

EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF WESTERN NIGERIA SECURITY NETWORK (AMOTEKUN) AND INSECURITY IN SOUTHWEST, NIGERIA

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Abstract

The study aims to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN), known as “Amotekun,” in addressing insecurity in Southwest Nigeria. The research is grounded in the social contract theory, which provides a theoretical framework for understanding the relationship between the state and citizens in ensuring security. A survey research design was employed. Primary data were collected using a structured questionnaire, and a multi-stage sampling technique was employed to select respondents. The study population comprised 16,131,900 individuals across three states (Ogun, Osun, and Ondo), and the sample size ($n = 400$) was determined using the Taro Yamane formula at a 5% level of precision ($e = 0.05$). Data analysis involved descriptive statistics and chi-square (χ^2) tests for hypothesis testing at a 0.05 significance level, while secondary data were analysed using content analysis. The findings reveal a statistically significant relationship between WNSN activities and perceived changes in insecurity in Southwest Nigeria. However, the effectiveness of WNSN is assessed as partial, indicating that its capacity to fully address security challenges remains limited. The study recommends increased funding, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, and continuous training and retraining of personnel to improve the operational effectiveness of WNSN in addressing security challenges in the region.

Key words: Western Nigeria Security Network, Insecurity, Security Challenges, Effectiveness, Efficiency.

Introduction

The significance of security for the survival of citizens worldwide cannot be underestimated by states. It is crucial, as it constitutes the foundation of national progress, growth, and development. Furthermore, security is essential because the absence of a strong security network undermines the political, economic, and social development of a state. Therefore, governments bear the primary responsibility for ensuring adequate security in any society (Ogeide, 2024; Nasir, 2020).

Nevertheless, a major challenge confronting national security in any society is crime (Awotayo & Omitola, 2023; Giddens, 2001). This persistent threat is as old as humanity itself (Awotayo & Omitola, 2024; Ugwuoke, 2010). As Marshall (2008) argues, crime is a universal feature of all human societies, since norms and values are inevitably violated to some extent—from the simplest hunting and gathering communities to the most complex modern societies.

Consequently, the establishment of mechanisms to ensure the safety of lives and property remains a fundamental responsibility of governments worldwide, regardless of their political systems (Igbo, 2007; Ugwuoke, 2010). Governments therefore allocate substantial resources to

security in their national budgets. Accordingly, security is a key criterion in evaluating governmental performance over time.

Nigeria is not an exception, as it faces increasing security challenges across its six geopolitical zones. In recent years, these challenges have resulted in the deaths of thousands of civilians and the destruction of property worth millions of naira (African Centre for Strategic Studies, 2022). Since 2009, Northeast Nigeria has been the epicentre of the Boko Haram insurgency and a related humanitarian crisis. In North Central Nigeria, recurrent clashes between herders and farmers have been reported, particularly in Benue and Plateau States. The Northwest is also affected by widespread banditry, especially in Zamfara State, while ethnoreligious conflicts are frequent in Kaduna State (Nasir, 2020). In the Southeast, the region faces militancy, kidnapping, cultism, armed robbery, secessionist movements, and farmer–herder conflicts. Overall, the scale of insecurity appears to have overwhelmed the Nigerian government (Nzubechukwu et al., 2022).

As noted by Nzubechukwu et al. (2022), Nigeria is currently experiencing escalating insecurity across all regions, forcing citizens to live in constant fear, while the state appears increasingly ineffective in fulfilling its core obligation of protecting lives and property.

In response to these challenges—particularly kidnapping, armed robbery, farmer–herder conflicts, and ritual killings in the Southwest—it has been observed that the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) is underfunded, understaffed, and overstretched in performing its core mandate of maintaining law and order (Edinyang et al., 2023; Awopeju, 2021; Olugbade & Ogunnaiki, 2020; Awopeju, 2018).

Against this backdrop, state governors initiated regional security arrangements to complement the NPF without undermining its constitutional authority. The governors of the southwestern states collaborated to establish the Western Nigeria Security Network (WNSN), popularly known as “Amotekun” (meaning “leopard”), which was inaugurated in January 2020 in Ibadan, Oyo State (Olugbade & Ogunnaiki, 2020).

Since its establishment, WNSN has attracted scholarly attention (Awopeju & Adesina, 2023; Odewale & Lamidi, 2020; Agogbua et al., 2020; Ojizele, 2025). Existing studies have primarily focused on its formation, implications for economic development, community policing, and institutional challenges. However, there remains a notable gap in empirical research assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of WNSN operations in relation to its core mandate.

This study, therefore, examines the efficiency and effectiveness of WNSN (Amotekun) in addressing insecurity in Southwest Nigeria. Specifically, it seeks to answer the following research questions: How responsive is Amotekun in addressing insecurity in Southwest Nigeria? How effective are its operations in mitigating insecurity? What measures can enhance its proactive capacity in combating crime?

The paper is structured into six sections: introduction, conceptual clarification, methodology, theoretical framework, data presentation and analysis, and conclusion with recommendations.

Conceptual Clarification

Amotekun is a regional security outfit established in the southwestern region of Nigeria. It represents a collective effort of the southwestern states to address prevailing security challenges. The term “Amotekun” originates from the Yoruba language and literally means “leopard.” This animal is associated with bravery, hunting prowess, and swiftness, which informed the naming of the security outfit.

Insecurity refers to actions or inactions of individuals or groups that may result in danger, fear, uncertainty, or even loss of life (Akinwumi & Erunke, 2022). It also denotes a condition of anxiety arising from inadequate protection of lives and property. In broader terms, insecurity can be

understood as a breach of peace and safety, or a state of vulnerability to risk and threats. In this study, insecurity is conceptualised as the absence of security.

Security is often associated with national defence or national security. More broadly, it refers to measures designed to protect individuals and societies from threats, including crime, terrorism, environmental hazards, food insecurity, cyber threats, and military aggression (Akinwumi & Erunke, 2022). This broader understanding of security is adopted in this study.

Hypotheses of the Study

H₀₁: There is no significant relationship between the responsiveness of Amotekun and insecurity in Southwest Nigeria.

H₀₂: There is no significant relationship between changes in insecurity and the establishment of Amotekun in Southwest Nigeria.

H₀₃: There is no significant relationship between the effectiveness of Amotekun and insecurity in Southwest Nigeria.

Research Method

The paper employed a survey research design. Both primary and secondary sources of data were utilised. The study area comprised states in the southwestern region of Nigeria. The Southwest includes Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, and Ekiti States. The study population consisted of academics, Amotekun officials, police officers, civil society organisations, and security experts.

The study adopted a multi-stage sampling technique. A cluster sampling technique was used to categorise the states into three groups: Lagos/Ogun, Oyo/Osun, and Ondo/Ekiti. However, a simple random sampling technique was subsequently employed to select one state from each cluster. The selected states were Ogun, Osun, and Ondo, respectively.

Data were collected through the administration of questionnaires to the respondents. One hundred and twenty-eight (128) questionnaires were administered to respondents in Osun State, one hundred and thirty-two (132) in Ondo State, and one hundred and forty (140) in Ogun State. The distribution was proportionate to the total population of each state. This included Osun State (4,435,800), Ondo State (5,316,600), and Ogun State (6,379,500) (Federal Republic of Nigeria Census, 2006). The total population of the three states is 16,131,900.

Taro Yamane's formula was used to determine the sample size, as indicated below. The calculation is presented as follows:

Taro Yamane:

$$\frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$N = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$N = \frac{16,131,900}{1 + 16,131,900(0.05)^2} = \frac{16,131,900}{1 + 16,131,900(0.025)} = \frac{16,131,900}{40,329,7525} = 399,99$$

However, 400 respondents constituted the sample size of the study.

Methods of Data Collection

Primary data were obtained through questionnaires, while secondary data were sourced from academic publications, books, government documents, and online resources.

Ethical Considerations

Ethical consent was obtained from all respondents prior to data collection. Participation was voluntary, and confidentiality was assured.

Data Analysis

Primary data were analysed using descriptive statistics and chi-square (χ^2) tests, while secondary data were analysed using content analysis.

Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored in the social contract theory, which was propounded by three prominent political philosophers: Thomas Hobbes (1588–1679), John Locke (1632–1704), and Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778). The social contract theory is a widely recognised framework that explains the origin of the state (Ogunnoki, 2018). For the purpose of this study, the contributions of Thomas Hobbes are particularly relevant. The English Civil War (1642–1651) and the socio-political conditions of mid-17th century England shaped Hobbes' perspective, leading to the publication of *Leviathan*.

In his work, Hobbes argues that an absolute sovereign possesses the capacity to maintain law and order within a state. He conceptualised the state of nature as a condition derived from human nature, asserting that all individuals are equal in both physical and intellectual abilities. According to Hobbes, human beings are inherently self-interested, and their actions in the state of nature are driven not by rationality but by passions, desires, and appetites (Appadorai, 1968; Gauba, 2003). Life in this state is characterised by persistent struggle, continuous conflict, and a condition referred to as "warre," in which individuals are in constant opposition to one another. In such circumstances, human life is "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short," due to the absence of a common authority to regulate behaviour. The state of nature lacks morality and development, with economic activity remaining minimal as a result of pervasive fear of violence and death.

Hobbes further identified competition, diffidence, and the desire for glory as the primary causes of conflict. Consequently, individuals seeking self-preservation choose to exit the state of nature and establish a society through a social contract. This contract allows individuals to surrender certain natural rights in exchange for security provided by a sovereign authority. According to Hobbes, such an agreement is binding and cannot be revoked by those who enter into it or by subsequent generations.

However, Hobbes' interpretation of the social contract has been widely criticised. A key critique is that if human behaviour in the state of nature is governed by irrational passions, it remains unclear how individuals suddenly become rational enough to reach a mutually beneficial agreement. This inconsistency remains unresolved in Hobbes' theory. Furthermore, the Hobbesian state of nature lacks empirical historical evidence and is therefore often regarded as a theoretical construct rather than a factual condition.

To further support his argument, Hobbes refers to everyday human behaviour. For example, actions such as locking doors or taking precautions for personal safety indicate an inherent distrust among individuals. Although Hobbes acknowledges that a universal state of war has never fully existed, he argues that elements of this condition persist in modern society through constant threats, espionage, and conflicts between states. These conditions reflect a continuous state of insecurity.

The proposed solution to this condition is the establishment of a social contract enforced by a sovereign authority. Hobbes argues that while human beings may naturally incline towards conflict, the presence of an authoritative power significantly reduces the likelihood of deception and disorder. In other words, social order can only be maintained through the sovereign's ability to enforce rules and impose sanctions.

Human beings are generally self-interested and, if left without regulation, would act as though they had unlimited rights to pursue their desires. The most viable alternative is cooperation for the common good, which requires a binding agreement. Under such an agreement, individuals relinquish certain freedoms in exchange for collective security. For instance, individuals agree not to harm one another in exchange for safety and stability.

However, because self-interest remains the primary motivation, such agreements are inherently fragile unless supported by enforcement mechanisms. Without guarantees against betrayal, agreements are unlikely to be sustained. Therefore, the establishment of a governing authority is necessary to enforce compliance and ensure the stability of social arrangements. This authority represents the foundation of government. In contemporary societies, individuals relinquish certain freedoms—such as engaging in harmful behaviour—in exchange for benefits such as protection, law enforcement, and social services. Hobbes metaphorically described the state as a “Leviathan,” a powerful entity deriving its legitimacy from the consent of the governed.

Despite its limitations, Hobbesian theory remains relevant for analysing contemporary security challenges. In the Nigerian context, persistent insecurity reflects elements analogous to the state of nature, where the state’s capacity to ensure security is constrained. Nigeria, as a federation with three tiers of government, is constitutionally mandated to protect the lives and property of its citizens. However, current security challenges suggest that this obligation is not being fully met. Consequently, there is a need to reform existing security policies and consider alternative approaches, including regional policing. In this regard, the establishment of security initiatives such as Amotekun represents a pragmatic response to addressing insecurity in the southwestern region of Nigeria.

Results

Data Presentation

This section discusses the demographic characteristics of the respondents (age group, gender, state of residence, educational level, and occupation). The statistical data are presented in a frequency distribution table to show the number of times each variable appears in the distribution.

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Frequency Distribution of Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Frequency (400)	Percent (%)
Age Group		
20-30	119	29.8
31-40	139	34.8
41-50	85	21.3
51-60	57	14.3
Gender		
Male	173	43.3
Female	227	56.7
State of Residence		
Osun State	128	32.0
Ondo State	132	33.0
Ogun State	140	35.9

Socio-demographic Characteristics	Frequency (400)	Percent (%)
Educational Level		
Secondary	102	25.5
Tertiary	298	74.5
Occupation		
Skilled & Professionals	174	43.5
Entrepreneur	215	53.7
Student	11	2.8

Source: Fieldwork 2024

The table shows that 119 respondents, representing 29.8 %, were between the ages of 20 and 30; 139 respondents, representing 34.8 %, were between the ages of 31 and 40; 85 respondents, representing 21.3 %, were between the ages of 41 and 50; while 57 respondents, representing 14.3 %, were between the ages of 51 and 60.

Regarding the distribution of respondents by gender, the table shows that 173 respondents, representing 43.3 %, were male, while 227 respondents, representing 56.7%, were female.

The table further reveals the distribution of respondents across the three selected states in the Southwest: Osun State, Ondo State, and Ogun State. It shows that 128 respondents, representing 32%, were from Osun State; 132 respondents, representing 33%, were from Ondo State; while 140 respondents, representing 35.9 %, were from Ogun State.

With regard to the educational qualifications of the respondents, the table reveals that 102 respondents, representing 25.5 %, had secondary school education, while 298 respondents, representing 74.5 %, had tertiary education.

The occupational characteristics of the respondents show that 174 respondents, representing 43.5 %, were skilled professionals; 215 respondents, representing 53.7 %, were entrepreneurs; while 11 respondents, representing 2.8 %, were students.

Table 2: Respondents' responses regarding *Amotekun's* responsiveness in addressing security issues

How responsive do you find Amotekun in addressing security issues in your area?	Frequency (400)	Percent (100)
Very responsive	101	25.25
Somewhat responsive	268	67.00
Not very responsive	5	1.25
Not sure	26	6.50

Source: Fieldwork 2024

The table above shows that 5 respondents, representing 1.25 %, indicated that Amotekun was not very responsive in addressing security issues; 101 respondents, representing 25.25 %, indicated that Amotekun was very responsive; 268 respondents, representing 67.0 %, indicated that Amotekun was somewhat responsive; while 26 respondents, representing 6.50 %, indicated that they were not sure. The responses suggest that Amotekun is not very responsive in addressing security issues.

Testing of Hypothesis I

H₀: There is no significant relationship between the responsiveness of Amotekun and insecurity in Southwest Nigeria.

H₁: The null hypothesis (H₀) is rejected.

Significance level = 0.05

Degree of freedom (d.f.) = (n - 1) = 3

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(101 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(268 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(5 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(26 - 100)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(1)^2}{100} + \frac{(168)^2}{100} + \frac{(-95)^2}{100} + \frac{(-74)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(1)}{100} + \frac{(28.244)}{100} + \frac{(9025)}{100} + \frac{(5476)}{100}$$

$$X^2 = 0.01 + 282.44 + 90.25 + 54.78 = 427.48$$

Critical value (at d.f. of 3 under 0.05 in table) = 7.81

Interpretation

X² is greater than the critical value; H₀ is therefore rejected, and H₁ accepted.

Conclusion

There is a significant difference between the responsiveness of *Amotekun* and insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria.

Table 3: Respondents' responses regarding improvements in the state of insecurity since the establishment of *Amotekun* in their area.

Experience changes since the establishment of <i>Amotekun</i> in your area?	Frequency (400)	Percent (100)
Yes, significant improvement	98	24.50
Yes, slight improvement	278	69.50
No changes	20	5.00
Decline in security	4	1.00

Source: Fieldwork 2024

In the table above, 98 respondents, representing 24.5 %, perceived a significant improvement in the state of insecurity since the establishment of *Amotekun* in their area, 278 respondents representing 69.5 % perceived slight improvement, 20 respondents representing 5.0 % indicated that there were no changes, while 4 respondents representing 1 %, indicated a decline in insecurity. It can be inferred that there is a slight improvement in the changes in insecurity since the establishment of *Amotekun*.

Testing of Hypothesis II

H₀: There is no significant difference between improvements in the state of insecurity and Amotekun establishment as regards insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria.

H₁: H₀ is false

Significant level = 0.05

Degree of freedom (d.f): (n-1) = 3

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(98 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(278 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(20 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(4 - 100)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(-2)^2}{100} + \frac{(178)^2}{100} + \frac{(-80)^2}{100} + \frac{(-96)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(4)}{100} + \frac{(31984)}{100} + \frac{(6400)}{100} + \frac{(9216)}{100}$$

$$X^2 = 0.04 + 316.84 + 64 + 92.16 = 473.04$$

Critical value (at d.f. of 3 under 0.05 in the table) = 7.81

Interpretation

X² is greater than critical value; H₀ is therefore rejected, and H₁ is accepted.

Conclusion

There is a significant difference between improvements in the state of insecurity and the establishment of *Amotekun* regarding insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria.

Table 4: Proportion of perceived effectiveness of *Amotekun's* response to insecurity in the Southwest Nigeria

Effectiveness of <i>Amotekun's</i> Response to Insecurity	Frequency (400)	Percent (100)
Very ineffective	16	4.0
Ineffective	53	13.3
Neither	234	56.5
Effective	97	24.3

Source: Fieldwork 2024

Table 4 above shows that 16 respondents, representing 4.0%, perceived that *Amotekun's* response to insecurity was very ineffective to insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria. A total of 53 respondents representing 13.3% indicated ineffective, 234 respondents representing 56.5% indicated effective, while 97 respondents representing 24.3% indicated effective. It can be deduced that the effectiveness of *Amotekun's* response to insecurity is neither effective nor ineffective, which really means it has not been effective to the satisfaction of the respondents.

Testing of Hypothesis III

H₀: There is no significant difference between *Amotekun's* effectiveness and insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria.

H_1 : H_0 is false

Significant level = 0.05

Degree of freedom (d.f): $(n-1) = 3$

$$X^2 = \frac{(O - E)^2}{E}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(16 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(53 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(234 - 100)^2}{100} + \frac{(97 - 100)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(-84)^2}{100} + \frac{(-47)^2}{100} + \frac{(134)^2}{100} + \frac{(-3)^2}{100}$$

$$X^2 = \frac{(7056)}{100} + \frac{(2209)}{100} + \frac{(17956)}{100} + \frac{(9)}{100}$$

$$X^2 = 70.56 + 22.09 + 179.56 + 0.09 = 272.3$$

Critical value (at d.f. of 3 under 0.05 in table) = 7.81

Interpretation

X^2 is greater than the critical value; H_0 is therefore rejected, and H_1 accepted.

Conclusion

There is a significant difference between *Amotekun's* effectiveness and insecurity in the Southwest, Nigeria.

Discussion

Findings from the study have established that Amotekun is effective in addressing insecurity. The efficiency of Amotekun in relation to insecurity is responsive to some extent in addressing security challenges in Southwest Nigeria. However, a comparison of social contract theory with the efficiency of Amotekun in addressing insecurity indicates that the theory affirms the basis for the agreement between the state and the citizens, as the security outfit demonstrates effectiveness in addressing insecurity.

Therefore, as long as the government fulfils its obligation to protect citizens, the agreement is sustained; however, when either party fails to honour its side of the bargain, the agreement can be abandoned (Olubade and Ogunmakin, 2020). The social contract theory represents an actual or conceptual construct of the relationship between the ruler and the ruled. It suggests that there is an agreement between the governing authority and the governed, arising from a crisis-ridden epoch known as the state of nature—a condition described as “nasty, poor, wicked, solitary, and short,” in which individuals are in constant conflict with one another.

The theory both justifies and constrains political authority on the basis of individual self-interest and rational consent (Anofowose & Enemuo, 2015; Gauba, 2003).

Conclusions

The study has examined the efficiency and effectiveness of Amotekun vis-à-vis insecurity in Southwest Nigeria. The paper has revealed that Amotekun's efficacy and efficiency have a significant relationship with insecurity in Southwest Nigeria. From all indications, the WNSN has made commendable progress in addressing some of the security challenges in the Southwest. Nevertheless, it still falls short of the expectations of the founding governors and society at large.

However, the study concludes that WNSN has achieved a certain degree of success in addressing insecurity; nonetheless, the phenomenon has not abated to a desirable level. In order for Amotekun to achieve a high level of efficiency, the following strategies should be put in place.

Firstly, there should be adequate provision of funds for the WNSN. Policing worldwide is crucial in ensuring order in society, and its effectiveness depends, to a significant extent, on adequate funding. To make WNSN functional and result-oriented, it is essential that the security outfit is properly funded by its proprietors. The governors of the states involved can also solicit funds from well-meaning Nigerians and organisations. Counterpart funding can help to address the persistent shortage of funds faced by the security outfit.

Secondly, inter-agency collaboration should be encouraged among security agencies in Nigeria. The founders of the WNSN must strengthen partnerships with the Nigeria Police Force and other state security agencies in order to effectively address security challenges. At its inception, the Nigeria Police Force perceived WNSN as a rival; therefore, to reduce such tensions, inter-agency collaboration and clearly defined operational guidelines and boundaries are necessary.

Thirdly, there is a need to establish a clear legal framework. This framework should clearly define Amotekun's authority and roles in order to promote trust and facilitate information sharing, as observed in more developed policing systems, where responsibilities are clearly delineated. Such clarity can help to minimise potential conflicts among security agencies.

Fourthly, there is a need to foster public support and trust. The regional security outfit must promote public confidence in order to effectively fulfil its mandate. This can be achieved through probity, integrity, transparency, and regular updates on its activities. By engaging with local communities and creating avenues for open communication, it can build trust and demonstrate its commitment to serving the people of the Southwest geopolitical zone.

Fifthly, there is a need for a centralised monitoring and evaluation system within the WNSN. Establishing such a system would enable WNSN to track its performance, identify areas for improvement, and make data-driven decisions and projections. It would also allow the organisation to develop standard procedures for monitoring and evaluating its activities, thereby ensuring accountability in its operations.

Sixthly, intelligence gathering should be strengthened within the WNSN. The effectiveness of WNSN depends largely on its ability to anticipate and prevent crime by leveraging technology, community intelligence, and covert information-gathering mechanisms.

Seventhly, there should be enhanced community engagement in addressing insecurity in the Southwest region of Nigeria. Crimes occur within communities, and effective prevention requires strong collaboration with local populations. Strengthening ties with communities through outreach programmes, promoting trust, and encouraging information sharing are essential for institutionalising an effective security network.

Contribution to Knowledge

The absence of good security can negatively affect the political, economic, and social growth of a state. The government has the responsibility of adequately providing security in each social establishment. The major bane to national security is crime. Crime in society is seen as one of the most common occurrences that constitute a serious challenge for people in this modern age.

Western Nigeria Security Network was created as a result of the recurrence of insecurity challenges in the southwestern part of the country, which led to crimes like kidnapping, ritual killings, court clashes, and banditry.

The establishment of the Western Nigeria Security Network has helped to reduce the level of insecurity in the southwestern part of the country to some extent, although this has not really satisfied the purpose of its existence in the Southwest. The leading causes of insecurity in the

country are poverty, unemployment, weak security system, porous border, ethno-religious conflict, fear and distrust on government, wrong political ambition, electioneering, ethnic violence and external influence. Findings from the study provided empirical support for how the social contract theory has played out in a contemporary sub-regional security context in Nigeria. Any government that is unable to effectively provide the expected obligation of protecting lives and properties of its citizens has failed to fulfil its own side of the social contract. Security of life and property is one of the basic rights of the people, which must not be tampered with. Furthermore, the findings of this study are a reliable, empirical source of information for Nigeria's policy makers and the general public. Also, teachers, scholars and students who wish to embark on research on Western Nigeria Security Network in the southwestern part of Nigeria will find the study a worthy reference document and additional source of data.

Suggestions for Further Research

WNSN is critical to the continuous existence of western Nigeria Security Toolbox. Scholars and students of politics, public administration and other allied disciplines should research further into the effectiveness and efficiency of WNSN in combating insecurity in South-West Nigeria.

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Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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