DEMOCRATIC WIND OF CHANGE: A CASE OF ARAB SPRING.

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ABSTRACT
What started like one of incident, but now it has widely metamorphosed into a trend. The fire of revolution that started in Tunisia, December 2010 is already consuming not just North Africa countries but the Middle East. Other nations in the North Africa and Middle East with similar leadership sit-tight traits may be counting their days. The ongoing Arab spring motivates this study to examine the limitation of sit-tight syndrome and demonstrate there is no substitute to participatory democracy. The study was descriptive while data obtained from secondary sources. The study found that the era of dictatorial leadership has gone no matter how benevolent. In addition, the use of religion as a means of sustaining self in power is no longer fashionable. The conclude that the ongoing crisis might spread beyond north Africa and Middle East while good governance based on democratic arrangement is the possible to the current crisis. The study recommends that there must be gradual democratization in Arab States. The study further recommend that the system should accommodate the culture of the nation and the fundamental rights of the citizenry should be guaranteed.

Keywords: Democracy, Terrorism, Revolution, Islamic Jihadism, and political crisis

INTRODUCTION
All through history, people have staked their lives for democracy. The peoples effort towards achieving representative government of their choice and which to a greater extent greedy, avarice and egocentric leaders have flagrantly abused at the expense of their followers particularly in the North Africa and Middle East. Tunisians, Egyptians and Libya have just concluded their metamorphosis. Ugandans, Bahrainis, Yemenis, Iranians, Saudi- Arabia, Haiti, Syria and peoples in other countries hitherto presumed to be impervious to democracy are marking time to be relieved of their (leaders) “sit-tight” syndrome.

It is with this notion of total democratization of African states that made Chief Olusegun Obasanjo the former President of Nigeria posited that “I will laugh louder when Africa is free. That is, African Continent shall be devoid of ethno-religious, poverty and leadership problems among other challenges. This position of former President of Nigeria is no doubt in tune with the winds of democratic change going on in the Northern part of Africa and across the entire world. The democratic revolts against the sit-tight leaders has no religious connotation, it is purely wind of democratic change which will eventually revolutionize every other problem caused by the stagnation of the entire system.

However, it is obvious that people under autocratic maximum rulers also wish and willing to be like other democratic nations of the world who are doing well and change their governments periodically as dictated by the constitution. These governments can equally be referred to as constitutional governments or democracy. In Libya for instance, people are taking fire from tanks and jet fighters were matching for democratic change. The Gaddafi’s regime was flushed out with the collaboration of NATO.
resumed full military assault in Tripoli and its environment. The wind of democratic change has not spared the theocratic monarch of Saudi Arabia where plans are underway for mass protests. Despite the Saudi Arabia King’s announcement of an equivalent of a mass bribe in the form of increased social benefits.

Similarly, Yemen soldiers killed 2 protesters in an anti-regime rally in the Northern province of Amran. The same mind of democratic development is blowing in Djibouti, where the ruling party had appealed to the opposition to postpone a demonstration scheduled for last Friday of March till after the conduct of the presidential election in April, 2011. The Moroccan King, Mohammed VI had equally cornered the agitators by setting up new body to defend human rights violation to replace former consultative for

In a similarly vein, the activists are demanding that political reforms be made a top priority in Syria as revolts rattle regimes across the Middle East. Moreover, in Iraq, the protesters walked and matched towards Baghdad on foot after the authorities imposed vehicle bans on major cities ahead of rallies over corruption, unemployment and poor public service. In Saudi Arabia, a call has been made for a “Day of Anger” on Friday in the eastern Shiite, the majority Saudi region, following the arrest of a Shiite Cleric who called for a constitutional monarchy.

Furthermore, in Jordan, the story was not different where people proposed pro-reform demonstration in which more than 20,000 people will take part, despite the government pledge to introduce ‘true’ and ‘gradual’ change. In Bahrain, six (6) identified opposition groups are calling for constitutional reform implementation. Bahrain wants to be like other democratic nations of the world.

This is a good development, all nations of the world must be democratized, the development in Egypt where the Prime Minister Ahmed Shadiq has resigned unexpected and putting a 3 decades of retrogressive regime to an end. This action sparked off celebrations and jubilation from protesters who were yearning for a purge of the remnants of rusted President Hosni Mubarak’s regime. The development attracted comments from the democratic states all over the world as Tunisians and Egyptians were praised for bravery to say no to sit-tight regime.

With the above preamble, democratic wind of change ravaging the North Africa and Arab world surpasses religion influence of Islamic Jihadism. The whole scenario of political crisis can be understood better beyond Islamic religion. The people all over the affected states want constitutional government through democratization of their states, no more, no less.

STATEMENT OF PROBLEM
The current Arab spring has led to an unmanageable crisis that has claimed thousands of lives, destruction of properties, huge refugee crisis and the belief that the governments are incapable of arresting the situation. The persisting nature of the crisis and the spread constitute a challenge that this study attempts to examine

OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER
The main objective is to examine the democratic challenges in Arab nations. Others are to examine the extent to which Islamists Jihadism or democratic revolution are the determinant factor in the understanding of political revolts in North Africa and Arab world.

METHODOLOGY
The paper is descriptive while the data obtained from secondary sources such as relevant text books, Internet sources, journals and periodical. As a qualitative paper, the analysis was equally descriptive.
LITERATURE REVIEW
The terms are Democracy, Jihad, Crisis, Revolution, Islam.

**Democracy**: is a system of government in which all the eligible voters of a country can vote or exercise their franchise to elect their representatives. A system of government that allows fair and equal treatment of everyone in a state or an organization. Democracy and its principles is purely Western pattern of administration. No wonder it is called Western Democracies. Democrats are those people who believe in the tenets and principles of democracy. Members of the US Democratic Party are also referred to as democrats. It is therefore regarded as the best form of government.

**Jihad/Jihadism**: It is a holy war directed by Allah to be fought against the pagans. Pagans are none believers. Those who neither believe nor ready to succumb to the tenet of Islam. The war is fought to defend Islamic religion. We were told that during the holy war, nobody can be accused of killing a none believers or an infidel. Islamists prefer a pagan to die than to remain or given him/her second chance to think whether he will accept Islamists or not. Fight in the cause of God those who fight you, and do not transgress limits. That is, do not begin hostility but if they fight you, slay them.

Take note that, war is not an objective of Islam nor is it the normal course of Muslim. Muslim should see it as last resort and apply under the most extra ordinary circumstances when all other alternative measures failed.

**Crisis**: a state of confusion, a time of great danger. It can be applied to government e.g. government finance crisis. Crisis at time may lead to revolts. Crisis could be politically motivated or in ordinary cause of life.

**Revolution**: simply alteration or change in some matter or respect; such change could be sudden, radical or total change i.e a fundamental change in political, social or economic structure or organization of a society or a government or constitution. It is usually applied to political change, examples include the American Revolution, French Revolution, Russian Revolution etcetera. Revolution can not be predicted where it begin, how far they will spread and how it will all end. Revolution in its common sense is an attempt to make a radical change in the prevailing constitutional arrangements and at most times, the application of force. In essence, when a revolution occurs goes a long way in shaking the entire social order in a state, the whole system is affected including legal order. This is equally the theme of this paper, democratic revolution to change from the existing retrogressive system in the affected state in North Africa and Middle East where wind of change is blowing against sit-tight government.

**Islam**: means the Muslim religion based on belief in one Lord or Allah. It is a religion revealed through Prophet Mohammed (SAW) by Allah Himself. Islamists are persons who believes strongly in the teaching of Islam. Islamism is the belief and tenet of Islam as a religion revealed directly from Allah’s sit of authority

**A CASE OF EGYPT**
The whole nations in the North Africa are Islamic countries with almost 100 percent Muslims population. Egypt is the most populous nation in this region and has remarkable historical existence. It has been existence pre-Biblical era. It was most talked about nation in the history of the Israelites and the biblical history as well.

Beginning in 1980, Egyptian Islamic Jihad popularly known as Al-Gamaa Al –Islamiyya is a militant Egyptian Islamists movement dedicated to the overthrows of the Egyptian government and to the establishment of an Islamic state in ts place. It is therefore led by Omar Abdel Rahman who was suspected of participating in the World Trade Centre bombing. It was this group that was formed after the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood renounced violence in 1970.
The author posited further that, the group assassinated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in 1980. In addition, they organized and carried out an attack on tourists at the temple of Hatshepsut (Dierel Barlin in Lux) or in which a band of six men impersonated and dressed in police uniforms armed with machine-gun which were issued crossed 58. Japanese and European vacationers and far Egyptians. The event was known and regarded as the Luxor massacre.

In addition, he described the ongoing revolution that the youths were standing up to defend their rights and future in the face of sit tight dynasty.

**Mubarak’s Regime in Brief**

In 1952, Col Gama Abdel Nasser staged the first military coup that removed the Egyptian monarch, civilian officers in the military and British influence in Egypt. Col Nasser’s coup was the first military coup in the continent of Africa. Nasser created a government dominated by Military power as the major stabilizing and progressive force in Egypt. His revolution was secular and socialist. On his death, Anwar Sadat took over the mantle of administration.

However, on Sadat assassination in 1978, Hosni Mubarak replaced him. These three leaders came from the same source (the military). Although, Anwar Sadat and Hosni Mobarak foreign policy might have differed from Nasser’s, the regime remains intact (Anomy 2011). With the above fact, Mubarak has been President for more than 3 decades. That is far a period spanning more than a quarter of a century. He is old and has been ill. No one expected him to live much longer and his apparent plan, which he was yet to hatch, was he would be replaced by his son Gamal was not going to happen. In this wise, nobody was in support of his game plan, save his closest business associates who wanted to see Mubarak’s succession plan’s happen.

However, Mubarak’s failure to design a credible and none blood related dynamic succession plan guaranteed instability on his death, it is therefore obvious to those who saw little advantage to acting the ‘revolutions script’ before he died. It is necessary to unveil these people and what they wanted.

**Mubarak’s Opponents**

The strongly demands for Mubarak’s resignation and stepping out of power come from many quarters including his own constituency i.e. members of the regime particularly the military. The military brass regards Mubarak’s unwillingness, to permit them to determine the succession as endangering the administration. The demonstrators to some people represent both a threat and opportunity.

Although, unlike the type of mass movement that were unable to topple the Shah of Iran’s regime in 1979, the demonstrators are clearly united in opposing Mobarak as an individual, and to a large extent united to opposing the administration. Even though, there is wide or deep divide in the opposition but they are now very united against common enemy.

Western Media has perceived the uprising as a demand for Western-style liberal democracy. What is not clear is that this is moving Egypt’s peasants, workers, and merchants class to rise en masse. To the best of our knowledge, their interests surpass liberal democracy but were to do with the state of the Egyptian economy.

**Muslim Brotherhood** (Agbede R.S 2011) is another element that need to be recognized in the successful revolts in Egypt. The opinion of most observers is that the Muslim Brotherhood at this juncture is no longer a radical movement as it used to be. It was said that, the radical movement is too weak to influence the revolution. The movement has been on ground and formidable since 1928. The Brotherhood contrary to some people’s view have more potential influence among the Egyptian masses than the Western– oriented demonstrators or Mohammed El-Baradei, the former head of the international Atomic Energy Agency, who is emerging as their leader.
The European conspiracy cannot be ruled out especially US and some Arabian countries. Though, this view was debunked by some people that the revolution is purely internally generated not externally influenced. Whichever way, the joy of it all is the disgrace suffered by the Mubarak’s regime. Some people taught, the protest was initiated by an American – Israel – Qatari – Muslim Brotherhood-Iran – Hamas conspiracy. This was not made or sustained by the Muslim Brotherhood; it was purely peoples’ revolt. It had people from all works of life and from social classes including religious background in Egypt. No opposition or religious organizations have muscle or ability to turn one tenth of the population of protesters that were in Tehran. It was a replica of a real revolution, no leaders. Over three million individuals choosing hope instead of fear and braving death in hourly basis to keep their dream of freedom” afloat (Anomy 2011).

The words of the US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton who commented on events in Egypt, by urging the Egyptian authorities to restrain the security forces that are cracking down on protesters. She also caution demonstrators to refrain from violence “These protests show that there are deep grievances in Egyptian Society and violence won’t make them go away” New American foundation analysts Michael Hanna notes that US message could have a significant effect on how the Egyptian military reacts to the crisis, while Egypt’s Defense Minister is reported as urging Washington not to pressure Mubarak in his handling of the crisis. (Anomy 2011). Dr. Mohammed El-Baradei gave a moderation voice to the protest movement, when he told Al-Jasra interviewers that “We are prepared to engage with the regime to ensure a smooth and orderly transaction, but there is no question that Mubarak will have to leave”. This put Obama Administration in a tight position because the democratic rebellion in Egypt threatens to sweep away a pillar of support for US regional strategy. As a result, Secretary Clinton did not take questions and a subsequent state department briefing was counseled.

It is unfortunate that the military remains the cornerstone of the regime, although, there is no indication before and during the revolts that it will more against the regime (Anomy)

EGYPT CRISIS AND EVENTUAL OFFICIAL RESIGNATION OF PRESIDENT HOSNI MUBARAK AS A LEADER.
President Mubarak was reluctantly stepped down as Egyptian leader after weeks of strike and protest that rattles his 3 decades of repressive regime. The impact was well felt in Cairo and other major cities. His resignation was no doubt greeted with a huge outburst of joy and celebration by thousand in Cairo’s Tahrir squares the centre of the demonstrations. The vice President Omar Suleman announced that President had handed power to the army headed by Field Marshal Tantawi.
President Barrack Obama of US posited that Egypt must now move to democratic rule without hesitation. The Egyptians have spoken and their voices have been heard, though, Egypt will never be the same again and nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day, Obama said further.
Yolande Kuel a BBC News Representative in Cairo said “It is important now that the dialogue is accelerated leading to a broad-based government which will respect the aspiration of and deliver stability for the Egyptian people” United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameroun stated that it was really precious moment of opportunity to have a government that can bring the people together” and equally pitched tent with the US President Barrack Obama, called for a move “more to civilian and democratic rule” Colin Freeman and Richard Spencer (February 2011) gave graphical story of the new military Head of State Field Marshal Mohammed Hussein Santali.
He was head of higher Council of Egyptian armed forces
- Minister of defense Prime Minister 31 January 2011.
- Commander –in-chief armed forces since 1991.
- Appointed Deputy Prime Minister 31 January 2011
- Born 31 October 1935

At the same time United Germany Chancellor Angela Markel welcomed the “historic change” in Egypt. In the same manner, US Vice President Joe Biden said Egypt had reached a pivotal moment in history. However, it would be remembered, the anti-government protesters that began on 25 January were largely triggered by widespread unrest of press, jailing without trial members of opposition groups and perpetuation of a single leadership. Egyptians followed a popular revolts executed by the Tunisians which brought about the downfall of President Zine al – Abideen Ben Alli of Tunisia.

Mr. Mubarak’s rival for the presidency in 2005, Mr. Ayman Nour described the event as the greatest day in Egypt’s history. He further said, ‘this nation has been again, these people has been again, and this is a new Egypt’ This was reported on Al-Jazeera TV. Citizens of the North African countries that were interviewed were not happy about the revolts at the initial stage but they are now happy about the outcome of the event, particularly removal of sit – tight leaders. Most of them are illegal aliens and were afraid to talk to the presenters because of fear of being arrest and deported.

**MAIN FUTURES OF THE SIT-TIGHT SYNDROME OF LEADER IN THE NORTH AFRICA PARTICULARLY EGYPT.**

The North African Countries are Egypt, Libya, Morocco. Algerian, Tunisian, Sudan etc. It is observed that the leaders in these countries hide under disguise of religion to perpetuate themselves in power. As a result over stayed in office and became devoid of ideas and human face policies. The main characteristics of their government are enumerated below.

1. The North African administrations are very repressive police states
2. The states are highly authoritarians and undemocratic in nature
3. Egypt is a tool in the hand of US strategic interest.
4. Significantly, Egypt is strategically centrally located in the earth of Arab nations.
5. Egypt is a friend of Israel and have been receiving US support since 1970 even more than Israel and Pakistan.
6. Egyptian government is a pro-West but an enemy of its own people (other Islamist States).

It is unfortunate that the same West that preach and advocate democracy and periodic election is silent over authoritarian and anti democratic posture of its allied nations.

Egypt is in the Maghan 3 of the North Africa –Arabic language, common cultural link and dynasty Common colonial history (France) or heritage.

The leaders are nurturing their children to take over. Dissenting voices in the state has been sent to exile.

**PRECIPITATING FACTORS ARE:**

There was rising unemployment all over the country and the government became incapacitated to the menace. People were disenfranchised; no periodic election to facilitate election of leaders and their representatives, there was social immobility, the level of poverty and food insecurity cannot be estimated. Another compounding issue was declining state leadership capacity in respect of president’s ill health and his inability to deliver. There was total ossification (frozen) of governmental structure. There were report of marginalization of some groups and intolerance of oppositions, muscling and tele-guiding of information through closure of internet/websites, email, telephones, electronic media, face book etc were censored by the state. As if all these were not enough, the government closed her border against investors.
STRUCTURAL BACKGROUND OR PREDISPOSITIONAL VARIABLES
- Colonial legacies of France and Belgium is the first point because most of the states in the North Africa were under the French and Belgians colonial lords before they gained independence at various times.
- Most of the countries in the area of study are very close to each other and are bound by similar cultural heritage.
- Ethnic groupings: are they colonial creation or post independence adoption of African leaders? The Belgians created the Hutus and Tzu of Burundi.

Contributory Factors to the Egypt’s revolution
- Popular uprising in the North Africa and taken place intermittently like bush fire from Rwanda, Burundi, Tunisia, Sudan, Somalia and her neighbouring states across to Middle East.
- Terrorism across the whole continents of the world
- Globalization/E-communication spread the wide spread of wind of change
However, these are no doubt, the dynamic sets of variables. These sets of variables convert the background set of variables to very active set of variables which lead to resultant effect. It is better suggested that the authority would have taken preventive action from this level to forestall or to wait for the triggers to occur.
It should be noted that when many lives of conflict coincide, they make conflict more intense and when its bubble burst, it become uncontrollable. For instance, Nigeria – Jos prolonged crisis is a multiplicity of the entire accelerator mentioned in this discussion. (Pro. Adekanya 2011)

THE MAIN PROBLEMS AND INEVITABILITY OF THE EVENT
1. The popular uprisings: which are very timely which is spreading like wide fire across the North Africa and Middle East made actions and counter actions inevitable.
2. Closeness of border: Egypt and other autocratic Islamic States shared the same boundary and easily link to each other. The closeness therefore determines what can be shared in terms of positive change in their countries
3. Background: The North African States shared the same kind of factors with the middle East countries. One of these factors is a conservative kingdom, as Mubarak was in power for three decades as one person rulership, authoritarian who have recorded the worst human right abuse coupled with social immobility, uses and abuses of Islamic religion. Abuses of rights of women.

DEMERIT OF ARMY TAKING OVER
Jon Leyne of the BBC in Cairo made an objective comment that, the announcement caught everyone by surprise, all over the city, drivers were left out in jubilation honked their horns and people fired guns into the air sporadically. But according to him, the army taken over looks much like a military coup. So far there is an existing constitution, constitutionally; the responsibility of the administration should be the speaker of Parliament who takes over not the army leadership.
Iran Ambassador described the development as a “great victory” while, a senior Israel official expressed the hope that Mr. Mubarak’s departure would “bring US change to its peaceful relations with Cairo”
In a similar vein, UN Secretary General Ben Ki-moon said he respected the “difficult decision” taken in the people’s interests and called for an “orderly and peaceful transition”. The European Union cannot hide their astonishment when the EU spokesman Chief Barroness Ashton said the EU ‘respect’ the decision (Anomy 2011)
LESSON FOR OTHER NATIONS
There is no gainsaying in the fact that what started like a child’s place in Tunisia, became a reality and spread like wide fire to Egypt. The way and manner the revolution rubbed sit tight government in Egypt and Libya is no doubt a big lesson to all the neighboring states in the north Africa and middle East. Most of the nations experiencing sit tight syndrome have started democratic processes and moves for the adoption of constitutional government to avoid the occurrence of Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

CONCLUSION
The nature of leadership, the political party structure, the model of policies and programme of leadership, the indoctrination of the people, and adoption of cultural orientation cum democratic tenet that can accommodate the tenet of Islam. This will no doubt determine the social, economic and political progress or otherwise of a particular Islamic nation. But the Egypt have successfully completed her metamorphosis, the other nations and individuals, nongovernmental organizations all over the world are still watching as the event unveil and Egypt gradually move into full democratization when Abdul Mors was elected in a popular general election that followed the revolution as the Executive President. At the same time, all the states under maximum rulers should embark on full match to democratic reforms to tow the civilize way of democratic norms.

RECOMMENDATIONS
- There must be total democratization in all affected Islamic states to move with millennium democratic goals.
- The Western democracy can be blended with the political –culture in line with religious affinity.
- It is equally recommended that the new government should resuscitate the middle class whom the former sit-tight leaders have subjugated to the whims and caprices of their regimes.
- The Islamic countries must also allow religious tolerance rather than indoctrination and allow constructive criticism.
- Tenure of the highest political office holder must be pegged, at least 5 years of a single and final term; just like the Nigerian Universities Vice Chancellors term of office. This pegging of 5 years a term, has stabilize the Nigerian University system/administration.
- The emerging crop of leaders should come out with their own economic and political blueprint that will eventually move their various countries economic doldrums and political comatose rather than following Bretonwood policies.
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