



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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**TITLE: POLITICAL ECONOMY OF TRANSCONTINENTAL MIGRATION IN A DEPRESSED ECONOMY:
CASE STUDY OF NIGERIA**

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ABSTRACT: Transcontinental migration is an age-long practice all over the world geared towards social, economic, religion, political and cultural interactions. In the 21st century, there is an unfathomable upsurge in such practice particularly from Africa to European countries as a result of excessive poverty and biting economic hardship engendered by pervasive corruption and leadership failure. The situation in Nigeria tells the story vividly in spite of the facts that the nation is richly and economically endowed, the people are incredibly poor. This has necessitated the migration of the affected people to other continents in search of greener pasture. This paper therefore seeks to examine the political economy of such migration in which majority of the migrants regardless of their qualifications and skills are not properly integrated into the social and economic life of the host state. Without doubt, such strategy is beneficial to the host country as it promotes growth and engenders development while on the part of migrating Nigerians menial jobs are mainly reserved for them. This practice has induced large scale human trafficking and encouraged prostitution. The study relies on questionnaire, interview and other secondary methods in gathering data. It equally adopts political economy and economic development approaches in analysing issues. The study concludes that transcontinental migration is appropriate economic development strategy but such should be beneficial to countries involved. Consequently, Africa countries such as Nigeria are enjoined to initiate and implement appropriate policies and programmes towards genuine poverty alleviation to free the citizenry from the clutches of poverty.

AUTHOR'S ACADEMIC PROFILE:

Dr. Femi OMOTOSO is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the Ekiti State University, Ado – Ekiti, Nigeria. Until recently a Visiting Associate Professor, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife. He has published extensively in both local and foreign journals, books of reading and attended several academic conferences locally and abroad.