

Power Contestation Among African Leaders: A Comparative Study of Nigeria and Ghana Political Administration Experiences, (1999 – 2022)

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Abstract

Nigeria and Ghana are among African countries that were colonized by the British overlord; hence, both countries got their independence on the 6th of March, 1957, and October 1st 1960 as a democratic state respectively which then gave them room to control their political, economic and socio-cultural activities without foreign interference. The independence of these two countries later gave birth to power contestation and struggle among the political gladiators of the day. This paper explored power contestation among African leaders with a focus on the comparative study of Nigeria and Ghana political administration experiences in various administration. Evolutionary Governance Theory was employed as a theoretical framework of analysis, while documentary method of data collection which anchored on secondary sources like; archival data from regime gazettes, text books, newspapers, journal articles, and internet sources was employed. The paper's investigation on the factors responsible for power contestations among African leaders, Nigeria and Ghana as a study implicated Imbalance in the Political Structure, Corrupt leadership, Tribalism and Nepotism between and among their leadership, Fraudulent political activities among political parties, Abuse of elections by politicians. Division within the political leadership, Ineffective Judiciary, and Electoral malpractice/rigging, Based on the findings, the paper recommended redefinition of political system and leadership style of both countries, compulsory leadership training and youths mentorship, Power rotation, constitution review, age limit and condition of service for political office holders/office seekers in both countries.

Keywords; independence, power contestation, Democracy, leadership, constitution

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Introduction

Hanging thick in the air on that 6th of March, 1957, and October 1st 1960 respectively, was a glorious beacon of hope of uncluttered freedom savored with the relish of a people who have known nothing but oppression, suppression, intimidation, subjugation, exploitation, marginalization, economic and political domination, by Britain who colonized them for more (Ghana from 1867-1957, Nigeria from 1884-1960) respectively. Here, children expressed it in songs, and demonstrated it at various parade grounds across the nation as they marched on their first independence day celebration that was on the 6th of March 1957 in Ghana and 1st of October 1960 in Nigeria respectively. However, the expectation was that of better education, improved agriculture, health services, more rapid industrialization and economic abundance generated by natural and human resources but after so many years there was nothing to justify the hopes. The aspirations were becoming a mirage and politicians played politics for what they could get out of it, rather than the desire to serve and develop the country; hence, the outcome of the people's expectation were series of military coup and counter coup de'tat that later poses a big threat to the countries economic and political development and nation building. At this point all hope were lost because what the people saw was not what they expected from their so called leaders. It is at this backdrop this paper aims to examine a comparative study of Nigeria and Ghana political administration experiences,(1999 – 2022). This now bring us to the **statement of the problem** of this paper.

Statement of the problem

Ogunsade (1982) recalls that under the new government and leadership of the newly independent countries, (Nigeria and Ghana) the cost of living was high while the standard of living of the people maintained a steady decline contrary to people's expectation; hence, the elites of the time were more interested in power acquisition and resource control which gave birth to power contestation and struggle among the elites in these two countries. In the word of Akonye, instead of these new government of the newly independent states to start thinking on how to build a united nation state, and develop the economy, etc. what they were interested was efforts toward power acquisition and resource control contrary to people's expectations and aspirations. This now gave birth to the **Research Questions** of this paper;

Research Questions

- a) **“What are the factors responsible for power contestation in Nigeria and Ghana political administration from 1999-2022?”**
- b) **Are there a semilar administration experiences in the Nigeria and Ghana political administrative system within the period under tudy(1999 and 2022)?.**

The above research question brings us to the **objectives of this paper**

objectives of the paper

The objectives of this paper aims to investigate;

- a) Reasons/factors responsible for the power contestationin Nigeria and Ghana political administration systembetween 1999 and 2022,and
- b) To examine if there aresemilaradministration political experiences in the Nigeria and Ghana political administration system between 1999 and 2022.

Research Methodology

The methodology to be used to attend to this research questions will be qualitative in nature; hence, the collected data was sourced from relevant materials and analyzed contextually without involving any qualitativetechniques. Meanwhile, the historical analysis from literature formed part of the background information of this paper and this involved investigating, recording, and analyzing the past events as they relates to our study. Here, documented and archival data were extracted from the regime gazettes, textbooks, periodicals and internet source, among other. Meanwhile, data generated from these sources were analyzed using content and context analysis where concrete information was distilled from the collections, while synthesized outputs from the analysis are presented as different sections in accordance with the objectives of the paper.

Conceptual clarifications

Independence;

Independence is used to describe a state that has the right and power to govern itself without external interference. The word is also used to describe the sovereignty and autonomy of modern nation states. It means that the nation states are free to decide for themselves about the type of

government, policies and programmes they want. It equally refers to the right of a government to have a complete control over its area, state, society and its citizens.

Power contestation;

power contestation in this regard means controversy, it is an act of arguing or disagreement over or about controlling governmental position, office or seat. It is a situation people, individual or political parties, among other struggle to be incharge or in control of a particular office mainly a governmental office or position, so as to allocate the state resource, manage the affairs of the state and control the state machinery.

Democracy;

The word **Democracy** took its name from the two Greek words – demos, meaning people, and kratia, meaning to rule. It means the rule of the people. It is a system in which the people participate actively in the conduct and running of government. Democracy could be seen as a political system in which citizens enjoy a number of basic civil and political rights, and in which their political leaders are elected in free and fair election, and are accountable under a rule of law (Almond, 2008). Appadorai (2004) sees democracy as a system of government under which people can exercise the governing power either directly or through representatives periodically elected by them. Sodaro (2008) said, the essential idea of democracy is that, people have the right to determine who governs them and hold them accountable. and by extension to amass wealth as much as they can for their own selfish and family interest.

Leadership;

Leadership as the name implies is a burdensome duty involving the capacity to inspire, motivate and coordinate people against the odds in the ways of achieving a vision without losing enthusiasm, cohesion or stability. Its sterling qualities include charisma, bravery, courage, agility, power of speech and persuasion to exercise influence on others towards a strategic goal. Leadership shall be well enlightened, literate, persuasive and yet submissive, Aja, (2006). Kindson and Fleener (2009) sees leadership as the act of coordinating and motivating individuals and groups in the society to achieve desired goals. It is a process through which one individual influence the actions of others. It involves knowing the way, showing the way and going the way. Sills, (1976), sees leadership as something that involves maintenance of integrity, viability,

collective order and unity against both internal and external threats, minimization of dissensions and conflicts, motivation of members and fostering the acceptance by a collectivity of its goals.

Constitution;

The word **Constitution** refer to a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state acknowledged to be governed. It is an aggregate of fundamental principles or established precedents that constitute the legal basis of a polity, organization or other type of entity, and commonly determine how that entity is to be governed

Theoretical Framework of Analysis

Evolutionary Governance Theory was employed as our theoretical frame work of analysis for this paper. This theory is use to explain governance and its evolution. It is an approach that addresses the complex and non-linear nature of governance. Evolutionary Theory recognizes that governance and its elements are constantly changing in inter play with each other. According to Van Assche, Kristof, Beunen, Raoul, Duineveld, Martijin and Ostrom (2014) Evolutionary Governance Theory places emphasis on the co-evolution between discourse, actors and institutions as we can see among the political actors and leadership of Nigeria and Ghana in their political administration system and experiences under various political administrations. In this regard, Evolutionary Governance Theory offers a perspective on the way institutions, states, and society evolve. the theory offers a frame work for understanding how actors, like the various political leaders of Nigeria and Ghana at their various levels of governance are in a continus process of co-evolution. The theory states how different dependencies influence the course of evolution, and how different evolutionary pathways are created and influence each other's development. According to Beunen, Van, and Duineveld (2015), Within Evolutionary Governance Theory, social systems theory is compatible with the version of discourse theory largely in line with the Michael Foucault tradition, while offering a place for actors and their strategizing. Evolutionary Governance Theory links up with the literature on socio-ecological and complex adaptive systems with an emphasis on the processes and mechanisms that drive social evolution. this Theory builds on a broad range of theoretical sources that includes, systems theory, post structuralism, institutional economics, actor network theory and development studies. In relating this theory to this paper, we saw how various political actors and leadership

came and go at one time and, we equally saw how power is been contested among political gladiator in this two countries. We also saw issues that arises among the desperate leaders in these two countries political administrations right from their independence era, (1957 and 1960)repectivelyto date. We equally saw how bad governance gave births to various administration interventions and power struggles by the various political actors and leadership that came into power in one time or the other in the name to put things in order which were done by hijacking ballot boxes, rigging of election, kidnapping of opponent, killing and assassinating the opposition member. This is why Karl Marx states that, so long people exist and live together conflict is inevitable and unavoidable. It is on that ground thatBeunen, Van, and Duineveld (2015), states that within Evolutionary Governance Theory social systems theory is compatible with the version of discourse theory, which is in line with the Michael Foucault tradition, while offering a place for actors and their strategies. Accordingly, Evolutionary Governance Theory links up with the literature on social-ecological and complex adaptive systems with an emphasis on the processes and mechanisms that drive social evolution as we saw in Nigeria and Ghana political administration experiences; thus, Evolutionary Governance Theory is taken to be suitable for this paper. Base on the foregoing analysis, factorsresponsible For the power contestation in the Nigeria and Ghana Political Administrative systems Within the period under study (1999 – 2022) surfaces.

Factors Responsible For the Power Contestation in Nigeria and Ghana Political Administrative system(1999 – 2022)

- **Imbalance In The Political Structure of Nigeria and Ghana**

the imbalance in the political structure of Nigeria and Ghanaand other African countries at large, do at time generate a big problem among the political elites from the various ethnic groups that dominates others due to their size and geographical position. For instance in Nigeria people from the Eastern part of the country saw the geographical size of the Northern part of the country as a threat to the peace and unity of the country. The north has half of the legislators in the Federal House of Representatives, provide more Ministers to the executive council and carried the largest share of annual revenue allocations, and this is also what happens in Ghana among the ethnic

groups therein. In order to balance power, there is room for power contestation among the marginalized and the dominant groups.

- **Corrupt leadership**

This is one of the major factor that led to power contestation among African countries, Nigeria and Ghana as an example. African leaders are greedy, corrupt and unserious. This has been witnessed both among the politicians in these two countries. in effect, this has been a factor behind the series of the unstable government witnessed in this two countries in the past

- **Tribal politics among the ethnic groups**

These vices were common in the Nigeria and Ghana political system within the period under study and it manifested itself in the area of resource control, in allocation of amenities, offer of positions in government, promotion of staff to higher position, etc. and it has been posing a big threat to nation building and economic advancement; hence, issues are complicated by the way quota system is applied in public affairs in these two countries

- **Fraudulent political activities among political parties in Nigeria and Ghana**

Power struggle among political parties in Nigeria and Ghana is another factor behind power contestation in these two countries. This factor is witnessed among political parties in Nigeria and Ghana first, second, third, and fourth republics

- **Division within the political leadership**

This factor showcases itself amongst the civilian governments whose arguments were centered on more educationally developed and less educationally under developed part of the African countries, which later crept into the politicians, thereby politicizing the institution by creating room for ethnic domination, marginalization and sectionalism among the political class, groups and zones, as these elites believe that ones they are in power they would set up equitable standard of economic development, political advancement and promotions that would not leave any state, zone or region in a position of dominance. A situation like this, contributed immensely in encouraging power struggle among the ethnic groups and zone in Nigeria and Ghana

- **Ineffective Judiciary**

Ineffective judiciary is seen as a serious problem in Nigeria and Ghana politics and administration. Here, the judiciary is very weak and incapable of taking decisions without been

bias mainly during elections when cases were file in courts against a political opponents. As a result, people lost faith in the Judiciary and this act created room for power contestation among the political gladiators who feel they can do more better if they are opportune to be there.

- **Electoral malpractice**

Electoral malpractice has been one issue in Nigeria and Ghana political administration since independence to their first, second, third and even fourth republic. Eke etal (2014) observed that the political parties in the Nigeria and Ghana first, second, third and fourth republic organize themselves into various groups which showcases itself in various electoral forms, malpractices and molestation of opponents. The crisis generated by this electoral malpractices has weakened the bonds of trust among the people in various ethnic groups in Nigeria and Ghana and this increases tribal and sectional feelings of suspicion and hatred. Eke etal implicated this in the 1965 Western region election in Nigeria and in Ghana. (Eke Udocha, Ikenna u. Unya, Uche A. and Paul U. M. 2014:222)

- **Arbitrary use of political powers by the leadership**

Arbitrary use of political powers by the political leadership in Nigeria and Ghana within the period under review is one of the major causes of power contestation in these two countries political administrations. Here, the leaders in power in do employed government security agents to suppress, and oppress all political opponents either through legitimate or illegitimate means. This is as a result of power acquisitions among politicians in various ethnic groups of these two countries

- **Abuse of elections**

politicians **and political actors in Nigeria and Ghana** are accuse of abusing elections conduct and processes whenever there is an election to choose a credible candidate, they do this to enable them to stay in power for life or as long as they want because of the wealth they are getting; hence, they choose to die in power so that they will be giving state burial. Here, leadership of the parties in power in Nigeria and Ghana make nonsense of the ballot boxes by creating room for power struggle among the ethnic groups etc. (NeduAjawara., Aburi Accord and the Nigeria/Biafran war. Part 1. The collap of the first republic,)

The Administrations Similarities/experiences In Nigeria And Ghana Within The Period Under Study (1999 – 2022)

Here, we are going to look at the political administration similarities and experiences in Nigeria and Ghana political system between **1999 – 2022** thus, the two countries are the first African countries that got their independence from the colonial masters. Meanwhile, the findings of this paper on the administrative system of thee two countries will be discuss separately for better understanding, firt Nigeria

The Nigeria Political Administrative System from 1960-2022

In the year 1960, Nigeria was officially granted independence by the colonial masters. This happened on October 1, 1960. In 1963 Nigeria became a Republic and was accorded full fledge political independence since the Queen of England was no longer the Head of State, (source;Eke.,Unya, Arua, and Mbakwe, 2014).

- **In 1964** the general election was conducted, while the year 1965, saw Nigerian’s failure of her politicians accentuated by political violence, killings, kidnapping, and rigging of elections which gave officers of the Nigeria armed forces the opportunity to strike in a coup de tat in January **15, 1966**,
- **In 1979**, the military handed over power to an elected civilian government, this gave birth to Nigeria 2nd Republic. There was no infrastructural foundation laid by the military, a situation which made it easy for the civilians to deplete the treasury within four short years. Here, the civilian government of ShehuShagari carried on with the stride of a people whose bread had been buttered due to lack of foresight. At the end of Shagari’s first four years tenure, the country needed some external financial push in order to ascend the ladder of economic growth.
- **June 12 1993**. Saw Nigerian into her 3rd Republic when the general election was conducted and a civilian government was to be urshed in as a winner, Unfortunately, the entire process was annulled mid-way thus, denying the acclaimed winner, chief MKO Abiola to be the Nigerian third Republic President. Here, General Ibrahim Babangida amidst widely sustained local and international condemnation, quit government and contracted out what he termed “**Interim National Government**” headed by Chief Ernest

Shonekan. That marked the beginning and end of the 3rd Republic. This time, members of the cabinets in charge of National Security like General Sani Abacha on **November 23rd 1993** overthrew the government headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan.

Later the death of Abacha in **April 1998** was followed by the death of the acclaimed winner of **June 12 1993** general election, Chief MKO. Abiola in **June 1998**. Here, the situation saw General Abdulsalami Abubakar, who initiated and conducted a smooth transition programme from military to civilian democracy in **May 29th 1999**; hence, President Olusegun Obasanjo emerged victorious in the **1999** general election under the banner of People Democratic Party (PDP) He played a major role in the emergence of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and Goodluck Jonathan as his successor. Unfortunately, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua died **on May 5th 2010** and Dr Jonathan was sworn in on the **6th of May 2010** as the President, (Centre for General African Developments and Studies. The Emergence of a Patriot President Goodluck Jonathan. GCFR taking Nigeria to Greater Heights, p. xv111-xix)

On **May 29 2011**, the general election conducted saw Goodluck Jonathan as the elected President for the next 4 years, **2011 to 2015**. On **May 29, 2015** the general election conducted saw Muhammadu Buhari as the next President from 2015 to **2019**.

On **May 29, 2019** the general election conducted also saw Buhari as the winner, giving him room for another 4 years from **29 May 2019 to May 29, 2023**.

Second Ghana;

Ghana Political Administration system from 1957 to 2022

Ghana in **March 6, 1957**, became the first Country in Africa to gain independence from the Colonial masters. According to Egbo (2001), the situation in Ghana inspired nationalist movements all over the continent. Kwame Nkrumah emerged as the leader of the new nation under the platform of the Convention People's Party, (CPP).

In 1960, Ghana became a Republic and Kwame Nkrumah was appointed the President of the Republic. In **1964**, Kwame Nkrumah suspended the democracy by suspending the constitution. At this point, Ghana officially became a one party state; thus, Nkrumah gains the power of a dictator and he was criticized by the West. Here, Nkrumah turns to the Soviet Union and other Communist Countries. On **February 24, 1966** Nkrumah's government came to an end while he

was paying an official visit to Chairman Mao in Beijing. At this point, Nkuruma flight to asylum at his personal friend President Sekou Toure in Guinea. The new military government was known as the National Liberation Council (NLC) with the aims to be a provisional government until a new election is organized by political parties again. The National Liberation Council was headed by Joseph Ankrah who was retired by Nkuruma as the Head of the Ghanaian Army Forces. Ankrah was recalled to head the military government

Ghana 2nd Republic

In **1969**, the military led government by Joseph Ankra organized an elections under a multi-party system and this election saw Dr. Kofi Busia as a new civilian government under the auspices of the Progress Party (PP).

In 1972, Nkuruma died in Conakry Gunea and his body was moved and buried in Accra. When Joseph Ankrah took over power, he quickly got embroiled in corruption and financial scandal and was replaced by General Akwasi Afrifa. The National Liberation Council later found out that turning the Ghanaian economy around was quite an uphill task. At this point, Ogunsade (1982), recalls that under the new leadership the cost of living is still high while the standard of living of the people maintained a steady decline. In this regard, General Afrifa Akwasi concluded a speedy programme of transition and handed over power to the civilian elected government in the person of Kofi Busia. Nwosu et al, (1980) noted that:

the National Redemption Council gave room for Colonel Ignatius as a new government and it was said to be a time for a change of Acheampong as Head of the state. Though, Acheampong lacks experience, economic and political visions. The outcome is a growth of corruption in the level of government and society against his earlier promise to accelerate economic development, reconcile various political factors, restore freedom and wipe out corruption among others

In July 5, **1978**, Acheampong was forced to resign as General William Akuffo Fred takes over control of the supreme military council. He promised to reinstate a civilian government. on that note political parties were allowed to form and election date was set. In June 4 1979, shortly after the commencement of Akuffo's transition programme, Flifgt Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings staged a violent military coup against Fred Akuffo's government. Rawlings established a new

military government under what he called Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AERC). Meanwhile, the Armed Forces Revolutionary Council takes over power but still has the intention to make place for a democratic election the same month. The aim of the coup was apparently to ensure free elections and put an end to the corruption and economic chaos. It is also to prevent the supreme military council General from retiring to a life in luxury after having run down the country. Politically and economically, Rawlings is inspired by Socialist ideas. In **June 18, 1979**, Dr. Hilla Limann and his people's National Party won the election. Rawlings before handing over power to Limann, with the support of the AFRC in its determination to end corruption and to restore order and justice, he tried the former leaders and executed them together with the three Chief of staff namely, Acheampong, Akuffo and Afrifa. While several hundred government officials and business men were sent to prison.

Ghana 3rd Republic

In **September 1979**, the Armed Forces Ruling Council handed power to Hilla Limann. Here, Rawlings and his soldiers returned to barracks. The new government of Limann tried but not hard enough to revive the economy completely. Thus, the unpopular economic reforms are given up in fear of unrest and a new coup. Limann seems to have forgotten the lesson learned from his predecessors. The corruption returned to society and internal conflicts finally breaks up the ruling party. In **December 31 1981**, Rawlings staged a comeback against the government of Limann. The provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) was established with Rawlings as Chairman. The parliament is dissolved and all political parties forbidden. By **1984**, the Ghanaian economy is fully showing sign of improvement. Rawlings efforts to improve Ghana economy was rewarded with new loans by the IMF. For the following years Ghana continue to have the highest growth rate in Africa. In **1990**, Rawlings formed the National Commission for Democracy to work out plans for the political future of Ghana, In **1992**, a new democratic constitution was passed, political prisoners were freed and parties are allowed, free press and human rights organizations emerged in Ghana.

Ghana 4th Republic

In **November 1992**, multi-party elections were formed and organized, surprisingly, Rawlings won the Presidential election with nearly 60% of the votes. Rawlings now has a democratic base

to continue the work he started during the long period with a military junta. In **1996**, Rawlings was re-elected with 57% of the votes. NDC remains the biggest party in the parliament. In **1997**, Kofi Annan was appointed the Secretary General of the United Nations, bringing great pride to Ghana. In **March 1998**, U.S.A President Clinton visited Ghana. In December **2000**, Rawlings Presidency ends as the constitution only allows two terms in office. Vice President John Atta Mills is now a new Presidential candidate but it was John Kuffour from NPP that won the election and become the new President. In January **2009**, John Atta Mills was sworn in as the new President of Ghana. In July the same year **2009**, US President Barack Obama visited Ghana. In July **2012**, President John Atta Mills died at the age of 68. In the same July **2012**, John DramaniMahama was sworn in as the President of Ghana, (interim). In **December 2012**, John DramaniMahama was elected President and he remained in power till December **2016** when another Presidential election was conducted which saw Nana AkofuAddo as the new President of Ghana who defeated the incumbent leader John DramaniMahama by a margin of 9.45%. thus, Nana Akufo-Addo is to be in power as the President of Ghana for the next four years, (2017-2022).

A Summa the Comparative analysis/Highlights Of The Nigeria And Ghana Political Administrative system and Experiences Within The Period Under Study

In summary of the comparative study, analysis and experiences of the Nigerian and Ghana political administrations experiences within the period under study the following findings hold:-

- Nigeria and Ghana gained their political independence from Britain, but while Ghana got her independence on the 6th of **March 1957**, Nigeria got her own independence on the **October 1st, 1960**.
- While Ghana was declared a Republic under one party system in 1960 under a Presidential election, Nigeria became a Republic in **1963** under a multi-party system and under a parliamentary system of government
- In **1969** Ghana witnessed her 2nd Republic while Nigeria witnessed hers 2nd republic in **1979**.

- Both countries witnessed their first military intervention in **1966**, but Nigeria first coup de tat took place on **January 15 1966**, while Ghana's first military coup de tat took place on **24th February 1966**.
- In **1972** Ghana witnessed the over throw of her 2nd Republic, while Nigeria witnessed the overthrow of her 2nd republic in **1983**.
- In **1979** Ghana saw herself into her third Republic and it was actualized, while that of Nigeria was in **1993** and the Nigeria 3RD Republic was annulled.
- In **1981** Ghana's third Republic was overthrown by the military juntas. While the election that gave birth to Nigeria third Republic was annulled by the then Military Head of States
- Nigeria and Ghana as independent countries are presently in their fourth Republic, but while Ghana's 4th Republic came into life in 1992, Nigeria's 4th Republic came into life in **1999**.
- While Ghana's 4th Republic saw J.J. Rawlings of NDC as a democratically elected President under two parties system, Nigeria's 4th Republic in **1999** saw Olusegun Obasanjo of PDP as a democratically elected President under multi-party system.
- Finally, while the Nigerian incumbent President Buhari tenure elapsed in **May 29 2023**, that of Ghana will be after 2023

Full Political administrative Analysis/Activities In Nigeria from 1960-2022

- In the year **1960**, Nigeria was officially granted independence by the British colonial masters. This happened on **October 1, 1960**.
- **In 1963** Nigeria became a republic and was accorded full political and economic independence since the Queen of England was no longer the Head of State,
- In **1964**, the general election was conducted throughout the federation while in January **15, 1966**, the first military coup in Nigeria took place and it was organized and carried out by Major Chukwuma Kaduna Nzeogwo, And after the coup Major Umunakwe Aguiyi Ironsi became the first military Head of state of Nigeria.

- in **July 28 1966**, there was a counter coup led by Yakubu Gowon and his boys against the government of Ironi as a result Ironsi was over thrown and equally assassinated.
- In **July 29 1975**, there was counter coup staged by Murtala Mohammed against the government of General Yakubu Gowon. Thus, Murtala Mohammed became the Military Head of State.
- On the **13th of February 1976**, another counter coup was observed. This time Buka .SukaDimka master minded the said coup against Murtala Mohammed. Though, Dimka did not succeeded in his plan to takeover power from Martala government rather, he succeeded in assassinating him. At this juncture Major General OlusegunObasanj took over power from General murtala s
- **In 1979**, Nigeria witnessed her second republic under American Presidential administration with AlhajiShehuShagari as the first Presidential Government of Nigeria.
- In **December 31st 1983**,ShehuShagari government was overthrown by MohammaduBuhari.
- on the **27th August 1985**, Nigeria witnessed another counter coup by Ibrahim BadamosaBabangida, as a result Buhari government was overthrown and Ibrahim BadamusaBabangida and who took over power
- on the **12th of June 1993**, IBB annulled the Presidential election won by Chief M.K.O Abiola, In the process MKO Abiola loss his life. This saw the collapse of the Nigeria, 3rd Republic. thus, IBB, was force to step aside and Chief Ernest Shonekan was appointed as an Interim National Government (ING).
- On the **November 18, 1993**SaniAbacha came into power by sweeping Chief Ernest Shonekan out of office.

- in **1998**, General SaniAbacha died and was replaced with AbulsalamiAbubakar who organized an election that saw OlusegunObasanjo as the winner,
- **on May 1999**Obasanjo came into power as the President of Nigeria and this gave birth to Nigeria 4th Republic. **(1999-2007)**
- In **May 29, 2007** a general election conducted saw Alhaji Musa Yar' Adua in as the President elect. After three years in office he died and his vice , Good Luck Jonathan continued as the constitution stated to complete the 4 year term. **(2007-2011)**
- In **May 29, 2011** a general election was conducted and it saw GoodLuck Jonathan emerged as the winner for another 4 years. **(2011-1015)**
- In 2015 a general election conducted saw MohammaduBuhari as the winner, hence he took over from Jonathan on the **29th May 2015** for the next 4 years which elapsed on the **29th May 2019**.
- on **May 29, 2019** another general election conducted saw Buhari as the winner for another 4 year term which saw him out of office under the Nigeria fourth Republic on **may29, 2023**.

Full Political Administrative Analysis/Activities In Ghana from 1957-2022

- In **1957**, Ghana gained her independence and Nkuruma of CPP was the Prime Minister, under two key parties
- In **1960**, Ghana was declared a Republic under Presidential one party system.
- In **1966**, Ghana witnessed the military over threw of its 1st Republic.
- In **1969**, Ghana witnessed the 2nd Republic, here Busia of PP was the Prime Minister under two key parties.
- In **1972**, Ghana witnessed military over threw of the 2nd Republic.
- In **1978**, Ghana witnessed a palace coup to restructure the military government
- In **1979**, Ghana witnessed the junior officers uprising and military house cleansing.

- **In 1979**, Ghana ushered in third Republic. Here, Limann of PNP became the President under three political parties.
- In **1981**, Ghana witnessed the overthrow of the constitution
- **In 1983**, Ghana witnessed an attempted overthrow of the PNDC junta by the junior army officers
- In **1992**, Rawlings of NDC was democratically elected as President under two political parties.
- **In 1996**, Rawlings of NDC was re-elected under two parties.
- In **2001**, Kuffour of NPP was elected President.
- **In 2005**, Kuffour was re-elected for 2nd term.
- In **2009**, John Evans Atta Mills of NDC became the President of Ghana.
- In July **2012**, President John Atta Mills died at the age of 68.
- In the same July **2012**, John Dramani Mahama was sworn in as the President of Ghana, (interim).
- In **December 2012**, John Dramani Mahama was elected President and he remained in power till **2016**.
- In **December 2016**, another Presidential election was held and Nana Akofu- Addo won by defeating the incumbent President John Dramani Mahama by a margin of 9.45% and was sworn in on the 7th of January, **2017** and he is now in power for the next five years or more (2017 - 2023)

Conclusion

Going by our findings in the power contestation between Nigeria and Ghana Political Administration system and experiences, (1999 – 2022) we observed that in these two countries (Nigeria and Ghana) political administrations, from the time the two countries gained their independence, their administrative system has been that of mixed feeling; thus, both countries witnessed various types of administrations characterized by political instability and democratic government that took place at various times. Meanwhile, Ghana and Nigeria gained their independence on March 24th 1957 and October 1st 1960 respectively. Both countries equally

experienced economic and political set back as result of bad governance, mismanagement of resources and power contestation among the political elites of the era. Accordingly, both countries are presently under the umbrella of democratic system of government; hence, a lot of changes are observed from the political activities of both countries in recent time. However, a lot changes have been witnessed in their economic and political life, as both countries are in their 4th Republics struggling towards achieving their desired goal and aspiration in this 21st century.

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