



Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

Abstract

Corruption has been a canker-worm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of various segments of Nigeria with foreign policy outputs not an exception. Due to the prevalence of corruption in Nigeria, appointments and promotion of diplomats are been marred. This study aimed to investigate domestic financial corruption constraints on Nigeria's foreign policy output for institutional anti-graft reform (2015-2023) in order to identify how corruption interrupted Nigeria's foreign policy output during the period under review. It also sought to analyse its nature, ascertain the challenges and effort which were made to contain the tide. In doing this, the study relied on the Agboola Gambari's variant of concentric circle as its theoretical framework whereas the survey research design was adopted. Data was generated through responses from questionnaires which were presented in charts and analyzed using Microsoft excel statistical tool. The findings of the study revealed that, the nature of corruption was such that Nigerian diplomats are the real perpetrators of corruption and this made it difficult for members of the international community to relate with our diplomats on matters of mutual interest. It noted further that it is this distrust that created the poor image reputation problem for the country, denied her of potential foreign investment, gave room for horrendous insecurity experienced in parts of the country and made the effort to tame the tide almost impossible. Conclusively, in order to tame the menace of corruption bedeviling Nigeria's foreign policy output, the citizens need to rise and ensure that only qualified individuals are allowed to occupy public offices at all levels in the country. The study recommended the use of social media and other media outlet to rewrite the battered national image of the country and portray it in good light as well as to expose the menace of corrupt practices.

Keywords: Corruption, Policy, Foreign Policy, Output, Nigeria, Anti-Graft, Finance.

Izuchukwu Okolo

Department of Political Science, Faculty of
Social Sciences, Nasarawa State
University, Keffi.

Email: maizuaizu@gmail.com

ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0009-0004-5477-4754>

Assoc. Prof. Shuaibu Umar Abdul

Department of Political Science, Faculty of
Social Sciences, Nasarawa State
University, Keffi.

Dr. Abdullahi Mohammed Abdul

Department of Political Science, Faculty of
Social Sciences, Nasarawa State
University, Keffi.

Corresponding Authors Email:

blossomebere2010@gmail.com

Date Received: 26th August, 2026

Date Accepted: 12th September, 2026

Introduction

Corruption is a global pandemic that coexist with man irrespective of race, religion, language, color, terrain, and system of political administration. Khalid (2021) opined that 'the story of corruption is as old as man'. Perhaps it begins when Adam ate the forbidden fruit and continues with today's big stories such as political lobbying for personal gain, cash

for honors, and the Pandora Papers'. Lawal, (2007) as cited in Kenekchukwu (2018) added that "Corruption is ubiquitous. It is a serious problem that has existed in the human society for a long time and occurs in both developed and developing economies of the world". It can be found in every human institution with Nigeria and its foreign policy output not an exception.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

The consequence of corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy is central to this research. It is not only pathetic but also regrettable given its resources and size. For the records, Nigeria takes pride in ample mineral and other natural resources deposited in almost every community in the federation yet, issues of gas supply to turbines continue to generate national discourse in 21st century Nigeria. The data from World Bank (2024) show that even though Nigeria brags about being Africa's largest economy, it is far low in terms of GDP per capita (\$877) when compared to countries like South Africa with \$6,253, the Philippines \$4,154, Vietnam \$4,717, Thailand \$7,345, and even Poland with outrageous \$25,022. Additionally, the government has not been able to provide refined crude oil for local industrial consumption; export the same for foreign exchange, or better still, use it as an economic tool to drive her foreign policy objectives in the international market. Consequently, the naira has continued to nose dive into a worthless 'tissue paper' for trade and exchange with Foreign Investors seeking other states to invest their resources because of the naira's uncertainty and multiple (but exorbitant) exchange rates.

It is a known fact that political appointment in Nigeria particularly during the period under review was done based on nepotism, favouritism or compensation of party loyalists depending on the amount of individual

contribution during the campaign as against widely acceptable standard of merit. For clarity, Ahigbe (cited in Business Day 2017) research shows that out of 100 political office holders appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari since he came to office in 2015, 81 are Northerners. Apart from the fact that nepotism is corruption in itself, it led to the appointment of individuals who did not understand national objectives and the art of international politics and bargaining. The result of this was the flagrant visa ban on Nigerians by the United Arab Emirates and the deportation of Nigerians by several other countries due to poor and docile diplomatic engagement.

Uddoh, (2016) observed that national interest is the thread that runs through both domestic and foreign policies, but corruption is the antithesis of national interest. Corruption is the single most critical factor attributable to Nigeria's political instability and economic stagnation. It is against this background that this research work investigated domestic financial corruption constraints on Nigeria's foreign policy output for institutional anti-graft reform with a special attempt to analyze how the Mohammed Buhari administration whose three-point agenda was to fight against corruption, guarantee national security, and improve the economy, confronted the scourge in line with our foreign policy objectives.

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Statement of the Research Problem

Foreign policy serves as the primary instrument through which nation-states articulate, pursue, and project their national objectives in the international arena. In Nigeria, however, pervasive public corruption has severely impaired foreign policy outputs and hindered the attainment of core national interests. Between 2015 and 2023, high-profile institutional corruption scandals such as inflated ministry procurement costs (Oluwatuyi, 2023) and unverified financial losses in state agencies publicly undermined the country's diplomatic credibility and self-sufficiency goals. Despite anti-corruption measures pursued by successive administrations, including the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the Whistle-Blowing Policy, systemic corruption persisted. Consequently, global indicators consistently highlighted Nigeria's declining external image and high corruption prevalence (Transparency International, 2018). This persistent institutional failure has created a critical gap between Nigeria's articulated foreign policy goals and its real-world diplomatic efficacy. Therefore, this study examines the impact of corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy outputs from 2015 to 2023 to identify structural remedies that align its international engagements with strategic national interests.

Research Questions

- i. What is the nature of financial corruption and its influence on Nigeria's foreign policy objectives from 2015 to 2023?
- ii. What is the impact of financial corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy output from 2015-2023?

Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study is to analyze domestic financial corruption constraints on Nigeria's foreign policy output for institutional anti-graft reform (2015-2023). Whereas the specific objectives are:

- i. To examine the nature of financial corruption and its influence on Nigeria's foreign policy objectives from 2015 to 2023.
- ii. To unveil the impact of financial corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy output from 2015-2023.

Conceptual Review

Corruption

The concept of corruption has been defined in various ways by different scholars. According to Gebeye (2012), corruption is a universal problem undermining universal value. Khan (1996) sees corruption as an act which deviates from the formal rules of conduct governing the actions of someone in a position of public authority because of private-regarding motives such as wealth, power or status. Gire (1999) defines corruption as a betrayal of trust resulting

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

directly or indirectly from the subordination of public goals to those of individuals. Thus, a person who engages in nepotism has committed an act of corruption by putting his family's interest over those of the larger society. Gibbons (1976), conceives corruption from the perspective of politics. For him, political corruption is the use of a public office in a way that forsakes the public interest, measured in terms of mass opinion, elite opinion or both in order that some form of personal advantage may be achieved at the expense of that public interest. In the same vein, Obayelu (2007) defines corruption as an effort to secure wealth or power through illegal means for private gain at public expense; or misuse of public power for private benefit.

Foreign Policy

Like corruption, foreign policy is not easy to define because it means different things to different scholars. Charles Hermann calls it a 'neglected concept'. This is due to the assumption of researchers that they already know what it is. Contrarily, it is even broader and more complex than their assumption. Writers like Ota & Ecoma (2016) maintained that the difficulty associated with the meaning of the concept is because it can be either viewed as an expression of human behavior or a diplomatic tool that is expressible in secrecy.

Bojang (2018) (cited in Chioke & Umeokafor 2022) considers foreign

policy as the behavior of states toward other states. The behavior here includes the nation's policy gazette which encapsulates the government's political ideology, and economic, social, and religious positions. Britannica (2004) considers foreign policy as general objectives that guide the activities and relationships of one state in its interactions with other states. It is important to add here that the general objectives include the national interest of the government.

Morgenthau (1948) refers to foreign policy as a government's strategy for dealing with other nations. It involves the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of plans and actions to achieve national goals in the international arena. What this means is that foreign policy is not about just teeth-at-tee but very strategic engagement and exchange by state policymakers in the international system. Gibson (1954) cited in (Boajang 2018) views foreign policy as a well-rounded comprehensive plan based on knowledge and experience for conducting the business of government with the rest of the world. It is aimed at promoting and protecting the interests of the nations. This calls for a clear understanding of what those interests are and how far we hope to go with the means at our disposal. Anything less than this falls short of being a foreign policy" It encompasses a wide range of objectives, including defense, security,

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

economic benefits, and humanitarian assistance.

Empirical Review

Smith (2020), adopted both Institutional theory and realist theory were employed in this study to achieve valid findings while qualitative methods of data collection include but are not limited to interviewing policy experts, and anti-corruption gurus and studying transparency international articles and reports over the years. The study revealed that corrupt leaders of nation-states often adjust their country's foreign policy to suit their selfish interests. It also established that corruption erodes trust personally and as a nation in its interaction with other nationals. It advocates for the strengthening of institutions of government to deter systemic stealing. Advocates for transparent negotiations in domestic and international environments to help rebuild the country's damaged image. Encourage civil society organizations to create a platform for exposing official graft. This work did not capture the other influences like citizens' voices and their ability to oppose corrupt leaders as that may of the many factors that may shape the mind of the political leader. The work under research will encompass those and show that a strong citizen's voice will serve as a basis for deterring corrupt leaders.

Bello (2018) relied on the dependency theory as the basis for analyzing the

implication of corruption on Nigeria's regional leadership in the West African sub-region. A comparative case study of regional organizations like the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) African Union (AU) the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and a host of others to which Nigeria belongs. The study found that the distrust other African nations have on Nigeria is responsible for its inability to take on its rightful place as a regional leader. It recommends the setting up of regional instruments peculiar to Africa in corruption monitoring. The gap in this work is its limitation of Nigeria's foreign policy to just Africa and not the global community where the impact of corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy extends.

For Idris (2018), the theoretical framework for the analysis is embedded in the Theory of two publics developed by Peter Eke Ekeh. The study relied on a descriptive qualitative method of analysis with data from journals, articles, manuscripts, unpublished reports, and internet sources. The bad national image of Nigeria is not only faulty but also does not represent the true character of all Nigerians because there are hard-working citizens who earn legitimate wages. The prevalence of corruption is not only a result of poverty and poor remuneration but also a result of the weak deterrent instrument of the state. The above formed the major findings of the study. Consequently, the

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

recommendation is that global media campaigns, diplomatic summits, and jingles should be carried out to correct corruption behaviour and restructure the bad image; The Government must deliberately address the root causes of corruption and urgently seek international help to fight corruption from advance nations and most destination countries for Nigerian stolen funds; and Leaders and office holders must begin to lead by example by declaring their assets and encourage subordinates to do the same in a verifiable manner. National image is not as important as citizen's patriotism. The emphasis on rebranding the national image abroad should not form the priority of any Nigerian government rather the need to mobilize citizens to trust and believe in the system and contribute their quota towards the good of the country. This forms the research gap in this study with corruption and Nigeria's foreign policy output from 2015 to 2023.

In Adesanya (2021), the theory of realism was adopted in investigating the influence of China and the United States influence on Nigeria's foreign policy engagement. The study used both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection. It posited that corruption and the poor national image are always an albatross for Nigeria's bargaining power with the Western world or developed nations and this does not help put the nation's strategic interest

foremost. Similarly, it also posited that the absence of strong deterrent and punitive measures in the country reduces the ability of the country to effectively and firmly bargain with the West for its interests. Given this, it suggests, the training and retraining of policymakers and diplomats to improve their knowledge of effectively bargaining for the country's good. Equally, it advocates for the creation of a bilateral anti-corruption agency that will oversee Nigeria's engagement and activities with China and the United States of America. Lesser attention was given to the roles of multinational companies and organizations in taming the activities of corrupt diplomats given the fact that they are the vehicle for these engagements. My research intends to highlight the roles of multinational trade agencies in enforcing corruption across national boundaries and how they can become effective instruments for curtailing corruption as it relates to Nigeria.

Theoretical Framework

This study adopted structural functional and concentric cycle theories as my analytical tool. The reason for this is deliberate. Structural functional tool clearly relates to systems and their effectiveness while it is systems that determines the efficiency of Nigeria's foreign policy thrust. Concentric cycles on its part relates to the inter-connectivity of systems. Using the two helped the study to analyze corruption

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

and Nigeria foreign policy output 2015-2023

Structural Functionalist Theory

Propounded by Émile Durkheim and Robert K. Merton, (1858 -1917) Structural Functionalism conceptualizes society as a complex system of distinct components that must function interdependently to sustain collective stability. Merton observes that specific societal structures exert intense pressures on public officeholders, frequently compelling non-conformist behavior and the abuse of official privilege. In Nigeria's public administration, deep-seated sociocultural expectations such as pressure from extended family, community networks, and patronage groups force public servants to prioritize parochial resource distribution over constitutional oaths of transparency and accountability. The failure to resist these informal demands induces what Durkheim termed *anomie*, a state of normlessness where institutional rules lose their binding authority, leading public servants to abandon their core administrative mandates in favor of systemic corruption and nepotism.

In the context of *Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output*, Structural Functionalism explains the domestic root causes of administrative decay. Between 2015 and 2023, informal patronage pressures led to widespread financial diversion across strategic public institutions. This institutional *anomie*

compromised internal anti-graft mechanisms such as the Treasury Single Account (TSA) and the Whistle-Blowing Policy thereby eroding state administrative integrity, weakening domestic institutional capacity, and depleting the public funds required to sustain a coherent foreign policy apparatus.

Concentric Circle Theory

Formulated by Ernest Burgess in 1925 to model urban structural organization, Concentric Circle Theory was adapted for foreign policy analysis by Ibrahim Gambari (1989, as cited in Yusuf & Alfa, 2019). The theory asserts that a nation's foreign policy priorities expand outward in hierarchical, ring-like structures determined strictly by national interest:

- **The Innermost Circle:** Focuses on core national interests, including Nigeria's domestic security, territorial integrity, and peaceful relations with immediate border neighbors (Gambari, 1989, as cited in Yusuf & Alfa, 2019).
- **The Second Circle:** Encompasses economic, political, and social integration within the West African sub-region under ECOWAS (Gambari, 1989, as cited in Yusuf & Alfa, 2019).
- **The Outer Circles:** Directs focus toward continental African issues, self-determination, and broader global diplomatic engagements (Hassan, 2011; Gambari, 1989, as cited in Yusuf & Alfa, 2019).

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

Scholars emphasize that because a nation is not a global power, its foreign policy commitments, preoccupations, and external resource expenditures must strictly align with its actual domestic capabilities and financial means (Yakubu, 2014). Furthermore, theoretical frameworks guiding Nigeria's external relations must account for internal domestic conditions rather than relying solely on abstract global assumptions (Gambari, 2008, as cited in Akogwu et al., 2021).

In analyzing the 2015–2023 period, Concentric Circle Theory demonstrates the external diplomatic fallout of internal graft. Because a state's external effectiveness across its outer diplomatic rings depends directly on the stability and resources of its "innermost circle" (domestic stability and fiscal capability), widespread domestic corruption severely impairs external engagement. Depleting state resources through public-sector graft starves the innermost ring, directly weakening Nigeria's financial capability and moral authority to lead within ECOWAS (the second circle), champion continental African integration (the third circle), and command credibility in global multilateral forums.

Methodology

The study adopted mixed-method research design. The population of the study consists of respondents from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) the National

Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), the Nigeria Institute for International Affairs (NIIA), the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC), public complaints commission, the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), the Nigeria police force and others. The targeted population of the study is 12,730 which comprises of individuals drawn from both civil and anti-graft institutions actively involved in addressing corruption, as well as agencies responsible for coordinating foreign policy. These groups were carefully chosen because they are positioned at the foreign policy formulation, community engagement, and anti-graft crusade, offering crucial perspectives relevant to the study's objectives. Krejcie and Morgan's statistical formula was employed to reduce the population of the study to a manageable standard of 370.

The study employed both primary and secondary methods of data collection. The instruments that were used in collecting data for this study are oral interview questionnaires and secondary sources. Stratified and Random Sampling Techniques were used in selecting the respondents among different categories for the administration of questionnaire. This study made use of tables and charts as platforms to present the research data and also analyze the data collected from the field on the subject matter using simple percentage and graphs as the case may be for the descriptive analysis. The

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

version that was used for analyzing data for the study is SPSS 25.

Data Analysis and Interpretation of Results

A total of 370 copies of questionnaire were distributed while 331 copies were retrieved. Therefore, the presentation and analysis was done based on the 331 retrieved copies of questionnaire. The pattern of presentation was based on the objectives of the study using frequency table (frequency, count and percentage) as well as charts. The discussion of findings then followed. This was supported with information from extant literature.

Analysis on Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-Graft Reform (2015-2023).

This Section dwelt on the analysis and presentation of data on domestic financial corruption constraints on Nigeria's foreign policy output for institutional anti-graft reform (2015-2023). The responses were guided by the research questions and objectives and presented in Tables.

Nature of Corruption and its Influence on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives

The first research question was to examine the nature of corruption and its influence on Nigeria's foreign policy objectives. To address this questions, respondents were asked appropriate

questions and data generated are presented in simple percentage tables.

Assessing Whether or Not the Prevalence of Corruption within the Nigerian Government Significantly Hampered the Effectiveness of Foreign Policy Decisions between 2015 and 2023.

In order to achieve the first research question, respondents were asked to assess whether or not the prevalence of corruption within the Nigerian government significantly hampered the effectiveness of foreign policy decisions between 2015 and 2023.

Table 1.1: Respondents' View on Whether or not the Prevalence of Corruption within the Nigerian Government Significantly Hampered the Effectiveness of Foreign Policy Decisions between 2015 and 2023.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	184	55.6
Strongly Agree	73	22.1
Disagree	45	13.6
Strongly Disagree	10	3
Unknown	19	5.7
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025)

From table 1.1 above, a cumulative of 184 respondents representing 55.6 per cent of the total respondents agreed with the assertion that the Prevalence of Corruption within the Nigerian Government Significantly Hampered the

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

Effectiveness of Foreign Policy Decisions between 2015 and 2023. The table also show that 73 respondents representing 22.1 of the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 45 percent representing 13.6 disagreed and 10 respondent representing 3 percent strongly disagreed with assertion that the prevalence of corruption within the Nigerian government significantly hampered the effectiveness of foreign policy decisions between 2015 and 2023. In the same vein, 19 respondents representing 5.7 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can be deduced from the analysis here that greater percentage of respondents believe that the Prevalence of Corruption within the Nigerian Government Significantly Hampered the Effectiveness of Foreign Policy Decisions between 2015 and 2023.

Assessing Whether Corruption-Related Scandals Involving Nigerian Government Officials Negatively Impacted Nigeria's International Reputation and its Ability to Build Trust with other Nations During the Period 2015-2023.

In order to achieve the second research question, respondents were also asked to state if corruption related scandals involving Nigerian government officials negatively impacted Nigeria's international reputation and its ability to build trust with other nations during the period 2015-2023.

Table 1.2 The Outcome of Respondents on Whether Corruption-Related Scandals Involving Nigerian Government Officials Negatively Impacted Nigeria's international Reputation and its Ability to Build Trust with other Nations during the period 2015-2023.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	190	57
Strongly Agree	100	30.2
Disagree	23	7
Strongly Disagree	12	4
Unknown	6	1.8
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025).

From table 1.2 above, a cumulative of 190 respondents representing 57 per cent of the total respondents agreed with the assertion that corruption-related scandals involving Nigerian government officials negatively impacted Nigeria's international reputation and its ability to build trust with other nations during the period 2015-2023. The table also show that 100 respondents representing 30.2 of the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 23 percent representing 7 disagreed and 12 respondent representing 4 percent strongly disagreed with assertion that corruption-related scandals involving Nigerian government officials negatively impacted Nigeria's international reputation and its ability to build trust with other nations during the

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

period 2015-2023. Only 6 respondents representing 1.8 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can be deduced from the analysis here that greater percentage of respondents believe that corruption-related scandals involving Nigerian government officials negatively impacted Nigeria's international reputation and its ability to build trust with other nations during the period 2015-2023.

Assessing the Extent to Which Embezzlement of Funds Allocated for Foreign Policy Initiatives Hinder the Successful Implementation of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Goals between 2015 and 2023

Respondents were also asked to state to what extent did embezzlement of funds allocated for foreign policy initiatives hinder the successful implementation of Nigeria's foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023.

Table 1.3. Represent the outcome of respondents view on Assessing the Extent to Which Embezzlement of Funds Allocated for Foreign Policy Initiatives Hinder the Successful Implementation of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Goals between 2015 and 2023

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	95	28.7
Strongly Agree	185	56
Disagree	15	4.5
Strongly Disagree	24	7.2

Unknown	12	3.6
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025).

From table 1.3 above, a cumulative of 95 respondents representing 28.7 per cent of the total respondents agreed with the assertion that the embezzlement of funds allocated for foreign policy initiatives hinder the successful implementation of Nigeria's foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023. The table also show that 185 respondents representing 56 of the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 15 percent representing 4.5 disagreed and 24 respondent representing 7.2 percent strongly disagreed with assertion that the embezzlement of funds allocated for foreign policy initiatives hinder the successful implementation of Nigeria's foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023. In the same vein, 12 respondents representing 3.6 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can be deduced from the analysis here greater percentage of respondents believe that the embezzlement of funds allocated for foreign policy initiatives hinder the successful implementation of Nigeria's foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023.

Impact of Corruption on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output from 2015-2023

The second research question aimed to interrogate the impact of corruption on Nigeria's foreign policy output from

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

2015-2023. To address this question, respondents were asked appropriate questions and data generated are presented in simple percentage tables.

Corruption Significantly Undermined Nigeria's Ability to Achieve its Foreign Policy Goals Between 2015 and 2023.

Respondents were asked to assess whether or not corruption significantly undermined Nigeria's ability to achieve its foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023

Table 1.4: Is a Representation of Respondent's View on Whether Corruption Significantly Undermined Nigeria's Ability to Achieve Its Foreign Policy Goals Between 2015 and 2023.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	55	16.7
Strongly Agree	40	12.1
Disagree	115	34.7
Strongly Disagree	111	33.5
Unknown	10	3
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025)

From table 1.4 above, a cumulative of 55 respondents representing 16.7 per cent of the total respondents agreed with the assertion that corruption significantly undermined Nigeria's ability to achieve its foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023. The table also show that 40 respondents representing 12.1 percent of

the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 115 respondents representing 34.7 percent disagreed and 111 respondent representing 33.5 percent strongly disagreed with assertion above. In the same vein, 10 respondents representing 3 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can therefore be deduced from the analysis here that greater percentage of respondents disagreed that corruption has significantly undermined Nigeria's ability to achieve its foreign policy goals between 2015 and 2023.

Determining Whether or Not the Diversion of Funds Intended for Foreign Policy Initiatives Due to Corruption Led to a Noticeable Decline in the Effectiveness of Nigeria's Diplomatic Efforts (2015-2023).

In order to achieve the second research question, respondents were also asked to provide answers to whether diversion of funds intended for foreign policy initiatives due to corruption led to a noticeable decline in the effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts (2015-2023).

Table 1.5: Presentation of Respondents View on Assessment to Find out Whether Diversion of Funds Intended for Foreign Policy Initiatives Due to Corruption Led to a Noticeable Decline in the Effectiveness of Nigeria's Diplomatic Efforts (2015-2023).

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	184	55.6
Strongly Agree	73	22.1
Disagree	45	13.6
Strongly Disagree	10	3
Unknown	19	5.7
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025)

From table 1.5 above, a cumulative of 184 respondents representing 55.6 per cent of the total respondents agreed with the assertion that the diversion of funds intended for foreign policy initiatives due to corruption led to a noticeable decline in the effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts (2015-2023). The table also show that 73 respondents representing 22.1 of the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 45 percent representing 13.6 disagreed and 10 respondent representing 3 percent strongly disagreed that diversion of funds intended for foreign policy initiatives due to corruption led to a noticeable decline in the effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts (2015-2023). In the same vein, 19 respondents representing 5.7 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can be deduced from the analysis here that indeed within the period under review (2015-2023) that the diversion of funds intended for foreign policy initiatives due

to corruption led to a noticeable decline in the effectiveness of Nigeria's diplomatic efforts

Corruption within the Nigerian Government Damaged Nigeria's International Reputation and Credibility, Hindering its Ability to Forge Strong Alliances and Partnerships (2015-2023).

Respondents were also asked to provide answers to whether Corruption within the Nigerian government damaged Nigeria's international reputation and credibility, hindering its ability to forge strong alliances and partnerships (2015-2023).

Table 1.6: Respondents View on Assessment to Find out Whether Corruption within the Nigerian Government Damaged Nigeria's International Reputation and credibility, hindering its Ability to Forge Strong Alliances and Partnerships (2015-2023).

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	181	55
Strongly Agree	115	34.7
Disagree	9	2.7
Strongly Disagree	12	3.6
Unknown	14	4
Total	331	100

Source: Author's Field Survey (2025)

From table 1.6 above, a cumulative of 181 respondents representing 55.6 per cent of

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

the total respondents agreed with the assertion that Corruption within the Nigerian government damaged Nigeria's international reputation and credibility, hindering its ability to forge strong alliances and partnerships (2015-2023). The table also show that 115 respondents representing 34.7 of the total respondents cumulatively strongly agreed with the posed question. While 9 percent representing 2.7 disagreed and 12 respondent representing 3.6 percent strongly disagreed that Corruption within the Nigerian government damaged Nigeria's international reputation and credibility, hindering its ability to forge strong alliances and partnerships (2015-2023). In the same vein, 14 respondents representing 4 percent of the total respondents have no idea on the posed question. Following this, it can be deduced from the analysis here that indeed within the period under review (2015-2023) Corruption within the Nigerian government damaged Nigeria's international reputation and credibility, hindering its ability to forge strong alliances and partnerships.

Discussion of Findings

The study revealed that corruption expresses itself in various forms and nature, particular when it is found within government circle. It maintains that it has the ability to obliterate anything it comes in contact with. In this case, Nigeria's foreign policy is its victim! This study argued that the Prevalence of Corruption within the Nigerian government has

significantly hampered the effectiveness of foreign policy decisions within the period under review. Ideally, Nigeria foreign policies ought to be effective and a model in the international system given its strategic geographic position; its huge resources and population.

Sadly, the work notes that our foreign policy initiative has been ineffectual and not implementable due to the appointment of persons who either lacked the re-requisite knowledge of foreign policy tact, timid to pursue the country's national objectives and therefore undertaking their personal interest. This position was held by Oji (2024), he argued that the issue persists, largely because those leading the fight against corruption are frequently implicated in it themselves. Similarly, Action Aid Nigeria, (2015) cited in Oji (2024) also echoed that "some of the key drivers of corruption in the country are officials in the executive arm, the legislature, the judiciary, the law enforcement agency, civil servants/public officers, politicians and political parties, corruption in the private sector, the oil and gas sector and the banking sector". Their desire to put their personal interest foremost makes the process very slow and unattractive. As a result, Nigeria's foreign policy is such that it took the back seat. Described by many as a toothless bull dog which cannot bite in the wake of violation.

The study notes that corruption had multiplying impact on Nigeria and its

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

foreign policy during the period under review. First, it argued that corruption further battered the reputation of the country by giving it a very bad national image (Nigerians are generally described as dishonest, dubious and not patriotic citizens). This notion scared and propelled genuine investors to seek for investment opportunities in other climes even with lesser opportunities than Nigeria presents. Therefore, compelling majority of skilled Nigerians leaving the shores of this country in-search of greener pastures and opportunities abroad. This mass exodus exposed the challenges in our domestic front which of course was of hunger, starvation, disease, unemployment, poverty, insecurity amidst abundant natural resources. Nigerians were therefore forced to pay whopping amount to foreign embassies and often subjected to inhuman treatment at airports. Those who could not afford the often outrageous visa fees as noted earlier in this study were left with the only option to travel through the Sahara desert where many died in cold blood. A view which corroborates the assertion of Owuamanam & Agbaenyi (2021) who noted that Nigeria's international image crisis is enveloped in the poor international perception of Nigerian business environments, poor perception of Nigeria/Nigerians Abroad and the international perception of corruption in Nigeria. This is seen in the withdrawal of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI), ill-treatment/unwarranted suspicion of Nigerian nationals abroad, the

deportation of Nigerian nationals, visa ban, and Nigeria's corruption perception index and poor ranking reports. Idowu & Ogunbiyi (2024) also re-echoed it, by identifying corruption as one of the "corrosive elements of Nigeria's political system with its attendant effects on national image that is rapidly gaining greater attention today. This manifests in the electoral process characterized by money bag politics, political thuggery, godfatherism, anointing candidates to subvert a free and fair party primary election – as well as in governance with contempt for the rule of law, flagrant abuse of office, economic corruption amongst others political misdemeanour"

Conclusion

Policy makers are usually confronted by the conflicting choices that corruption provides in their bid to formulate tangible policies and action that will be beneficial to their people and country. However, in the international system, corruption is also the tool through which most national governments employ in pursuing their foreign policy objectives. In the last decade, corruption has been a major hindrance to Nigeria in achieving its foremost foreign policy trust which is ensuring security and peace in Africa; being among the global super economic and military block to be reckoned with.

The mode of political appointment from 2015-2023 was repulsively characterized by nepotism, favoritism, day light bribery, lack of accountability, judicial

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

rascality and misappropriation of public funds. An evidence that even president Buhari was not aware of the task ahead of him. As a result, a list of inefficient and incompetent diplomats with no tact on policy formulation, who lacked negotiating and manipulating abilities. Therefore, this made the country a laughing stock in the committee of nations during the period under review. Similarly, the rampant cases of graft across various ministries; which includes the legislative, judicial arms and the governments inability to bring the perpetrators to account for these crimes against its own people made mockery of the institution of government and the fight against corruption which was also one of the three much touted agenda by the administration. And because it is normal that the international community senses you in the light of your domestic realities and relates with you in that manner; obviously, Nigeria became a toothless bull dog, not recognized, not respected and not even feared. Even worst, its policy makers were unable to attract much into the country due to distrust arising from battered image.

Recommendations

- i. **Institutionalization of Merit-Based Vetting and Statutory Merit Standards for Public and Diplomatic Appointments:** To prevent compromised appointments and protect Nigeria's external credibility, the Federal Government should enact statutory amendments tightening the vetting and

confirmation processes for public officeholders and Foreign Service appointments.

- ii. **Institutionalization of a Strategic Public Diplomacy Framework and Digital Media Partnerships:** Rather than attempting to censor or informally regulate citizen-generated content, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in partnership with the Ministry of Information and National Orientation should establish an institutionalized, digital-first Public Diplomacy Strategy.

References

- Agbara, W. (2016). *Corruption and the Nigeria external reserves management. Journal of Economics and Sustainable Development*, 7(13), 145-152.
- Ahigbe, O. (2017). *Analysis of political appointments under President Muhammadu Buhari*. Business Day.
- Akogwu, I., Yusuf, A., Sunday, O., & Eneh, C. (2021). Theoretical conceptions and dynamic orientations of Nigeria's foreign policy. *Journal of International Relations and Policy Studies*, 4(2), 70-85.
- Bello, M. J. (2018). *Corruption and its implications for Nigeria's regional leadership in West Africa*. In *Regional parallelism and corruption scandals in Nigeria*
- Bojang, M. B. (2018). Concepts and determinants of foreign policy analysis. *Journal of Political Science and Public Affairs*, 6(1), 12-25.
- Britannica. (2004). *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

- Burgess, E. W. (1925). The growth of the city: An introduction to a research project. In R. E. Park, E. W. Burgess, & R. D. McKenzie (Eds.), *The city* (pp. 47-62). University of Chicago Press.
- Chioke, S. C., & Umeokafor, C. C. (2022). State behavior and foreign policy dynamics in West Africa. *African Journal of Diplomacy and International Affairs*, 9(3), 44-58.
- Durkheim, É. (1893). *The division of labour in society*. Free Press.
- Ekeh, P. P. (1975). Colonialism and the two publics in Africa: A theoretical statement. *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 17(1), 91-112.
- Gambari, I. A. (1989). *Theory and reality in foreign policy making: Nigeria after the Second Republic*. Humanities Press.
- Gambari, I. A. (2008). *From Africa to the world: Essays in foreign policy and diplomacy*. Northern Nigerian Publishing Company.
- Gebeye, B. (2012) Corruption and Human Rights: Exploring the Relationships. Working Paper No. 70 http://www.du.edu/korbel/hrhw/workingpapers/2012/70_gebeye-2012.pdf.
- Gibbons, K. M. (1976). Political corruption in Canada. In K. M. Gibbons & D. C. Rowat (Eds.), *Political corruption in Canada: Cases, causes, and cures* (pp. 1-12). McClelland and Stewart.
- Gibson, H. (1954). *The road to foreign policy*. Doubleday.
- Gire, J. T. (1999). A psychological analysis of corruption in Nigeria *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 1 (2): 1-15.
- Hassan, S. (2011). Nigeria's foreign policy and the concentric circle theory: An appraisal. *Journal of Social Sciences and Public Policy*, 3(1), 33-42.
- Idowu, O., & Ogunbiyi, O. (2024). Corrosive elements in Nigeria's political system and the national image crisis. *Nigerian Journal of Administrative and Political Studies*, 11(1), 102-118.
- Idris, A. (2018). *Evaluating the national image crisis and anti-corruption mechanisms in Nigeria* [Unpublished manuscript].
- Kenechukwu, N. (2018). Ubiquitous corruption and public accountability in developing economies. *International Journal of Development and Management Review*, 13(1), 88-101.
- Khalid .H (2021) *If the story of corruption is as old as man, we are still no closer to the final chapter*. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). <https://www.cipfa.org/cipfa-thinks/articles/if-the-story-of-corruption-is-as-old-as-man-we-are-still-no-closer-to-the-final-chapter>
- Khan, M. H. (1996). A typology of corrupt transactions in developing countries. *IDS Bulletin*, 27(2), 12-21.
- Lawal, G. (2007). Corruption and development in Africa: Challenges for political leadership. *Humanity & Social Sciences Journal*, 2(1), 1-7.
- Merton, R. K. (1968). *Social theory and social structure*. Free Press.

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.

Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)

- Morgenthau, H. J. (1948). *Politics among nations: The struggle for power and peace*. New York: Knopf.
- Obayelu, A. E. (2007, October 4–6). *Effects of corruption and economic reforms on economic growth and development: Lessons from Nigeria* [Paper presentation]. African Economic Conference, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- Oji, K. (2024). Anti-graft institutional leadership and systemic corruption in Nigeria. *African Governance and Policy Review*, 6(1), 15–29.
- Olufemi, A. (2014). Concentric circle model and the execution of Nigerian foreign policy. *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations*, 8(4), 110–121.
- Oluwatuyi, O. (2023). Financial impropriety and procurement inflation in public sector ministries. *Journal of Public Financial Management*, 15(2), 45–59.
- Ota, E. N. & Ecoma, C. S. (2016). Nigerian Foreign Policy and the Democratic Experiment: The Lessons of History and Options for the 21st Century. *International Journal of Applied and Advanced Scientific Research (IJAASR)*, 1(1), 9–18. Retrieved from: www.dvpublication.com.
- Owuamanam, C., & Agbaenyi, C. (2021). Nigeria's international image crisis and foreign direct investment flow. *Journal of Security and Strategic Studies*, 12(2), 201–218.
- Shehu, A. (2020). Revisiting the concentric circle theory in foreign policy formulation. *Journal of African Diplomacy*, 5(2), 88–99.
- Smith, J. (2020). Foreign policy adjustments and corrupt leadership in developing nation-states. *Global Governance and Transparency Review*, 14(3), 112–128.
- Transparency International, (2018). *Corruption Perceptions Index 2018*. Retrieved from https://www.transparency.org/files/content/pages/2018_CPI_Executive_Summary.pdf.
- Transparency International. (2018). *Corruption perceptions index 2018*. https://www.transparency.org/files/content/pages/2018_CPI_Executive_Summary.pdf
- Uddoh, E. (2016). National interest versus systemic corruption in Nigeria's foreign relations. *Journal of Policy and Development Studies*, 10(4), 51–63.
- World Bank. (2024). *World development indicators: GDP per capita ranking*. World Bank Group.
- Yakubu, A. Y. (2014). Resource constraints and national capability in Nigeria's regional commitments. *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*, 2(1), 77–91.
- Yusuf, M. O., & Alfa, A. I. (2019). Nigeria's foreign policy under President Muhammadu Buhari: A critical analysis. *Journal of Political Science and Leadership Research*, 5(1), 45–58.

Citation: Okolo, Izuchukwu; Abdul, Shuaibu U. & Abdul, Abdullahi M. "Analyzing Domestic Financial Corruption Constraints on Nigeria's Foreign Policy Output for Institutional Anti-graft Reform (2015-2023)". *Journal of People and Worldviews (JPW)*, 2026: pp121-138.