

CHALLENGES OF THE NIGERIA POLICE IN CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL, MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

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Abstract

This study examined the role of the police in crime prevention and control, maintenance of peace and conflict resolution in Nigeria. The general aim of this study is to identify the challenges inhibiting police performance with a view to finding/proffering solutions. The paper adopts qualitative research method (Content analysis) which relies on secondary data collected from peer reviewed journals, edited books and credible online resources. The paper reviews the Functionalist and the Conflict/Marxist perspectives and adopts the Conflict/Marxist approach which provided a more realistic insight on the nature of the police roles by placing it within specific socio-economic and political context of the Nigerian society. The non-performance of the police is due to many factors such as military intervention in government, poor funding and mismanagement of the available funds, organized corruption and inadequate manpower, lack of modern equipment, inadequate welfare and training among others. It has been found that these challenges are related to the whole socio-economic structure of the society, this paper therefore recommends among others the provision of adequate welfare and social services such as education, owner occupier housing scheme, protective and supportive health care system and appropriate training programmes to the Nigeria Police as well as fundamental change in the socio-economic structure of society to ensure equal opportunities to all segments of society, respect to the rule of law, fundamental human rights, justice, equity and fairness in the distribution of wealth, transparency, accountability and good governance, protection of life and properties and provision of essential services for all and not for the few, which should form part of the central agenda of the state.

Keywords: Crime prevention and control, Conflict Resolution, Peace, Police.