

# CHAPTER 11 MILITARY INTERVENTION IN AFRICAN POLITICS

## Objectives

After studying this chapter, students should be able to:

- enunciate reasons for military intervention in Africa;
- outline the nature and characteristics of the military in Africa;
- discuss obvious problems of military intervention in Africa;
- evaluate the effects of military intervention in Africa.

## Introduction

The European occupation of Africa from the 19<sup>th</sup> century metamorphosed into full scale political domination and imperialism. On the attainment of independence, most states in Africa grappled with the new political and social arrangement which were novel and difficult. The political class appeared not prepared and ill-equipped to steer the ship of the state. The confusion, crises, instability and hopelessness that ensued gave room for military insurgence.

The first military coup in Africa occurred in Egypt in 1952 in which King Farouk was toppled by the army led by Col. Gamal Abdul Nasser. Togo called the shots in West Africa with the overthrow of President Sylvanus Olympio on January 13, 1963. This was followed by Benin Republic in November, 1965, Ghana Central Africa Republic (CAR), Burkina Faso (Upper Volta), Nigeria in 1966 etc. The military putsch had also occurred in Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola, Sudan, Liberia, Libya, Sao Tome and Principe, Niger, etc.

### 11.1 Reasons for Military Intervention in Africa

Many reasons have been adduced for the intervention of the military in African politics and government following the decolonization of the African States. These reasons will be treated from the following perspectives: the nature and characteristics of the military in Africa, political factors, economic factors and social factors.

#### The Nature and Characteristics of the Military in Africa

- (i) ***Dictatorial Nature of the Military:*** The military by nature commands excessive absolute powers. This when carried into politics leads to imposition and exercise of absolute political powers on the people regardless of popular mandate and political responsibility.
- (ii) ***Colonial Heritage:*** The army in Africa were the creation and products of the colonial government. They were used to prosecute the first and Second World Wars, suppress and oppress the colonized territories. The colonial regime being highly militarized engendered

conflict between the traditional and modern values, norms, institutions, beliefs and attitudes. They wielded much powers and were involved in social injustice, imposition of their will in the people, brutality on protest nationalists and open military expedition. The military and police in Africa were specifically trained to sustain the imperial programmes.

- (iii) ***Forceful and Aggressive Behaviour:*** The military by training and function are forceful, combatant and aggressive. They believe in using force to quell protests or even minor disagreement.
- (iv) ***Discipline:*** The military are trained to live regimentary and disciplined life. Their regular drills, rules, regulations and norms tend not only to make them professionals in combatancy but in directing and governing the civil society.
- (v) ***Espirit de corps:*** The professional we –feeling of ‘esprit de corps’ is a force which binds the military together particularly at decisive and critical times. This principle of esprit de corps ensures in them, the unity of common purpose.
- (vi) ***Bureaucratic Organization:*** A bureaucratic institution is said to be one controlled on the basis of rational management, which follows technical knowledge and hierarchy for maximum organizational efficiency. The military manifests all the features of bureaucracy such as hierarchical authority, unity of command, adherence to rules and procedures, specialization and competence.
- (vii) ***The Desire to Give Command:*** The military is in the habit of giving command with expected immediate compliance. Coupled with their absolute control of instrument of coercion, the desire for political power, becomes rife and naturally imbedded in them especially with the opportunities presented by the weak political class of developing states.
- (viii) ***Speed and Fast Behaviour:*** The military are trained to be swift in movement and actions. They abhor delay and are always battle ready for rescue operations. Sluggishness is never compromised.
- (ix) ***Professionalism:*** The military practices professionalism in the military service is Every soldier is specialized in an area of efficiency and competence. The military is noted for update in professional and scientific training of its personnel to be able to meet the prevailing challenges.
- (x) ***Radicalism:*** Most military officers by their education and specialized training and skills tend to be impatient with an underdeveloped and conservative society. With functional radical ideas, they look forward to addressing the socio-political and economic challenges in their domains.
- (xi) ***Brutal Behaviour:*** Every military man is trained to kill. This aspect of their training and skill makes them hardened and brutal. This explains why they are often kept or housed in the barracks. They have no much value and consideration for human lives and feelings.

## **Political Factors**

Military interregnum especially in the developing countries of Africa has been blamed on some political factors. These include:

- (i) **The Low Level of Political Development:** The amalgamation of diverse tribes and the destruction of traditional values and institutions by the colonial overlords without properly modernizing the societies left a lot to be desired. It brought about conflict between traditional and modern values, and conflict among different ethnic groups lumped together as a modern state. The confusion occasioned by their conflicts incensed military intervention.
- (ii) **Fragile Political System:** Almost all the political organs and institutions inherited at independence were the creation of the colonial government meant to perpetrate their domination over the people. These structures were not made to shore up socio-political advancement. They were therefore fragile, weak and outlandish in the hands of indigenous political gladiators. This helped to cause political instability.
- (iii) **Incompetent and Ineffective Political Leadership:** Most indigenous political leaders who assumed office with the moratorium of the colonial master were grossly unprepared. They lacked control, direction, supervision and inspiration needed in leadership. Most African leaders on assumption of office became self-centred, sectional, corrupt, insensitive and incompetent. They lacked objective consideration of issues and bluffed public opinion and constructive opposition.
- (iv) **Problem of Political Parties:** As new institutions created by and borrowed from the Western masters which were not yet customized, they lacked cohesion, ideologies and discipline. Since their sole ambition was power acquisition, they engaged in internecine intra-party and inter-party factions and conflicts. These parties are usually ethnically oriented or dominated lacking national spread and orientation. By their structure, they hamper government objectives and political advancement. This was true of the first republic political parties in Nigeria.
- (v) **Electoral Malpractices:** Election was an introduction of the colonial powers meant to entrench popular rulers. Because of greed, African leaders introduced electoral malpractice to prevent free and fair election which if allowed could empower the opposition. In a bid to rig and manipulate electoral figures, the state becomes politically charged and volatile. In most cases, this results in conflicts, violence and loss of confidence in the process and leadership. The 1964, 1965, 1979, 1983 and 1999 elections in Nigeria had been characterized with massive electoral frauds and crises.
- (vi) **Sit-tight Syndrome:** Most African democracies at the dawn of independence experienced leaders with the unbridled desire to perpetrate themselves in office. They often influenced the amendment of the constitution to favour their overstay in office. Some like the likes of Nkrumah of Ghana, Adhijo of Cameroon, Ghadaffi of Libya, Arap Moi of Kenya, Mobutu Sese Sekou of Zaire, etc. attempted life presidency while a lot more bided for elongation of tenure. Their cronies, sycophants and hero-worshippers, praise – sing and paint unrealistic pictures of their images. These political idols only fall through military hatchet.

- (vii) ***Politicised Military:*** Having tasted power, the military top brass often become brazenly politicized. They use their positions to embezzle public funds, acquire property, attain the zenith of their military career through accelerated promotions and to dictate political events and formations. They decide who gets the plum political office and who does not. The June 12, 1993 presidential election won by Chief Moshood Abiola was annulled by the General Ibrahim Babangida led junta on the ground that Abiola was not favourably disposed to the Nigerian military.
- (viii) ***Bad Government:*** As the watchdog of the political class and civil society, the military assumes the role of an umpire. Whenever, a civilian administration slips into insensitivity, unresponsiveness, dictatorship, unproductivity, ineffectiveness, inefficiency and policy inexactitude, the military promptly intervenes.
- (ix) ***Breach of Order and Unrestiveness:*** The break down of law and order invite military usurpation of power. A situation where the laws and the constitution are breached with effrontery, occasioning widespread arson, destruction of lives and property, mass disobedience and uncontrollable protests, the military naturally take the reins of power.

### **Economic Factors**

Apart from the political factors, certain economic reasons have abetted military interference. These include:

- (i) ***Economic Mismanagement:*** It was obvious that the Second Military interregnum in Nigeria by December 31, 1983 was precipitated by economic waste, squander mania and unprofitable policies of the Alhaji Shehu Shagari led government. The nation's wealth was badly mismanaged, mischannelled and hijacked by few privileged politicians. There were inflated contracts, inflationary trend, abandoned projects, unemployment, money laundering and diversion of public funds.
- (ii) ***External Borrowing and Debt Servicing:*** In Nigeria for example, political office holders competed for external grants, borrowing and technical aids. Consequently, they borrowed from the world Bank, International Monetary Funds (IMF), London Club, Paris Club, etc. They engage in annual debt servicing and re-scheduling of debt payments which drained the national economy. The lenders force them into currency devaluation, regulated export, industrial moratorium and restricted trade zones. The harsh reality on the people and the polity evoked military takeover in the bid to find workable solution.

### **Social Factors**

Akin to the economic factors are the social factors which are:

- (i) ***State of the Nation:*** Those who took over from the colonial masters soon exposed their socio-political ignorance. They showed signs of incompetence, self-aggrandizement and corruptive

tendencies. There were problems like Ethnicism, sectionalism and low educational development leading to mass illiteracy and poor health condition.

- (ii) ***Unmitigated Mass Poverty:*** Due to lack of quality education, functional industries and employment, the people wallowed in ignorance. There was a wide social divide between the rich and the poor. Those in the military envied the political class who amassed wealth in order to obviate poverty, they considered the option of coup d'état.
- (iii) ***The Military Factor:*** Most military institutions in Africa lacked professional training and discipline because those who enrolled in the military prior to the recent professionalization were drop outs, touts, secret cult graduates and those regarded in the academic circles as never-do-wells. In order to prove the intelligent ones wrong, they toppled subsisting governments. They were however, helped in this through in-service training, offer of military aids by advanced friendly countries. They tested their new skills and weapon on the political system.
- (iv) ***Successful Coups in Neighbouring States:*** The news of successful coups in other states sparked off the desire in other states to do the same just as the January 15, 1966 coup in Nigeria was influenced by the January 2, 1966 coup in the Central African Republic led by Col. Jean Bokassa and that of January 4, 1966 in Upper Volta (Burkina Faso) led by Col. Lamizana. Coups were usually infectious or contagious.
- (v) ***Foreign Sponsorship:*** It has been observed that the African erstwhile colonial masters and so called foreign partners often sponsor coup d'états to oust any African leader not subservient to their economic and political interests. They infiltrated the military topbrass with tactical training, promises of international backup and support to have them topple their own government. Gen. Murtala's and Gen. Buhari's overthrown were masterminded by the British and American governments.

## 11.2 Problems of Military Intervention in Africa

On coming to power, the military assumes the role of Zionists, nationalists, redemptorists, revolutionaries or radicals. Some political historians tend to disagree with this posture claimed by the military. They observed that while some military putschists were truly revolutionaries with a corrective mission like the Murtala and Buhari regimes, others could be best described as reactionaries. No matter the objective, military government is an aberration and bespeaks of a decadent, retrogressive, authoritarian and backward state.

The problems, ills and vices associated with military intervention are many. In global circles, military intervention is regarded as a misnomer, an insurrection or mutiny and an abnormality in the political events of a state. Coupists usually assassinate, arrest, maim and torture victims. This is why it is treated as a treasonable felony in courts of competent jurisdiction. It attracts capital punishment if found culpable. Based on this, coup plotting and execution are risky ventures for which the plotters do anything and everything including murder to succeed.

Most coupists have noble intentions but owing to the attraction of power and military apologists, sycophants, beneficiaries and the nature of the military profession and training, they relapse into observable inadequacies. The resultant setbacks include:

- (i) ***Suspension of the Constitution:*** On assumption of office, the military high command presents the defence of the nation's constitution as the rationale for the putsch. For example, the Federal Republic of Nigeria in her 1999 Constitution Section 217 presented the functions of the military to include:
  - (a) defending Nigeria from external aggression;
  - (b) maintaining territorial integrity, and securing its borders from violation on land, sea and air;
  - (c) suppressing insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order when called upon to do so by the president, but subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly; and
  - (d) performing such other functions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.

For this purposes, they are highly equipped with sophisticated weaponry. On the contrary, the military which prides itself as the defender and upholder of the constitution, suspends it and violates its provisions by the promulgation of decrees. This in itself is a fragrant breach and disregard of the constitution. Since the decree does not subsist in any constitution of the land, the military regime and its activities remain illegal. It is clear that the military is mainly the custodian of the nation's arsenal while the constitution is protected by the judiciary. The special training and experiences of the military expose them to military defence not of governance and politics.

- (ii) ***The Problem of 'Cimilitic Politics':*** On arrival, the military practises a sort of diarchy. It slaves the political power and offices with some of its civilian cohorts either in the politics or in the bureaucracy. 'Cimilicy' is the acronym for 'Civilianised Military/Militocracy'. Often, the same corrupt political leaders are co-opted into the military – civilian coalition. Those favoured by this arrangement do everything to maintain the status quo and to derail any possible return to civil rule or democracy. In the cimilicy, the military remain the head, decider and arbiter while their civilian counterparts help in policy window dressing and execution. The cimilitic integration of the civilians and the military does not however incorporate democrat since the military at the head of the arrangement subsist on statocracy (militarism).
- (iii) ***Gagging of Press Freedom:*** Full scale military government proscribes any press that criticizes its policies and actions. Only those on its side are allowed to operate. Under the military, newspaper articles, radio and television programmes are regulated and streamlined to the dictates of the military.
- (iv) ***Suppression of Public Opinion:*** Public opinion is highly checked and suppressed in military regimes. In some cases, interest groups and labour unions are either suspended, proscribed or

have them run on caretaker officials appointed by the government. Political parties and activities remain suspended and public gathering highly restricted and with strict policing.

- (v) ***Manipulation of the Judiciary:*** Having suspended the constitution and Acts of parliament replacing them with decrees and edicts, the judiciary who operate based on these legal instruments and documents are rendered docile, powerless and subservient. The military courts and tribunals are placed above the civil courts. With this, the military by-passes the judiciary, “the last hope of the common man” to perpetrate its unpopular acts. Deviant judges and lawyers are summarily dismissed and incarcerated and civil societies are clamped down on.
- (vi) ***Unfettered Looting of Public Funds:*** Having seen the affluence amassed by the ousted politicians, the military engage in large scale embezzlement, fraud and confiscation of property. The high command being sensitive of a possible charge and ouster indulge in senseless acquisitive behaviour. The masses are ultimately left poorer than the military met them.
- (vii) ***Unhealthy International Relations:*** In the wake of military takeover, most civilized states or foreign stakeholders attempt severance of diplomatic and economic relations except where they were behind the putsch. Often, military overthrow affect interest base of foreign nationals, their investments and economic benefits. In order to fight back and force a return to status quo ante, the foreign stakeholders could impose travel restrictions, sack of the country from certain regional, social or economic groups, suspend grants and aids or even pressurize the international and local militia group for outright military action or usurpation.
- (viii) ***Leadership by Draconian Laws:*** The military rule by fiats. Their draconian laws take retroactive effects in order to enrope their targeted enemies. By this law defying appeals, citizens live and work in fears. They are harassed, policed and brutalized for a little offence.
- (ix) ***Violations of Fundamental Human Rights:*** Military government are worst culprits in the violation of human rights. They detain people recklessly without trials. They engage in wanton corruption and high level unaccountability.
- (x) ***Absence of Democracy:*** As soon as they come on board, the military suspends the constitution, acts of parliament, political parties and elective offices. They suspend electoral bodies and sack all political appointees. They then impose themselves on the citizenry. They operate either on diarchy (cimidacy), caretaker, corrective or revolutionary basis. The best military can only be said to be a ‘benevolent dictatorship’ which is therefore worse than the worst democracy.
- (xi) ***Counter Coup Experiences:*** Military regimes are replete with coups and counter coups saga. The government remains unstable as a result of the possibility of unexpected coup d’etat. Most of these are carried out on the basis of vendetta, inordinate ambition for power, military showmanship as a result of disagreement and fractionalization. This entails loss of lives from

both the masses, political and military classes. This weakens the government and discourages foreign investments.

- (xii) **Distortion of the Nations Political Base:** The military have specific duties of external defence and maintenance of peace and order and not of governance. Their entry into politics distorts their training psyche and mentality. It has made the military highly political and less professional. This has made some political scientists refer to them as ‘militician’ (i.e. military politicians). Some highlight ethnocentric sentiments, total ignorance and regimentry life style results in the political distortion of the state.
- (xiii) **Tendency to Overstay in Office:** When the military come to power, they quickly set a tenure for their exist so as to win the people’s support and trust, but as time goes by, the intricacies of politics coupled with their failure to achieve their targets or unwillingness to hand over power to seemingly perceived enemies begin to take the toll of time.
- (xiv) **Opposition is Never Tolerated:** Military antagonists are not tolerated by any military junta. They use the weapon of arrest, detention without trial, molestation, assault, dehumanization and killing by shooting to deal with perceived enemies. The military runs a totalitarian state.
- (xvi) **Hasty Decision Taking:** Because it lacks civil bureaucratic discipline and political structures, the military in its characteristic, takes hasty decision on policy matters. They often fail to consult widely restricting their consultation to only the military ruling cabal or top brass. This was why Gen. Yakubu Gowon and Gen. Sani Abacha were scored low in their respective regimes.
- (xvii) **Practice of High Handedness and Professional Tracking:** The military discriminate very much. It practices full scale hierachicalism (the rank and file). It discriminates amongst its major organs i.e. the army, navy and air force with their intra-professional discriminations. It also distinguishes itself from other paramilitary forces where it claims high level superiority. By this, it devotes time and huge resources to training and capacity-building of its personnel to stand them out among others. This is referred to as ‘professional tracking’. They, while in power, promote rapidly themselves and their surrogates. With the ‘jacked up ranks’, they are able to rule by force rather than by fact. They regard themselves higher, better and superior to other members of the society.
- (xviii) **Loss of Public Trust:** Since they demonstrate high handedness, inexperience and intolerance, they enjoy loss of public trust. The evil they claimed they had come to fight and reduce seem to multiply. These include: youth restiveness, unemployment, increased violent crime, armed robbery, sectionalism, economic waste and mismanagement.

### 11.3 Effects of Military Intervention in Africa

The entry of the military into politics and governance in Africa has had impact on the socio-economic life experiences of African states. The effects of military intervention can be discussed from both positive and negative angles.



## **Positive Effects of Military Intervention**

- i. ***Unifying the People:*** In the case of Nigeria and Ghana, the military remained the single factor that has kept the countries together. The January and July, 1966 coups in Nigeria prevented the country from imminent collapse and balkanization. Through the use of force, the military had insisted on 'One Nigeria'. The gains of keeping Nigeria as one indivisible entity have been enormous. Nigeria has remained the giant of Africa in terms of population, military, strength, economic endowments, cultural heritage, land and mineral resources.
- ii. ***Creation of States:*** In a bid to calm frayed nerves and assuage for the ill-treatment meted against the minority tribes, the military through decrees and fiat create or carve out states so as to give the minorities a sense of belonging. In Nigeria for instance, state creation used to be a contentious issue under a democratic dispensation. Politicians resist attempts to balkanize their strongholds regardless of the injustice and inherent reprehensible. The military regarded state creation as a means to fast-track national development and impede possible secession as most states can hardly stand on their own outside the federal patronage. The military created a twelve state structure in Nigeria in 1966. In 1976, it rose to 19 under Gen. Murtala Mohammed. Gen. Babangida raised the tally to 21 by 1987. By 1991 he created additional nine states to square it up to 30 states while in 1996 Gen. Sani Abacha created six new states to bring it up to the present 36 states structure. This would have been impossible under a democratic setting in Nigeria.
- iii. ***Upgrading Military Training and Facilities:*** The excessive interest of the military in professional tracking has led to the training and promotion of military personnel. Most military facilities received facelift and upgrading. Military schools, hospitals, academy and barracks, received attention for improvement. Sophisticated military weapons and installations were put in place. The welfare of the military were taken seriously during military regimes to further professionalize the institution and to forestall any possible military mutiny. The military in Nigeria, vigorously pursued the military industrial complex and military bureaucratic complex, which enhanced the performance of the Nigerian military personnel globally.
- iv. ***Introduction of Milestone Policies and Innovations:*** The Gowon regime in 1972 nationalized all major mining, industrial and oil prospecting firms in Nigeria through the promulgation of indigenous decree. This decree allowed Nigerian's exclusive right to run small scale industries and to own at least 40% equity shares in major industries owned by expatriates. In 1973, the Nigerian pound sterling and pence was changed to naira and kobo. The Yakubu Gowon's regime in April 2, 1972 changed the pattern of driving from the left to the right to conform to international standards. By 1973, the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) was introduced to encourage national cohesion. The military under Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo introduced the Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) in 1976 and the Universal Primary Education (UPE).

- v. ***Federal Capital Territory (FCT):*** It is the credit of the military that Abuja, the new federal capital of Nigeria was conceived, designed and actualized. Abuja has given Nigeria a new posture and international reckoning.
- vi. ***Socio-Political Transformation:*** The emergence of the military in the governance of state has some socio-political effects. Most operational constitutions existing in African states today were drafted by the military. These constitutions have been fashioned to reflect the socio-political needs of the masses. The present Ghana's Constitution was fashioned by the Jerry Rawlings regime. In Nigeria, the 1979, 1989 and 1999 Constitution presently in operation were drafted under the military regimes.

In 1976, Gen. Obasanjo made a far reaching reforms on the local government administration. That level of government was unified, systematized, made the third tier of government and finally constitutionalized and made to function as a separate governmental and political entity. From 1987-1988 the Gen. Babangida regime strengthened the local government through enhanced revenue allocation formula.

The Nigerian military also reorganized the electoral body and system. It created the Federal Electoral Commission (FEDECO) which organized the 1979 elections; the National Electoral Commission (NEC) which conducted the 1987-1993 series of elections, the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria (NECON) of December 1993 which never conducted any election and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) of 1998 which has functioned from 1999 till date.

The military equally introduced some value systems through the War Against Indiscipline (WAI) campaign by the Buhari regime, the MAMSER (Mass Mobilization, for Social and Economic Recovery) of the Babangida regime, the War Against Indiscipline and Corruption (WAI-C) by the Abacha regime. To sustain these, the National Directorate for Employment (NDE) was established in 1986. The Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), the National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) among others were established to strengthen employment, political and social structures in Nigeria.

- vii. ***Establishment of Universities and Industries:*** It was clear that the military established most federal universities, colleges of education, polytechnics and specialized educational institutions in Nigeria. The so called 'second generation universities' were products of military regime. Ajaokuta steel mill, Port Harcourt, Warri and Kaduna refineries and their petro-chemical firms were all built during military regimes.
- viii. ***Changing the Political Landscape:*** Politicians with unpatriotic tendencies have been forced to quit politics, many others forced into exiles and others incarcerated and tried by military tribunals. Some were forced to retribute their ill-gotten wealth, others served prison terms while the unlucky ones were assassinated. Most politicians now know that they could be held

accountable if not by the masses, at least by the military. This has helped in taming crude politicians.

### **Negative Effects of Military Intervention**

- i. ***Deepening of Corruption:*** The military has institutionalized bribery and corruption in Africa and Nigeria. The main allegation against Gowon's regime was corruption and visionlessness. Gen. Babangida and Gen. Abacha were also accused of looting public funds. Inflated prices and contract scam were recorded during military regimes. Fraudulent practices, kickbacks, drug peddling and oil bunkering reached their crescendo during the military rule.
- ii. ***Civil War Experience:*** The Nigerian Biafra civil war was caused and prosecuted by the military. Beginning from Gen. Yakubu Gowon, the military engaged in human rights abuses. Truncating of the constitution, incessant killings, ethnic cleansing and inflammatory statements made waves. They could not be advised, directed or corrected.
- iii. ***Misgovernance and Economic Downturn:*** As already pointed out, foreign investments remained at its low ebb during military rule. This was due to faceless economic policies. Military regimes were most unstable and flexible and no one was sure of who to hold responsible. This usually results in industrial and capital flight leading to economy downturn. The reckless borrowing and the execution of some elephant projects have plunged African into huge debt crises and which has accounted for its developmental backwardness.
- iv. ***Corrupt Public Service:*** Although, the military recognized the importance and virility of the civil service which it consults and gives directives for its programme implementation, it connives with civil service to penetrate its fraud. Having displaced the political class, top civil servants collude with the military to siphon public funds. During Gowon's regime, Super Permanent Secretaries emerged. These secretaries even dictated to the Federal Commissioners under their ministries. Being the only vehicle for the achievement of government objectives, the public service was strengthened and vigorously reformed to perform the arduous tasks.

### **Summary**

- Intervention of the military in African politics is said to be caused by the nature and characteristics of the military institution in Africa. The political, economic and social factors within the African states also contributed to this experience.
- The military despite its intention to sanitize the socio-political system, had in the long term created more serious problems than it came to solve through its approaches, reactions, corruptive tendency and leadership ignorance.
- The presence of the military no doubt has effects on the socio-political system in Africa while some of its effects have not been savoury, some others have brought relief and reforms to the political environment where they operated.

## Objective Questions

1. The first West African president toppled in a military coup was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. President Lansan Konte
  - B. King Mohammed Farouk
  - C. President Sylvanus Olympio
  - D. President Leopold Sedar Senghor
2. The esprit des corps gives the military \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a sense of togetherness
  - B. power to marginalize
  - C. room for usurpation of power
  - D. encouragement to violate human rights
3. The colonial government which created the African military taught them \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. imperial arts
  - B. brutality
  - C. modern norms and values
  - D. professional soldiering
4. One of the high points of a bureaucratic organization is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. regimentary life style
  - B. coup plotting
  - C. hierachicalism
  - D. power sharing
5. One of the central vices inherent in African politicians is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. electoral litigation
  - B. corrupt practices
  - C. political jobbery
  - D. sycophancy
6. One of these African leaders adopted sight – tight policy in power \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Dr. Nnamdi Azikwe
  - B. Dr. Kwame Nkrumah
  - C. Julius Nyerere
  - D. Abdul Diof
7. The British and American powers were accused of master minding the overflow and assassination of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Gen. Murtala Mohammed
  - B. Gen. Thomas Aguiyi – Ironsi
  - C. Gen. Muhammadu Buhari
  - D. Gen. Yakubu Gowon

8. The military regime is said to be illegal because it \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. assassinates a sitting president  
B. sacks of parliament  
C. detains political miscreants  
D. subordinates the constitution
9. One of the banes of cimilicy is that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the military shares power with the civilians  
B. Political arties are allowed to exist  
C. the military remains at the helm of affairs  
D. the politicians integrate with the military
10. The local government reforms was carried out by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar  
B. Alhaji Shehu Shagari  
C. Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo  
D. Gen. Yakubu Gowon

### Essay Questions

1. Military intervention in Africa can be justified. Discuss this under any of the followings: (i) the nature and characteristics of the military (ii) Political factors (iii) economic factors (iv) social factors
- 2a. Why are foreign national unwilling to invest in Africa?  
b. What are the consequences of capital flight?
3. Mention and discuss any five problems associated with military intervention in Africa.
4. What is the danger inherent in cimilicy?  
b. What is military professional tracking?
5. Discuss any three negative and positive effect of military intervention in Nigeria.