THE UNITED STATE IMMIGRATION VISA LOTTERY AND ITS SOCIO-POLITICAL IMPLICATION ON NIGERIA

BY

PATRICK OMONEYI
MIAD/SOC.SCI/38342

BEING A FINAL YEAR PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY ZARIA, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF MASTERS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIS AND DIPLOMACY (MIAD)

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MIAD/SOC.SCI/38342

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERISTY, ZARIA

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This project has been read and approved by the Department of political science as meeting the requirements for the award of masters in international affairs and diplomacy

SUPERVISOR	DATE
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT	DATE
DEAN, POST GRADUATE SCHOOL	DATE

DEDICATION

To God Almighty, to my lovely wife Rebecca Omoneyi, the memory of my Late father, J.E.A Omoneyi, My Mother Bibiana, brothers and sisters.

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ABSTRACT

In recent years, the world has seen an increased mobility in people, products, and capital; countries have more interaction with one another than ever before. The United States of America plays a large role in the global economy, it becomes more important to understand the chain reaction that goes along with this situation especially with regard to the movement of people towards the United States.

The severe economic difficulties, increase poverty and political instability have plagued many African Countries in the last two decades resulting in the large scale migration of Africans to Europe and the united States. Unlike their counterparts in the 1960s and 70s who were anxious to return home after acquiring an American education in order to contribute in the task of nation building, an overwhelming majority of recent immigrants are more interested in establishing permanent residency in the United States. Although these immigrants continue to be attracted to major cities like New York, Atlanta, Chicago and Los Angeles, they can also be found in increasing numbers in small and mid-size cities in Ohio, Nebraska, Iowa and maim.

Britain's American Colonies broke with the mother country in 1776 and were recognized as the new nation of the United States of America following the treaty of Paris in 1783. During the 19th and 20th centuries 34 new states were added to the original 13, as the nation expanded across the north American continent and acquired a number of oversees possessions. Haven emerged victories after both the first and second World War and the

end of the cold War in 1991, the united states remains the world's most powerful nation – state. The economy is marked by steady growth with a per capital GDP of $ 36,200, low unemployment and inflation, and rapid advance in technology. America today is a federal state, a union of 50 states. It occupies an area of 3,717,522 square mile and a coastline of 12,373 miles, its population as at July 2001 estimate was 278, 0548, 881, and Christianity is the major religion.

Immigration, which was American's historic raison d' e'tre, has been the most persistent and the most pervasive influence in her development. The whole history of the Unites States during the past three and half century has been molded by successive waves of immigrants who responded to the lure of the new world and whose labours together with those of their descendants, have transformed an almost empty continent into the world's most powerful nation. The population of the United States today excepts the Indians, consists entirely of immigrants and of the descendants of immigrants. American society, economic life, politics, religion, and thought all bear witness to the fact that United States has been the principal beneficiary of the greatest folk migration in human history. American culture is thus a blend of the cultures of millions of immigrants of different languages, religion and mores.

With the new phenomenon of Globalization the world had been turned into a small village and capitalism seem to be more accepted by many nations as an economic system controlled by the west.

The immigration to the United States is given some legal backing when the United State congress enacted the first version of the Visa lottery in the 80s, this lottery also know as Diversity immigrant visa, make available fifty thousand (50,000.00) permanent resident visa annually to persons from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States.

Thousands of Nigerians have been lured by this lottery into the United States, which was why Dr. Emeagwali in his presentation of "why Nigerians are not returning home" pointed out that the widely held myth is that Africa is only exporting raw materials to the west. Africa is also exporting talented human resources to Europe and America. One million African are working outside Africa.

The United State Diversity immigration Visa lottery had become a major ritual exercise in Nigeria, the government is silent about this issue and some Nigerians have capitalized on the business aspect of it, thereby assisting interested candidates with information and actually sending entries on their behalf for a fee which range between N1000 to N3000 per entery.

This research therefore seek to find out the impact, effect and implications of this American policy on economic socio political system of Nigeria. The research will also address the issue of immigration and how to reverse the current trend.

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CHAPTER 1

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Population has often been used as indices to measure the strength and weakness of nations. Nations are recognized by their defined boundaries and the people within these boundaries are referred to as citizens. There are three ways in which citizenship could be acquired; these are either by Birth, registration and naturalization.[1] A large population leads to a large scale economic production, given the right factors, e.g. good leadership, good Agricultural land etc. a large population can serve as a vital domestic market, this can lead to industrial development. Development cannot exist without men and woman, working both in their individual capacity and members of a society for the purpose of achieving the highest living standard. Walter Rodney in his book "how Europe underdeveloped Africa" argued that the west is developed today as a result of the human slaves exported from Africa to the west during the slave trade era, he urged that these human resources were used as tools and factors of development.

The introduction of slave trade interrupted and disrupted a steady development pattern of African society and this changed the psyche of the society from industrialization to production of raw materials

Ira de A. Reid in his book "the Negro immigrant" states that the first Negro immigration was a force one. Slavery was it vehicle. It is estimated that between 300,000 to 400,000 slaves were imported into the USA prior to 1810. The federal census of 1790 estimated that the survivals and descendants of the African Slaves imported into the colonies numbered

759,208. This census represents the first analysis ever made of the size of the Negro population of foreign stock in the United States.[4]

Over time, the nature and process of Nigerians immigration to the US have changed remarkably. Beginning with early Nigerian migration, which intensified in the period after the second world war, and during the period of the nationalist anti-colonial struggle for independence until today, when the US consulates and embassies both in Lagos and Abuja respectively are swamped with Nigerians seeking rapid and immediate exit from their country, there are identifiable economic, political and social push and pull factors that move people to the US. These push and pull factors are manifested on Nigeria in terms of several unsuccessful economic polices such as the structural Adjustment programs and Democratization projects, which in combination, have generated both negative and positive forces that drive the unending desire for Nigerians to migrate/immigrate to US. The most significant among these forces is the phenomenon of globalization action, encapsulated in the concept of the New World Order.

According to the United State census Bureau, Nigerians are the most educated ethnic groups in the United States; Sixty-four percent (64%) of Nigerians in the US has one or more University degree.[3] There are about 250,000 Nigerians living legally in the United State and it is estimated that more or close to that figure are also unregistered residents.

Recent study has shown that Nigeria is the largest catchment area for immigrants identifying as black. This is because approximately one third of all “black” immigrants are from Nigeria (1980 and 1990 census) the study

also shows that immigrants from Nigeria are Younger and more scattered in their area of settlement. In general, African immigrants have been characterized as different from native blacks; they are better educated, and less welfare dependent than native blacks. Moreover, while native blacks' employability rates have declined or registered moderate increases during the last decade, African immigrants labour force participation rates have substantially increase.

The introduction of the United State Diversity immigrant visa lottery in the 80s has provided the much need credence to the extractions of Nigerian's from their ancestral homes to America, the policy makes available fifty thousand permanent resident visas annually to persons who are mostly from the third world.

Some writer see the United State immigration Policy since the 80s as been driven by the impulse of capitalism, an economic system where the bulk of the work force will be engaged in employment by private (non – governmental) employers engaged in producing whatever goods they can sell at a profit.[2] The effect of the new trend of Nigerians immigration to the United State under the Diversity Immigration visa lottery phenomenon are scarcely known, and before they can be understood by the Nigerian people themselves an outline of existing frontiers of knowledge on the subject should be available. The first task of the researcher becomes therefore that of discovering the impact and implications of the immigration visa lottery on the Nigerian economy, the politics behind such "generosity" in the wake of the New World Order.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The human nature is always in search of a better life, this is apparent because of the inherent desire to satisfy human wants and desires. Within the last 20 years, our nation has witnessed a mass exodus of people from rural areas to urban cities in search of greener pastures. This phenomenon is widely referred to in most literatures as the urban rural migration. It is facts that were such migration occurs the effect is often felt in two fold, i.e. both the rural and urban areas.

The phenomenon of urban rural migration has also extended to the international arena especially encouraged with the recent United States Diversity immigration visa programme. A programme which aim at moving people from mostly third word countries especially Nigeria to step up the American population, engage the needed man power for economic development, and the investing in a strong youth development programme. These youths it is hoped will eventually take over governance from the fast aging population.

This phenomenon is a far cry from the cases of daily deportation/repatriations of aliens from the American system and also the various cases of illegal immigrants whose asylum applications are turned down.[5]

The research problem therefore is as follows, each year thousands of young men and women are systematically exported from Africa and indeed Nigeria to America under a program called “the USA Green Card Lottery” yet a traveler to the US need to apply for a visa months in advance, with no

assurance that visas will be granted. The immigration to the west, particularly to the United States, remain woefully understudied. This work is directed at bridging the considerable gap that exist, as well as at generating increased scholarly interest in the study of Nigerians immigrating to the west The research is also aimed at the implication of this new trend in the international arena to a developing nation like Nigeria.

1.3 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

Immigration through visa lottery as a modern aspect of the immigration phenomenon and has received only passing attention in the myriad works on the immigration polices and problems of the U.S.A. with regard to it impact on Nigeria. A sentence here and a paragraph there – frequently to the effect that this immigration is not extensive – represent the sum total of references in immigration literature.

Sociologies have always regarded the subject of immigration as their special province. However, it has been only since world war that they have given it any special attention. Earlier studies in the field have, as a rule, contained much history, economics and crude statistics, and very little sociology.

I will conduct the research based on secondary sources of data, the study therefore will be on content analysis which is deductive. I intend to involve systematic examinations of documents such as textbooks, journals, magazines and newspapers as major tools for this research work.

END NOTES

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CHAPTER 2

2.1 THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United State traces its national origin to the declaration by thirteen British Colonies in 1776 that they were free and independent State. It is a federal republic in Central North America and the Pacific Ocean (the Island of Hawaii, and the Aleutians). It extends from the Atlantic coast in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the West. It shares land borders with Canada in the north and Mexico in the South, shares a marine border with Russia in the West, and has a collection of districts, territories, and possessions around the world including Puerto Rico, Midway Atoll, and Guam. The country has fifty states, which have a level of local autonomy according to the system of federalism.

The country was founded under a tradition of having the rule come from the people under the representative democracy model. This model of government (Presidential-congressional) has since been adopted by many other countries. During the 19th century, many new states were added to the original thirteen as the nation expanded across the North American Continent. The two major traumatic experiences for the nation were the Civil War (1861 – 1865) and the Great Depression (1929 – 1939). Following the end of the World War II and the collapse of the Soviet union, the United States has become the World's most powerful nation surpassing all other nations in contemporary economic, Political, Military and Cultural influence.

2.2 POLITICS

The United States of America consists of 50 States with limited autonomy in which federal law takes precedence over state law. In general, matters that lie entirely within state borders are the exclusive concern of state governments. These include internal communications; regulations relating to property, industry, business, and public utilities; the state criminal code; and working conditions within the state.

The various state constitutions differ in some details but generally follow a pattern similar to that of the federal Constitution, including a statement of the rights of the people and a plan for organizing the government. On such matters as the operation of businesses, banks, public utilities and charitable institutions, state constitutions are often more detailed and explicit than the federal constitution. In recent years, the federal government has assumed broader responsibility in such matters as health, education, welfare transportation, housing and urban development.

The federal government itself consists of three branches: the executive branch (headed by the president), the legislative branch (the congress), and the judicial branch (headed by the supreme court). The president is elected to a four-years term by the Electoral College carried out through the process of a nation-wide popular vote. The various Legislators are in turn chosen primarily by the popular votes in the 50 states. Members of congress are elected for terms of two years in the House of representatives and six years

in the Senate. This tripartite system is duplicated, with variations, (such as elected governors instead of a president) at the state level.

The federal and State government is dominated by two political parties, the Republicans and the Democrats. The dominant political culture in the United State is, as a whole, somewhat to the right of the dominant political culture in European democracies. Given their complex support bases it is difficult to specifically categorize the two major parties' appeal. Within the United States political culture, the Republican Party is described as center-right and the Democratic Party is described as center-left. Minor party and independent candidates are very occasionally elected, usually to local or State office, but the United States political system has historically supported "catch all parties" rather than coalition governments. The ideology and politics of the sitting president of the United State commonly play a large role in determining the direction of his political party, as well as the platform of the opposition.

Political parties in the United State do not have formal "Leaders" unlike many other countries, although there are complex hierarchies within the political parties that form various executive committees. Party ideology remains very individually driven, with a diverse spectrum of moderates, centrists, and radicals within each party.

The two parties exist on both the State and Federal level, although the parties' organization, platform, and ideology are not necessarily uniform across all levels of government.

Both major parties draw some support from all the diverse socio-economic classes, which compose the mature multi-ethnic capitalist society, which makes up the United States. Business interest provides support to both parties. Funding and support to the Republican Party comes from morality and Christian groups, while labor union and minority ethnic groups provide support to the Democrats. However the major source of funding to both parties comes from the business community. Because elections in the United States are among the most expensive in the world, access to funds is vital in the political system, due to the financial costs of mounting political campaigns. Thus, through lobbying, corporations, union, and other organized group that provide funds and political support to parties and politicians play the largest role in determining political agendas and government decision-making.

The immense cultural, economic, and military influence of the United States has made foreign relations an especially important topic in its politics, with considerable concern about the image of the United States through the world.

2.3 GEOGRAPHY

As the world's third largest nation (total area), the United States landscape varies greatly: temperate forestland on the East coast, mangrove forests in Florida, the Great Plains in the center of the country, the Mississippi-Missouri river system, the Rocky Mountains west of the Plains, deserts and temperate coastal zones west of the Rocky Mountains and temperate rainforests in the Pacific Northwest. The arctic region of Alaska and the

volcanic islands of Hawaii only increase the geographic and climatic diversity.

The climate varies along with the landscape, from sub-tropical in Florida to tundra in Alaska. Large parts of the country have a continental climate; with warn summers and cold winters. Some part of the United States, particularly part of California, have a Mediterranean climate.

2.4 ECONOMY

The economy of the United States is described as “mixed” because, while it is organized primarily on a capitalist model (entrepreneurship is encouraged, and most enterprises are privately owned), it also limits free markets with social welfare programs like social security, unemployment benefits, and Medicare, as well as government regulation in virtually every industry.

The U.S economy is marked by steady growth, low unemployment, low inflation, a large trade deficit and rapid advances in technology; its economy can be regarded as the most important in the world. Several countries have coupled their currency with the dollar, or even use it as a currency, and the U.S. stock markets are globally seen as an indicator of world economy.

The country has rich mineral resources, with extensive gold, oil, coal, and uranium deposits. Successful farm industries rank the country among the top producers of, among others, corn, wheat, sugar, and tobacco. The U.S. manufacturing sector produces cars, airplanes and electronics. The biggest

industry is now service; about three-quarters of U.S. residents are employed in that sector.

The largest trading partner of the United State is its northern neighbor, Canada. Other major partners are Mexico, the European Union and the industrialized nations in Asia, such as Japan, India and South Korea. Trade with China is also significant.

2.5 DEMOGRAPHICS

The majority of the 290 million people currently living in the United States descend from European immigrants who have arrived since the establishment of the first colonies. Major components of the European segment of the United States population are descended from immigrants from Germany, England, Scotland, The Netherlands, Ireland and Italy, with many immigrants also coming from Scandinavian or Slavic countries. Other significant immigrant populations came from Eastern and Southern Europe and French Canada; few immigrants came directly from France. Likewise, while there were few immigrants directly from Spain, Hispanics from Mexico and South and Central America are considered the largest minority group in the country, comprising 13.4 percent of the population in 2002. This has brought increasing use of the Spanish language in the United States.

About 12.9 percent (2000 census) of the American people are African Americans who largely descend from the African slaves brought to the U.S. between the 1620s and the 1820s.

A third significant minority is the Asian American population (3.6 percent), most of whom are concentrated on the west coast.

The aboriginal population of Native Americans, such as American Indians and Inuit, make up less than one percent of the population.

The United States, as a developed nation, is noteworthy for its high level of Christian religious devotion. However, the percentage of Americans calling themselves Christian has declined somewhat in recent years from 86.2 percent in 1990 to 76.5 percent in 2001.

As of 2001, the distribution for major religious in the United States was Protestant (52 percent), Roman Catholic (24.5 percent), "none" (13.2 percent), Jewish (1.3 percent) and between 0.3 and 0.5percent each for Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu and Unitarian Universalistic. An additional 0.3 to 0.5 percent, each, are professed Agnostics and Atheists.

The social structure of the United States is highly stratified, with a large proportion of the wealth of the country controlled by a small fraction of the population, which exerts disproportionate cultural and political influence on the rest of the nation. (It Gini coefficient of 40.8 percent is the highest of all developed nations.) However, in terms of relative wealth, most U.S. residents enjoy a standard of personal economic wealth that is far greater than that known in most of the world. For example, 51 percent of all households have access to a computer and 67.9 percent of U.S. households owned their dwellings in 2002.

2.6 CULTURE

U.S. culture has a large influence on the rest of the world, especially the Western world. This influence is sometimes criticized as cultural imperialism. U.S. music is heard all over the world , and it is the sire of such forms as blues and jazz and had a primary hand in the shaping of modern rock and roll and popular music culture. Many great Western classical musicians and forums find their home in the U.S. and New York City is a hub for international operatic and instrumental music as well as the world–famed Broadway plays and musicals. U.S. moves (primarily embodied in Hollywood) and television shows can be seen almost anywhere. This is in stark contrast to the early days of the republic, when the country was viewed by Europeans as an agricultural backwater with little to offer the culturally "advanced" world centers of Asia and Europe. Nearing the mid-point of its third century of nationhood , the U.S. plays host to the gamut of human intellectual and artistic endeavor in nearly every major city, offering classical and popular music; historical , scientific and art research centers and museums; dance performances, musicals and plays; outdoor art projects and internationally significant architecture. This development is a result of both contributions by private philanthropists and government funding.

The United States is also a great center of higher education, boasting more than 1,500 universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning, the top tier of which may be considered to be among the most prestigious and advanced in the world.

2.7 IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATE

Immigration as defined by Ira de Augustine Reid. Is the entrance into an alien country of persons intending to take part in the life of that country and intending to make it their more or less permanent residence. While Christina Deconcini of American Bar Association defined it as a self-selected group of individuals highly motivated to better their lives, whether for economic or political reasons. Their ingenuity, work ethic, and ability to adapt to a new land are characteristics they share with the many immigrants who preceded them.

International migration is part of a transnational revolution that is reshaping societies and politics around the globe it has affected the world's region in different ways. Some areas like the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand or Argentina are classical countries of immigration. In the last 20 years the United States has experience large scale immigration from new sources countries.

Stephen Castles and Mark Miller sees international migration as hardly ever a simple individual action, in which a person decides to move in search of better life-chances, pulls up his or her roots in the place of origin and quickly become assimilated in the new country. Much more often migration and settlement is a long-drawn-out process, which will be played out for the rest of the migrants life and affect subsequent generations too. It is a collective actions; arising out of social change and affecting the whole society in both sending and receiving areas.

There are three fundamental principles involved in any nation's immigration policy. The policy of exclusion, which may be applied to any people so as to stop all immigration absolutely; the policy of free immigration which would allow any body from any where to enter; and the policy of regulation through which a country seeks to control the movement of people into its borders. Operating under the aegis of regulation is the quasi-selective policy of restriction through which the numbers and types of immigrants admitted are revised to meet current opinion and conditions. At various times in its history the United States has enacted immigration laws emphasizing each of these policies.

The first inclusive immigration law in the United States was passed in 1882. Prior to that time immigration was practically free. The law of 1882 prohibited the entry of convicts, lunatics, idiots and persons likely to become public charges.

The extraordinary increase in immigration to the United States in the early decades of the 19th century was one of the wonders of the age. The huge scale of the movement and its seeming inexhaustibility captured the public imagination on both sides of the Atlantic and inspired a flood of fascinated comment.

Though immigration had been a familiar aspect of American development throughout the colonial period, there was no precedent for a movement of such magnitude and persistence as that which began in 1815. In the hundred years between the date and the outbreak of World War I, no fewer than thirty

million people, drawn from every corner of Europe made their way across the Atlantic to the United States.

The influx of African immigrants to the United States in the last two decade has been phenomenal. According to figures from the immigration and Naturalization services (INS), the number of African immigrants to the United States more than quadrupled in the last two decades; from 109,733 between 1961 and 1980 to 531, 832 between 1981 and 2000.[2]

Any nation, especially a nation of immigrants such as the Untied States, must define its society and ways to confer official membership into it. For immigrants to the United States, that membership is obtained through naturalization. And the 14th Amendment of the United States constitution guarantees basic rights to all U.S citizens both native-born and naturalized.[9] Immigrants intending to naturalize had to go to their local court and declare their intention at least three years prior to their formal application. In the declaration, the immigrant would also indicate his understanding that upon naturalization, he would take an oath not only of allegiance to the United States but also of renunciation of his former sovereign.

2.8 CAUSES OF IMMIGRATION

Comprehending the reason why people decide to leave their ancestral home and undergo all types of humiliations in a foreign land must begin with recognition of their complexity. To attempt to explain mass immigration by means of an all embracing formula, or by a mere listing of European discontents, or again by a graph tracing the fluctuation of the trade cycle

would be to miss its deeper significance. To be objective in looking at the cause of why people move from one country to another, one must insist, first, on the infinitely varied motives of the immigrants. The push "and "pull" of impersonal economic forces must certainly be part of the answer, but no less important were the hopes, fears, and dreams of millions of individual immigrants. Maldwyn Allen Jones argues that it is an error to imagine that immigration conditions were identical in every country of Europe.[5]

There are a variety of theoretical approaches to explaining international migration. This is because the study of migration transcends a single socio-scientific domain. The explanation offered by geographers, Demographers, economists, sociological and political Scientists, often derive from different premises and methodologies. Beyond this, though, is a fundamental difference of paradigms between approaches which aim at generalization based on quantitative analysis from large numbers to individual cases, and more collectivist and institutional approaches, which seek to examine migration within the historic context of an emerging global economy.

Ravenstein a geographer was one of the earliest Scholars to carry out a systematic approach towards explaining the reason why people migrate. He advocated the formation of statistical laws of migration, which took the form of a general statement unconnected with any actual migratory movement and were generally quite a historical. Ravenstein's work generally became the foundation on which Subsequent researchers build on. The general theories advocated in such work emphasize tendencies of people to move from densely to sparsely populated areas, or from low to high-income areas, or

link migration to in fluctuation in the business cycle. Such approaches are often know as “push-pull” theories, because they perceive the causes of migration in a combination of “push factor” impelling people to leave the areas of their origin and “pull factor”, attracting them to certain receiving countries. “Push factors” include demographic growth, low living standards lack of economic opportunities and political repression, while “pull factor” are demand for labour, availability of land, good economic opportunities and political freedoms. This type of model is essentially individualistic and a historical. It emphasizes the individual decision to migrate, based on rational comparism of the relative cost and benefits of remaining in area of origin or moving to various alternative destinations. Constraining factors, such as government restrictions on immigration are either ignored or dealt with as distortions of the rational market, which should be removed.

Borgas (1989 and 1990) also attempted to explain immigration using the Neoclassical theory. This theory assumes that individuals maximize utility in other words individuals “search” for the country of residence that maximizes their well-being. The search is constrained by a number of factors, which ranges from financial resources of the individual, immigration regulations imposed by competing host countries and the source country. Neo- classical theory views immigration from a market perspective were various pieces of information are exchanged and the various option are compared. The various information gathered in the market place leads many individuals to conclude that it is “profitable” to remain in their birth place or to decide that they are better off in some other country. To Borgas this approach leads to a very clear and empirically testable categorization of the types of immigrant flows that arise in the world were individuals search for the “best” country and

that was why he suggested that the United States government should deregulate the immigration market by selling visas to the highest bidder. Going by this theory one would expect the most disadvantage people to move from poor countries to rich areas. Moreover it would appear that more existence of economic disparities between various areas would be sufficient to generate migration flows Borgas believes that in the long run, such flows should help to equalize wages and conditions in underdeveloped and developed regions leading towards economic equilibrium.

However some scholars in recent times argued that the neo-classical theory does not explains in clear term the actual movement of people and incapable of predicting future ones. For instance, empirical study shows that it is rarely the poorest people from the least-developed countries who move to the richest countries. More frequently the migrants are people of intermediate social status from areas, which are undergoing economic and social changes. Similarly a push-pull model would predict movements from densely populated areas to more sparsely people regions, but this model cannot explain why a certain group of migrants goes to one country rather than another, for examples, why have most Yorubas migrated to London and not Germany while the opposite applies to the Ibos.

Some scholars therefore suggest that migratory movements generally arise from the existence of prior link between sending and receiving countries based on constitution, political influence, trade, investment or cultural ties. Thus migration from Mexico to the United States originated in the South West ward expansion of the United States in the 19th century and the deliberate recruitment of Mexican workers by the United States employers

in the 20th century. Similarly both the Korean and Vietnamese migration were traced to the long-term involvement of the united states military in these countries.

Besides, there are some other scholars who argued that the "push –pull" and neo-classical model does not fully explain the phenomenon of immigration; this is because these model tend to treat the role of the state as an aberration which disrupts interactions in the immigration market place. However an examination of the most historical and contemporary migration shows that the state almost invariably plays a major role in initiating, shaping and controlling movement of people.

2.9 UNITED STATES IMMIGRATION POLICY.

The United States immigration policy can best be understood from the perspective of the United States foreign policy which is varied in the same way that its scope is broad and its activities mainfold. Some analysts see US foreign policy within the context of a democratic theory of a free world. Its internal coherence seems to be assumed from the existence of certain fundamental concepts: liberty, progress, and harmony-all of which are based in rationalism. It is essentially a humanistic view that is an end in himself. The state is an organ constituting the specific development of his personality and of promoting his living conditions.

Others writers see United States foreign policy as the result of aggregate economics, the needs of the capitalist system. While economic explanations differ, each see united states foreign policy as the impulse of the capitalists

confronted with surplus capital and goods that they could not profitably use in the United States, hence the phenomenon of United States imperialism In the form of free trade and informal empire.[3]

To these writers United States foreign policy is determined by the search for foreign investments. It is a foreign policy explained within the context of market and profits. The vast foreign investments of multinational corporations result in a foreign policy that is expansionist, even interventionist. United state foreign policy is characterized as industrial feudalism, placing the united states in a role analogous to Rome during the middle Ages: Washington exercise influence through indirect diffuse means concentrating on long-term trends.

2.10 DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA LOTTERY

The United States Congress enacted the first version of the Diversity Immigrant Visa or the Green Card lottery in the 1980s it was intended to provide an immigration opportunity for persons from countries other than the countries that send large numbers of immigrants to the United States. The lottery came about when Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and other legislators in the 80s sought to broaden the stream of immigrants, which was dominated by Latin Americans and Asians who were allowed entry either as political refugees or because they were sponsored by close relatives or employers already in the United States. Undocumented Irish immigrants in Kennedy's home state were an early concern, and the first contests set aside wining slots for the Irish.[11]

The current version of the lottery provides up to 50,000 permanent residence visas each year to individuals from countries with low rates of immigrations to the United States and also persons lacking the family or job sponsors that most legal immigrants rely on. Winners are chosen in a computerized drawing. Preferences for the Irish have long since expired. The Diversity immigrants Visa program is administered on an animals basis by the Department of State and conducted under the terms of section 203 (c) of the immigration and Nationality act (INA) Section 131 of immigration Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101 - 649) amended INA 203 to provide for a new class of immigrants known as "Diversity Immigrants" (DV Immigrants).

The annual DV programme makes permanent residence visa available to persons meeting the simple, but strict, eligibility requirements. A computer-generated random lottery drawing chooses applicants for Diversity Visas. The Visas, however, are distributed among six geographic regions with a greater number of visas going to regions with lower rates of immigration, and with no visas going to citizens of countries sending more than 50,000 immigrants to the US in the past five years. Within each region, no one country may receive more than seven percent of the available Diversity Visas in one year.

From 1998 to 2000, 46% of the winners came from Europe, 22% from the middle East and 22% from sub-Sahara Africa. In year 2000, participants mailed 13 million applications to the State Department. Following the September 11 attacks, the number slipped to 9.5 million entries.

The Green Card Lottery, which is officially known as the "Diversity Immigrant Visa Lottery Programme", is intended to increase the diversity of the United State population. The green card gives the winner the legal right to live and work permanently in the United States and to entry and leave the country freely. Green card holders also receive health, education, and other benefits. The Green Card dose not affect present citizenship. A green card holder may later apply for United State Citizenship if desired.

There is no fee for submitting an entry and no minimum age to apply. However, one must satisfy the general and education/ training requirements, which effectively preclude most people under the age of 18 from participating. One do not have to speak or write English or need to have relative living in the United States or a particular amount of money or a job waiting. One only need to qualify as an immigrant, which means that you cannot be a criminal or mentally disturbed or a threat to the United States national security.

On August 19, 2003 the United States Department of states announced major changes for entering the Green Card Lottery, all entries it states must be submitted electronically over the Internet using digital technology. This is to make the Diversity Visa process more efficient and secure. The Department will utilize special technology and other means to identify applicants who commit fraud for the purposes of illegal immigration or who submit multiple entries. Applicants are expected to fill and submit EDV entry form, which is accessible only at http://www.dvlottery.state.gov. Entries are usually submitted within one month and applicant must have either a high school education or its equivalent, defined as successful

completion of a 12 year course of elementary and secondary education; or two years of work experience within the past five years in an occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience to perform.

At the end of the stipulated registration period, all entries received at the Kentucky Consular Center will be randomly selected by a computer and the lucky applicant will be sent a notification letter by the Kentucky Consular Center four to six weeks before the scheduled interviews with United States Consular officers at Overseas posts. Each month visas will be issued. Once all of the 50,000 DV Visas have been issued, the programme for the year will end. The Kentucky Consular Center is also responsible for the providing visa application instruction and notification to only selected winners. All notification letters are sent within about nine months of the end of the application period to the address indicated on the entry. Anyone who does not receive a letter will know that his/her application has not been selected.

It is likely that some of the first 50,000 persons who are selected will not qualify for visas or pursue their cases to visa issuance, more than 50,000 entries will be selected by the Kentucky Consular Center to ensure that all the available DV visas are issued. A special DV case processing fee will be payable later by persons whose entries are actually selected and processed at a US Consular Section. DV applicants, like other immigrant visa applicants, must also pay the regular visa fees at the time of visa issuance. Details of required fees are included in the instructions sent by the Kentucky Consular Center to applicants who are selected.

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CHAPTER 3

3.1 THE DV VISA LOTTERY AND IMMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

A consideration of scholarly literature in two different fields reveals a veritable chasm, which can only be bridged through the utilization of methodologies derived from interdisciplinary approaches to the study of Nigerians immigration to the United States.

Nigerians migrate from their country for much the same reasons that other immigrants do. Broadly categorized, these reasons include the economic, social or political motivations that either pushes immigrant into leaving their country of origin and settling in a new country, or those that pull them into seeking immigration to a given country. Push factors that stimulate migration from Nigeria include low pay, the lack of employment, under employment, the absence of family members due to prior migration and exposure to endemic violence, persecution and oppression. Pull factors of course include the possibility of earning a higher income finding employment, joining family members and hope for freedom from violence, persecution and oppression.

The argument on whether push or pull factors generate immigration can also be framed in other ways. The contentious debate on whether domestic or international factors spur the desire to emigrate is one such example. According to Myron Weiner, global friends determine the pattern of migration. In this view, there are identifiable changes in the patterns of international Migration, which are linked to other international flows,

including the movement of trade, capital, investment and information. The crux of this argument is that international immigration is only a part of "a larger network of interstate relations". Thus when international flows of exchange increase, as has happened over time, immigration flows also increase. For Weiner and others who share this perspective, the predominant cause of international migration is the change in the immigration policies of countries in response to global changes. This argument, in essence posits that pull factors generate immigration.

There are identifiable economic political and social push and pull factors that move people to come to the united State from Nigeria with the intent to settle for the long-term or permanently. However, most scholars and analysts continue to downplay the most significant among the causes of immigration: globalization. The government of the Untied States first articulated it notion of globalization in the concept of the New World Order. On the Nigeria side, the push and pull factors that are generated from globalization are manifested through the imposition of economic politics like Structural Adjustment programs (SAP)[3] etc. They are also manifested in the spread and embrace of the technological innovations, the exchange of ideas that they facilitate through the media and information super highway, and the transformation of telecommunications. In combination the harsh economic policies and democratization experiment have generated some of the antinomies of globalization by causing both negative and positive force that drive the unending desire for Nigerians to migrates/ immigrate and to seek political asylum in the United States

Innovations and advancements in international communications has increase the awareness of national economic differences and opportunities, it gives potential immigrants information on how to achieve their goal.[1] Through movies television, radio, print-media, facsimile machines, and currently, the information super-highway, potential migrants gather information on what to do, what opportunities exist and where to move. One of the most recent example is the last two U.S. lotteries that were conducted in 2002 and 2003. The information spread rapidly and thoroughly through major Nigeria cities, and people responded in droves. It was rumored that the Abacha regime was so disgusted with the overwhelming desire of so many people to jump ship that it was alleged to have sabotaged peoples applications process by intercepting such mails that are sent to the U.S. immigration and naturalization service (USINS) and dumping them.

While the pull-or-push factor debate is often presented as an either-or causal factor. It is clear from preliminary data on Nigerian Immigration to the U.S. that things are not so clear court. Push factors usually create the desire to immigrate, pull factors provide the opportunity to act on that desire. Thus, it seems to be more productive to consider pull and push factors as often acting in tandem

Human right violations and repression also generate the desire to migrate, which is met sometimes by the receptivity of western nations to certain categories of dissidents. From 1986 to 1999, Nigeria had regimes in power that dealt with oppositions by sponsoring such high levels of repression that their most uncompromising opponents were forced to take to their heels. This group of immigrants keeps in close touch with political and economic

developments back home and is usually called upon to comment on current development as they occur, particularly in the alternative media.

Labour shortages create a demand for migrant workers to which people respond, spurring later chains of migrations among friends and family, which are enable by family unification laws and fed by the need for additional labour in migrant owned businesses. Loabour was welcome not in the sense of having any special l entitlements but in terms of immigrants ability to get those menial jobs that the indigenes did not want.

Britain, the old colonial master was originally the more favored destinations of Nigerian immigrants. The United States becomes the first preference of immigrants when immigration policies became more restrictive and punitive in Britain. The US immigration policies also became more liberal in the post – 1965 and also the introduction of the Diversity immigrant visa programme in the 80s.

There is scholarly agreement that the political economy of Nigeria as well as the Globalization of the world economy generates the urge for Nigerians to leave their home country for other lands. One should expect an increase in the number of Nigerians immigrants to the United State due to the stringency in immigration laws in old colonizing countries like Great Britain and France. When examined more critically these hypotheses indicate the persistence of insufficient understanding of the linkage between the process of democratization and economic policies and globalization, therefore, many scholars still fail to see that the population movements are part and parcel of the experience of globalization and not external to the phenomenon. Since

by most assessments, globalization will intensify rather that decrease in effect, one should expect population movements to increase as a consequence of globalization.

3.2 EFFECT OF THE DIVERSITY IMMIGRANT VISA LOTTERY ON NIGERIA

The diversity immigrant visa lottery as stated earlier was introduced to give equal chance to people all over the world to migrate to the United States, were they will be free to reside, work and move freely without harassment,[4] be that as it may. One can confidently say that the diversity immigrant programme is all about immigration from one point to the other. Using that as a bases, it is a fact that the most obvious consequence of immigration have been demographic and economic. The continuous flow of great numbers of immigrants into the United States has been, in the first place an important factor in the steady increase in her population.

The realization of America's vast economic potential has likewise been due in significant measure to the labour and technical skill needed to tap and develop the resources of a virgin continent. This was most obviously true during the colonial period, when not only the pace of economic expansion but the very survival of the colonies was largely dependent upon a constant supply of new blood, whether in the shape of free immigrants, indenture servants, or Negro Slaves but immigrants were just as indispensable in the 19th century, when they contributed to the rapid settlement of the west and the transformation of the United States into a leading industrial power.

There is no doubt that Africa and indeed Nigeria has been at disadvantage with regard to the DV Immigrant visa programme, invariably people are being encouraged one way or the order to leave their homes in search of a better life else were. Carr-Saunders, 1936, has given a basic lead to this problem in saying that "the black people have suffered heavy relative losses, for they once formed about a fifth of the population of the world and now form about a fifteenth. It is impossible to say whether they have gained or lost absolutely; they have apparently decreased in Africa, but again there has to be set the fact that about a third of all black people and now outside Africa"[2]

In today's world knowledge create wealth; Nigeria needs people with brains, not muscles. Unfortunately most of the people that ought to remain at home to develop the home front are lured one way or the order to migrate to the United States, in 2004 the 7,145 Nigerian won the visa lottery, which was the highest recorded in the whole world. The Diversity immigrant visa programme explains, in part, the current brain drain in Nigeria, there is no doubt that brain has become a crucial part of the problems of development in Nigeria

Presently, there are many Nigerian bankers, business Managers, computer Scientists, Pharmacists, engineers, journalists, lawyers, medical doctors, nurses, professors, and scientists in the United States. These educated Nigerians abroad are basically making little or no contribution toward the task of developing Nigeria; the west is mostly the beneficiary of their talent. As it stands now, the west is not only enjoying the money stolen from Nigeria by those sadists, it is also milking Nigerian human resources.

The current rate of brain drain in Nigerian is mostly a function of the present economic depression in Nigeria depression caused by some ignorant, selfish, in considerate, mindless looters of Nigerian treasury. The sadists, often called leaders, have looted (and continue to loot) Nigeria coffer only to pile up the contents in their private foreign bank accounts. Consequently, greener pastures-ie. Jobs--are created abroad while Nigeria has no pasture. Being deprived of a greener pasture, coupled with the desperate need to feed their families and relatives, epically those at home, some Nigerian brains are essentially forced to travel and remain abroad.

3.3 CHALLENGES OF MIGRATION AND THE DV LOTTERY

As we enter into the 21st century, international migration has become one of the most important global issues. The dramatic political events in Eastern Europe caused by the collapse of the soviet empire and the economic crisis in the former USSR, the political and economic restlessness couple with population expansion experienced in Africa and the Phenomenon of globalization raise the possibility of large-scale migratory movements from developing to developed nations. Attempt to control the flow will not reduce the pressure to migrate, but will affect the composition of the migrants.

Population decline in the west, and the huge concentration of industrial infrastructure and capital investment, means that immigration will continue to be an essential component of western economic growth and prosperity. This explained why the United States government is still holding strongly to

it policy of the DV immigrant visa programme. It issued a statement in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attack in which it says that virtually all of the victims of the heinous crime could trace their roots to the immigrant heritage that is the fabric of American society and that the U.S diversity programme, green card lottery, will go on. It further said that in its grief, America continues to hold it doors open to peace loving people of the world who seek a better life.

Representative Howard L. Berman (D-Los Angeles) in his reaction to the shooting to death of a member of his constituents by Hesham Mohammed Hadayet, a Limousine driver from Egypt at the El-Al- Israel airlines ticket counter at LAX said that he continues to support immigration for such goals as reuniting families providing political asylum and supplying qualified workers to the American employers.

Apart for that, the DV. Immigrant visa does not make one an automatic US citizen. The Nigerian who get to the US through the DV lottery is faced with grave problems of social adjustment which according to Fairchild (1927) is in three fold way-from the point of view of nationality, mores & social role played by his racial group. He suffers a complete change in status by emerging from a group setting where he was the racial majority into one where he becomes part of a racial minority. He experience a complete change in his environment and it is this environment which he left behind that constitutes his background. He brings a cultural heritage that is vastly different from that of the American people. His mode of living, his relationship with government his idea of “liberty” even his traditions are vastly different. The Nigerian thus have a different set of morals, with a

different life experience. His problem is distinctly that of cultural adjustment. In most cases the lucky winner of the Green Card Lottery are ignorant of the mode of life and prejudices he is about to face. As a result he becomes the unwitting victim of a direct and indirect type of exploitation.

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CHAPTER 4

4.1 SUMMARY

People migrate in search of better alternatives, the introduction of the United States Diversity Immigration visa lottery has further made it easy for people to immigrate to the U.S, millions of applications are sent every year to the U.S. History had shown that immigration, which was American's raison d'e'tre, has been the most persistent and the most pervasive influence in her development. The whole history of the United States during the past three and half century has been moulded by successive waves of immigrants who responded to the lure of the new world and whose labours together with those of their descendants, have transformed an almost empty continent into a world's most powerful nation.[1] with the establishment of world trade organizations and advances in communication technology, and also the emergence of the US as a super power after the collapse of formal soviet union in the seventy's there is a new world government, a new world order, capitalism has become more accepted by most states, as an economic system controlled by the west. The world have been reduce into a small village. Conceptualized as globalization.

The globalization phenomenon allows for people to move to areas of high demand for labour. Cheep labour is often sort from countries in the third world of which Nigeria is one. The introduction of the United States diversity immigrant visa in the 80s was a direct responds to the demand of globalization. Thousands of young Nigerians have been lured out of

Nigerian to work as cheep labour to strength western economy, thereby re-enforcing and making Nigeria to depend on the west for survival.

Subsequent Nigerian leaders had never asked why the United States decided to adopt the policy of visa lottery as a way of moving people to the U.S, it implication and long term effect on both the political and social existence of our nation. Although it was rumoured that during the Abatch regime all the entries for the visa lottery were confisticated at the Apapa Waff and destroyed.

It is pertinent to note here that apart from the American visa lottery programme, the British also have a programme which seek to assist highly skilled people to immigrate to the UK. The highly skilled migrant workers programme (hereafer called HSMP) is a UK points based system whereby individuals with exceptional skills and experience are given leave to enter and reside in the UK to seek work or set up business. Those given leave under the programme are also able to bring their families along. The UK progamme is actually out to get the best to keep up with the American challenge, a world of winner takes all.

4.2 CONCLUSION

The breakdown of the Post-colonial economy and the collapse of viable political institutions have contributed to the significant increase in the number of Nigerians immigrants to the United States, in the early 1980, and with the introduction of the Diversity immigrant Visa programme. Unlike their counterparts of the 1960s and 1970s whose primary objective was to

obtain an American education before returning home to contribute to the task of nation-building the "new" immigrants are manly highly skilled professionals disappointed by the worsening economic situation at home. Also unlike their early counterparts, these "new" immigrants come with every intention of establishing permanent residency and acquiring United States citizenship. Consequently, they are fast learning how to live the American dream, they are becoming involved in their communities, starting small business, and participating in local politics. Their children are becoming professional football, baseball and basketball players, they are also becoming highly trained professionals who are employed in both the public and private sectors. What the future holds for the continued flow of Nigerian's migration to the United States is under. But from all indications it appears that Nigerian's migration/immigration, and integrations into American political, Social and economic spheres will continue. The continuous proliferation of ethnic violence across the Nation is not a positive sign for a nation were nearly four decade ago the prospect of independence was greeted with tremendous optimism and great expectations.

4.3 RECOMMENDATION

Many news reports and articles have been written in connections with various humiliations Nigerians seeking exit visas from a majority of embassies or foreign missions within the country. There have been stories of Nigerians dying in desolate deserts or in frigid ocean waters, in their frequent attempts to escape the object economic and political circumstances that have been pervasive in Nigeria; the Nigerians who resort to these attempt to emigrate illegally through the deserts and the oceans, do so as last

resort, mostly after they have been denied exit visas and every appeal and legitimate processes have been exhausted.

The Nigerian Government need to take the bull by it horns and to promptly and urgently do everything possible, in order to curb the prevailing object and dire circumstances in Nigeria, which has turned emigrating out of Nigeria into a life and death situation without real alternatives or other choices.

The time has come for Nigerians to learn lessons in how the world works, self-definitions and self-assertions. Nigerians need to criticize Nigerian's leadership and the imperfections and flaws that exists in Nigeria, but in doing so, It must be born in mind, that Nigeria is like our mother, our mother remains the best cook in the world. Nigerians need to learn the act of public relations and image enhancement, this will bring foreigners to invest in Nigeria, besides we need to promote every good about Nigeria.

There are many Nigerians who immigrated to the US by means of Diversity visa lottery, on arrival in the land flowing with "milk and honey", they realized that no employer of labour world reckon with their "foreign" degrees, some ended up flipping burgers in "McDonald" while others ended up doing odd jobs just to keep body and soul.

Incidentally, many of these people who "check-out" to the US never had any proper orientation programme to equip them with the natural problems that comes with living in a foreign country. In fact, they arrived abroad with hopes that were as high as the famours Aso Rock. Many who left good jobs

or (and) great prospects were never told that they would come abroad to start afresh. Worse still, they were never told to prepare their minds for the insults, prejudices, anger, frustrations and many other problems that are the daily experiences of many of our citizens in foreign lands.

To leave Nigeria for America simply because of winning a visa lottery or on aimless pursuits of a dream is like jumping from fry pan to fire, this is because studies has shown that in the United States, there are many Nigerian – trained medical doctors who are working as "auxiliary" nurses, auto engineers working as "Vulcanizers, and accountants working as taxi cab drivers. Some graduate even take up the job of houseboys which Americans called housekeeper.

It is equally true that there are many great American-base Nigerians holding wonderful positions in professional fields such as medicine, academic, banking, engineering, consulting and I.T.

It is however pertinent to state here that, winning a visa lottery does not make one an automatic American citizen. The visa only permit you to work and live in the US. One cannot therefore participate in politics and decision making and all other benefits a citizens gets from a state. Should a lottery winner chooses to be a citizen, he is expected to spend between three to five years as the case make be, before he could apply for a citizenship, which in any case there are no real assurance that citizenship will be granted.

Beside, almost every American company is realizing the astronomical cost of sourcing labour locally. Therefore all these companies, from info tech

industry to manufacturing and even the service-oriented industries are now outsourcing skilled labour in third world countries such as India, China, Phillippine, Pakistan and others.

The effect of this trend on the one hand is the increased and maximized profit for the corporate America. On the other hand however, the many ongoing downsizing in the country has turned the lives of many American white-colour workers into a better nightmare.

According to business week, the job of an American Aerospace engineer that used to fetch $6000 a month in the U.S is now outsourced in Russia where $650 is paid per month. The job of an architect which was attracting $3000 in the U.S is now taken to Philippine where the employee is paid a mere $250 per month and he is grateful. As for I.T jobs they are now 2 for a penny in India.

And to ensure a continuous flow of these cheap labour, many of the affected American companies have been earmarking and investing a percentage of their earnings for the improvement of universities in their host countries.

What does all these portend for those Nigerians who shipped their families to the U.S in the hope of pursuing an American dream for their children Right now, the hitherto lucrative white-collar jobs in the U.S are not only fast becoming endangered species but also are fast becoming nonexistent.

In view of these developments, very soon, there would be no menial jobs for immigrants to do in the United States. Unlike Nigerians, Americans are not

to proud to “descend low” to do certain menial jobs right on the soil of their country: Already, we have been reading and hearing of some individual working in Wal-Mart and other retail stores to earn as low ass $16,000 per year.

The Yoruba have a proverb that says “A wise lame can never be a victim of a known impending war.” As these scary developmental effects of globalization untold on the American horizon, one can only hope that some American-based Nigerians will be wise enough to return to the drawing board to chat an appropriate future for themselves and, more importantly, their children, by taken a bold step of returning home to join hands with the government to rebuild this nation. So that it will be as grate as the United State of America. Nigeria is well endowed with natural resources. We as a people have the knack, the tenacity of purpose all that is need to excel.

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