

Doctoral Project from Mr. Paul Sedzro

Working Title:

ECOWAS as a Peace and Security Actor: The Impact of Nigeria's Domestic Politics on ECOWAS Capacity in Managing Conflicts and Crises in West Africa. A study based on Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and The Gambia (2002–2020).

Supervisor:

Prof. Dr. Michael Staack

Abstract:

This dissertation project focuses on the extent to which Nigeria's domestic political developments affect Nigeria's foreign and security policy leadership role in West Africa and, indirectly, this influences ECOWAS performance in regional conflict management. It is argued that the degree of ECOWAS capacity in regional conflict management depends on Nigeria's political stability. To test this hypothesis, the ECOWAS peacekeeping missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and The Gambia are examined, focusing on Nigeria's contribution. The theory of hegemonic stability is used as the theoretical foundation of the work. Thus, specific indicators are identified to explain Nigeria's respective leadership behaviour in ECOWAS conflict management in the three conflicts. Lastly, it is examined whether these indicators have actually had an impact on ECOWAS performance.