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Electoral Violence and Democratic Consolidation: The Experience of Nigeria

By

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### **Abstract**

The problems of violence in the electoral processes, with particular reference to Nigeria were investigated in this research. The aggression and State fragility theories were employed. The authors were of the opinion that most of the elections in Nigeria have been marred by violent destruction of lives and property, rigging and other fraudulent practices which have made the citizens to get discouraged with the electoral processes. The activities of godfathers were highlighted and the problems they have created in the belief system of the people that without their presence, no individual could win elections on their merits in Nigeria were examined. It was concluded that proper application of the rule of law and strengthening bureaucratic structures will go a long way in combating violence and fraud in Nigeria's general elections.

**Key Words:** Fraud. Rigging. Violence. Election. Godfatherism. Corruption