

DEMOCRACY AND FEDERALISM: REVISITING THE OPPOSITE POLES ON SHARI'AH IMPLEMENTATION CONTROVERSY IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

How is it that given a federal structure which emphasizes 'Unity in diversity' and 'Democracy' dealing with choice, a federating unit wishing to adopt or implement Shari'ah is seen to be engaged in other than Federalism or Democracy? The paper highlights the uncompromising postures of both Muslims and Christians over the issue of Shari'ah implementation in a democratic federal Nigeria. Having discussed the loose ends to Shari'ah application in the county, the paper argues that the application of Shari'ah as being witnessed may not be a threat to Nigerian Christians as earlier assumed. Consequently, the paper recommends mutual understanding and inter-faith dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims being the desideratum for the united, democratically vibrant and peaceful federal Nigeria.

Keywords: Democracy, Federalism, Shari'ah, Shari'ah implementation