

## Developmental Democracy in Africa: A Review

*Samuel Akpan Bassey*<sup>1,\*</sup>, *Mfonobong David Udoudom*<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Post Graduate School, Department of Philosophy, University of Calabar, Calabar, Nigeria

<sup>2</sup>Social Sciences Unit, School of General Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria

### Abstract

*Democracy is one of the virtues we ache for, as many now observe an undemocratic society as a savage society. Richard L. Sklar built up a hypothesis called developmental democracy in which he opines that democracy will essentially prompts the improvement of African people and states. For the most part, there has been contention whether development precedes democracy or rather democracy helps development, which is very much unclear. Regardless of the answer, since the prodemocracy charges hit Africa since 1990s, democracy has not made substantial strides. There have still been huge issues of underdevelopment, corruption and mal-administration. Many have started scrutinizing the possibility of democracy been ideal for Africa. The purpose of this paper is to audit the possibility of developmental democracy within African context. This paper presents that democracy is not ideal for Africa, it likewise guarantees that, if democracy is really what it is said to be, there would not have been any requirement for polarization, for instance, developmental, liberal, social democracies and so on. This is because any democracy will essentially include all. It is on this background that the paper attempts to criticize Richard's Sklar's idea of developmental democracy.*

**Keyword:** *Developmental democracy, democracy, development, Africa*

**\*Author for Correspondence** E-mail: [samuelbassey15@yahoo.com](mailto:samuelbassey15@yahoo.com)

### INTRODUCTION

Democracy is the mastership of the people; and that mastership is the supreme authority [1]. This authority consists in the people's right to choose their leaders and legislate whatever laws they want, even if the people do not know what they want, or maybe they are not skilled enough to make the right choice of leaders to aid rapid development. Democracy is also said to be a form of government; a kind of economy which supports capitalism, an order of society with so many moral codes and virtues, a way of life, it is all of these things together [2]. Still democracy itself is difficult to define as the supreme authority can rest on any kind of 'demos'(people) who can be aristocracy or any other system of government. Notwithstanding, Richard L. Sklar developed a theory called developmental democracy in which he states that democracy will lead to the development of countries using Africa as a case study [3]. The parameters for this to happen are not vividly stated, given that Democracy in itself is a work in process in many countries and Africa in particular as much evidence of its achievements are not

very much visible, only change of leadership through voting to show, but not much better policies and improved standard of living. If truly democracy is necessarily what it is said to be, and all the basic proponents are true and correct, what is the need of the polarization of democracy into liberal, social, developmental, etc.? Would not democracy necessarily be liberal, social and developmental? This paper attempt to criticize the idea of developmental democracy of Richard L. Sklar, faulting the view that democracy will lead to development of African countries.

### DEMOCRACY AND ITS PROBLEM

All through the entire history of political life in human social orders, from ancient societies until the present day, it is hard to locate a better, additionally more vaguely term than democracy (which in Greek means *demokratia*: *demos*—people and *kratos*—power, rule [4]. Above all, we can begin by questioning who are the demos, who has a place with the demos? what does power mean? In the event that the administration is a monarchy, one realizes that power has a place

with the monarch, who is appointed by the privilege of succession or any other way. Similarly, the *Aristoi* (nobles) in an aristocracy are the ones that from birth have a place with a certain social class. Presently, the "people" in democracy what does it really mean? Does it infer aristocrat, military rule and so forth? Democracy as regards to its meaning has already delivers questions because the "people" are not clearly characterized [5]. It should be noted that democracy in Athens where it was first practiced the 'people' means 'men' of certain age and it excludes slaves women and children. Even in modern dispensation the meaning of 'people' also varies from countries to countries. This may explain the reason we have many types of democracy, and many countries practicing other systems of government but still making recur to democracy. Today, democracy is acknowledged as an outflow of the concept, frame and standards (political framework) which states that the minority must accept the choice of the majority in making, executing and controlling political choices [6]. Thus, this thinking and idea can also be traced back to the political arrangement of the city states in Ancient Greece, particularly Athens, between the sixth and fourth hundreds of years BC. This is what is called 'tyranny of the majority', in which the majority have the say. Apart from the criticism above other Greek philosophers did criticizes democracy during their time. One of greatest critic was Greek thinker Socrates (469–399 BC), who considered the governmental issues of his time awful for three reasons. In the first place reason was a major issue in light of the votes of a greater part that had no capacity or scholarly ability to make right decisions on current issues. The second reason was the way that political pioneers relied upon the support of the majority, which they frequently procured not through learning and capacities, but rather by making impressions on individuals. Lastly, experience without legitimate scholarly establishment is not adequate to make political delegate fit for managing social issues, he believed that the leaders must be philosopher kings who have gone through adequate training, test and have attained the knowledge of the good to be leaders. Plato brutally reprimanded Athenian government officials for "creating the

impression of prosperity and opulence and preferred the strict oligarchy of Sparta and Crete that valued more moral criteria of education and discipline given by Bassey 2012, 138p. Additionally, Aristotle's (384–322 BC) attitude towards democracy was genuinely negative, in light of the way that the key picture of citizen hood. Inside certain political, social event was the interest in the assembly, by which he suggested primarily sharing in the notable courts and unmistakable assemblages. Winston Churchill of Britain went far more profound and straighter forward than Aristotle in his portrayal of democracy as takes after:

Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-lies. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time [7].

By this Churchill conceded that democracy has dependably had its own impediments aside from that it is superior to different frameworks. The most basic of the objectives of democracy are presumably four in number. First, to make the politicians responsible for their activities and actions. Furthermore, to make the subjects powerful members in picking those rulers and in directing their activities. Thirdly, to make the general public as open and the economy as straightforward as could reasonably be expected; and lastly, to make the social request on a very basic level just and impartial and involve equity to the best number conceivable. Responsible rulers, effectively citizen's interest in governance, an open society and social justice: those are the four crucial closures of democracy. The most effective method to accomplish these objectives has evoked diverse means. In making the rulers more responsible a few democratic systems (like the United States) have picked partition of checked and balanced governance, while different democratic governments (like the United Kingdom) have picked the more thought idea of power of parliament. These are distinctive means towards making the official branch more responsible and liable in its utilization of force.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DEMOCRACY

The idea 'developmental democracy' is without a doubt an odd wording apparently present in the dictionary of democracy. Incidentally, there is an expansive heap of insightful literary works which endeavor at clarifying 'developmental democracy'. In any case, most basic contentions about the 'irregular nature' of developmental democracy have so far been to a great extent conflicting and a long way from been on point. Richard L. Sklar composed a book titled *Developmental Democracy* in which he trusted that developmental democracy is the best for African continent. Richard L. Sklar is Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of California. Professor Richard Sklar's lived in Africa for many years and wrote extensively on African development and democracy. He also lectured at a few colleges in Africa, including the University of Ibadan in Nigeria, the University of Zambia. Drawing from Professor Richard Sklar's thought on 'developmental democracy', he opines that democracy is the best type of government with the most noteworthy ability to ensure advance and development of Africans [8]. Many researchers have long since doubt the real essence of democracy in its many years of democratization process in many countries, mostly under-developed countries. Many also have doubt the kind of democracy that has informed democratization to date, and contend that the decrease in democracy in the world as it is been observed now is because of the kind of democracy that has been championed and advanced. Among the choices proposed is the thought of developmental democracy, a sort of democracy that is diverged from the political democracy approach that has portrayed USA democratization endeavors to date. Developmental democracy, then again, holds that the estimation of democracy lies in its commitment to national and individual improvement. Essential qualities of democracy are freedom of speech, and commitment regarding the improvement of individual, allowing citizens to get involve in governance etc. In fact, the more democracy cultivates the development of individual abilities, the more it makes opportunity. Joseph Siegle and his peers in *Why Democracies Excel* contend that not only do government impact states'

economic and societal exhibitions. Additionally, from the point of view of the type of administration; democratic systems in fact outflank non-democratic rule governments in economic stipulations. Also, because of various trademark elements of democratic systems, for example, responsibility, governing rules, low level of corruption, openness, opposition parties, easy flow of data, straightforwardness, and versatility, democratic systems as a rule beat non-democratic based systems on most markers of economic and social prosperity [9]. Consequently, following from the above the approach and procedure to help developing Nations is by advancing democracy first, not by economic development, as the former will always lead to the other. In David Leblang *Property Rights, Democracy, and Economic Development* likewise contends that, economies in countries that secure residents' property rights grow up more quickly than those in countries that do not ensure individuals' property rights and unquestionably, majority rules systems secure a bigger number of nationals' property rights than do non-democratic systems [10]. These exact research discoveries not just insist that establishment and administration matter, additionally that democratic governments beat non-democratic rules systems on most markers of economic and societal advancement. In any case, if democracy-first theory is valid, how might it disclose a few cases remarkable to its contention? Like the instances of Taiwan and South Korea, both of these two nations experienced sensational economic improvement without democratic institutions amid the 1990s. In addition, the instance of China from the 1990s on likewise shows that non-democratic society can still accomplish economic development. In this way, maybe democracy and administration sort is not the vital precondition for developing Nations to achieve development. This may also be the case of African and issue with development. Many years after which Richard Sklar expresses confident on democracy leading to development in Africa, there are still many questions begging for answer. One major issue about democracy in Africa concerns its relationship to development. On this connection amongst democracy and

development in Africa, one essential question is being asked; is Africa undeveloped in light of the fact that it is essentially undemocratic? Or, on the other hand is Africa undemocratic in light of the fact that it is essentially undeveloped? Which is the cause and which is the consequence?

### **AFRICA UNDER DEVELOPMENT: REASONS AND THEORETICAL JUSTIFICATIONS**

It is notable that Africa is falling behind as far as economic development is concerned. Despite the fact that global poverty is declining because of fast economic development in India, China, and other different parts of the world, Africa's commitment to this decrease is baffling. High level poverty in a hefty portion of the African countries is rising [11]. For more than fifty years, the African journey for development had just peripheral achievement. Most African nations are more regrettable worse than they were; welfare and provisions issues are boundless, infrastructure is wearing down, coups, ethno-religious clash and corruption, unemployment and sicknesses are the essential components that overwhelmed the underdeveloped countries. Most importantly, poor industrial advancement and low innovative exchange poses a potential threat. What is the key cause behind this decay? It should be noted that a developed nation is one which gives an exclusive expectation of living to its people subsequently of the per capita pay and Gross National Product (GNP). European nations which have officially developed their resources and have achieved a high rate state of development can now create their own particular capital as they do not have any economic related confinements and can along these lines enjoy good standard of living and a high efficiency. Is there anything that we can do to capture this decay and enhance the circumstance for the African populace? It is regular learning that colonialism left a negative legacy and effect on Africa's economic development with not much known African nation has possessed the capacity to enhance but to further loot national resources, exposing kindred residents into more abject poverty. Be that as it may, taking a look at the overhaul of African economies, one

understands that there are a few types of nations that existed amid imperialism. There is no doubt that without the slave trade, more than fifty percent of Africa's income crevice with the rest of the world would not have existed today. The disclosure of the New World (with its greatly rich soils that could support a few harvests like cotton, sugarcane, and tobacco) by a few Europeans especially, the Spaniards, wound up Africa's economy to the European industrialist/capitalist economy and its trans-Atlantic expansions from the late fifteenth century onwards [10]. Plantation economies could not be set up in Africa (in spite of its comparable natural conditions to that of the New World) since land access were hard to take from the indigenous people groups who had at this point grew effective political structures. Kings and chiefs frequently worked nearly to disperse lands among the subjects for farming creations and other different purposes. For sure, African legitimate frameworks did not make space for private responsibility, especially for land. Responsibility for, was vested in sub-groups. This was a noteworthy encumbrance to the obtaining of land for ranch purposes in Nigeria and West Africa by the Europeans. Nonetheless, the Europeans saw the circumstance of land and resource controls in the New World differentiation to that of Africa. The exploitation in Africa was severe. There are those that endured broad physical harm, for example, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria, there are also those that profited from imperialism, for example, South Africa; those that has a short spell with expansionism, for example, Ethiopia; and those that did not so much experience expansionism, for example, Liberia. Given the diverse authentic foundation of these nations, one would be stunned at the similitude of impoverishment and common war that exist or have existed in these nations. Thusly, one is compelled to consider whether the previous colonial powers are only responsible for the failure of the African state. Today, African countries are faced with violent clashes and poor economic execution, in spite of the plenitude of natural resources and human resources and African leaders are to bear a major responsibility for this. In June 2007, the World Bank and the UN Office on Drugs and

Crime (UNODC) published and provided details regarding stolen resources, which evaluated that 25 percent of the GDP of African states are lost to corruption consistently, adding up to around US\$148 billion. By a similar token, a 2004 report considered Mobutu Sese Seko, who administered the then Zaire from 1965 to 1997, and General Sani Abacha, the Nigerian *kleptocracy* leader in the vicinity of 1993 and 1998, to be the top pillagers of public funds from Africa. The stolen assets of Mobutu Sese Seko were evaluated at US\$5 billion, while Abacha is said to have looted between US\$20 billion and US\$25 billion [12]. Neither expansionism nor neo-colonialism can be reprimanded for these shameful activities. Though democratic frameworks were uncommon in Africa before 1990, a lion's share of nations today is believed to stick to standards and practices, with still with no much improvement compared to other continents. Africa keeps on confronting genuine development challenges regardless of recent record development rates. Such difficulties as corruption, dependence, underdeveloped production and sector leadership and governance are a portion of the obstacles to Africa's mission for maintainable and sustainable development. Clarifying such development challenges has kept on escaping researchers. To the radical liberal researchers, Africa's underdevelopment can satisfactorily be clarified by its powerful and uneven mix into the international economic structure. Nonetheless, with more than fifty years of freedom, the level headed discussion is progressively concentrating on Africa's government as great explanation for its destitution and underdevelopment. Africa's impoverishment is not a result of the absence of capital, access to world markets, specialized specialists, it is fairly in light of the fact that African leaders have settled on poor options and chose to keep the confinement in degraded neediness [13]. This perception is shared by Mbah who contends that the 'principal reason for African underdevelopment and clashes lie in the horrible authority in the mainland from 1960s [14]. The quality and life of the general public relies upon the nature of leaders and not basically on the system of rule. As a man cannot work without brain, so a general public

cannot work without leaders. It truly beats my understanding that African leaders do not appear to understand that the genuine contrast between developed Nations and undeveloped Nation by way of policies, initiation and implementation. This was the very heart of Plato's political thought. It is a direct result of this political unsteadiness in Athenian culture that Plato composed his celebrated book, "*The Republic*", and claim that ills and irregularities will never stop in a society until philosophers are leaders or leaders embed the knowledge and spirit of philosophy [5]. To Plato, the position of leadership should only be for those who know what it takes to lead, not just by vote through democracy. Leaders who must lead must have experience, preparing, more likely than not, been tested and trusted etc. In an event when there are no good leaders there will be much injustice inherent in the society as we see in most African society. Another reason for African underdevelopment is dependency.

Dependency hypothesis accentuates that the issue of underdevelopment in developing nations' is based on relations to the developed nations. The issue of improvement must be comprehended regarding its verifiable inclusion into the overall political-economic framework which developed with the flood of European colonization of the world. This worldwide framework is thought to be portrayed by the unequal however consolidated advancement of its diverse parts. Dos Santos characterizes reliance as a circumstance in which the economy of specific nations is adapted by the advancement and extension of another economy to which the previous is subjected; the worldwide administration or developed nations have a tendency to affect the underdeveloped nations; and they endeavor to argue create wealth by exploiting the underdeveloped nations [15].

### **CRITICISM OF DEVELOPMENTAL DEMOCRACY FOR AFRICA**

Prodemocracy charges began in 1990s, clearing out dictator administrations and one-party system framework that had commanded the African scene since post independent era. It started with the 1988 uprisings in Algiers and the 1990 arrival of Nelson Mandela following

twenty-seven years in South Africa's detainment facilities [16]. Generally, changes came to fruition on the grounds that both military and civilian rule neglected to diminish unemployment, poverty heighten, non-provision of basic amenities by corrupt office holders, abuse of fundamental human rights, and discrimination. These disgusting conditions prompted prevalent requests for political change all through Africa even till date; and many think adherence to democracy will solve the problem. In democracy, each subject has certain essential rights; these rights are global recognition and emphasis. Everybody has the privilege to have their own particular convictions, including their religious convictions, and freedom of expression. Everybody has the privilege to agree and to oppose government activities. In democracy, the activity of political power must regard the law, the constitution, and the will of the general population, through the choices of their (elected) administrative representatives. Looking through this precepts it presupposes that, democracy should necessitates development since it tends to carry the people along. This is the central theme of developmental democracy, which implies that democracy aids both development of citizens and society. If democracy implies all the hypothetical, institutional and behavioral measurements that are composed in books then why is it that many supposed democratic government not running effectively like those composed in books? There have been arguments among some scholars on democracy aiding development. Even within the pro-democratic adherence there have been two schools of thought, those who believed that democracy leads to development and those who believe that development enhance democracy. The letter thinks that economic improvement gets democracy going and enhances it and not the other way round. The problem of democracy and development is even increased by vase development disparities amongst countries and people. This is seen from democracy adherence to free market economy and capitalism in general, which Karl Marx was much critical about. This is evidence between Africa and World powers, showing the wide gap inequalities which is caused primarily by greed,

exploitation and economic advantage. This is what Marx referred to as 'alienation'. It is evident that many developed countries that preach democracy are the once enjoying from the dividend of African underdeveloped state [17]. Additionally, underdevelopment affects Africa because the economy of undeveloped nations are basically connected with the economies of the capitalist minded nations (world powers) such that the economic exercises in the undeveloped nations deliver useful and positive outcomes in the developed nations while making impoverishment, misery and negative outcomes in the undeveloped nations. From the beginning, relations amongst Europe and Africa were economic based. Portuguese shippers exchanged with Africans from exchanging posts they set up along the drift. They traded things like metal and copper arm ornaments for such items as pepper, fabric and slaves. Till date these are still evident between the world powers and underdeveloped Africa. Illustration can be found in the Nigerian Oil sector, where Nigeria's oil is transported to developed nations to their financial advantage, yet return back to Nigeria in exploitative frame whereby making shortage and wretchedness, which in the end prompts fuel subsidy which has disabled small, medium and large scale businesses throughout the years, adding to the problem of poverty, monstrous corruption in oil area and all kinds of negative cases too many to express. The Nigerian National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) discharged a report starting at 2010 uncovering that the poverty rate in Nigeria is around 69% as though that was not sufficiently high it additionally discharged for the year 2011 which uncovered that it has hop to 71% between a year. The level of poverty in Nigeria has kept up a consistent ascent, achieving its record-breaking high of 72 percent by August 2016 [18]. In the event that we recognize the last populace evaluation result which assert that Nigerian populace have achieved 160 million (7 billion all around), then it suggests that countless millions Nigerian are in extraordinary neediness in spite of Nigeria been the sixth biggest oil maker on the planet. A United Nations, UN, provide details regarding Nigeria's Common Country Analysis, CCA, has depicted the nation as one of the poorest

and unequal nation on the planet, with more than 80 m of her populace living underneath poverty line. The report was made open amid a consultative meeting on the detailing of the UN Development Assistance Framework IV (UNDAF IV) for the South East geo-political zone in Awka [19]. In the same report, it claimed that Youth unemployment is at 42% as of 2016 high, increasing poverty, depression, crime and terrorism [20]. Furthermore, More than 10 million children of school age are out of schools with no information and skills. It would be worth knowing that this report is on a country been believe to have adopted democratic principles. Specifically Skar had believed that at this time (years after his theory was developed) evident of democracy would have been much evident in development.

The connection between economic underdevelopment, democracy and good administration appeared to be that, as the strengths of the public expand, government and capitalist accumulate more surpluses value from the work of its individuals. This surplus value removed from work after some time could be amassed by selected few and Nations, making them better equipped for ruling others. At the point when such control is coordinated chiefly at procuring private economic increase, then the relationship so settled turns into an imperialistic relationship, in this way making wealth and success for the developed nations and few persons while poverty and underdevelopment for the developing nations and peoples. Furthermore, such poverty and economic underdevelopment remains as a noteworthy hindrance to the development and advancement of democracy in Africa and the world at large. Furthermore, Africa's proceeding with dependence on foreign aid has expanded the open doors for multilateral aid organizations and its countries to impact politics and economic control over the region. The major donors have been meeting much of the time with a specific end goal to talk about improvement and death issues and to devise aid methodologies for African governments. The supposed new world order likewise has affected African governments. The impact of aid organizations like the U.S. Organization for International Development and the U.K.'s

Department for International Development are not even helping matters. Despite so much aid coming into Africa, that there is proof that aid is effortlessly controlled by dictator governments to suit their own particular closures [21]. "The aid departments are saying, 'Don't upset the politics of these countries because we've got all this aid to push out,?'" says Dowden of the Royal African Society. "But I would say these states need development work because the governance is so bad [22].

Furthermore, in 2011, the leader of the IMF, Christine Lagarde came to Nigeria and requested that Nigeria alongside other African countries expelled fuel subsidy, hence expanding fuel pump costs and bringing on national trouble, hardship and depression among Nigeria [23]. Foreign control is a known favorable position of a typical democratic government and a comprehended motivation behind why the western world is so inspired by forcing democracy on Africa. They control the worldwide media and worldwide finance, and all things considered, they are also interested in who becomes political leader. They are likewise ready to use national leaders to make and support their objectives. Different reviews have indicated that while the devaluation, removal of subsidy and so forth may appear to advance economic development and improvement in some specific western nations, their sweeping application to immature nations, similar to Nigeria, is devastating. This is because it will only worsen the condition of people in the region, unlike the Western Nations, in that a greater number of individuals are poor, uneducated, starving and sick. So dividends of democracy is not visible therefore useless. Hence, many African Nations have not been able practice democracy and experience better administration since they do not have the fundamental social requirements for democracy in the first place. The idea of developmental democracy in the light of the African state is not attainable; rather it helps to worsen the condition of the African people.

## CONCLUSION

The prominent proverb goes: *Insanity is rehashing a similar thing and expecting an*

*alternate outcome*. This paper submits that it is time Africans check the cure being looked for and utilized for its undeveloped state. A prominent misguided judgment is the connection of development associated with democracy, this is absolutely unwarranted. The United States, in which many countries are looking up to, is not even a genuine democratic country as portrayed previously. The United States is practicing a; Welfare capitalist state, which is a blend between democratic idea and Marxist socialism. There are so many factors are responsible for undeveloped state of African societies. Leadership is a major role; Leadership plays an important role in the development of the people and country. In Africa, only few rich have the finances to vie for political office and to withstand intimidation. This has caused more problems than solution, most times it is about choosing between lesser evil. For instance the case of Nigeria 2015 general election, having had to choose between a former dictator and a government many considered the worst in her history. Most Africans do not have what it takes to select the best persons; this is because many are majorly concerned about their immediate needs, food, employment, stable electricity etc. This inevitably means that people will vote for those who meet their daily needs. This has led to vote of money, as many politician campaigns with promises and tries to meet the basic needs of some particular through bribes, gift and take away gifts. All this are products of poverty which will further give room to bad government. Under these conditions underdevelopment will be the watch word. If Africa is to get develop, it need to seek its own method and better way to solve its own crisis.

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