

**THE MASS MEDIA AND
POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS
IN NIGERIA**

Edited by
TAYE C. OBATERU, Ph.D



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PREFACE

Democracy and peace are hallmarks of developed societies. The level of commitment to democratic ideals through a transparent electoral process and the level of peaceful co-existence among the people, especially in a heterogeneous society like Nigeria, says a lot about such a society. That the news media play an important role in democratic transition and consolidation, as well as, in promoting peace hardly needs over-stressing.

However, perspectives differ on how well the media have been playing these roles, particularly in developing countries where democracy and good governance are still fledgling. Ethno-religious and other social upheavals remain common in many African countries and the role of the media in mitigation or escalation of the conflicts continue to be reviewed in academic discourse. There is little doubt that the quest for more effective ways to strengthen the news media in Africa and make them contribute better to the consolidation of democracy and peace is a continuous one in line with global trends and development.

This inter-disciplinary book is therefore a contribution to filling knowledge gaps in the area of the media, democracy and peace building. It presents scholarly articles on socio-cultural, political and related issues in Nigeria. The first three chapters discuss the role of the mass media in promoting political consciousness and mobilization while the fourth chapter analyses how the media influences the emplacement of democratic culture. Chapter five interrogates public perception of the judiciary in the media, using the National Judicial Council (NJC), the body responsible for the appointment and discipline of judicial officers, as lens. Chapter six focuses on the mass media and religious practice in Plateau State just as the last chapter x-rays news media reportage of the ethno-religious conflicts in Jos between 2001 and 2010.

It is envisaged that this book would contribute to enriching the body of literature on media, democracy and peace. It is also expected to ginger more research towards further illumination of the different issues raised in the book. My deep appreciation to Dr. Ezekiel Major Adeyi for his immense



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Taye C. Obateru, Ph.D.

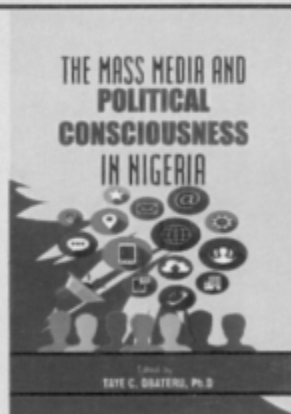
ABOUT THE EDITOR



Obaferu is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Jos, Nigeria, where he has lectured since 2000. He brings to bear a rich background in journalism, which he has practiced for over three decades, on his teaching and research. He studied at the Nigerian Institute of Journalism, Lagos, University of Jos, as well as, Edinburgh Napier University and University of Salford, both in the United Kingdom.

ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is a compendium of perspectives on the role of the mass media in democracy and peace building. It presents well-researched insights into issues relating to how the news media impacts political consciousness and democratic governance, among others, in Nigeria.



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unijosprintingpress@gmail.com


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