

**REVIEWER'S REPORT****Manuscript No.: IJAR-57182****Title: WOMEN, NIGERIAN NATIONALISM AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES: INTERROGATING THE NEGLECTED, 1900-1960,****Recommendation:****Accept after minor revision**

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓,		
Techn. Quality		✓,		
Clarity	✓,			
Significance	✓,			

**Reviewer Name: Abdul Haseeb Mir****Detailed Reviewer's Report**

The research article titled "Women, Nigerian Nationalism and Political Activities: Interrogating the Neglected, 1900-1960" provides a vital historiographical intervention by challenging the male-centric narratives that have traditionally dominated the study of Nigerian independence movements. By adopting subaltern and African feminist theories, the author seeks to recover the agency of women whose contributions to national consciousness and political struggle have been systematically marginalized in conventional historical documentation. The study is particularly successful in demonstrating that women's protests were not merely localized or economic grievances but were profoundly nationalist in orientation, directly targeting the structural foundations of colonial governance.

The narrative begins by establishing the theoretical framework, emphasizing that the "neglect" of women in Nigerian history is a product of both colonial patriarchal structures and the subsequent bias of post-colonial scholarship. The author expertly utilizes subaltern theory to give voice to those historically relegated to the margins, arguing that women's involvement in nationalism was dictated by the specific material and social conditions of their lives. This theoretical grounding is essential for the article's central thesis: that women did not simply "support" a male-led movement but crystallized their own nationalist struggle through strategic resistance to colonial policies that threatened their communities.

A significant strength of the article is its detailed examination of the diverse forms of political activity engaged in by women across different regions of Nigeria. The author moves beyond a monolithic "Nigerian woman" identity to explore the specific contributions of market women, elite activists, and

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rural protesters. The analysis of the Aba Women's War of 1929 is handled with academic rigor, reframing it from a "riot" over taxation into a sophisticated political challenge against the "Warrant Chief" system and the erosion of traditional female authority. By linking forest ordinances, monetary regulations, and trade restrictions to the broader nationalist cause, the author demonstrates how women effectively articulated the intersection between daily survival and national sovereignty.

The paper further evaluates the role of organized women's groups and the emergence of prominent female leaders during the mid-twentieth century. The discussion on the integration of women into political parties and the formation of independent women's wings provides a necessary political layer to the social history. The author highlights that while women were instrumental in mobilizing the grassroots and providing the "energy" for political campaigns, they were often excluded from high-level decision-making processes once the goal of independence neared. This critique of the "gendered ceiling" within nationalist organizations adds a sophisticated layer to the narrative, illustrating the internal contradictions of a movement seeking liberation from colonial rule while maintaining internal patriarchal hierarchies.

Furthermore, the article addresses the impact of colonial education and the missionary presence on the politicization of Nigerian women. The author evaluates how a new class of educated women used their literacy and international connections to lobby for suffrage and representation. However, the narrative is careful to balance this by also emphasizing the "traditional" modes of protest—such as the use of song, dance, and collective shaming—which remained powerful tools of political communication for non-literate women. This dual focus ensures that the article captures the full spectrum of female political agency, from the halls of administrative power to the village marketplace.

In summary, this article offers a profound and necessary revision of Nigeria's path to independence. It moves beyond the "great men" theory of history to provide a deep, critical inquiry into the collective labor of women who shaped the nation's political consciousness. The author's ability to weave together documentary evidence with feminist theory makes this a significant contribution to African history and gender studies. It is an essential read for scholars seeking a more inclusive and accurate understanding of the nationalist movements that redefined the West African landscape in the early twentieth century.

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### Recommendations for Minor Revisions

### Theoretical and Conceptual Refinement

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- **African Feminist Nuance:** While African feminist theory is cited, the paper would benefit from a more explicit distinction between "Western feminism" and the specific communal and "maternal" forms of feminism prevalent in Nigeria during this period. Clarifying how Nigerian women balanced their roles as mothers and wives with their identities as political agitators would add depth to the "African feminism" framework.
- **Subaltern Agency:** The author should briefly address the challenges of using "colonial archives" to reconstruct subaltern history. Mentioning how the researcher "read between the lines" or utilized oral traditions to supplement the biased colonial record would enhance the methodological transparency of the paper.

### Content and Contextualization

- **Regional Comparison:** The article focuses heavily on the Southern and Eastern regions. Adding a brief section on the specific challenges and political activities of women in Northern Nigeria during the same period would provide a more truly "national" scope and address the different socio-religious constraints they faced.
- **Specific Leadership Profiles:** While the paper mentions that women's struggles were not solely carried out by men, highlighting two or three specific female figures (beyond the well-known names like Funmilayo Ransome-Kuti) would provide concrete examples of leadership and individual agency within the broader movements.

### Structural and Technical Elements

- **Timeline Clarity:** The paper covers 1900–1960. A brief chronological table or a summary of key "Women-Led Political Milestones" would help the reader navigate the transition from early anti-tax protests to the organized party politics of the 1950s.
- **Citations and References:** Ensure that all references to specific colonial ordinances (e.g., the forest and monetary regulations mentioned in the abstract) are accompanied by specific dates or legislative titles in the body of the text to assist future researchers in verifying the documentary evidence.

**Recommendation:** Recommend for publication with minor revision.