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Book Review

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Title: The Trouble with Nigeria

Author: Chinua Achebe

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Review

The trouble with Nigeria is a book written by Chinua Achebe in 1983. The book is a non-fictional work base on the challenges of leadership in Nigeria. The book has 68 pages with components such as – cover page, title page, copy right page, dedication, biographic notes, contents and a preface.

The book has 10 chapters. The first chapter was titled “where the problem lies. The chapter tried to describe how rich the country is, those good leadership skills that were displayed in the past and how the country was overtaken by bad leadership. The second chapter was titled tribalism. The chapter focused on the impact of the menace on the unity of country. The third chapter in the book was titled, “false image of ourselves”. The chapter provide an overview of how the country is portraying itself before the outside world and the realities on ground. The fourth chapter of the book was titled, leadership and Nigerian style. They chapter attempted to describe the various leadership styles displayed by Nigerian leaders. The fifth chapter of the book was titled, patriotism. In the chapter, the author provide an analogy on the two distinct types of leaders in the country. There were those that are patriotic and those that were unpatriotic. The author cited good deeds displayed by the like of *Aminu Kano*, *Murtala Mohammad*, among many others.

The sixth chapter was titled social injustice and the cult of mediocrity. The chapter provides an overview of those social injustices and mediocrity bedeviled the country. The seventh chapter was titled, indiscipline. The chapter highlighted several incidences of

indiscipline among Nigerian leaders and the citizens. The Eight chapter was titled corruption. In this chapter, several incidences of corruption were buttressed. Chapter nine of the book was titled the Igbo problem. In this chapter, the author attempted to take the readers on how the Igbo ethnic groups were being perceived. The author used the lance portrayed by an unnamed professor who have stated that Nigeria has an Igbo problem. The author provide a briefly overview of the civil war and its effect on the Igbo ethnic group. He point out list of challenges that were being faced by the Igbo; these are exclusion, marginalization, discrimination among others. The ten and the concluding chapter was titled the example of Aminu Kano. The authors referenced *Aminu Kano* to the point that the work was dedicated to him and Sir *Louis Mbanefo*. The author portrayed Aminu Kano as an example of a detribalized leader and a leader who mean well to all. The author compared Aminu Kano with the like of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. The author also portray Aminu Kano as a revolutionary and exemplary leader.

The work is purely on leadership problem in Nigeria, from independence to the coup that ushered Muhammad Buhari in 1983. The author use the scene of 1983 to demonstrate so many scenario. Conclusively, the books: “Trouble with Nigeria” is an interesting read. It is a well research and informative piece that hammered on the challenges of leadership in Nigeria. It looks at leadership from 1983 to 1998. It give much emphasis on the incidence that took place in 1983. The book shared the vision with the postulation of John Maxwell, who also sees the success of a nation to leadership.

The book is rich and was able to provide a brief overview of leadership in Nigeria; its challenges and how it can be improved. The fact that the book is good and written by a renowned authority does not mean that it cannot be improved upon. For a book of this nature, the author should have begun from the inception of the country (1960 to when he stopped). He has attempted to describe the ethnic sentiment that the country was built on but did not provide sufficient explanation on their root causes. Several atrocity were committed in 1960 to 1966 (The reign of Tafawa Balewa and Nnamdi Azikiwe), 1966 (John Thomas Agwui-Ironsi), (1966 – 1975) (Gowon Administration), and many others. But there was silence about them. By doing this, readers would properly understand how the problem of leadership started in Nigeria and how it could be managed

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