optimally whereas principal cases thin away from sanctions. The fifth is that worst cases that are either brushed or ignored, have the principal actors entrusted with new and higher trusts. Indeed, cries of corruption can be ignored by leaders responsible for checking the suspects. Consequently, the institutions, structures and processes of checking corruption are increasing, expanding and equally suffering from inconsistent efficiency.

The worst expression of our frustration and confusion is driven by the **ignorance of the meanings and limits of the institutions, structures and processes, in**

themselves for the men that man and run them. These are the fools that submit that institutions or structures or processes **can guarantee changes in their impact.** The federal system has failed, the states have failed more than succeeded, we should therefore have more states or reverse to regions or split the country into more countries, for **a difference by the same people.** Those who are no less ignorant and foolish harp on institutions building. But both are missing the yolk of the challenge. The human beings, the men, the operators, the workers. What has become nationally different, with the refocus on the so called **human capital development?**

The point is that while these are witnessed to be working in admired societies, they are not giving close to the required satisfaction they are meant to give, in Nigeria. It is even more concerning, using the example of Nigeria Police Service. The members always perform very much above board when on foreign missions. They return with medals. But their reputation in **contributing their part** to realizing our collective safety and prosperity is **very low.** We even got to an insane state of considering the abolition of the service. But after a better realization of the madness, we are adjusting to state police structure.

We had a Head of Nigeria, General Yakubu Gowon who said: **he problem with Nigeria is not the money but how to spend it.** It was an over simplistic expression of the underdeveloped status of the leadership and citizenry. We have since then sharpened our spending capacity without productive ability. The difference we may dangerously claim is the growth of services capacity. It is akin to growing from being a hook up to a call girl, where pregnancy is a mistake or bad business. Years passed, for Ibrahim Badamosi to state that: **no economic theory/plan works in Nigeria.** The meaning and effect is the same. The Head was responding to the results of his bold attempts. Yet, after some further years, President Muhammadu Buhari gave in by submitting that: **the problem with Nigeria is neither tribe nor religion but**

Nigerians. He assumed office to **execute corruption and left with strong advice to his successor, that corruption remains a big challenge.** And after he left office, some of his close ministers for Aviation, Justice, Works, Federal Capital, Humanitarian and Disaster Management were either invited for abuse of trust or the successors cried out, for the embarrassing status of the leadership. The Governor of Central Bank and the Head of Economic and Financial Crimes were not different. The oil and gas sector is still untouchable. Indeed, Buhari left on the note that, everyone should be held accountable for himself as he was not prepared to answer questions for anyone. And Nuhu Ribadu revealed that Buhari wrecked the economy, leaving nothing in the coffers for the succeeding leader. **Are these and the present pit of debts we are in, not sufficient to be frustrated and confused?** So how true and realistic can any step be **bold and helpful** in moving ahead, **as long as it remains within the confines of the institutions, structures and processes?**

Do we not see and experience the bastardization of **the values or optimal benefits of our Muslim and Christian identities?** Have our Mosques and Churches not been increasing and expanding? Are we not confronted with either denominations, sects or orders? We are building the garments of names, buildings and officialdom **without any pronounced positive impact on the general society.** In other words, it will be laughable to suggest that it is better to have a Muslim or Christian leadership. After all, we have no much choice to opt out. And that is the beginning of our challenge. We are genuinely afraid or ashamed of our identity because we are **either really bankrupt in its knowledge or bankrupt in the discipline, which is really more dangerous because it will be a hypocritical display of the identity.** And we are both witnesses and victims of the real hypocrisy because Muslims and Christians have been leading us, to where they do not know. Not even members of the most institutionalized and structured Roman Catholic Church have saved us.

DISCIPLINE is therefore the most critical attribute in our identity, to be able to overcome our collective frustrations, confusions and crisis. No society can thrive and progress without **ITS OWN DISCIPLINE**. The communist societies have the simple belief that history is what they make of it, in all respects and without limitations. The justification for this is that **History Begins and Ends with their deliberate commitments and omissions**. Anything before this definition and whatever maybe after this definition is not true and right. The democracies are **essentially** the same but with a deceptive clothing. Here, the **extremism and highhandedness of communism is rejected**. In its place, **every one or group is free to pursue its way and let the most powerful and popular LEAD THE WAY**. Consequently, the essence of communism wagged stronger and the **extremism of the free few is intermittently checkered with welfare gestures**. The communists are for that reason harsh and check poverty as absolute lack. The democrats frown at absolute lack and enhance security against resistance. It will be appreciated that even the communist societies are watering down the **hold for justice** and allowing freedom for reasonable individual differences. Both are highly Man made. They are highly institutionalized and structured, with attendant processes. The much of the **freedom** allowed for religious identity is defined by the constant submission of religion to the institutions, structures and processes. This is why in the United Kingdom a Muslim can be engaged in same sex marriage and a Christian priest can contemplate having a **unisex** identity for God, for gender equality. And in the United States an amendment to the Bible can be expressed, even though it is God's own country. These classes of society have through time evolved **their discipline for the institutions, structures and processes to work – at the cost of abandoning any other identity**.

In the case of Nigeria, **we have been trying to enjoy the man-made identity without really abandoning our religious identity.** But just like hypocrisy will not enable either communism or British/American democracy to serve, Nigeria identity can neither be fashioned nor achieved, with **Muslim or Christian bats.** You cannot be an animal and a mammal and expect to make Nigeria.

Thus, it is impossible for Muslims and Christians to enable **NIGERIA as required of its citizens, without THEIR DISCIPLINE.** For Muslims, because there is no compulsion in religion, it is **not Islamic** to pursue the path of Islamization of Nigeria as a discipline. It will be both irresponsible and **unconstitutional.** The best indicator for **Discipline as the Orientation of Muslim Identity** is the definitions of **the entrance doors into Jannah.** It is according to **works, performance and not names.** The implication and importance of being a Muslim is that, the **ultimate prospect** for all striving, is to be admitted into paradise. And this is followed by accounting for **all activities according to the Guidance of Allah and His Messenger.**

There is the gate for those consistent in *Salat*. It is important to note that it has ten parts and looking about degrades it. Indeed, he who prays and remains harmful to himself and others, is a loser in the benefits of *Salat*. The required benefits of relating with Allah five times a day, covers making a Nigerian as required by the constitution and spiritual uplift of the believer.

There is the gate for jihadists. And there are three levels of Jihad. The first that is the greatest, is the Jihad against Self. This involves **learning true guidance and following it to the best of one's ability.** Ignorance has neither room in Islam nor is it secondary to any other thing. It is not a gate for just the learned. Indeed, among the first entrants into the Fire will be the learned **not for the sake of Allah,** by self-

compliance and being a model for others. There is Jihad against Satan. This takes the forms of striving against doubts that weaken faith and corrupt desires tempted or whispered by Satan or his agents, from among men and Jinns. Then Jihad against Disbelief and Hypocrisy. These consist of physical correction of what is wrong, if you have the means and authority. An example is the legislation against same sex marriage; and correction of what is wrong by words. This will be by criticism leading to a solution, which will be advisory. This is because no one can claim to be all knowing **alone**. This is why the superior in companionship with the Qur'an and Hadith leads in *Salat*.

In fact, there is the gate for those who control their anger and forgive those who offend them. Those who are criticized have this opportunity because it is human to feel touched and critics are liable to making unintended mistakes. But criticism must be positive by being driven by Guidance. A believer and especially a leader who does not appreciate criticism and takes advantage of evaluated one is a loser.

There is the gate for those who constantly give charity. Those who are not buoyant enough to qualify to give Zakat are therefore not left out, even as those that are buoyant can do so. The difference is that service that is **willingly** given is superior to the one that is conditioned. And what will make the charity meaningful is that the resource is earned according to Guidance.

There is the gate for those in constant remembrance of Allah. These are the elite who, whether in commitment with their limbs and in relation to other creations are **in the state of consciousness, or actively so with their tongues and hearts, as their limbs are in restraints for only necessary commitments**. The *Ahlul Suffa* in the time of *Rasul* are examples of the second and the four caliphs are examples of

the first. No Muslim on the path of either, will be **harmful**, to himself or others or **distant** from Allah.

As a result, Muslims, Christians and those who are neither, **require the personal orientation of a discipline based on true and right knowledge, driven by the consciousness of contributing to the unity, peace and progress of Nigeria.** The difference between us is not destructive. Believers simply have a more and better comprehensive basis for the safety and prosperity of Nigeria.

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