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**The socio-economic and business relationships between  
Turkish and Nigeria**

By Abubakar M. YAHAYA <sup>at</sup> & Ali Y. GÜNDÜZ <sup>b</sup>

**Abstract.** Nigeria is a country colonized by Britain in 19th century and got its independence in 1960 with the condition of remaining as one of the Commonwealth of Nations. Nigeria is a West African Nation with a population of 200 million people. Is a country endowed with many natural resources and at the same time the highest petrol exporter among African countries. Nigeria has also huge amount of Natural Gas. The country has 910.802 km<sup>2</sup> of land mass. %49.9 of Nigerians live in urban centres while %51.1 live in village areas. As a result of the fall of petrol prices in 2014 Nigeria's economy has decreased by -%6.3 and later appreciated a little bit by %2.7. In 2016 the economy has decreased by -%2.2. The inflation rate in 2015 was %9 while it doubled to %18.8 in 2016. The major challenges of Nigeria's economic growth are the lack of enough investors, energy bottleneck, bad leadership and inadequate Access to fund for private sector. Another problem faced by the economy of Nigeria is bribery and corruption. Additionally, the Boko Haram crises make foreign investors to run away from the country. The attacks on oil companies, wells and installation in the oil-rich Niger Delta region together with the abduction of foreign nationals have negatively affected Nigeria's economy. As a result of these poverty and joblessness become the order of the day. Nigeria being rich in petrol and natural gas resources can be said to become Turkey's strategic business partner. Turkey Nigeria relationship dated back to 1960s. Since this period to date, Turkey and Nigeria cooperated in the areas of economic development, education and defence. There are almost 3 thousand Nigerian students studying in different Universities across Turkey. In 2015 25 thousand Nigerian tourists visited Turkey. In the last years due to the ability of 19 Turkish Universities to be among the best Universities in the world, Turkey has experienced great flood of foreign students. Due to this the review of the economic resources of the two countries will benefit both. In this work Turkey-Nigeria economic relationships would be examined and analysed.

**Keywords.** Education, Health, Trade and socio-economic relationship, Nigeria, Turkey.

**JEL.** F10, F13, F18.

## 1. Introduction

With the coming of Islam in the year 610, first group of Muslims came into contact with Ethiopia in 615 and 617. During the leadership Of Khalifa Umar (RA) Islam has been disseminated to African continent from Egypt upto Mozambique regions. Islamization of Turks came in 8th and 9th centuries. In those years the Abbasite Dynasty's rulers saw the bravery and heroism of Turks as such they coopted them in to their armed forces. These armies reached upto Syria, Egypt and some other parts of Africa.

<sup>at</sup>Department of Journalism, Gazi University, Ankara, Turkey.



. +  
abusallari@yahoo.com

<sup>b</sup>Department of Economics, InonuUniversity, Malatya, Turkey.



+90 422 377 30 00



ali.gunduz@inonu.edu.tr

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Thus, Turks for the first time came into contact with Africa when the Children of Tolun and Ishkhid states were formed. Closely to this dynasty were Ayyubis, Memluks and Fatimis, so the dynasties of Turks continued to rule in Africa. The Muslim Turk together with Memluk dynasty started to gain influence in the region. But the real connection started with the travelling of the Ottoman Empire Ruler Yavuz Sultan Selim to Egypt. During this time Turks had gained influence and power over almost all part of the region (Kavas, 2005).

Africa that was named as “Black Continent” had been colonized for many years. Its people had been made slaves and for many years and were insulted due to the color of their skin. They were also hated. Today in some part of the continent people wallow in poverty and die of hunger and lack of water.

### **2. The war between Ottomans and Spanish-Portuguese in African continent**

In the 16th century when the Portuguese and Spanish Sailors got their hope, together with the help of Pope they started one by one to occupy the South African sea coasts. They annexed the local Kingdoms and Chiefdoms of the area to themselves. In the 16th century, again Portugueses defeated the Memluks and became ahead of them. After the Ottomans took these regions from Memluks they ejected the Portuguese from the Red Sea region. But in the 16th century Ottomans continued fighting the Portuguese in the areas of Indian Ocean and South African coasts. At that time they engaged in contact with South African countries which are defined as sub-Saharan Africa. There were some Islamic dynasties and local rulers that sought the assistance of Ottomans against the Portuguese. Some of the countries even identified themselves as part of Ottoman Empire and they printed Money on behalf of the Sultan. Although these relations cut at some point in time, but continued up to the beginning of the 20th century. During the reign of Murat the III, Ottomans and the Kanem Borno Empire signed an agreement. It has been reported that under the said agreement, the Ottoman Empire assisted Kanem Borno Empire with army and logistics.

### **3. Colonization of African continent in the 16th century**

When colonialism activities started in African region, British, French, Deutch and German ships were seen trooping to African coasts. Despite these activities, the local dynasties in the region had increased their links and contacts with Ottoman Empire. They sent their ambassadors to Istanbul and register their cooperation. Under the command of Sultan Abdulaziz, Lord Abubakar was sent to South Africa. Abubakar opened schools there and nurtured men of knowledge. He preached sermons and instilled conscience in them. It was said that before Abubakar was sent to the region, there was no any book and information with the people, as they kept away from Islam and started being Christianized. During the era of Abdulhamid II the number of men of knowledge who travelled to Africa had increased. But England prevented this effort because She saw it as part of Sultan Abdulhamid’s Fan-Islamic policies. Despite this, the Muslim in Mozambique sent some assistance to Ottoman Empire during the construction of Hijaz rail line. Furthermore, some African Muslims joined Ottomans in the war of Tripolitania. (Kavas, 2017)

During the period of Ottoman Empire, Africans didn’t face any oppression of any kind ranging from religious belief and all sectors. But immediately after the Europeans came to the region, through the missionaries they distributed Bible and the reason which the continent was Christianized. Later as time went they even changed the languages of the people in the region and enforce their own languages on them. The worst of it was how during the World War I the Ottoman lost its last territory of Tripolitania and retreated back. This made the entire continent to be left under European initiatives.

#### 4. Turkish African policy after the establishment of republic

In the years when the Republic of Turkey was established, the country had no any relationship with any of the African countries. This situation continued up to 1960s but even in those years concrete steps had not been taken. Till the end of 1980s, Turgut Ozal gave utmost importance to African continent just as he gave to Turkish State and alot was done in respect of this policy (Kavas, 2005).

In the year 1998 Turkey and the States of African continent became closer. Turkish companies started to secure juicy contracts and started to make huge investments in the region. With the Turkish government selecting 2005 as the year of Africa, the relationship has developed more. The visit of some Turkish high ranking government officials to Africa shows the World that the country has now focused on the continent. In 2008 Africa Conference was organized and held in Istanbul. The result of these developments continued up to 2014 and paved way for the 6 billion dollars business capital between Turkey and Africa to rise to 23.5 billion in 2015. After these years, more developments in business and transportation were recorded in Africa. An increase and developments were seen especially on the part of importation of foods, medicine, motor vehicles, steel and iron, carpets, home electric appliances and many other products to the continent. The direct investment to Africa has surfaced 6 billion dollars. Turkish Airlines has started flying to countries like Somalia and many others. Official humanitarian institution like Turkish Coordination and Development Agency (TIKA) and other private aid groups give many humanitarian assistance and offer advises to the African continent.

African continent with a population of 1 billion people which the per capita income felt to 1,500 dollars and even lower than that is 40 times bigger than Turkey. It comprises 54 independent countries. Till 2014 Turkey has increased the number of its Embassies in from 12 to 39. Today in Africa, there are Turkish humanitarian organizations like IHH, Cansuyu, Sadaka Tasi and many more rendering assistance alongside with TIKA, Turkish Diyanet Foundation, AFAD and Turkish Red Crescent. Today Africa is the source of power and energy. The power exploited by Europeans before, is now given utmost importance by Arabs, Europeans, Americans and Chinese. As a result of this, these countries have partitioned Africa.

The Turkey-Africa relationship which was about to collapse in 20th century, has developed and recorded much achievements in the last 15 years. Turkey now shows more concern and give much more importance to Africa. It doesn't keep mute about the happenings there. Meetings were held with some African countries and many projections had been set up. Africa which was tagged "Black Continent" was colonized for many years (Kavas, 2005).

#### 5. Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a country in West Africa at the coast of Atlantic Ocean. It shares borders with Niger, Benin, Cameroon and Chad. The country has 36 states and one Federal Capital Territory. The capital of Africa's biggest and most populous nation is Abuja, however its largest city is Lagos. (NUFFIC).

Nigeria has a population of almost 200 million people, and it has the %47 of the total number of human living in West Africa. The West African country has many ethnic groups. Has much natural resources and is the Africa's largest petrol exporter to the international market (World Meters, 2017).

Nigeria got its independence on 1<sup>st</sup> Octpber 1960 from the British colonial masters under the condition that it will remain as a member of commonwealth of nations.

5.1. Population of Nigeria

The current population of Nigeria is 191,866,114million. The population of the country constitutes %2.55 of the World’s population. The country is ranked as the 7th most populous country in the world. In every 1 kilometer of the country there are 211 people living. The land mass of Nigeria is 910,802 kilometer square. 49.9 percent of Nigerians live in urban centers while 50.1 live in village. Additionally, the average age of Nigerians is 18 years (World Meters, 2017).

**Table 1.** *The population growth rate of Nigeria between 2015-2017*

Year	Population	Percentage of those living in cities	Number of those living in cities	World population	World position of Nigeria	The percentage in the world population
2017	191,835,936	49.9 %	95,764,092	7,515,284,153	7.	2.55 %
2016	186,987,563	49 %	91,668,667	7,432,663,275	7.	2.52 %
2015	182,201,962	48.1 %	87,680,500	7,349,472,099	7.	2.48 %

Source: (World Meter, 2017).

5.2. Economic situation of Nigeria

In the year 2014, Nigeria’s economy has recorded a growth of %2.7 as against the %6.3 of 2014. In the middle of 2014 due to the fall of the price of petrol Nigeria’s economy has spiralled and went down. In 2016 the economic situation has became very bad and the country felt into recession. In the first two quarter of the year the economy has dropped by %-0.4 and %-2.1 respectively. In the third quarter of 2016 due to the experienced problems of petrol export, the fall of Naira against foreign currency made the country’s GDP to fall by %2.2. The inflation of the year 2015 has more than doubled the forecasted figure of %9 soaring up to %18.8. (World Meters, 2017).

However, in August 2017, Nigerian government has announcedthat its economy is out of recession and the country has morethan 32 billion US Dollars in its foreign reserves. In 2017 and 2018 Nigeria’s economy is expected to grow by %1 and %2.5 respectively. This forecast depends on the petrol exports and Nigerian government’s speedy implementation of social and public investment. (World Bank, 2017).

5.3. Growth of Nigeria’s economy

There many things that hinder Nigeria’s economy to grow. Despite the fact that the private sector is the major contributor to the economy of the country, but the potentials of the sector have not been fully utilized, because among the faced problems are: energy shortage, bad governance and limited Access to funds. Additionally, another big problem of Nigeria is bribery and corruption. (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

Due to the Boko Haram crises especially in northern part of Nigeria, many foreign investors have deserted the country. Together with the energy problem many industries have also shut down and stop productions. The major source of income of Nigeria is petrol. The Niger-Delta region where the oil is being drilled also faces attacks and bombardments by some militants on the oil wells, pipelines and oil companies majority of them owned by foreign investors. This has negatively affected Nigeria’s economy in recent years. Sometime the foreign workers are being abducted and the abductors ask for ransom before setting them free. The high rate of poverty, unemployment among youths and the environmental pollution caused by natural resources are part of the many problems hindering the economic development of Nigeria. (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

For long time, Nigeria had a military rule and the resources had been badly managed during these years of dictatorship. The economy had detariorated in those years. Nigeria’s economy is majorly based on petrol which constitute the 90 percent of its income. (AFDB, 2015).

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the National Bureauof Statistics reveals that Nigeria recorded a great success in its export from Non-oil sector. According to the

Bureau, “Nigeria recorded an export rise of 73.5 per cent in the second quarter (Q2) of this year compared to the same quarter last year” (Daily Trust, 2017).

According to Nigeria Export Promotion council Director Mr. Olusegun Awolowo as reported by daily Trust News Paper, non oil exports is given as stated below:

“Cashew nuts alone earned Nigeria N13.5 billion, primarily exported to Vietnam, India and Kazakhstan, while sesame earned N7.02 billion, exported mainly to Japan, India and Turkey. Frozen shrimps and prawns earned over N2.83 billion, exported mainly to Netherlands, Belgium, and USA while flour and meals of soya bean earned N2.31 billion, exported mainly to Spain, Ghana and Senegal. Ginger earned N633 million, exported mainly to Vietnam, Morocco and Sudan while manufactured goods such as cigarettes containing tobacco exported to Ivory Coast, Niger and Ghana contributed significantly to the surplus trade balance” (Daily Trust, 2017).

These data given by the authority of Nigeria show that the country has started using its vast potentials on non-oil sector. Nigeria is a country endowed with many natural resources and has arable land. The country also has very good weather conditions which together with the land if adequately exploited will boost the country’s economic growth especially as the petrol prices continues to shrink. However, the petrol has continued to be the countries major source as Awolowo puts it “Although oil continues to dominate exports with crude accounting for 42.57 per cent and other oil products 21.86 per cent, the future of the economy is beyond oil as clearly laid out in the ‘Zero Oil Agenda’ which is central in the Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP) (Daily Trust, 2017).

**Table 2.** *General look at the data of the Economy of Nigeria in the last 6 years.*

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
GDPBillion \$	411.74	460.95	514.96	568.50	481.66	405.083
Growth rate	11.56	11.95	11.71	10.39	2.8	-1.6
Import	114.47	103.91	103.05	105.98	52.3	35.2
Export	103.33	99.48	100.30	85.51	45.9	34.7
Naira-American Dollar	150.79	160.95	154,88	160,56	199.1	304.7

Source: World Bank Database (2017).

When Nigeria got its independence in 1960 the country’s GDP from farming and cattle rearing was %50 and their export was the major source of income for the people. After the discovery of the petrol the table has changed. In the last years, petrol has become %70-80 of Nigeria’s export and constitutes the %95 of the total export and %35 of the GDP. As a result of high population growth, the economy of Nigeria has been affected negatively (Akinlo, 2012).

#### 5.4. Social life in Nigeria

In Nigeria there are more than 350 ethnic groups. But among them there are 3 major ones namely; Hausa, Yoruba and Igbo. Hausa ethnic group is based in Northern Nigeria, while Yoruba and Igbo are based in South-West and South-Eastern parts of the country respectively. As stated above, apart from these languages there are other hundreds of ethnic groups in the country which have their specific cultures, norms, values and life styles. The 3 major tribes are the main role players in the Nigeria’s politics and economic activities.

Be it in city centres or villages, family is the bases of any society. Nigerian societies gather and celebrate events such as marriage, naming or other traditional festival. Additionally, when a death occurred families gather and commiserate with each other. People come from far and near to attend funeral services in the country.

Nigerian society is cultural organization. Although the country has been colonized, every tribe sees its norms and values as sacred.

### 5.5. Literacy in Nigeria

The responsibilities for educational institutions in Nigeria are shouldered between the Federal, State, the Local governments, communities, and private sector.

The education policy in Nigeria is based on the National Policy on Education (NPE), which was last revised in 2013. In 1999 the introduction of Universal Basic Education within NPE resulted in free and compulsory education for the first 9 years, which comprised primary and junior secondary education. Since 2013 1 year of pre-primary education was made compulsory as well, hence making the first 10 years of education compulsory. This concerns children aged 5 to 15. Pre-Primary, Primary and Junior Secondary Education are jointly referred to as Basic Education (NUFFEC).

After the introduction of the Senior Secondary School Certificate by Nigerian government in 1989, the Nigerian primary and secondary system of education provides that children should spend 6 years in primary school, 3 years in junior secondary school and 3 years in senior secondary school. This is termed as 6-3-3 system of education. However, the junior and senior secondary education has been divided into two: general and vocational education. (NUFFEC).

After the students reach class 6 of secondary or 3 of Senior secondary they will sit for West African Examination WAEC or National Examination Council NECO and if successfully pass they will sit for University Matriculation Exam and subsequently get admitted in Nigerian universities. NUFFEC argues that

“After obtaining the Basic Education Certificate students can also opt for 3 years of secondary vocational education at a Technical College, leading to the award of either the National Technical Certificate (NTC) or the National Business Certificate (NBC). The National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB) conducts the examinations and issues the certificates.” (NUFFEC).

### 5.6. University education

Higher education in Nigeria consists of 3 stages: The first stage is that of bachelor's degrees which has the duration of five years. Students can study at numerous departments available at different universities across the country. However, medicine and engineering courses take 5 to 6 years time. Generally bachelor's program is being completed after the students submitted a written project or thesis.

The second stage of University education in Nigeria takes 1 to 2 years, and it is a continuation of the First degree. Upon a successful completion of the Second Stage, students are awarded with a master's degree certificate. For a student to get Admitted into master's degree programme, he/she must complete a bachelor's degree with very high CGPA. During the masters program, research courses are part of the curriculum.

The third stage is Doctorate degree program which is awarded when a student completes 2 to 3 years of study after master's degree. A thesis or detailed research work must be submitted and defended orally. In some courses, the Students are required to study a number of courses as well.

According to National Universities Commission of Nigeria NUC, there are 40 Federal Universities, 44 state owned universities and 69 private one in total there can be said that the country has a number of 153 universities. Apart from these universities, there are also 8 Distance learning centers in some of these universities which they also provide education. (NUC, 2017). Vanguard Newspaper reveals that:

“UNESCO's National Programme Advisor on Education, Dr Mohammed Alkali recently revealed the results of a UNESCO survey that showed that despite improvements to the country's education system, 65 million Nigerians remain illiterate”. (Vanguard, 2015).

This figure is very alarming for quite some reasons. Illiteracy has negative impacts for both an individual and the society. People who are grossly illiterate are likely to live in squarlow, poverty and a bad life style. Illiteracy has also economic

impacts. Illiteracy affects country's economic growth especially the GDP. Educated people strive to contribute to the economic growth of their nations. They become entrepreneurs and small and medium enterprisers.

Inadequate funds to formal education and the low priority given to adult literacy programs by governments in Nigeria is a big factor. Policymakers at all the 3 tiers of government i.e. federal, state, and local do not give much priority to adult literacy education. Cuffen argues that "For example between 2004 and 2012 the budgetary allocation to education in Nigeria is between 4.83% and 9.15% (Okogu, 2011) when UNESCO recommends that countries should devote not less than 23% of their annual budget to education" (CUFFEN 2017).

### 5.7. Health system in Nigeria

"Nigeria has one of the largest stocks of human resources for health (HRH) in Africa but, like the other 57 HRH crisis countries, has densities of nurses, midwives and doctors that are still too low to effectively deliver essential health services (1.95 per 1,000)" (Global health Work Force Alliance, 2017).

The International organization also argues that in recent years migration to foreign countries from Nigeria has declined and the major challenge for the country is inadequate production, maintenance and inequitable distribution of health workers. The health workforce concentrates more in urban health care centers (Global health Work Force Alliance, 2017). Additionally, the Organization has listed the following as the major challenges facing Nigeria's health sector

"Lack of public and private sector coordination, favoring indigenous hires, commercial pressures in the private sector that lead to poor quality work, work environments that contribute to low motivation, less-than-optimal productivity, high attrition - especially from rural areas, and lack of planning based on staffing projection needs resulting in an overproduction of some categories of health workers and a lack of others (Federal Republic of Nigeria HRH Strategic Plan 2008-2012)".

Apart from the above mentioned problems, there are many more bedeviling Nigeria. The country, having 3 tiers of government, that is Federal, State and Local administrations make each one to take care of the health centers under its control. Had it been the country has a unified system for health, equity and justice in the distribution of human resource (Doctors and Nurses), facilities provision, salary structure and day to day maintenance, more success stories would have been told. Lack of enough doctors, medicine, insurance for everybody and the worst part of the system is that the political leaders choose to go to foreign countries for medication, a factor considered as one of the major set backs of health care system of Nigeria.

## 6. Nigeria-Turkey Relationship

The natural resources richness and the dynamic population of Nigeria has very important for Turkey in the west African region. Says Hakan Cakil Turkish Envoy to Nigeria. (Anadolu Agency, 2016).

The relationship between Nigeria and Turkey has been in existence for a long time. This relationship relates back to 1960s. From this period to date, Nigeria and Turkey have signed many protocols ranging from education, economy, business and defence sectors. The two nations have bilateral education agreement. Within the charter, Nigerian students study in different Turkish universities. Additionally, Nigerians also come to Turkey under Turkish Scholarship Board (YTB) and Turkish Religious Foundation (Diyanet). On the business sector, huge investment has been made between the two countries.

According to Turkish Ambassador to Nigeria Hakan Cakil, there are almost 3 thousand Nigerian students in Turkey. The ambassador said This is the first time Turkish government gave a slot of 29 students at one time to Nigerian students through Turkish Scholarship Board YTB. In subsequent years, they will do more to see that this number is increased. (Anadolu Agency, 2016).

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According to the ambassador, in 2015, there are many Nigerians trooping to Turkey for business and education purposes. Cakill says that

“In 2015 almost 25 thousand Nigerians visited Turkey. The relationship between the two countries generates mutual respect. The Turkish embassy in Nigeria was opened in 1962 and it is the oldest in su-saharan Africa. There is no any political problem between Turkey and Nigeria. There is a good political relationship between the two countries to the highest core. The two countries support each other in different organization such as United Nations. Recenently Turkey was elected as amember of International Maritime organization and Nigeria supported Turkey during the election” ([Anadolu Agency, 2016](#)).

In March 2016 Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan paid a courtesy visit to Nigeria. During the visit Turkey and Nigeria signed different bilateral agreements. In his speech, President Erdoğan said that Nigeria plays a major role in Turkish initiatives in Africa. As such, Turkey is very interested in expanding its businesses to Nigeria. President Erdoğan also stated that “As Turkish business men, we support Nigeria to become one of the 20 countries in the World with strongets economy. We believe that Turkey has a role to play for Nigeria’s effort to reach this stage” ([Vanguard, 2016](#)).

Also in october 2017 Nigeria’s president Muhammadu Buhari visited Turkey where he attended the D-8 countries meeting held inIstanbul. During the 3 day visit Buhari had a tete a tete with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Afterthe meeting the two leaders held a joint press conference where they agreed on continuing to building their relationship in social, economicdevelopments and also fight against terrorism.

As part of Turkish expansion to Africa, in April 2014 Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) opened Hausa and Swahili language departments. They subsequently started broadcasting in the two languages. Hausa language is the biggest Nigeria’s local language spoken by almost 90 million people. As far as Turkey-Nigeria relationship is concerned this is very important development. Through the news and programs presented, Nigerians closely follow and come to know Turkey very fast.

The Director of Turkish Ailines in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia Ufuk Unal says that, the company’s decision to expand its flight to african countries coincide with the Turkey’s African expansion policy. This economic expansion of Turkish Airlines covers Nigeria as their flights go to 3 different Nigeria’s cities atleast 8 times a week. He asserts that, Turkish Airlines’ African expansion policy resulted that the Airline goes to 51 African cities and it is the highest among all the air companies in the world ([Anadolu Agency, 2017](#)).

When speaking at the 34th Africa Health Congress, the Director General of Africa Affairs of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ahmet Riza Demirer said that in the entire World and including African continent, there is no any leader who visited African countries like Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan ([Anadolu Agency, 2017](#)).

Among the African countries visited by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan there is Nigeria. Ambassador Demirer argued that “With the coming of Justice and Development Party, African Expansion Policy was established, many new Turkish Embassies are opened in African countries. When the Turkish Airlines starts flying to the continent, an easiest way of taking support materials have been facilitated.”

In the last days, after the failed coup attempt in Turkey on 15th July 2016, Turkish government asks African countries to close the schools of the Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Group whose Turskih Authorities accused of the failed coup plotting. Some countries among which is Nigeria have resisted to this request and this makes the relationship between the two countries become sour. Nigeria’s parliament debated the allege arrest of some Nigerians schooling at closed Turkish Universities which were belonged to the Gulen Organization and cautioned Turkish Government over reprisal action against the Turkish citizens in Nigeria.



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Subsequently, Foreign Affairs Ministry of Nigeria summoned Turkish Ambassador in Abuja Hakan Cakıl and asked for the details about the arrest of Nigerian Students in his country. The tension was somehow resolved as the arrested persons got released. Additionally, Nigeria Custom Service announced that it has four times intercepted arms imported from Turkey to Nigeria four times. The Service had to invite the Turkish Ambassador Hakan Cakıl who during the meeting said that his country has no any link with the said imported arms and assured the Turkish government support to the unity and security of Nigeria.

### 7. Conclusion and recommendations

In the 16th century when the Portuguese and Spanish Sailors got their hope, together with the help of Pope they started to one by one to occupy the South African sea coasts. They annexed the local Kingdoms and Chiefdoms of the area to themselves. In the 16th century, again Portuguese defeated the Memluks and became ahead of them. After the Ottomans took these regions from Memluks they ejected the Portuguese from the Red Sea region. But in the 16th century Ottomans continued fighting the Portuguese in the areas of Indian Ocean and South African coasts. At that time they engaged in contact with South African countries which are defined as sub-Saharan Africa. There were some Islamic dynasties and local rulers that sought the assistance of Ottomans against the Portuguese. Some of the countries even identified themselves as part of Ottoman Empire and they printed Money on behalf of the Sultan.

The Turkey-Africa relationship which was about to collapse in 20th century, has developed and recorded much achievements in the last 15 years. Turkey now shows more concern and give much more importance to Africa. It doesn't keep mute about the happenings there. Meetings were held with some African countries and many projections had been set up. Africa which was tagged "Black Continent" was colonized for many years. In the years when the Republic of Turkey was established, the country had no any relationship with any of the African countries. This situation continued up to 1960s but even in those years concrete steps had not been taken. Till the end of 1980s Turgut Ozal gave utmost importance to African continent just as he gave to Turkish State and alot has been done in respect of this policy.

The natural resources richness and the dynamic population of Nigeria has very important for Turkey in the west African region. The relationship between Nigeria and Turkey has been in existence for a long time. This relationship relates back to 1960s. From this period to today, Nigeria and Turkey have signed many protocols ranging from education, economy, business and defence sectors.

However, the two developing countries should also upgrade the business capital just as Shehu argued on the visit of Buhari to Turkey. He says

"At present, there are 48 Turkish companies operating in Nigeria, with investment of about \$600 million, whereas Ethiopia, a smaller economy, has investments of over \$3 billion from Turkey. Our government is determined to understand why Nigeria with stronger innate complementarities with Turkey, is not attracting similar or larger investment" (Shehu, 2017).

Also, there are more than 150 companies owned by Nigerians in Turkey. Of course the number of the companies and the total investment between the Turkey and Nigeria is small. More should be done to increase it. Both of the two nations need one another.

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