

Elite Recruitment and Political Stability in the Nigerian Fourth Republic

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ABSTRACT The paper discusses political elite recruitment as a major factor in the political stability of the Nigerian State. The focal point was the use of the Structural-functional theory as the basis of analysis with interest on what constitute a structure, function, system maintenance and adaptability. As a result, the roles of political parties in political elite recruitment vis-à-vis the military influence on the Nigerian Fourth Republic were identified and analyzed. The paper vividly stated that political activities in the Nigerian Fourth Republic as regard political elite recruitment is one that has been exclusive of the masses both at intra and inter party levels, and therefore recommend among others that for political stability to be enhanced in the Republic, political parties which constitute functional institution for political elite recruitment in a democracy must be deeply rooted in the people.