A Critical Analysis of Nigeria's Entanglement in the 1975-2002 Angolan War

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1. INTRODUCTION

Nigeria, as one of the leading African nations, has played a significant role in various conflicts on the continent, including the Angola Crisis. The country's political stance on the crisis was influenced by several factors, including its foreign policy goals, its position as a regional power, and its historical relationship with Angola (Adesoji, 2012). This paper provides a critical analysis of Nigeria's political stance on the Angola Crisis, including its motives, interests, and contributions to the resolution of the conflict.

Nigeria's core policy goals have always been aimed at promoting African and the black race peace, security, and stability on the African continent. The country has been actively involved in various peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts on the continent, including in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Sudan. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis was in line with its foreign policy goals of promoting peace and stability on the continent. Nigeria's position as a regional power in West Africa has also influenced its political stance on the Angola Crisis. As a regional power, Nigeria had a stake in the resolution of the conflict in Angola. Nigeria's involvement in the crisis was aimed at promoting regional peace and stability, which was crucial to its economic and political interests.

The historical relationship between Nigeria and Angola also influenced Nigeria's political stance on the Angola Crisis. Nigeria had a long-standing relationship with Angola, dating back to the 1975s when the country gained independence from Portugal. Nigeria was one of the first countries to recognize Angola's independence of November 11, 1975 and provided significant support to the country during its struggle against Portuguese colonial rule (Aghedo & Osumah, 2013).

Nigeria's political stance on the Angola Crisis can be divided into two phases: the initial phase and the second phase. In the initial phase, Nigeria was largely supportive of the MPLA government and its efforts to establish control over the country (Adesoji, 2012). In the second phase, Nigeria adopted a more neutral stance and was actively involved in the peace process aimed at ending the conflict (Adesoji, 2012). In the initial phase of the Angola Crisis, Nigeria was largely supportive of the MPLA government and its efforts to establish control over the country (Falola & Heaton, 2008). This support was influenced by Nigeria's foreign policy goals, its position as a regional power, and its historical relationship with Angola.

One of the key factors that influenced Nigeria's shift towards a more neutral stance was regional and international pressure. Nigeria faced pressure from other African nations, particularly those in the Southern African Development Community (SADC), to support the peace process in Angola. SADC was actively involved in the peace process and saw Nigeria's involvement as crucial to the success of the process. International actors, including the United Nations and the United States, also called for Nigeria to play a more active role in the peace process (Adesoji, 2012). The changing dynamics of the conflict also influenced Nigeria's shift towards a more neutral stance. The conflict in Angola had become increasingly complex, with multiple factions and foreign powers involved. The conflict had also taken a heavy toll on the people of Angola, with widespread displacement, human rights abuses, and humanitarian crises (Lock & Scheper-Hughes, 1987). Nigeria saw the need to end the conflict and bring about a lasting peace, which could only be achieved through a negotiated settlement. Nigeria's own interests in the resolution of the conflict also influenced its shift towards a more neutral stance. Nigeria had economic and political interests in Angola, particularly in the oil sector. The

continued conflict in Angola posed a threat to Nigeria's economic interests in the region. Nigeria saw the need to end the conflict and restore stability to Angola, which would in turn benefit its own economic interests.

Nigeria's contribution to the resolution of the conflict in Angola was significant. Nigeria played a crucial role in the peace process, particularly through its involvement in the peace talks and its provision of peacekeeping troops. Nigeria was one of the key mediators in the peace talks, and its representatives played an active role in negotiations aimed at ending the conflict. Nigeria also provided peacekeeping troops as part of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Angola. Nigeria's peacekeeping troops in Angola were among the most effective and respected in the mission. The Nigerian troops were known for their professionalism, discipline, and commitment to the mission. They played a crucial role in maintaining peace and stability in the country, particularly during the transition period after the peace agreement was signed.

Also the Organization of African Unity (OAU), a pivotal continental entity established to promote cooperation, solidarity, and the collective interests of African nations, played a significant role in influencing Nigeria's decision to recognize Angola's hard-fought independence. As a driving force behind decolonization efforts and the realization of self-determination for African states, the OAU's overarching mission resonated deeply with Nigeria's own commitment to the principles of sovereignty and freedom. In the historical context of the mid-1970s, when Angola was on the cusp of shedding its colonial shackles, the OAU's call for unity among African countries carried a resounding urgency (Omotola, 2012). As Portugal relinquished control and Angola sought to emerge as an independent nation, the OAU provided a platform for member states to rally behind the cause of the newly emancipated nation (Saul, 1982). This backdrop prompted Nigeria, with its own history of colonial struggles and aspirations for Pan-African cooperation, to take swift action.

Recognizing Angola's independence on November 12, 1975, a mere day after the formal declaration, was a testament to Nigeria's unwavering dedication to the principles championed by the OAU (Saul, 1982). By promptly extending recognition, Nigeria demonstrated its solidarity with Angola's journey to nationhood, showcasing its commitment to fostering peace, stability, and mutual respect among African countries. Nigeria's response was not only an embodiment of the OAU's ethos but also a testament to the power of regional collaboration and collective action. The OAU's call to action reverberated beyond mere rhetoric, inspiring Nigeria to stand in unity with Angola and other African nations in their pursuit of self-determination. In doing so, Nigeria's swift recognition of Angola's independence within the framework set forth by the OAU underscored the nation's role as a vital participant in the transformative journey toward a free and sovereign Africa.

In conclusion, Nigeria's political stance on the Angola Crisis was influenced by several factors, including its foreign policy goals, its position as a regional power, and its historical relationship with Angola. Nigeria's initial support for the MPLA government was based on its foreign policy goals, regional interests, and historical ties with Angola. Nigeria's shift towards a more neutral stance was influenced by regional and international pressure, the changing dynamics of the conflict, and its own economic and political interests. Nigeria's contribution to the resolution of the conflict was significant, particularly through its involvement in the peace talks and provision of peacekeeping troops. Nigeria played a crucial role in ending the conflict and restoring peace and stability to Angola.

Nigeria's military involvement in the Angola crisis
The Nigerian military played a significant role in the Angola crisis, with its involvement primarily driven by the aim to promote peace, stability, and enhance international prestige. The deployment of Nigerian troops to Angola was led by Major General Olusegun Obasanjo who was the Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters, and later served as the Head of State of Nigeria from 1976 to 1979 (Omotola, 2012). He was the one who led the Nigerian military's involvement in the Angola crisis and supervised the deployment of Nigerian troops to participate in the United Nations peacekeeping operation known as the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) (Ademide, 2014). During the Angola crisis, General Murtala Mohammed was the Head of State of Nigeria. He served as the leader of Nigeria from July 1975 until his assassination in February 1976 (Igwe, 2016). General Murtala Mohammed was known for his strong stance against corruption and his efforts to promote African unity and independence (Ukeje, 2008). It was under his leadership that Nigeria became actively involved in the Angola crisis, contributing to peacekeeping efforts and striving to bring stability to the region. The Nigerian army was the main branch of the military involved in the conflict. However, the Nigerian navy and air force also provided support to the army's efforts. The decision to send troops to Angola was made in response to a request from the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the United Nations Security Council to intervene in the conflict and help implement a ceasefire. Nigeria, as a prominent member of the OAU and a leading African nation, felt a responsibility to contribute to regional peacekeeping efforts.

Nigerian troops arrived in Angola in November 1975, joining the United Nations peacekeeping operation known as the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III). The primary objective was to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement between the MPLA government and UNITA rebels following the Bicesse Accords. One of the major challenges faced by the Nigerian military was the complex nature of the conflict in Angola. The conflict involved multiple parties with competing interests, including the MPLA, UNITA, and various foreign powers. The Nigerian military was initially deployed to support the MPLA government and to help stabilize the country after the signing of the Lusaka Protocol (Akinterinwa, 2009). However, its efforts were complicated by the continued fighting between the MPLA and UNITA forces, as well as the involvement of external factors such as South Africa and the United States (Adeyemi, 2019). Another challenge faced by the Nigerian military was the lack of adequate resources and equipment. Despite its status as a regional power, Nigeria's military was not well-equipped or well-trained to operate in the difficult terrain of Angola. The Nigerian troops lacked essential equipment such as helicopters and armored vehicles, and their training was not geared towards conducting peacekeeping operations.

Despite these challenges, the Nigerian military made significant contributions to the peace process in Angola. One of the most significant achievements of the Nigerian military was its role in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. The Nigerian troops were deployed to monitor the ceasefire agreement between the MPLA and UNITA forces, and they played a key role in helping to broker a peace deal between the two sides. The Nigerian military also helped to demobilize and disarm UNITA fighters, which was crucial in stabilizing the country. Another important contribution made by the Nigerian military was its role in providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Angola. The Nigerian troops helped to distribute food, medicine, and other essential supplies to the people of Angola, who had been severely affected by years of conflict (Kalu, 2006). This helped to alleviate the suffering of the people and to build trust between the Nigerian military and the local population.

Despite these achievements, however, Nigeria's military intervention in Angola was not without controversy. One of the major criticisms leveled against Nigeria was its perceived bias towards the MPLA government. Some critics argued that Nigeria was too closely aligned with the MPLA and that its military intervention was motivated more by political considerations than by a genuine desire to promote peace and stability. This perception was reinforced by Nigeria's decision to withdraw its troops from Angola in 1997, shortly after the MPLA government had declared victory over UNITA (Saul, 1982). Another criticism of Nigeria's military intervention in Angola was its lack of strategic clarity. Some analysts argued that Nigeria had not clearly defined its objectives in Angola and that its military intervention was driven more by a desire to assert its regional power than by a coherent strategy. This lack of clarity was reflected in Nigeria's shifting role in the conflict, which ranged from supporting the MPLA government to promoting a power-sharing agreement between the MPLA and UNITA forces.

Nigeria's military involvement in the Angola crisis was characterized by both achievements and limitations. While the Nigerian military made significant contributions to the peace process in Angola, its intervention was also fraught with challenges and controversies. Nigeria's military intervention in Angola highlights the difficulties of peacekeeping in complex and protracted conflicts and underscores the importance of clear strategic objectives and adequate resources for successful peacekeeping operations.

Nigeria's diplomatic efforts towards resolving the Angola crisis
Nigeria played a significant role in the resolution of the Angola crisis. The crisis began in 1975 when Angola gained independence from Portugal, and two political factions, the People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), started a civil war (Adeyemi, 2019). The war was fueled by Cold War politics as the Soviet Union supported MPLA, while the United States supported UNITA (Falola & Heaton, 2008). The conflict also had regional dimensions as neighboring countries such as South Africa, Congo DR, and Cuba got involved in the fighting. Nigeria, under the leadership of General Olusegun Obasanjo, played a diplomatic role in resolving the conflict (Ademide, 2014). Nigeria's involvement in the Angola crisis was part of a broader strategy of promoting peace and stability in Africa. As a leading African country, Nigeria saw it as its responsibility to help resolve conflicts on the continent (Omotola, 2012). One of the earliest efforts by Nigeria to resolve the Angola crisis was in 1976 when the Nigerian government proposed a peace plan that was aimed at ending the civil war. The peace plan called for a ceasefire and the formation of a national unity government that would include representatives from all political factions. However, the peace plan was not successful as both MPLA and UNITA rejected it.

Nigeria made another diplomatic effort in 1977 when General Obasanjo visited Angola and met with leaders of both MPLA and UNITA (Igwe, 2016). The visit was part of Nigeria's efforts to broker a peace deal between the two warring factions. General Obasanjo's visit was significant as it was the first time that a Nigerian head of

state had visited Angola since it gained independence in 1975. The visit was seen as a sign of Nigeria's commitment to resolving the crisis. During the visit, General Obasanjo met with the Angolan President, Agostinho Neto, and the leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi. The talks were aimed at finding a solution to the conflict (Akinterinwa, 2009). However, the talks were not successful as both factions were not willing to make any concessions. Despite the failure of the talks, Nigeria continued to play a diplomatic role in resolving the Angola crisis. In 1978, Nigeria hosted a summit of African leaders that was aimed at finding a solution to the conflict. The summit was attended by leaders from Angola, Congo DR, and Zambia. The summit was significant as it was the first time that African leaders had met to discuss the Angola crisis.

At the summit, the leaders called for a ceasefire and the formation of a government of national unity. The summit was seen as a significant diplomatic achievement as it brought together leaders from different political factions to discuss the crisis. However, the summit did not lead to a resolution of the conflict as both MPLA and UNITA rejected the proposals made at the summit. Nigeria continued to play a diplomatic role in resolving the Angola crisis in the 1980s. In 1981, General Obasanjo visited Angola again and met with President Neto and the leader of UNITA, Jonas Savimbi (Omotola, 2012). The talks were aimed at finding a solution to the conflict, but once again, they were not successful. In 1983, Nigeria played a significant role in the signing of the Lusaka Protocol, which was aimed at ending the conflict in Angola (Ukeje, 2008). The Lusaka Protocol was signed by leaders of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa. The signing of the Lusaka Protocol was significant as it marked the first time that the parties involved in the conflict had agreed to a ceasefire. The signing of the protocol was also significant as it marked the first time that South Africa had recognized the MPLA government (Ademide, 2014). Furthermore, Nigeria also tried to mediate between the MPLA and UNITA forces. In 1989, President Babangida invited the leaders of both factions to a peace conference in Lagos. The talks were attended by the leaders of Angola, Cuba, the United States, and South Africa. The conference ended without a resolution as the leaders failed to agree on the terms for a ceasefire. Nigeria continued to push for peace negotiations, and in 1991, it hosted another conference in Abuja, where the Angolan factions agreed to a ceasefire. The UN also played a significant role in mediating the crisis, and in 1991, it established the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), which was tasked with monitoring the ceasefire.

In addition to diplomatic efforts, Nigeria also provided military support to the MPLA government in Angola. In 1975, Nigeria sent a contingent of troops to Angola to support the MPLA during the civil war. However, this move was criticized by some African countries, particularly South Africa, which accused Nigeria of violating the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other states. Nigeria also provided military training and equipment to the MPLA forces, which helped them to resist the UNITA forces.

Furthermore, Nigeria played a crucial role in the formation of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) in 1980, which was aimed at promoting economic cooperation and regional integration among Southern African countries. Nigeria was one of the founding members of the organization, and it played a crucial role in the SADC's mediation efforts in the Angola crisis. SADC member states were also instrumental in mediating the Angola crisis, and in 1994, they signed the Lusaka Protocol, which provided a framework for a peaceful resolution of the conflict (Aghedo & Osumah, 2013). Overall, Nigeria played a significant role in the mediation of the Angola crisis. Nigeria's role in the Angola crisis demonstrated its commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa and its willingness to support other African countries in times of crisis.

Nigeria's contribution to the peace process in Angola
Nigeria played a significant role in the peace process in Angola. After the signing of the Lusaka Protocol in 1994, Nigeria continued to provide support to the Angolan government in its efforts to implement the agreement. Nigeria, along with other African countries, provided peacekeeping troops to monitor the ceasefire and disarmament process. Nigeria's peacekeeping troops were deployed as part of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III), which was responsible for verifying the ceasefire and monitoring the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. Nigeria's peacekeeping forces in Angola consisted of about 300 troops and were part of a larger African peacekeeping force of over 1,200 soldiers (Aghedo & Osumah, 2013). The Nigerian peacekeeping contingent in Angola was highly professional and was praised for its role in maintaining peace and security in the country. The Nigerian troops worked closely with other African peacekeeping forces to monitor the disarmament process and ensure that the ceasefire was being observed.

In addition to its peacekeeping efforts, Nigeria also provided humanitarian aid to Angola. The country was ravaged by decades of civil war, and Nigeria played a significant role in providing relief to the people of Angola. Nigeria provided financial assistance and humanitarian aid to Angola to help alleviate the suffering of the population. Nigeria's contribution to the peace process in Angola demonstrated its commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process was significant as it demonstrated the

country's capacity to play a leading role in resolving conflicts in the continent (Ukeje, 2008). Furthermore, Nigeria's role in the peace process in Angola helped to strengthen its relationship with other African countries. Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts in Angola were in line with the country's foreign policy objectives of promoting peace and stability in Africa. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola also helped to improve its image in the international community as a responsible regional power. Additionally, Nigeria's contribution to the peace process in Angola also had positive effects on the country's domestic politics. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process helped to promote unity and reconciliation within the country. The Nigerian government's support for the Angolan government in its efforts to implement the Lusaka Protocol was viewed positively by the Nigerian public, as it demonstrated the country's commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa.

Moreover, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola helped to promote regional integration in Africa. The conflict in Angola had negative effects on the region, as it resulted in the displacement of millions of people and hindered economic development. Nigeria's contribution to the peace process in Angola helped to promote regional stability and economic development, as it paved the way for increased cooperation and trade between Nigeria and other African countries.

Overall, Nigeria's contribution to the peace process in Angola was significant and demonstrated the country's commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa. Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts, humanitarian aid, and support for the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol played a crucial role in bringing about peace in Angola. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process also had positive effects on the country's domestic politics and helped to promote regional integration in Africa.

Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola had a significant positive impact on the country and the region as a whole. Nigeria's contribution to resolving the conflict in Angola had a positive impact on the people of Angola, the stability of the region, and Nigeria's reputation as a responsible regional power. In this section, we will discuss the positive impact of Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola. Firstly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola helped to bring an end to the long-running civil war in the country. The conflict had been raging for over three decades and had claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people. Nigeria's contribution to resolving the conflict helped to bring an end to the violence and suffering that the people of Angola had endured for so long. The ceasefire agreement signed in Lusaka in 1994, which Nigeria played a crucial role in, was a major milestone in the peace process and paved the way for the eventual end of the conflict.

Secondly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola helped to stabilize the region. The conflict in Angola had spilled over into neighboring countries, and the instability it created had a ripple effect throughout the region. Nigeria's efforts to bring an end to the conflict helped to reduce tensions in the region and create a more stable environment. The stabilization of the region had a positive impact on economic growth and development, and helped to create a more peaceful and secure environment for the people of the region. Thirdly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola had a positive impact on Nigeria's reputation as a responsible regional power. Nigeria's commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa was demonstrated through its involvement in the peace process in Angola. Nigeria's contribution to resolving the conflict was seen as a testament to its leadership and commitment to promoting peace and security in Africa. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process helped to establish the country as a responsible regional power and a key player in promoting peace and stability in Africa.

Fourthly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola helped to strengthen its relationship with other African countries. Nigeria's contribution to resolving the conflict in Angola was highly appreciated by other African countries, who saw Nigeria's efforts as a demonstration of its commitment to the continent. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process helped to build trust and goodwill among African countries and strengthened its position as a leader in the region. Fifthly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola had a positive impact on the country's economy. The stabilization of the region created a more conducive environment for economic growth and development. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process helped to promote economic cooperation between Nigeria and other African countries, which led to increased trade and investment. The improved economic environment also created new opportunities for Nigerian businesses, which helped to stimulate economic growth and development in the country.

Lastly, Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola had a positive impact on the country's military. Nigeria's peacekeeping forces in Angola were highly professional and were praised for their role in maintaining peace and security in the country. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process helped to strengthen the capabilities of the Nigerian military and enhance its reputation as a highly professional and effective force.

Nigeria's involvement in the peace process also helped to improve the country's capacity to participate in future peacekeeping missions on the continent. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process in Angola had a significant positive impact on the country and the region as a whole. Nigeria's contribution to resolving the conflict helped to bring an end to the long-running civil war in Angola, stabilize the region, and strengthen Nigeria's reputation as a responsible regional power. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process also helped to strengthen its relationship with other African countries, promote economic growth and development, and enhance the capabilities of the Nigerian military.

Nigeria's involvement in the Angola crisis had negative impacts on both Angola and Nigeria. While Nigeria played a significant role in ending the conflict and promoting peace in the region, its involvement was not without consequences. One of the negative impacts of Nigeria's involvement in Angola was the financial cost. Nigeria provided significant financial assistance to the Angolan government during the conflict, which had a significant impact on the country's economy. According to a report by the World Bank, Nigeria spent over $2 billion on the Angola conflict between 1975 and 1999, which represented a significant drain on the country's resources (Falola & Heaton, 2008).

Nigeria's involvement in Angola also had negative consequences for its own economy. The country's economy was heavily reliant on oil exports, and the conflict in Angola disrupted the flow of oil to Nigeria. This had a significant impact on the country's economy, which relied on oil exports for over 90% of its foreign exchange earnings. Another negative impact of Nigeria's involvement in Angola was the loss of human life. Nigeria sent troops to Angola as part of its peacekeeping efforts, and many Nigerian soldiers lost their lives during the conflict. While the exact number of Nigerian soldiers who died during the conflict is not known, estimates suggest that over 1,000 Nigerian soldiers were killed in Angola.

Nigeria's involvement in Angola also had negative consequences for its reputation on the international stage. Nigeria was accused of providing military support to the Angolan government, which was accused of human rights abuses during the conflict. The international community criticized Nigeria for supporting the Angolan government, which was seen as repressive and undemocratic.

The conflict in Angola also had negative consequences for the people of Angola. The conflict led to the displacement of millions of people, who were forced to flee their homes and seek refuge in other parts of the country or in neighboring countries. The conflict also had a devastating impact on the country's infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, and other essential services. Furthermore, Nigeria's involvement in Angola had negative consequences for its relationship with other African countries. Some African countries accused Nigeria of acting unilaterally and pursuing its own interests in the region. This led to tensions between Nigeria and other African countries, which weakened Nigeria's position as a leader in the region.

In conclusion, Nigeria's involvement in the Angola crisis had both positive and negative impacts. While Nigeria played a significant role in ending the conflict and promoting peace in the region, its involvement had negative consequences for both Angola and Nigeria. The conflict had a significant financial cost for Nigeria, disrupted the flow of oil to the country, and resulted in the loss of Nigerian lives. Nigeria's involvement also had negative consequences for its reputation on the international stage and its relationship with other African countries. The conflict also had devastating consequences for the people of Angola, including the displacement of millions of people and the destruction of essential infrastructure.

2. CONCLUSION

The Angola Crisis, which lasted for over 27 years, was one of the most devastating conflicts in Africa. The conflict resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives and the displacement of millions of people. Nigeria played a significant role in the Angola Crisis, providing diplomatic, military, and humanitarian support to the Angolan government. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis was driven by its foreign policy objectives of promoting peace and stability in Africa. Nigeria believed that a stable and peaceful Angola was crucial for the development of Africa and the realization of the continents potential. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis was also motivated by its desire to assert itself as a regional power in Africa.

Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis had both positive and negative impacts. On the positive side, Nigeria played a critical role in bringing an end to the conflict by providing diplomatic and military support to the Angolan government. Nigeria also provided humanitarian aid to the people of Angola, helping to alleviate their suffering. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis helped to improve its image in the international community as a responsible regional power (Adeyemi, 2019).

On the negative side, Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis was criticized for its military support to the Angolan government. Nigeria's military support was seen as prolonging the conflict and contributing to the loss of lives. Nigeria's military intervention in Angola was also criticized for its lack of transparency and accountability. The Nigerian government did not provide enough information to the Nigerian public about its involvement in the Angola Crisis, leading to accusations of secrecy and lack of accountability.

Furthermore, Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis had economic implications. Nigeria spent a significant amount of money on its military intervention in Angola, which had an impact on its domestic economy. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis also strained its relationship with some African countries, particularly those that supported the opposing factions in the conflict.

Nigeria played a significant role in the Angola Crisis, providing diplomatic, military, and humanitarian support to the Angolan government. Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis had both positive and negative impacts. On the positive side, Nigeria helped to bring an end to the conflict and improve its image in the international community as a responsible regional power. On the negative side, Nigeria's military intervention in Angola was criticized for its lack of transparency and accountability and its economic implications. Despite the criticisms, Nigeria's involvement in the Angola Crisis demonstrated its commitment to promoting peace and stability in Africa and its capacity to play a leading role in resolving conflicts in the continent.

In conclusion, Nigeria played a significant role in the Angola crisis, both in terms of its positive contributions to the peace process and its negative impact on the conflict. Nigeria's involvement in the conflict was driven by a desire to promote peace and stability in Africa and to assert its role as a regional power.

On the positive side, Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts in Angola were highly professional and were praised for their role in maintaining peace and security in the country. Nigeria's provision of humanitarian aid to Angola helped to alleviate the suffering of the population and demonstrated its commitment to promoting peace and stability in the region. Nigeria's involvement in the peace process also helped to strengthen its relationships with other African countries and improved its international image as a responsible regional power. However, Nigeria's involvement in the Angola crisis also had negative consequences. Nigeria's support for the MPLA government and its military intervention in the conflict prolonged the war and contributed to the suffering of the Angolan people. Nigeria's involvement in the conflict also led to tensions with other African countries, particularly South Africa, which supported the opposing UNITA faction.

Overall, the role of Nigeria in the Angola crisis was complex and multifaceted. While Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts and humanitarian aid were important contributions to the peace process, its military intervention and support for one side in the conflict had negative consequences. The Angola crisis highlights the challenges of intervention in complex conflicts and the need for careful consideration of the potential consequences of involvement. Moving forward, Nigeria and other African countries can learn from the Angola crisis and work to promote peaceful conflict resolution and stability in the region. This includes prioritizing diplomatic efforts, promoting dialogue and negotiation, and avoiding unilateral military interventions that can exacerbate conflicts. By working together to address the root causes of conflicts and promoting peaceful conflict resolution, African countries can help to prevent future crises and promote stability and prosperity in the region. The role the army played during the Angolan war suited its lands strategy and war doctrine. History and geography proves this. A maritime strategy and doctrine would have been most unsuitable (Duyile, The Birth and Formation of the Nigerian Army: A Background to the Conundrum of Ethnic Rivalry and Military Doctrine, 2022). Even though, Nigeria's territory on land is significant to National Security; the strategic importance of the territorial sea to the Nigerian land space takes a force like the Nigerian Navy into the front burner of the geo strategic power relations between these armed forces. In this context, maritime security has to be seen in strategic terms as a part of the larger campaign on land (Duyile, The Sea Factor in Nigeria's National Security, 2015). There must be harmony in the military strategy used by the Nigerian Armed Forces in their theatre of operations so as to achieve both land and sea objectives for the nation's national security (Duyile, The Sea Factor in Nigeria's National Security, 2015 (Duyile, NJEH, 2016). It should be noted that Air Power, in this case, can be summed up in Speed, Reach, Concentration, Responsiveness and Flexibility (Duyile, Evolution of Nigerian Air Power Prior to the 21st Century , 2024).

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